

P11 Gombe line gets 30 buses, NUJ hopeful



News: Bauchi Police detains commissioner for killing friend Page 28

Sports: How Pele became the greatest player of all time Page 36

Politics: Buhari-led Government to make naira look beautiful Page 2

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Naira rebranding and controversies



Emefele

Recent announcement by the Governor of the Central bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele to the effect that the apex bank would redesign and rebrand the N200, N500, and N1000 naira notes have rised a lot of furor, Amidst seeming confusion, controversy and anxiety, Nigerians are weighing the pros and cons of this CBN's new policy. Turn to Pages 10, 31



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (l) presenting the first class Staff of office to HRH Miskhaham Mwaghavul, Da John Putmang Hirse ,mni yesterday at the Mangu Mini Stadium. Photo by : DANLADI DUK

P2 "Lalong Legacy Project contract termination, valid and irreversible"

P2 Carry everyone along Lalong tasks new Miskhagam Muaghavul



Towards mitigating the ravaging floods

About twenty-one states out of thirty- six that make up Nigeria have experienced severe floods, which have overrun the states destroying in its wake not only the homes of the people but washing away their sources of livelihoods thereby exposing them to hunger, disease and several other sundry threats to their lives. As a result, thousands of Nigerians have been made refugees in their own homelands and are struggling to make ends meet in the challenging environment they have found themselves in.

Despite increased enlightenment and sensitization campaigns for better preparedness on flood mitigation and management, particularly in the flood risks zones in the country, flooding has remained a major climate change challenge that the country has continued to grapple with. Though some states are making frantic efforts in addressing the challenges, however, there seem not be an end in sight anytime soon.

The September 2022 floods have been adjudged the worst since the 2012 experience. The recent floods have caused the deaths of over 600 people and displacing about 1.3 million. It has been estimated that at least 20 per cent of Nigeria's population has been rendered vulnerable to flooding and between the years 2011-2022. Nigerians recorded about 1,187 deaths connected to flooding.

As a result, the National Emergency Management Agency recently donated relief materials to cushion the pains of the flood victims and vulnerable persons across affected states in the country. The donated items according to NEMA are into categories. The first is to the vulnerable as approved by the President while the second is for those affected by flood victims.

Indeed, substantial human lives and property have been and are still being lost due to the ravaging floods across the country. These have caused untold hardships to affected people. On the other hand, the impact on those affected has caused trauma and psychological damage to those affected as they have had to start life all over again.

On our path, we feel that the Federal Government is not doing enough to mitigate the sufferings of the affected. Government's contribution is not as visible as those of Non- Governmental- Organisations. Government must therefore, up its activities so as to provide succor to its suffering people.

Also, we urge the federal government, to muster the political will to dredge the major rivers like River Niger, Benue and others as a quick fix solutions to the perennial flooding across the country.

Beyond the federal, state or individuals and faith based organisation coming to the rescue of flood victims by providing shelter or giving them food, government must endeavour to find permanent solutions which include the dredging of the major rivers that span the landscape of the country. Anything short of that would amount to window dressing which is not good for the country.

If nothing urgent is done to stem the tide of flooding in the country, we would sure have our hands full in a few years to come. We expect our governments to take proactive measures so that peoples' lives and property can be protected from the yearly stress they have been made to pass through because of our planlessness.

"Lalong Legacy Project contract termination, valid and irreversible"

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

The Plateau State Government, has stood its grounds on the termination order of Lalong Legacy Project Contract with Bleseson Services Nigeria Limited, describing it as valid and irreversible despite media reports purportedly credited to on Engr. Lawanson Ngoa, challenging the decision.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Dan Manjang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the state capital Friday.

The statement stated that, "the attention of the Plateau State Government has been drawn to Media reports purportedly emanating from a Press Conference organised by Managing Director of Bleseson Services Nig. Ltd, Engr. Lawanson Ngoa, the former Contractor engaged by the Government State Government to carry out its Legacy Projects dubbed; "Lalong Legacy Projects".

"The Managing Director of the erstwhile contracting Firm during the press conference datee October 31, 2022 made spurious, false and misleading allegations against the Plateau State Government over the termination of the Contract and its re-award to a new Contractor with a view to mislead the Public, currying undeserved sympathy and unfairly disparaging the Government of Plateau State.

"No one should be fooled by the misleading and false claims by the Managing Director of Bleseson that the termination was done behind them or they were not invited to make their claims. On the contrary, the company and its management chose to ignore the invitation perhaps to have sufficient reasons to play to the gallery in an attempt to blackmail the Government", it explained

The Commissioner on behalf of government said, the failure of the contractor to deliver the projects within agreed Timelines was what forced the Plateau State Government to issue a Notice of Termination of the Contract to Bleseson Services Ltd, via a Letter March 9, 2021 in line with the letters and spirit of the Agreement of the Parties.

He disclosed that, upon receipt of the Notice of Termination, Bleseson Services Limited, neither responded nor contested the reason for the Termination as given by the Plateau State Government in the Letter.

According to Manjang, "after the period of Notice of Termination had elapsed without any response or reaction from Bleseson, the Government of Plateau State considered the Termination as concluded, with same having been accepted by conduct, by the silence of the Contractor. Indeed, after the Termination, (and this fact is verifiable), Bleseson Services Ltd evacuated all its Materials, Machinery and Staff from the Project

Sites and moved them out of the State.

"Following the refusal of Bleseson to Cooperate and put forward its claims for work done or losses incurred (if any), Stakeholders in the project met and took a decision to invite the President of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) to appoint an Independent Valuer to assess the level of work done to allow for reconciliation of Accounts.

"The task was successfully carried out and a Report submitted which is available for Bleseson to access anytime it is willing to engage with the State. Among other things, the said Engr. Ngoa claimed that the Government has no right to terminate the Contract "while he is still alive" and that there is a pending case before the Court on the matter", he disclosed.

However, the Government has found it necessary to put the records straight before the contractor gets away with his misleading assertions because the Contractor did not state the Court where his pending case was or the nature of the case to push forward his claims.

The State Government, therefore, reassured the Public and the good Citizens of Plateau that, all steps taken so far by government with respect to the Lalong Legacy Project were strictly in line with the Terms of its Contract agreement with Bleseson Services Limited and it was in the best interest of our State and perfectly within the Laws of Nigeria.

Buhari-led government to take naira look beautiful

The General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor Enoch Adebayo has criticised the planned redesign of the N200, N500, and N1,000 banknotes by the President Muhammadu Buhari-led Nigerian government.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Godwin Emefiele had announced, redesigning of the Naira notes.

He said the redesigned naira notes would be released on December 5, 2022.

Reacting, Pastor Adebayo lamented that Nigeria's situation has become worse to the extent that the country's currency was no longer worth the paper it's printed on.

He spoke during the church's November Holy Ghost Service with the theme, 'Let It Rain'.

You know what's going on in our country. It doesn't even make sense anymore. Our naira now is not even worth the paper it is printed on," the octogenarian said at the programme



Buhari

held at the RCCG's international headquarters along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

"And while people are hungry, trying to find enough money to buy

bread to eat, our bosses are thinking of making the naira more beautiful, even if it can't buy bread, at least, it will look beautiful. Oh Lord, have mercy.

"We have problems in the land now. Things seem to be getting funnier and funnier. If you don't learn to laugh in Nigeria now, you will develop hypertension."

Adebayo further said God has not told him yet whether there will be an election in Nigeria in 2023.

"Do you know that up till now, and this is November, up till now, Daddy (God) hasn't told me yet that there is going to be an election next year?"

"We continue of course as if there is going to be. I am saying that Adebayo, I am not talking of other people, God has not told me yet. The yet must be in capital (letters). He may tell me tomorrow; I don't know but as of this moment, he hasn't told whether or not there will be an election next year.

"I am not trying to frighten you. I am not a prophet, I am just a pastor."

Carry everyone along Lalong tasks new Miskaham Muaghavul

Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong has tasked the new Miskaham Mwahavul, Da John Putmang Hirse to rule his subjects with inclusiveness.

The Governor also urged him to work hard to maintain peace and unity in his chieftdom.

He gave the charge to the first class Monarch during the occasion of his official installation and presentation of staff of office, Saturday November 5th 2022 at Mangu Mini Stadium, Mangu Local Government area of Plateau state.

The Governor congratulated Hirse for his selection to the exalted throne of his forefathers, and also commended the King Makers for performing their duty honestly according to the traditions and laid down guidelines long established adding "It is a good omen for the people of Mwagavul Chieftdom as it speaks volumes about the unity of purpose among the entire people".

While praying tribute to the late Royal Father His Royal Highness, Da Nelson Bakfur, He emphasized that the traditional institution is a

preservation of the cultural heritage of the people which must be safe-guarded to preserve history from generation to generation.

He said his administration has restored the traditional stools that were scrapped by the previous administration and also ensured that those who deserve new ones were considered in order to do justice to the people and give them sense of belonging.

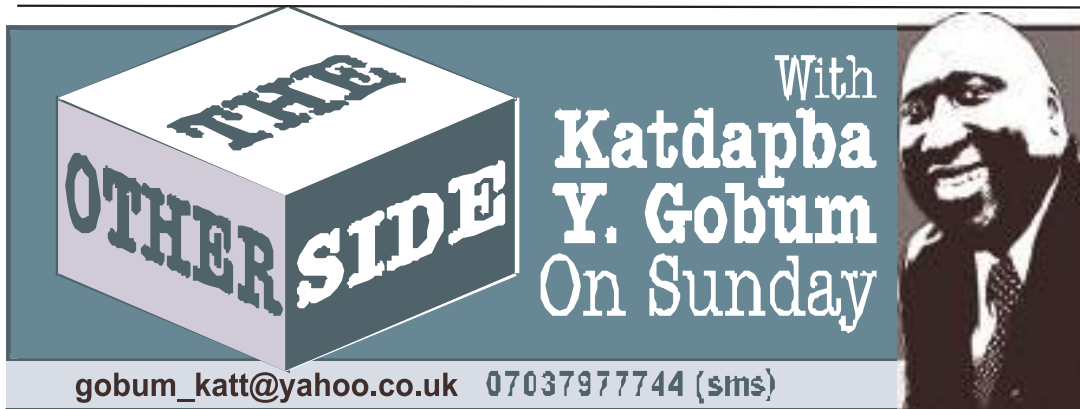
He challenged other Chieftdoms and communities to learn from the Mwagavul nation and embrace dialogue as a means of resolving any differences relating to Chieftaincy matters within their order to foster unity and development. Let me therefore use this opportunity to again remind those Chieftdoms who have not been able to resolve their differences to elect new traditional rulers, that they are denying their people several windows of opportunities for progress.

He expressed disappointment that the efforts to fill some vacant stools in the State are being frustrated due to lingering litigations among the Royal Class.

"Nevertheless, we will continue to do our best to ensure that where vacant stools exist, necessary steps are taken to resolve the issues. This we shall do without taking sides with any interested party".

"I have sustained my commitment to not to interfere in the selection of any traditional ruler during my tenure. This is because I want to ensure that the will of the people as expressed by the kingmakers is respected at all times so as to engender stability, peace and progress. That is why of all the numerous installations we have done so far, no one has taken the Government to Court or accused us of interference".

"As you discharge your duty, I admonish you to be proactive and carry your people along irrespective of creed, religion, economic, political or any other affiliation. You should avoid tendencies that will make you become selfish or sectional in your judgments. If you do so, it will jeopardise the sanctity of the revered stool which you are occupying in trust for your people" he tasked the new monarch.



IN the last couple of days, an explosive exposé ostensibly aimed at ridiculing Plateau State's political 'Head Boy', Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye has trended without let on several platforms.

While it may not have been published here, we have elected to put certain things in proper perspective for the understanding of those who have chosen to ignore Dariye's contributions and role in the search for justice in the land, while as a private person, governor and generally on the political field. Those who know the Khawung Musher have a responsibility to keep his name incandescent and respectable in the eyes of the people.

The perspective canvassed here may also help those who have been recruited to soil his name to gain some political capital for their masters. The attempt made here is to insist that leadership should not be trivialized, as those who have served should be honored and not disparaged for a motive.

Leadership in this part has been thankless. Can a former governor condescend to the level of inciting people against one another? Or indeed setting one religious group against another? Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye knows better; and he knows where to take any challenge to.

Ordinarily, a rejoinder would have dignified the author(s), who were not courageous enough to own it; however, they copiously gave the ownership of the material to and titled it as Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye Wrote.

Let's hope that in this attempt, the authors would realize that the person they set out to destroy through the well-crafted material does not have the penchant to be malevolent. Far from it; and they are aware of it.

This response in your hand, in the main, mostly tries to strengthen the records while still maintaining that the Khawung Musher is one not used to stirring the hornet nest; much less in this fashion.

They alluded through the piece of writing, about some spurious, albeit none existent claims allegedly written and circulated with Senator Dariye's imprimatur.

How disingenuous they can be. It is on record, Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye since leaving Kuje Correctional Center has maintained a dignified silence on several issues; be they bothering on Plateau or nationally.

He has his reasons for doing so, and they are genuine, so long as they are meant to sanitize his person; what with his recent experience in the big house.

However, and more importantly, given his political adroitness and respect for the people, and indeed for the sanity of the state, certain things are better left imagined than said publicly.

There is no known antecedence

Senator Dariye and the tale of mischief



Dariye

linked to the former Plateau State Governor hitting back at his political party. He has always believed that a party is a vehicle through which individuals can realize their ambitions. To be against the party is to fight the people, who have always stuck their necks for him.

Chief Joshua Dariye through the mercies of God (for those who are conversant with his history) has risen from grass to grace to become what he dared to in the course of his life's struggles over the years.

Since leaving the correctional facility at Kuje, Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye has remained quiet despite those who are falling over one another to receive his political blessings to contest for certain political offices. Tried as several media men have done to make him speak on his travails in the last couple of years, he has elected to remain silent.

But tried they have, however, he has remained reticent. Tried as they have done to ascribe certain thoughts and words to him since August 2022, Chief Joshua Dariye has not broken ranks to speak, perhaps knowing that it may be taken out of context by some political players; either here in the state or elsewhere.

Tried as they have to get him to speak when he got out of the slammer at Kuje and his home became a tourist center of some sort, the words that were a recurring decimal in his mouth were gratitude to God, Buhari, and people who kept praying that he pardons one day.

Those who recall may be quick to describe the caliber of the

callers to his Abuja home and can attest to the genuineness of the man. If he was flippant and had mouth diarrhea: which some people had preferred, they wanted to hear him speak on who and what was responsible for his travails.

Indeed, the same scenario played out during his return to Jos in September. With the personalities and associations, he visited to interact with that day, all he said are well recorded and documented for any person to read.

For a man who was incarcerated for some years, one would have thought that he may be speaking after the term with venom. Being a man of peace that he is, he chose to speak to the conscience of the people to give the development a chance even in the face of daunting challenges being faced here.

Easily, as might be the case, he is at liberty to point accusing fingers at 'perceived enemies', and perhaps try to 'settle scores. Even when statements alluded to him on the day of return, simply did not join the fray in casting aspersions on the sources of those statements which were meant to pitch him against his party, state government, and his people; he maintained a stoic silence.

If Senator Joshua Dariye would ever like to communicate with the media, there are standard ways he would have loved to engage. Giving character to the post is to lose the essence of the former governor. In choosing how to reach out, it is possible that he is most likely not to choose the style exhibited by the authors by

"Leadership in this part has been thankless. Can a former governor condescend to the level of inciting people against one another? Or indeed setting one religious group against another? Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye knows better; and he knows where to take any challenge to".

throwing the material as gospel truth on various platforms.

Perhaps for a former company executive, state governor, and Senator, if he made attempts to explain his travails to the world, it is understandable he has always been a newsmaker and the media will be drawn to him. That he chose to remain quiet after his incarceration, is little reason that his choice should be respected and indeed applauded.

The text of what was circulated is combustible, inciting, and at best should be treated with the best of intentions. Religious posts are even issues that even angels would love to treat with caution and restraint in Nigeria.

Senator Joshua Dariye is one with good religious intentions, which are not tailored to stirring controversies that cannot be managed. The authors of the text in circulation may have since forgotten that he was one time the Governor of Plateau, a state that was almost consumed by religious intolerance were it not for the mercies of the Almighty.

We are today, where we are because leaders, Dariye included indeed even the people sought to tow the path of peace, rather than stock the fires of hatred through statements as the one in contention.

Even at the best of times when he had the machinery of state power and authority, he would not be flippant as to cause havoc with such a statement or any other in that mold. He is sensitive to the situation in the country, nay, and the state as to be careless with words.

Knowing Khawung Musher that much, his closeness to the people is the reason for his political forays and relevance. For a politician worth his standing, for which the appellation of Head Boy still subsists; he would dare not to be careless with words.

Today, in many communities in the state, many still praise and respect his generosity; having been beneficiaries of gestures that have remained everlasting in their memories. It will be sheer insensitivity for any to capture instances which he neither shares nor agrees and allude to him as the author.

For him, the people matter and the nation should be protected by being cautious in what one does and say. No politician worth recommending for acceptance would denigrate to pitch communities, and people against themselves while looking away from the conflagration being ignited through the use of words.

Recall that the only media interview on record Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye ever granted after his state pardon was the one with Channels Television on October 10, 2022, by Akeredolu Ale. Even at that, he was

persuaded after such a long time, having even given conditions; knowing fully that the interviewer may be tempted to go overboard with questions that may kill his joy and peace.

The interviewer, Akeredolu Ale, who knows his onions very well, had myriads of questions bothering on religion, party, and years spent in jail. However, Chief Joshua Dariye knew what he needed to tell the world, there were certain questions he told his interviewer he would not answer, given the nature of the reactions such may elicit after.

Therefore, if his avoidance to answer the question translates to reading his mind on the issues raised in the text circulated, pray, what would they have written had he spoken on this volatile topic and many more issues demanding his response?

One question which Senator Dariye flatly refused to acknowledge was the one on his party's choice to go with the same faith ticket. You would have noticed that since the state pardon, more people, in fact, politicians of different persuasions, have been falling over themselves to get his endorsement or buy-in.

It is a known fact that having stayed out long, his relevance cannot be dismissed with a wave of the hand. They have alluded to several nonexistent things he has not made any comments about. They have linked him to issues, which they think if they have his endorsement that would put pay to certain political undercurrents.

If Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye's only known interview on record is that by Channels Television, a number of his followers are seriously at a loss for what they have read. They have continued to ask questions about his progressive nature since the post was released to the gullible reading public on different social media platforms.

What we currently have and are being fed can be described as sheer mischief. The posts shared on various platforms have the intention to achieve: Scale down the estimation of the public about the person of Senator Dariye and reduce his ranking among his people, who still hold him in high esteem.

I am not sure what Senator Joshua Chibi Dariye's ardent supporters would be thinking about this development. But, one thing I am certain of is, there must be a feeling of despondence and frustration at the affront perpetrated on a leader that is held in high esteem.

Interestingly, and knowing some of them would query the post, what one is sure may happen from his strategic thinkers is, always, to chart the course of peace by not giving them an upper hand to be misled.



Trading places

GOD'S plan is for parents to take care of their children, provide for them, protect, love and care for them. However, in man's quest for numerical strength, man has bitten more than he can chew.

For a typical African man, it is a pride to have a large family. In the past, one of the reasons for a big family was so that one could have so many hands on the farm. But today most parents would tell you 'so that I will have many people taking care of me when they growup.' They say it without batting an eye.

During my days in the university, it was very common to see a young girl from a humble background carrying the weight of her family. In most of the cases I came across, they were the breadwinners of their families. They provided for their families, paid the school fees of their younger ones and even elder brothers.

One case that still stands out is that of a lady who was forced into marriage at twelve to a rich farmer in a remote village at Shendam, just because her father needed her bride price. She had the sense to run off before she was deflowered by her grandfather husband. Somehow she found her footing through the help of an uncle in Mangu and she enrolled in secondary school.

By the time we became close, she was not only the breadwinner of her family but also the authority. We were then in the university. The weight of the responsibility on her shoulders made her sexually immoral. Every move she made was geared towards getting the attention of men and sleeping with them for money. Going on like that, she had countless boyfriends with whom she was intimate just so she could cater for her family.

This lady was staying in a one-room self-contained apartment, but you should see how many dependants used to come for holiday. Shamelessly, her parents, including her father who sold her off to rich farmer, were always very demanding. She used what she had to provide for her family at the expense of her reputation, notwithstanding that a good name is better than rubies (Bible).

Another scenario is that of a father whose daughter was schooling in

Kaduna and living big due to the heavyweights she was going out with. Every time the father needed luxury items like designer perfumes or money, he called his Kaduna daughter who never failed her daddy.

At this point, the father had stopped giving her financial support. She had become an authority over her life and came and went as she wanted. She had a nice apartment in the heart of Kaduna. And she dressed expensively at all times complete with gold earrings and necklace. In fact, she smelt like money and radiated money. But her lifestyle when one came close to her was nothing to write home about. It was prostitution with the high and mighty and involved strengthening herself with Babalawos, witch doctors.

As we were growing up, there was a mother who was fond of lamenting to her daughter, 'Your own na kobo fuck you dey do? Your friends dey buy car, build house even for their parents. You still dey eat my food. Na two heads dem get?'

The mother was frustrated that her daughter was not a blessing to her because she was not immoral and neither was she bringing in ill-gotten wealth to better their lives like so many girls her daughter's age were doing. Instead her daughter still depended on her for everything.

It is not only girls that carry the weight of responsibility. I was told of a man who hates to see people giving birth to more than two children especially if one is not capable of providing for the kids. He became like that because he started paying his younger siblings school fees since he was in medical school. His parents naturally transferred that responsibility to him. He was not allowed to enjoy his money like his mates. His parents made it look like it was his responsibility.

The cases are inexhaustible. Parents have forgotten that these are some of the reasons why their voices don't carry weight. And vices abound in our society because we have left our positions due to laziness or self-centredness.

The first step is for every parent to be responsible and assert our positions in our home. The future of our children is in our hands.



NEWS

BCDCA president promises unity, oneness of purpose

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA, Abuja

THE newly elected President of Bwarat Community and Cultural Development Association (BCDCA), Prince Ponfa Audu Wuyep, has promised to promote unity among his people towards the development of the community, the local government, Plateau State and Nigeria at large.

He made the pledge recently while delivering his acceptance speech on the occasion of his inauguration/swearing-in as well as handing over ceremony, held at the District Office Reak-Bwarat in Langtang-North Local Government Area of the state.

The President said, "Our focus shall be geared towards the mobilization of various clans/communities within Bwarat land to come together and make progress in our developmental endeavors. In this wise, we intend to bring together branch chairmen, women, the youth and leadership of the various clans to a regular meeting as provided for the constitution to share ideas and suggestions on the way forward."

"We shall equally encourage BWAYA to partner BCDCA in consultation with Ponzhi to institute an Annual Ponzhi Bwarat Unity Cup Competition within our land. This will further strengthen our unity. We intend to institutionalize a stakeholder meeting, drawing membership of our people from all the clans/branches within and outside Bwarat land.

The stakeholders shall meet once in a year and there will be emergency meetings as the need arises. The purpose shall be to harness our human and material resources together for the development of our people. Right away, I wish to inform this august gathering that God helping us, we shall hold our maiden stakeholders meeting on



Wuyep

26th December 2022", he disclosed.

According to Wuyep, "We will in consultation with Ponzhi Bwarat and Bwarat Traditional Council resuscitate the Bwarat Elders Council which is an advisory body to support both the Traditional Council and BCDCA Exco in her activities. We shall actively participate in the programmes and activities of Ngwang Ishi Otakor (NIO) for the greater benefit of Bwarat.

"Similarly, we shall extend our hands of fellowship and work hand in hand with the Bwarat Traditional Council under the leadership of Ponzhi Bwarat, collaborate with similar bodies as ours including Gani Community Development Association, (GCDA), Gazum Cultural Educational Social and Development Organization (GACESDO), Nimbar Community Development Association, Tarok Progressive

Youth Association (TAPYA), Tarok Women, TAROSA, Tarok Professionals, etc. Beyond these native organizations, we shall source for NGOs to give support for the benefit of Bwarat land", the president assured.

However, those sworn-in alongside the President, Prince Ponfa Audu Wuyep, include: Nansel Iliya Cirbut, as Vice President; Hon. Nandom A. Pyendang, as Secretary to be assisted by Nansak Marmap, with Chief (Mrs) Bolcit Amos and Banjul C. Zwalven, as Treasurer and Financial Secretary respectively.

Others sworn-in were Nandot J. Nandom, as Social Secretary; Bongdul Lar Dombut, as the Publicity Secretary and the positions of Auditor and Legal Advisor went to Nanpon Nden Azhi and Barrister Nandom

Rotary Club offers medical outreach to community

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

OVER 3,500 residents of Galuwyi community in Bwari Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have benefitted from the free medical outreach organized by the Rotary Club of Maitama, Abuja.

The president of the Rotary Club of Maitama, Rotarian Yusuf Ali, explained that the outreach was organized to mark this year's Rotary Family Health Day. He said that over 3,500 people in the community were offered free health outreach, which included tests and treatments of all ailments.

He said the Rotary Family Health Day was part of bonding with their adopted community and that every Rotary Club had an adopted community because their policy is 'Each one, bring one', safe one; each one brings one, care for one.

At present, we have over 3500 people who were given free medical services, and we achieved some purposes, and we raised awareness for our adopted community on their health status. We catered to their basic health challenges, and from there, we will know the

diseases prevalent in the community.

"Also, we will be able to know whether they are prone to epidemics. With this, we will be able to refer them to appropriate health authorities, or to a secondary, which is the general hospital or to a referral hospital, he said.

Similarly, United States-based Rotarian, Ms. Susan Paget, explained that the Rotary Club International had carried out over 11 million healthcare outreaches in 11 countries in Africa. And that no fewer than 2.6 million Africans had benefited from the humanitarian services of the club across the 11 African countries.



Mohammed

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

Labour Party has many Nicodemus' -Dakum

The polity is over heated as political gladiators are busy playing their cards and strategising to ensure they win in the forthcoming elections in 2023. In this interview conducted by Yvonne ISHOLA and Fwenji GO'AR, Patrick Dakum, the governorship candidate for Labour Party gave reasons why his party should be voted into power. Excepts:

Political activities have kicked off and all parties seem to have started moving fast to see that they meet up with the campaigns and everything.

How has the political journey been for you so far, sir?

Thank you very much.

For me as an individual, you have known that over the past couple of years, I have been convinced of the need for me to be part and parcel of the governance of Plateau State. And I started this journey by trying to run for the primaries under the platform of the APC, and then subsequently I resigned from the APC and joined the Labour Party. I am now the flagbearer for the Labour Party. The journey has been one of a lot of learning and a one of listening. And as you listen, and as you see, you learn a lot. For example, in places I have not been to for a very long time, I have had cause to go there to consult with people. And just by going there, you see a lot. One; is the infrastructure, especially roads. You see also the state in which people are living. And at the same time, you also appreciate the enthusiasm of people for a better Plateau. So, for me, it's been quite a lot of learning or relearning the actual needs of the people. The other thing of course is that the journey has allowed me to make new friends, reconnect with old friends, and then also be part and parcel of wanting to be the solution to the issues that people have been raising. I have seen a lot of people come out on their own to support me as an individual.

The journey so far for the Labour Party has been similar to mine. The party is inching forward as the leading party, generally in terms of people just yearning for something new. For us, in the Labour Party, the challenge is harnessing this interest and turning it into votes. And I think that's what we are in the process of doing. Surprisingly for me, I first of all thought that our party, the Labour Party is majorly a youth and social media party, but when I went down to the villages, I discovered people are turning their houses into Labour Party offices, of their own accord. They heard about it, they tried to learn about it, and they just decided to run along with it. It is a cry by Plateau people, and Nigerians for a new Nigeria. The question we normally ask is "who is happy with the way we are in Nigeria today?" If not, then let's try something new. So, I think that the journey so far Labour Party has been a journey that one can rate as good, it can be better, and we want to get it to the best. And so, we are working towards that.

The youth in Nigeria feel used and dumped. What do you have for them to change the narrative?

What I normally have for people who ask the question of 1, use and dump, and 2, fake promises by politicians, is the fact that, go to our antecedence and see. If you want to know whether a pudding is sweet, then you taste it. Now, if you look at the antecedents, the question you will ask is, when I was a Commissioner for Information



Dakum

and Commissioner for Health on the Plateau, did I use and dump? I think the answer is best known by a lot of people who are today either working in PRTV, Standard, etc. Most of those who worked faithfully with us, who were key in our contacts served as commissioners or special assistants.

But you see, position is only one out of the dividends of democracy. And I always tell my team that, fight for a project in your community, don't fight for yourself to become a commissioner or to become an assistant. And you can see some of the hospitals that we started at that time. We were able to deliver even though we did have a full term.

Then I also want to point out the fact that in the place where I work today, the Institute of Human Virology, we have close to about 200 plus Plateau State indigenes that are working in that place. Well is that a use and dump? The answer is no.

I like giving an example of Bassa Local Government and a few other places on the Plateau where just out of my NGO experience, we were able to attract investments of over \$700,000.00 to get a borehole-making machine sink boreholes, not only in Bassa but all over Plateau State free of charge to people.

You just mentioned that you recently resigned from the APC. Sir, have you been able to resolve the controversy surrounding your candidature? The candidature of your party.

Well, it's difficult to say anything much on this since it is a matter that is in court. It is a matter that is in court because the candidate that was the candidate before then claimed he didn't resign. I was told by the party that he had resigned and I was shown evidence of a letter written to INEC forwarding documents of his resignation and necessary documents that would enable the party to make a substitution.

Based on that, I paid a fee, necessary fees to the party, and then a primary was conducted. It was witnessed by INEC and security agencies. And subsequently, the names of candidates have been published by INEC, and it is my name. But since that matter is in court, that's the much I can say.

But for me as a child of God, I always want to pursue peace also. And I think it's the best way. It is a family matter. It is a Labour Party thing. It's not as if Dr. Dakum committed a crime.

Now the campaigns are leading to a home stretch. So, what are you going to do differently?

What I am going to do, I don't know whether to call it differently. But what we will do is to ensure that we go right down to where the votes are. And we are going beyond the polling unit, so we are going down to households. Remember that the logo for our party is "Papa, Mama, Pikin", therefore we are looking for families

Plateau State is called a civil service state, and rightly so. What plans do you have to change the fortunes of Plateau?

Remember that the Labour Party is the child of the Labour Congress. It didn't come out of the blues, out of the conglomeration of politicians. It was given birth to by NLC and TUC. So, Labour Party belongs to you. It belongs to the worker. At the national level, there is a charter of agreements between the Labour Congress and what they call governance. And this is the demand they have for anybody that is going to be in governance. It includes the protection of the worker's rights. It includes the worker getting his due as and when; it includes that the worker is going to have a working environment where he would be productive. Our aim is to right size not downsize. Can you also make sure that the civil servant works with a business mind? I believe we

"The economy of Plateau State is hinged upon an elephant in the room which is security. Investors want to come here, however, they want to be assured of their Plateau State should be investors' destination but they need assurance. They want to see infrastructure in place, to give them that assurance of security. Having said that, the economic drivers of this state are agriculture, tourism, and mining. Do you know that it is only here that wheat is produced from rainfall? Many nations are making money from exporting wheat. Even Nigeria is importing wheat. Do you know that the tomato company to be cited here is in Kaduna? What happened? And why? And most of the good tomatoes grown there come from Plateau. Governance must provide incentives. For investors, one incentive is that we will ensure security."

have a huge responsibility to move the state forward along with workers.

The Constitution of the Labour Party provides that one deputy chairman of the party at the state level must be from the Labour Congress; one must be from the TUC. Whose party? Your party. Should we allow another party to come and take over? If we do, workers would lose their voice.

It is glaring that it is not a good time for the economy of Nigeria right now. What are your plans to ensure we have a robust economy?

First of all, I think, the economy of Plateau State is hinged upon an elephant in the room which is security. Investors want to come here, however, they want to be assured of their Plateau State should be investors' destination but they need assurance. They want to see infrastructure in place, to give them that assurance of security. Having said that, the economic drivers of this state are agriculture, tourism, and mining. Do you know that it is only here that wheat is produced from rainfall? Many nations are making money from exporting wheat. Even Nigeria is importing wheat. Do you know that the tomato company to be cited here is in Kaduna? What happened? And why? And most of the good tomatoes grown there come from Plateau. Governance must provide incentives. For investors, one incentive is that we will ensure security. Another factor is that our taxes do not become a hindrance to their profit to allow them to grow. This is because we know your factory would generate employment. The condition is that you must ensure you do not import workers; the workers must come from Plateau. You see, if you ensure you provide the enabling environment to drive agriculture and mining, then by the time you are giving assurance to people, tourism will become a thing of joy,

As a tourism state flowers should be blossoming all around the Government House. The ambiance of the environment should put visitors and would-be investors in the frame of mind to what to come and invest here.

As a former commissioner of information, what plans do you have for the Nigeria Standard?

I believe that the Nigeria Standard should be allowed to operate as a quasi-commercial center. Once upon a time, if you wanted to print anything private, you go to the Nigeria Standard. In the past, when you walk in, you will see all the machines rolling. It is a commercial center and we should be able to move it in that direction. When I saw that the government

was indebted to the tune of almost 200 billion Naira even though the data I saw on the internet was different; the question I ask is, how much of that money went into ventures that brought money into the state? If we are collecting a loan, let us tie the loan to an economic development programme. As a governor, one should improve quality of life.

It is now common knowledge that Nigerians have decided that they're voting individuals, not parties. Do you think it is okay?

We in the Labour Party will prefer you vote for the Labour Party all through. We in the Labour Party make sure we field candidates as good as any other candidate. So, we will campaign to sell votes for Labour Party.

What are the chances of the Labour Party wrestling power from the APC in February 2023?

The good thing about our party is that the membership of the party is open and covered. Open in the sense that there are people like me that have Labour Party cards. But many people in APC are Labour Party. Many people in PDP are Labour Party. So, when you talk about our support, you are talking about the support of the generality of Plateau people. Some don't want to leave their party out rightly, but they have seen the need for a change. Remember, there were 19 candidates for APC governorship. 18 were dissatisfied. How many do you think are working with me now? Just as I told the Nigeria Union of Journalists at the Press Center, we have so many members we refer to as Nicodemus members.

The assurance of the Labour Party is that we will not come to witch-hunt, anyone. Those that have done that, what have they achieved? We will not waste our time blaming shifting but we will move forward not looking back. Our goal is forward ever, backward never.

Final words

Nigerians need a change. God has not abandoned Plateau. He has not gone on vacation. God will use us in the Labour Party to turn things around. We are confident that when we go in there, we will be very committed. My advice is to look for our logo- Papa/Mama pikin on Election Day and cast your vote appropriately.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Inuwa propose N173b for 2023From WILLIE
ATTAH Gombe

GOVERNOR Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State has presented a budget proposal of N173,697,242,000.00 for 2023 to the State House of Assembly.

He said, the budget is made up of N71,856,492,000.00 for recurrent expenditure representing 41.4%, and NGN101,840,750,000.00 for capital expenditure, representing 58.6% of the total budget sum.

Sectoral allocation showed that works and infrastructure gulped the highest allocation of N14,986,000,000.00 and Governor Inuwa said under the administration's Network 11-100 initiatives, Government has constructed over 500km of rural and urban roads, linking rural communities and opening up social and economic opportunities and will continue with these efforts in 2023.

Education sector followed with N11,366,700,000.00 for both the lower level education and higher education sub sectors.

The Governor said, Since the declaration of an emergency in the primary and secondary sectors in 2019, Government ensured increased budgetary allocation to the sector, pursued comprehensive teacher training and re-training.

Others are the implementation of the compulsory free Universal Basic Education Policy, improved teachers' welfare, provided critical learning facilities and equipment as well as massive investment in the construction and renovation of schools' infrastructure.

He said, "We are equally upgrading 5 legacy secondary schools to mega schools that can accommodate 1,500 students with facilities, mopping up of 400,000 out of school children and just recently recruited 1,000 Teachers.

"These efforts will be continued in 2023. It is in this regards that the sum of N5,939,700,000.00 only is allocated for investment in the education sector in 2023", he said.

For the Higher Education the Governor explained that the administration will continue to ensure the growth and development of tertiary institutions.

The State Government owns Gombe State



Inuwa

University, College of Education, Billiri, State Polytechnic, Bajoga; College of Education and Legal Studies Nafada, College of Nursing and Midwifery, as well as the College of Health Technology Kaltungo.

He said, "we have also completed arrangements for the take-off of the University of Science and Technology, Kumo under a PPP arrangement with Lincoln University Malaysia. The sum of N5,427,000,000.00 only is allocated for investment in the 2023 fiscal year.

Governor Inuwa stated further that, presenting, "the last budget in my first-

term of four years is coming at a period of great uncertainties and challenges, both locally and globally.

"From the Covid-19 pandemic, the crash of oil prices, economic recession and geopolitical conflicts across the world, we have in the past three-and-half years, weathered various storms to safely sail the ship of our common destiny towards progress.

"As we prepare for all-important national elections next year, I have no doubt that I will appear before this Honorable House next year - inshaaAllah - to present the 2024 Budget" he said.

Plateau APC family mourns Ngo Lydia Bot-Mang

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PLATEAU State Chairman and the entire All Progressive Congress (APC) family in state, have condoled with the Botmang family over the demise of their mother and grandmother, Her Excellency, Ngo Lydia Botmang, who yesterday.

This came in a press statement signed by the State Publicity Secretary of the party, Hon. Sylvanus Namang, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the state capital immediately after receiving the news of her demise Saturday.

The statement said, "we received with shock the demise of Her Excellency Ngo Lydia Bot Mang, mother of our party's gubernatorial running mate, Hon. Pam Bot Mang. The party is deeply pained by the loss of the matriarch of the Bot Mang family as it came at a time we need her motherly advice, guidance and blessing.

"The history of this democratic dispensation cannot be complete

without mentioning Ngo Lydia Bot-Mang who paid her dues as the wife of the Late Deputy Governor of Plateau State, Chief Michael Bot Mang. Apart the great support she gave her late husband, she has contributed immeasurably to humanitarian activities within and outside the state as a trained Nurse of repute.

Lalong mourns wife of former Plateau Deputy Governor

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong has expressed shock and sadness over the death of wife of former Deputy Governor of Plateau State, Her Excellency Ngo Lydia Bot-Mang.

Governor Lalong in a statement Saturday said he received the news with immense sadness and sorrow.

Lalong described her as a mother who lived an impactful life considering the role she played in the development of her immediate community, Plateau State and Nigeria at large.

HERE seems to be no end to the lingering crises bedeviling the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Gombe State following a threat issued by the party's past women leaders at all levels who vowed to help the party lose election if they are continuously excluded from party affairs.

Expressing their protest to journalists over how they were sidelined by the party's Governorship candidate, Alhaji Mohammed Jibrin Barde, in his campaign committee as well as other party affairs, the women who wore black attires threatened to work against the party in the 2023 election if their grievances are not addressed in three days beginning from Monday 31/10/22.

Leader of the women, Mole Istifanus Bennett, a former State Women leader of the party and current ex-officio of the PDP in the Northeast zone alleged that the party and its Gubernatorial Candidate neglected them shortly after the party's primaries where he emerged victorious.

She explained that they are the immediate past women leaders of the party in all the 11 local government areas of the state and alleged that

We'll help you lose election... PDP Women threatens

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe



Barde

DanBarde has not carried them along on the ground that they supported other aspirants during the governorship primaries.

According to her, they had been in the party since 2003 without defecting even after the party lost power to the APC in 2019.

She also decried that despite their sacrifice and dedication to the cause of the PDP, they were being sidelined and excluded from the 2023 campaign team.

She said, "as soon as any person becomes a flag bearer of the party for any office, he is supposed to

carry his opponents and all party members along to enable them triumph in the general election.

"The governorship candidate said he will not work with those who did not support him during the primaries. How can we win election if founding members are not carried along. These are pioneer members and he met them in the party when he joined.

"If they want to win, let them make amends or else we know what we will do, in fact, we are giving them an ultimatum of just three days to do the needful, otherwise we will help them to lose the election", Mole Istifanus Bennett threatened.

Shortly after the PDP's Governorship primary election in the State, party members and supporters became sharply divided between the winner, Mohammed Jibrin Barde and his runner up, Dr. Jamilu Isyaku Gwamna, a very strong contender for the ticket.

behaved and well trained children she left behind.

"May the good Lord comfort us all over this irreparable loss of a humble and caring mother and may her gentle soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in perfect peace with the Lord", the Chairman prayed.

"As we join the Running Mate of our great party and the entire Bot Mang family, Jos South Local Government and Plateau State Government in mourning the demise of our mother, we are however, consoled by her legacies of care for the less privileged, community development, political acumen and the well

He said as spouse of the former Deputy Governor of Plateau State, Chief Michael Bot-Mang, Ngo Lydia supported her husband all through his professional and political career enabling him to succeed.

The Governor said: "Ngo Lydia was a true mother who continued to offer wise counsel to my administration, as well as carrying out community engagements, working with women and youth groups towards empowering them".

Lalong also acknowledged her services



Lalong

nurse who gave a lot of succour to the sick particularly the underprivileged whom she spent her personal resources on at difficult moments.

While commiserating with the entire Bot-Mang family and especially her son Hon. Pam Bot-Mang the immediate past Commissioner for Works Plateau State and APC Gubernatorial running mate, Lalong urged the family to accept her death as the will of God while celebrating her mentorship, sacrifices and love which will remain with

SUNDAY FEATURE

Protecting, preserving cultural treasures in Museums

The protection and preservation of historical and cultural treasures became widespread during the renaissance at which time there was great interest in ancient art and collect on. Laws forbidding export of cultural treasures were instituted first in Greece and later in Egypt and other countries often after vast quantities had been transported to western Museums. **Writes, JOHN FOM GWOTT, KEZIAH MBOH& LYDIA GYI MAKAMA**

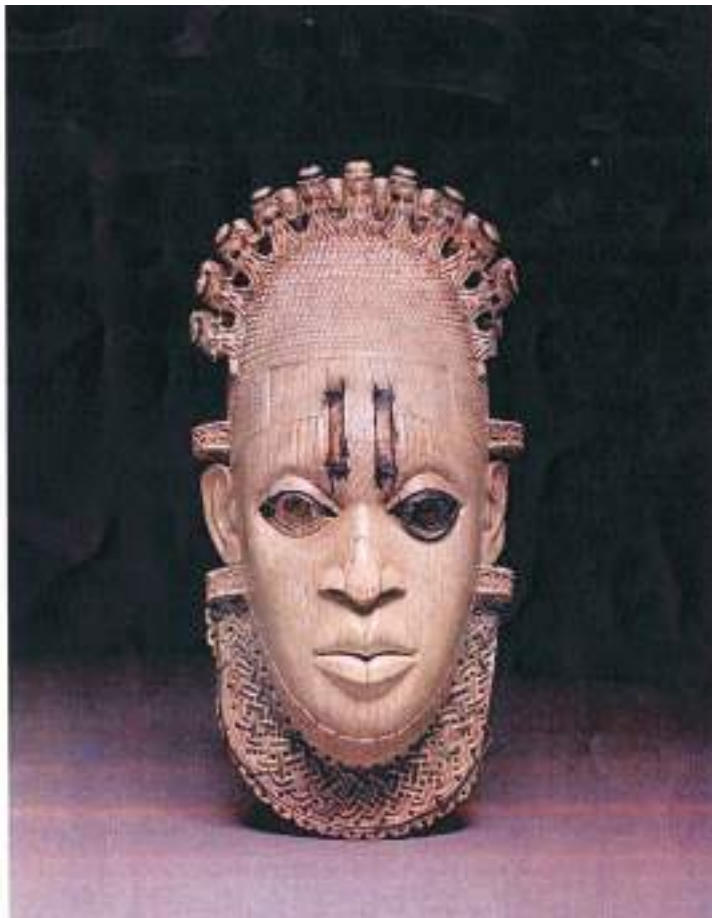
THE National Commission for Museum and Monuments in its quest for further Protection of Cultural treasures and natural heritage designated the security unit of the Commission as Antiquity protection Unit in 2014. The Antiquities Protection Unit (APU) has professionals as the Antiquities Protection officers (APO) who are saddled with the responsibilities of effective protection of Nigeria's cultural treasures, National heritage, protection of lives and properties, prevention of theft and trafficking and introduction of various forms of crime (technique) prevention to the barest minimum.

The convention concerning the Protection of the world cultural and Natural heritage adopted in 1972 by UNESCO's general conference is the world leading international legal instrument in the field of heritage conservation. It grew out of desire to Protect, Preserve and safeguard cultural and heritage so that we can transit it intact to our future generation. The National Commission for Museums and monuments Protects Preserves and showcases no objects or artefacts for worship purpose, but for research, entertainment and education. The Protection, Preservation, Presentation, of various farm tools in the Museum galleries is merely to reflect that our past is an in road to mans present technological breakthrough, which makes human history fascinating for the continuous development of the world in its global concept.

There is no community that do not have heritage to celebrate in the world with resonating culture object of national and universal value, that simply indicate the people and nations contribution to human history and development.

It is important to ensure that NCMM is not impede in its drive for protecting, preserving and repatriate these ever green cultural treasures, necessary encouragement from government is highly required. There is need to urge all stakeholders to summon the people interest in striving to see to the rightful protection of archaeological sites and movement which one fast becoming affected by pillaging. The ancient Kano city wall is our equivalent of the great Walls of China, but ours keep suffering perennial encroachment that could deny incoming generation the creative might of our ancestral past.

The NCMM has continuously worked to ensure the inventional and documentation of all objects in its possession in all the Museums across the country. This is proactive measures to know what we have as cultural treasures. With the global trend of collaboration with International agencies as UNESCO, and diplomatic cooperation, the



national commission for museums and monuments NCMM is embarking on aggressive enlightenment campaign against illicit trafficking on cultural objects which saw to the successful hosting of several sensitisation workshops for Para-military agencies in Nigeria.

There is the urgency and need to have our objects and cultural treasures to be well protected and preserved and kept safe from cultural thieves. Without the NCMM we cannot see some objects done by our forefather, but they help protect and preserved it for future generation. To further boost the safety of Nigerian's cultural treasures, the NCMM recruit professional's officers both antiquities protection officers APO and craft men to Protect, Preserve and Prevent illicit traffic in cultural property.

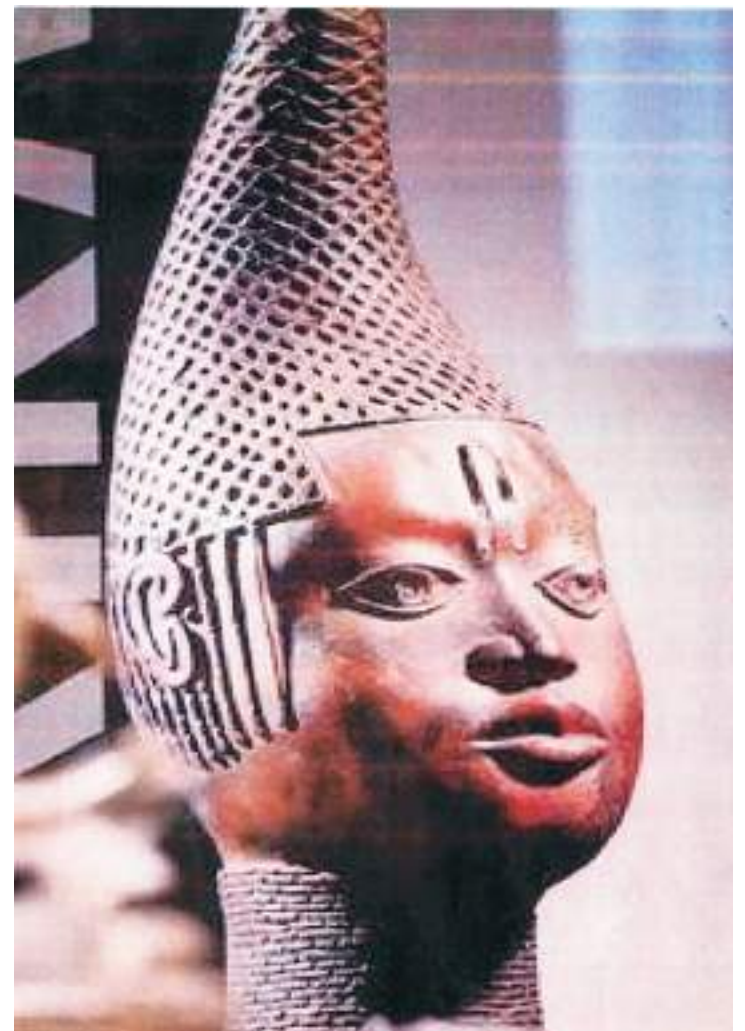
Illegal unauthorised dealing, buying or selling of cultural property often for monetary gains for their aesthetic values. Cultural bandits loot archaeological sites, historical movement and places of worship, stealing artworks from Museums and endangering mankind heritage. This trade in culture property has been classified illicit because of the reprehensible nature of the acquisition. It has assumed the level of traffic because of its increased intensity, sophistication and complexity, linking both domestic and foreign marketers.

It is a matter of pride for Museums and galleries in America and Europe to pride themselves in the ownership of Nigerians art objects. This is because, perhaps Nigeria has the richest art tradition amongst the black race. A consequence of this is the high demand for Nigerian objects and

the attendant looting, theft and illegal trafficking. These cultural treasures were carted away through colonial occupation, gift exchange, theft plunder and research studies.

Obviously, there can be no justification to hold back those objects in far away Europe and America, because no one can tell the history and story behind those objects better than the true owners.

In this line National Commission for Museums and Monuments collaborates with Museums and other countries of the world to have its cultural treasures returned; also imperative to



invigorate all stakeholders effort including Government, Non Governmental Agencies NGA to collaborate with NCMM in whatever capacity to see to the return of our looted cultural treasures abounding overseas. Nigeria and the United States signed a bilateral cultural property agreement to prevent illicit import into the US of some categories of Nigeria artefacts and also the campaign for the Return and restriction of Nigeria looted/smuggled artefacts from around the world.

Nigeria's effort at restitution was recently rewarded when Terra-cotta

effigies of more than a thousand years old were returned from Canada, also three bronze heads stolen and found in France.

Benin bronze artefacts sold to Galerie walv in Zurich were also returned to Nigeria. NCMM

received from the Embassy of France five Nok sculptures were intercepted by the French customs from shipments originating in Togo.

Recently, Nigeria and the National Commission for Museums and Monuments hails the United States over Benin Bronze repatriation to exhibit returned artefacts. Nigeria commended the United States for the repatriation to Nigeria of 23 Benin Bronzes, part of the thousands of artefacts that were looted by the British during their invasion of Benin Kingdom in 1897. Also the Board of Trustees of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art 21, the national Galleries of Arts 1, and the Rhode Island school of Designed 1, for engaging in the discussion with Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments that led to the repatriation of the 23 artefacts.

National Commission for Museums and Monuments have also received or are in the process of receiving repatriated artefacts from the Netherlands, the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom and Germany among others.

These artefacts are intrinsic to the culture that produced them and the need to protect and preserved these culture treasures. A people ought not to be denied the works of their forebears.

In conclusion, it's important to protect and preserved our cultural treasures/heritage because it keeps our integrity as a people and the intangible cultural heritage is not the cultural manifestation itself, but rather the wealth of knowledge and skills that is transmitted through it from one generation to the next.



SUNDAY PEOPLE

14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF APKMN

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) KSGG attended the 14th Annual Conference of Association of Papal Knights and Medalists in Nigeria (APKMN) holding at St. Louis Catholic Church, Jos



Governor Lalong KSGG, National President of APKMN, Rt. Hon. Dame Esther Uduehi, Sir Fidelis Tapgun and Sir Joseph Ari, DG, ITF at the Mass



National President, APKMN, Rt. Hon. Dame Esther Uduehi (left) with the Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG



Barr. Simon Bako Lalong, his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden and other conference participants



Prof. Sabastian Wapmuk and Sir Clement Yelkopba at the Mass



Msgr. Prof. Cletus Tanimu Gotan, who stood in for His Grace, Archbishop Matthew Ishaya Audu delivering the homily



Cross section of APKMN members at the 2022 Conference



Cross section of some Knights and Medalists at the Mass



Msgr. Prof. Cletus Taminu Gotan, Rev. Fathers, Governor and Deputy Governors in a group photograph, with members of the Association of Papal Knights and Medalists in Nigeria after the Mass

Photos: Danladi Duk

IT is said that the legislature is the breathe of life that sustains the survival and growth of democracy in any society, while positioning it on the path to law and order. This is to help avert lawlessness and anarchy. However, the many years of military rule destroyed the very essence of this institution as an arm of government. But things turned for the better in 1999, leading to the rebirth of the legislature. With the many years of democracy, the legislature is said to have evolved and is still evolving despite the myriad of challenges, complexities and intrigues of governance inherent in a developing country like Nigeria.

For better understanding, there is a power backing the legislature and it is derived from Section 4(6) of the 1999 Constitution which states that 'the legislative powers of a state of the federation shall be vested in the House of Assembly of the state'. The Constitution further empowers the state legislature to make laws for peace, order and good governance of the state or any part thereof, with oversight, representation and the legitimization of its powers to screen and confirm certain political appointees of government as other functions.

In order to be able to provide the desired dividends of democracy, the legislator must be a good representative of his people. In fact good representation is said to be the most critical function of the legislator. Do not forget that the key to becoming a member of any legislative assembly lies in the hands of the electorate. Without being elected by members of his constituency at any general elections, there won't be that opportunity anyway. Therefore, every legislator must strive to remain relevant by visiting his constituency from time to time. No doubt, having a functional constituency office will enhance interaction with the people.

To ensure an effective and efficient legislative arm, the Plateau State House of Assembly in collaboration with Plateau ALGON and the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs held a team building retreat and capacity building workshop for the local government councillors in the state. The objectives of the retreat are to steer collaborative approach and build on the synergy between the legislative and the executive arms of government; to understand the role and process of the legislature; have a clear and better understanding of Section 7 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Altered) and the Plateau State Local Government Law.

Others are to gain an insight into community networking for quality ward representation, while introducing major framework for accelerated growth of the local government council; maximize the delivery of democracy dividends to the citizens of Plateau State in all the seventeen local government areas; to demonstrate current work and thinking on legislative activities among councillors; to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of councillors to integrate all forms of legislative activities into council policies, strategies and planning. Presenting his goodwill message while declaring the workshop open, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda who was represented by the Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu

Yipmong disclosed that the workshop and exercise was the brainchild of the ninth assembly under the present leadership. He stated that over the years, the local government legislative arm has been marred with irregularities and uncertainties which needs to be corrected. This development prompted the need to educate and enlighten the legislators on their responsibilities as stated in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He did not mince words by describing learning as an ongoing process where no knowledge gained is a waste. He reiterated the



Towards ensuring an effective local govt legislature



Plateau State of Assembly in session

need for good governance at the local government level, adding that the legislators must understand their duties and cooperate with the executive as it is the only way of ensuring the delivery of good services to the people. On his expectations from the councillors at the end of the workshop, he hoped and prayed that when they get back to their respective chambers they should be able to properly represent and make laws that will be meaningful and beneficial to their people. Speaking on the topic 'Team work and Team Building', one of the resource persons Dr. Patrick Okechukwu described teamwork as a concept of people working together to achieve a common goal while team building on the other hand refers to the process of establishing and developing a greater sense of collaboration and trust between members. He opined that when councillors use their skills and share knowledge together, the result is a stronger local government council that can fulfill its mission. In other words when councillors who are grassroots representatives, as eyes and ears of the government work together in mobilising members of their communities, a lot will be achieved.

In his presentation, Hon. Daniel Nanbol Listick while giving an insight on Section 7 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Altered) and Plateau State Local Government Law, enumerated some functions of a local government council to include

consideration and the making of recommendations to a state commission on economic planning or any similar body; collection of rates, radio and television licenses; establishment and the maintenance of cemeteries, burial grounds and homes for destitutes; construction of and maintenance of roads, streets, street lightings, drainages, and other public highways, parks, gardens, open spaces or such public facilities as may be prescribed from time to time by the state House of Assembly.

It also includes the participation of such local government council in the government of the state in respect to the provision and maintenance of primary, adult and vocational education, the development of agriculture and natural resources, other than the exploitation of minerals; the provision and maintenance of health services including such other functions as may be conferred on the local government council by the state House of Assembly. It will interest you to know that the (fifth alteration) empowered a bill for an act to alter the provision of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to establish the local government councils as a tier of government while also guaranteeing their democratic existence, tenure and for related matters.

The exercise brought to the fore, the code of conduct by which the local government legislative arm should be governed by and adhered to. These are rules that



Sanda

stipulate the bounds of either prohibited or prescriptive behaviour or both. Some of which are not smoking, chewing or drinking on the floor of the chamber; during sitting, councillors must remain silent but may confer only on low tones; they must attend sittings properly dressed; no councillor is allowed to interrupt the other while he is speaking, disturb or make noise.

Also, councillors are not allowed to read newspapers or magazines while in session but may read such

books and letters as may be connected with the business being considered by the House; the use of insulting or offensive language including making unparliamentary remarks by any councillor will not be tolerated; every councillor shall make obeisance to the chair in passing or obeisance to the chair from his seat; while the leader is putting a question, no councillor is allowed to walk out or cross the floor of the chamber; while all councillors must enter and leave the chamber with decorum.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Buhari



Emefiele



Zainab

Naira rebranding and controversies

Recent announcement by the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele to the effect that the apex bank would redesign and rebrand the N200, N500 and N1000 naira notes have rised a lot of furor. Amidst seeming confusion, controversy and anxiety, Nigerians are weighing the pros and cons of this CBN's new policy. VICTOR ALI writes.

CURRENCIES all over the world serves as legal tender for carrying out both government and private business(es). As a means of exchange, it is also the most potent facilitator of buying and selling transacting business(es) amongst individuals, corporate organizations, countries and multinational organisations et cetera. Therefore, currencies the world over are pride of a country. The naira is no exception. It behooves on countries to ensure that the beauty, stability and value of its currencies are kept in highest esteem.

On Wednesday, 26 October, 2022, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele announced the introduction of newly redesigned notes of N200, N500 and N1000. He revealed that circulation will begin December 15, 2022 just and the old notes will remain valid until January 31, 2023, while adding that all holders of the old naira notes should begin returning them immediately without bank charges.

With this CBN's policy

pronouncement on the naira, it has generated mixed feelings amongst Nigerians and even corporate establishments. First to kick was, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed. Two days after the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced it would redesign the naira and introduce the same to the market, the minister rejected the policy saying she and her fellow ministers were not part of the decision making process on the policy. The minister equally warned that, the policy will have devastating effects on the economy and there will be severe consequences, even as she hinted that the policy was not discussed at the Federal Executive Council Meeting.

While facing the Senate Committee on Finance, the minister of Finance, according to Leadership new paper, (Saturday, October 29, 2022 declared thus: "Distinguish Senators, we were not consulted at the ministry of finance by CBN on the planned naira redesigning was not proper as regards merit or otherwise. However, as a Nigerian privileged to be at the top of Nigeria's fiscal management, the

policy as rolled out at this time portends serious consequences on the value of the naira to other foreign currencies. I will, however appeal to this committee to invite the CBN Governor for required explanations as regards merits of the planned policy and rightness or otherwise of its implementation now."

Not to be undone, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) reacted swiftly. The apex bank dismissed the concerns raised by the minister, saying it has the backing of President Muhammadu Buhari in taking the decision. A top official in the bank disclosed to a National newspaper that the minister does not necessarily have to be aware of the decision to redesign the naira notes because the CBN took the decision within the ambit of the law. "The minister doesn't have to know. The CBN acted within the ambit of the law that establishes it after getting the nod of the president," the source declared.

As if adding salt to injury and further heightened confusion and controversy, President Muhammadu Buhari shock the finance minister by

backing CBN's Emefiele saying that the decision of the CBN to launch new designs and replace high value naira notes had his support and approval. The president said, he was convinced that the country would gain a lot by redesigning the naira. This is coming against the backdrop of the fact that, the minister of finance had told Senate Committee on Finance that she and the ministry were not consulted by the CBN. Certainly, the President's stance as a fait accompli for the CBN.

Currency rebranding is a normal exercise over the world. The trend in Nigeria where the propose fiscal exercise is generating confusion, controversy and anxiety is borne out of ignorance or a crufted mischief. As vividly captured in its editorial, **SUNDAY STANDARD**, October, 30, 2022, "currency rebranding is the norm in every serious and modern economy. In some economies, currencies are rebranded after every seven years. To be sure, currency rebranding is very crucial as it paves way for the introducing is very crucial as it paves way for the introduction of new features to the currencies which would definitely be more advanced so as to give the currency more authenticity and secure them better.

"Most importantly, rebranding deters counterfeiting, gives avenue for mopping up of worn-out and torn notes in circulation, giving the currencies more eye-value to foreign integrators and even to investors. Every currency redesigned is aimed at a possible restoration and strengthening of confidence in the economy of a nation as the Central Bank of Nigeria, (CBN) has alluded to the fact that these is about three billion naira in circulation, yet a little over a billion is in the banks with the rests being in possession of individuals. According to Irvin Fishers' "Quantity

Theory of Money," if the level of currency in circulation is less important than the level of the GDP, it leads to inflation."

The editorial further posits that, "Highter money in circulation makes banks have not enough cash to lend to businesses which eventually makes them increase interest rates but controlling its flow and having enough may lead to a bit of fall of interest rates. Therefore, different nations have gone through currency redesigns as they cope with different situations and Nigeria is no exception. Regardless of what triggered the debate and need, redesigning an entire set of currencies is certain to bring about a lot of gains and change some dynamic of the entire country."

Therefore, according to international best practices; a national currency ought to be redesigned and rebranded after every 7-10 years. The bug is even with the developed economies! writing with the headlines, "the evolving Nigerian naira notes," Jibril Salisu Na'inna said, like the United State Dollar introduced 230 years ago had undergone several redesigns in different times right from the day of us production on 2nd April 1792 till date and there would even be another rebranding in year 2030 of some of the USD denominations; the pounds sterling which is the currency of the United Kingdom introduced 1222 years ago had to undergone several redesigns and rebranding virtually after passage of every kind and Queen of England and in time of need for new denomination introduction.

He further averred that, "the First currency introduced were the 50 kobo, N1, N5, N10 and N20 respectively. Nigerians should know the antecedents of the evolving

Continued on page 31

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NEWS

Gombe line gets 30 buses, NUJ hopeful

By WILLIE ATTAH,
Gombe

GOMBE State Government has approved the purchase of 40 brand new Toyota hiace buses for the services of its State transport company and other MDA's and labour unions.

State Commissioner for Information and Culture, Meshach Audu Lauco, who coordinated a press briefing shortly after the State Executive Council Meeting revealed that the council also approved the take off of Lincoln University College Kumo as well as the ban on bush burning, inter and intra state grazing.

Giving details on the purchase of the buses, State Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development, Muhammad Gambo Magaji, explained that delivery of the 40 buses has began and 30 will injected into Gombe line to add value and efficiency to the transport company.

According to him, "As you are all aware on assumption into office, His Excellency



Inuwa

bought 50 units of brand new 18 seater Toyota buses for the state transport company to improve easy commuting of goods and services within and outside the state".

He said the other ten buses will be given to some State MDA's and labour unions operating in the State.

Among unions likely to benefit from the

Government's gesture for the vehicles are the State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalist (NUJ) and its Correspondent's Chapel who have been promised vehicles since the assumption of the Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya's administration in May 2019.

On his part, the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Mohammed Magaji Gettado, while giving details on the ban

on bush burning and inter and intra State grazing, explained that the Council ratified the measures to forestall the possibility of farmers/herders clashes which usually occur during harvest.

He said in view of some natural factors that affected food production across the country this year, it becomes pertinent on the State Government to put in place measures that will help to safeguard farm produce.

To this end, the commissioner said, from now until the end of January 2023, the State Government has banned inter local government, under-age and night grazing of cattle and bush burning.

He added that an expanded security meeting will be convened by Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya to fine tune understanding among critical stakeholders.

Mohammed Getado equally advised farmers not to burn the residue of their farms in the spirit of the

Bauchi Police detains commissioner for killing friend

From **ABBAS GUNGURA,**
Bauchi

BAUCHI State Police Command has confirmed the killing of one Adamu Babanta, a 67-year-old retired civil servant by a friend and neighbor, Mohammed Damina (68) Galadiman Dass, residents of Yelwan Leburu Area of the Bauchi metropolis.

The killing of Babanta, according to police source, also led to a violent protest by youths of Yelwan Leburu area recently, but however assured that the situation has been brought under control while combined security operatives have been drafted to keep peace in the area.

Confirming the incident, the State Command PPRO, SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakil said, "on 30th October 2022, at about 1930hrs, a case of fatal motor accident was transferred from the Yelwa Division directly to the MTD for a discreet investigation, it was a case of culpable homicide".

Wakil said, "One Khadijah Adamu Babanta, was enticed by one Mohammed Damina, Galadiman Dass, 68 years old resident of Yelwa. When Galadima enticed her, she told her father about it, then she told the father that the said man was waiting for her at the ATBU Total filling station".

"Then her father followed her behind to the place. On reaching there, the father, now deceased, confronted Galadima through the passenger side of his car, as they were discussing, Galadima zoomed off the vehicle while the deceased was still hanging on to the car door to a point he fell and was rushed to ATBUTH for medical attention but was confirmed dead by a medical Doctor".

The police public relations officer explained that on receiving the report, the Commissioner of Police,

Umar Sanda directed all Tactical Commanders led by the Area Commander, Metro and other DPOs to the scene".

The police spokesman added, "Today, Monday at about 0700hrs, some miscreants came into the streets protesting, thinking that the suspect has been released from Police detention, of which the suspect was not released, he is still in Police Detention.

He explained that, "In a case of a fatal accident where there is death, as enshrined in the law, that any person engaged in a fatal accident should be detained for 24 hours pending the outcome of the medical report".

"The Police acted professionally by detaining the suspect at the GRA Police cell. Presently, the Commissioner of Police has directed that the case should be transferred to the SCIIB for further discreet investigation while a post-mortem examination will be conducted on the deceased and the results will be made

public". Wakil said.

The Commissioner of Police, Umar Mamman Sanda therefore called on members of the public to go about their lawful business as the blocked road has been opened and traffic is moving and there is no cause for alarm and panic, there should be no intimidation by any person.

It could be recalled that as early as 7 am Monday, the youths stormed the busy Bauchi - Tafawa Balewa highway in front of the College of Agriculture and blocked the road on both sides thereby stopping the free flow of traffic and forcing many road users to turn back and seek the alternate road to and from Yelwa and Bauchi.

The mob action, it was gathered that, "On Sunday, 30th of October at about 5.30 pm, a man, 67 years old Adamu Babanta was allegedly killed by his friend and neighbour, 68 years old Mohammed Damina, Galadiman Dass with his car.

"A close relative of the late Adamu Babanta who did not disclose his name narrated, "Galadiman Dass and my late brother were friends and neighbours. It was alleged that Galadima attempted to have a sexual relationship with the 18

PSN endorses products

By **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

THE apex body of Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN), has certified and endorsed the number one brand West African product known as Procold, produced by an Indonesian company in Nigeria to be formally used for medical treatments in the society.

This took place recently, at the opening ceremony of the occasion marking the 95th National Convention of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN), held at the Crispin Events and Suite Hotel Jos, the Plateau State capital.

In an interview with

Journalists shortly after the endorsement ceremony, the Head of Brand of Procold West Africa, Marvin Lucky, said, "we actually have already been established in Nigeria and have been operating for the over thirty-five years now.

"We are coming from Indonesia, but we are proud to say that we have been producing locally in Nigeria by 2009. When you talk about efficacy of this product, common, thirty-five years is enough time to prove whether Procold is effective or not.

"It has been approved for generation to generation and it

has now become the number one product of Cold Enterprise in Nigeria that, every Nigerian feels and knows that procold is a very effective product and do, as the number one brand, we will collaborate with PSN and go back to the society", he highlighted.

Marvin, assured that with PSN and Orange Drugs Limited which has been supportive, they would have 40% of the groups, but would need to get more funding because he believe and dream was that, every Nigerian would understand and have a better medication.



CBN: Naira redesign in interest of Nigerian Economy

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has urged Nigerians to support the currency redesign project which is in their overall interest and that of the economy at large.

The Central Bank further insisted that it followed the law and due process to carry out the redesigning exercise, which is 12 years due.

The apex bank's clarification came against the backdrop of claims by the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed that her ministry was not carried along in the proposed redesigning of the Naira.

Abuja rail to resume operations soon

As part of effort geared towards the resumption of operations of the Abuja Mass Rail Transit System, the FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello, accompanied by senior officials of the FCT Administration (FCTA), has held a meeting with senior officials of the China Civil Engineering and Construction Corporation (CCECC) at the Operation Control Centre (OCC) of the rail system at Idu, Abuja. Speaking after the meeting, which included an extensive tour of the OCC, the Permanent Secretary of the FCTA, Mr Olusade Adesola, said that the purpose of the visit was to review the project and determine what actions to be taken within the shortest possible time to restore the rail system back into operation.

EFCC: 3 governors under our watch over stashed cash

Three serving state governors are being monitored over their moves to launder stashed billions of naira through table payment of salaries to workers. Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Abdulrasheed Bawa disclosed this on Thursday in Abuja.

He said raid on Bureau De Change operators would be sustained, urging Nigerians to support the system, for the benefit of all.

ASUU raises eyebrow over selective salary payment

Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, has accused the Federal Government of trying to break its ranks by selecting some medical lecturers for payment of their withheld salaries, while other academic staff are left unattended to. Specifically, the union said medical lecturers at the Usman Dan Fodio University Teaching Hospital in Sokoto have been paid seven months salaries, accusing the Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr Chris Ngige, of favouring his professional colleagues.

Tension in Edo community, 10 corpses found inside bush

Tension in Edo State as residents of Ibillo and Lampese communities on Tuesday discovered 10 unidentified corpses at a bush between Ibillo and Lampese along the Lagos-Abuja Road, Akoko-Edo Local Government.

Some farmers who were on their way to the farm discovered some of the corpses around 7:30 am and alerted the community vigilante group.

Bodies were deposited at the hospital for autopsy examination while an investigation to determine the cause of death and the culprits responsible had commenced.

Lalong declares state of emergency on environment

Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong has declared a state of emergency in the environment sector following the menace of indiscriminate dumping of waste across the Metropolitan city of Jos.

He said the menace of waste disposal is worrisome hence government has resolved to take drastic measures by constituting a Task Team on Environmental Sanitation across two local government areas of Jos North and Jos South for a start.

Governor Lalong disclosed this through the Secretary to the Government of Plateau State, Prof. Danladi Atu during the flag-off of the project held at the Luka Bentu Indoor Theatre where the evacuation of a large hip of waste commenced, as well as the monitoring of the revived monthly sanitation compliance in Jos. "This time around the sanitation and waste disposal is going to be an all inclusive affair. is not just government alone, traditional rulers are going to be involved, citizens must be involved because the menace of waste is very worrisome.

Compiled by **Hosea Nyamlong**

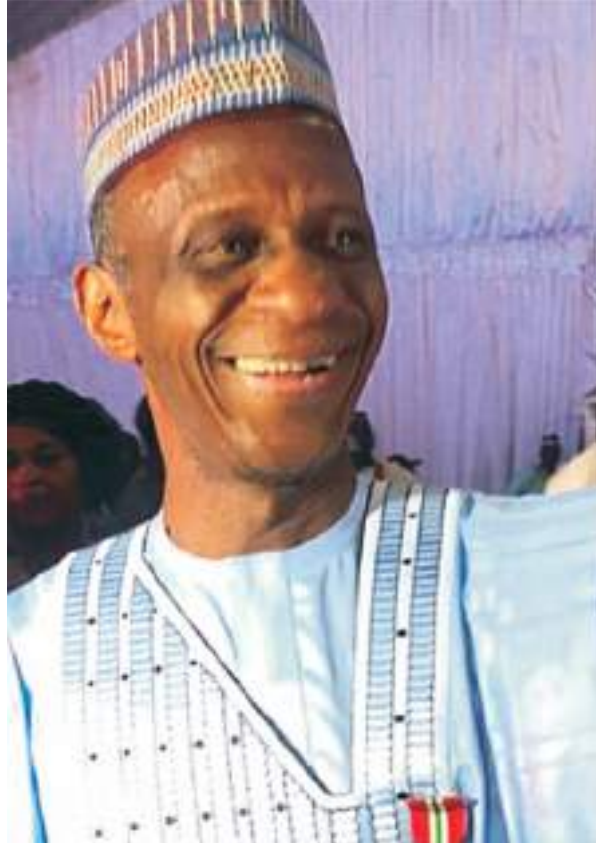
SUNDAY FEATURE

PMSS, Mwari: As Prof. Gambari commissions ICT Center

This coming Tuesday, 8th November 2022, the Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari will be commissioning the Perfect Memorial Secondary School's Information and Communication Center, (ITC) equipment which he donated to the school. This historic event will take place in the school's premises in Mwari, Bogoro Local Government Area of Bauchi State. BULUS GAMBO writes.



Prof. Gambari



Prof. Bogoro



Prof. Zuya

THE Information and Communications Center, (ITC) equipment was donated by Gambari to the school courtesy of the immediate past Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof. Suleiman Bogoro's good working relationship with him. Due to Bogoro's benevolence and transformation ideology coupled with how he has continued to irrespective of creed, region and or tribe help the citizenry of the nation, the Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari decided to give Prof. Bogoro the privilege of choosing any school which requires significant intervention with such equipment and without mincing words, Perfect Memorial Secondary Mwari came to his mind. But again, Gambari decided to assist in this regard considering his sense of fairness that there should be equity in the distribution of such equipments which necessitated the sponsors, Youth Hub Africa to undertake the ICT project to the school. Therefore, Youth Hub Africa should also be commended for ensuring the actualization of this project.

No doubt, the story of the school will not be complete without mentioning the sacrifices of pioneer missionaries who took it upon themselves to change the unpleasant narratives of the past for good. The Sudan United Mission, (SUM) came to be in 1904 after some missionaries led by Dr. Karl Kumm took it upon themselves to propagate the gospel of Christ to the unreached communities of Africa. Other members of his team included Dr. Ambrose Bateman, Rev. John Burt and Rev Lowry Maxwell.

All these missionary activities started in Wase Rock of present Plateau State in central Nigeria in 1904. One of the fundamental

vision of (SUM) aside the strategic evangelization of the continent of Africa for Christ, the missionaries were also to ensure that the people were educated enough so as to easily overcome contemporary challenges.

Consequently, while the interior areas were scavenged with the sole aim of soul winning, most of their attention also went to the area of holistic development through the provision of health care, educational amenities and standard curriculum for its advancement. Therefore, as time goes by, the relevance of education towards the liberation of these indigenous communities from the shackles of captivity continued to proliferate in all targeted areas.

After getting into the interior areas of the Middle Belt region, these missionaries began propagating the gospel of Christ equally ensuring that the people of these areas know how to read the Holy Bible and write for the betterment of their communities. Even as the gospel took all these villages and communities by storm, some areas which witnessed this divine transformation were Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa axis of southern Bauchi State. It is a fact that as early as 1907, the gospel of Christ had already began gaining grounds in the present day Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro Local Government Areas. In fact, by 1917, contact had already been established with the people of these areas.

According to records, by 1927, though Mwari, a village in the present day Bogoro Local Government Area was not a big town, a Church Missionary Society, (CMS) was eventually established. Despite some obvious challenges then, with the help of God, obstacles began to

give way and God's work both in Boi and Mwari began to flourish. Many missionaries including Eve Perfect sacrificed a lot working under immense pressure ensuring that more souls were won for Christ. Due to their resilience and tenacity while working in the Lord's vineyard, about 17 other villages were present during the farewell ceremony of the Perfect's family held in Mwari in 1940 where about 50 Bibles were distributed to all new converts in the area.

Several decades after some of these early missionaries had left the shores of this country, the various indigenous population relentlessly began to immortalize them not only for their evangelical efforts but the way and manner they pioneered the establishment of educational opportunities and domesticated these strategic Christians values for the betterment of the people of these areas.

In this regard, the Provincial Church Council, (PCC) Tafawa Balewa in 1993 established a mission school named Perfect Memorial Secondary School in Mwari in the present day Bogoro Local Government Area of Bauchi State. This gesture was aimed at sustaining the educational legacy of these pioneer missionaries and when the school was created, Tafawa Balewa LGA had not been split into two as it is today.

The school was consequently named after one of these outstanding pioneer missionaries who tirelessly worked in the area. Interestingly, Masoyi Hakuri was appointed the first principal of the school to the glory of God. Since then, the school has been headed by 12 different principals. The present principal is none other than Dakuna Zakka Wadam.

Initially, the school was sharing facilities with Mwari primary

school but the primary school was eventually relocated during the tenure of Mr. Mugana Yelmi Bisu when Prof Suleiman Bogoro was the board chairman. To the glory of God, Perfect Memorial Secondary School which started as a day school was later converted to boarding when the two held sway in their different administrative capacities. The school over the years has undergone tremendous transformation in terms of infrastructural as well as other appreciable forms of developments. Most of the infrastructural provisions happened during the tenure of a former principal of the school, Mr. Peter T. Roko when Prof. Bogoro was still the board chairman.

The school over time has also gotten some interventions including those of a three classroom blocks built by a former Governor of Bauchi State, His Excellency Ahmadu Adamu Muazu. It consist of a block of two rooms used as laboratories. Both Senator Adamu Gumba and former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara donated a block of four classrooms and a library respectively while a Non-governmental Organization, African Services also built and donated a hostel for boys to the school.

Over the years, Perfect Memorial Secondary School Mwari has continued to set the pace in terms of educational excellence in the country. Though successive administrators of the school have midwived a more contemporary dependable intellectual structure for efficient sustainability of needed prospective policies, today the school has proven its worth. According to the present Chairman of the Board, Prof

Elisha Habila Zuya,, "One of our challenges is basically on poor students' enrolment which is due to the proliferation of more schools in the area. The present board has however reintroduced day schooling a bit to help increase students' enrollment."

While calling on more well spirited individuals to continue to help the school, Prof. Zuya thanked Prof. Bogoro for reaching out to the school in the manner he is continuously doing adding that "the Chief of Staff to President Buhari, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari has also written his name in gold in the history of the school by donating this significant equipment."

The Board Chairman emphasized that "we embarked on the rationalisation of teaching staff to enhance their optimal performance. We also ensured that only degree holders teach in the senior classes. All subjects examined by WAEC and NECO are handled by appropriate persons. The hostels and classes were renovated. A lister generator was purchased to provide alternative power supply. This was to encourage the students to study both in the day and night. An ICT centre was established and Internet provided to give both staff and students access to online materials and help them do their assignments with ease."

He noted that "Presently, construction of twelve classroom blocks is ongoing, and a befitting Assembly Hall almost over 90% completion. Purchase of additional land for possible expansion was done last year, and it was fenced. One major challenge we have in the school is poor student's enrolment. Efforts are being made to improve on the issue. One of such efforts is the reintroduction of day students."

SUNDAY FEATURE

Becheve: Village that devalues girl child integrity

"Money wife", a barbaric act of betrothing underage girl child to pay debts is fast proliferating in Cross Rivers. Tunde Onakoya of Chess Slum initiative, a researcher who had the rare opportunity of investigating this sad development notes that many girls have had their future robbed for no fault of theirs. It is a story worth reading and pondering upon.

The chiefs gave us their blessing and we took pictures.

Pastor Richard mentioned that in all his years of being in the village, he had never seen the chiefs be so vulnerable and open minded.

Our next stop was the Ugbakoko village where we had to walk several miles to meet with another community leader who was very influential amongst his people. We got his blessing and he gave us permission to use the town hall for our training session with the girls.

Finally, we met the girls.

The stories were horrible, just horrible.

Girls as young as 5-15 years old were already married or sold to men old enough to be their grandfathers. There were a lot of 14-18 year old girls who had kids already.

Everything I had read about was real.

I met Faith, now a 20 year old girl with 3 children. Abandoned by her husband and now left to fend for herself and children. All she ever wanted was to go to school and become a nurse.

I met Dorathy who was now 27 years old with 6 children and a life filled with pain and extreme suffering. She had her first child at the age of 13. She told me she had contemplated committing suicide a few times but needed to stay alive to take care of her children.

I met Goodness who was just 9 years old but could read and speak English fluently. She had to drop out of school recently and has been sold as a money wife to an old man from a Neighboring village. It is only a matter of time before he comes to claim his "property".

I met all the other girls who have been sold as money wives by their parents, dropped out of school and we're waiting in agony for the "husbands" to come and claim them.

They knew the names of their husbands already.

Many of the girls had tried to runaway but mentioned that there was a charm called "Olembe" that is used to kill or harm any money wife that tries to escape the marriage. A lot of girls have lost their lives during childbirth and many currently live with obstetric



and vesico vaginal fistula.

This was a true humanitarian crisis. An entire community blinded by ignorance into sheep mentality of even condoning the abuse of girls in this manner. I know you feel a lot of rage right now; I feel the same way too. An outrage is not sustainable; we need to take practical steps to save these girls. I'm back in Lagos now but we'll be returning to Becheve in a couple of days with a team of 20 people.

With Pastor Richard's help, we're creating a Database for women between the ages of 18-40 who are money wives and already have kids. We are going to pair them up with a support system of female mentors where they can get monthly stipends to support their farming business.

We are going to put out a form for people to apply to be female mentors for these women. You will have to commit time to speak to them monthly so they know they're not alone in this world.

We have selected 50 girls between the ages of 5-18 who are money wives across all the Becheve villages and we will camp them in Ugbakoko for two weeks to teach them chess, mentor them and create a safe space where they can talk about their ordeals. We'll also need to partner with organizations

leading the advocacy to end Gender based violence and

**“
In our time in the community, we will go from house to house to educate the families about this barbaric act and do our best to eradicate this primitive mindset amongst the young men and the families selling their daughters. We will partner with financial institutions to offer loans to the people of Becheve as an alternative to using their daughters as collateral. Poverty and high levels of illiteracy is the major culprit here.
”**

early child marriage in remote communities.

In our time in the community, we will go from house to house to educate the families about this barbaric act and do our best to eradicate this primitive mindset amongst the young men and the families selling their daughters. We will partner with financial institutions to offer loans to the people of Becheve as an alternative to using their daughters as collateral.

Poverty and high levels of illiteracy is the major culprit here.

The local school in the community is dilapidated. We will renovate it and place all the girls on educational scholarship support. We will also partner with other schools around and get as many girls as possible back to school.

We will host a chess tournament and community event at the end of the 2 weeks training camp so the girls can showcase their talents to the entire community. We will invite all community leaders and villagers so they can come watch the girls show intellectual prowess.

We will make sure the entire village heads commit and sign to a law that criminalizes the money wife tradition in Becheve and get

the police to enforce this law. We will set up a permanent training Centre (Safe space) in the community where the girls can continue to learn chess, introduce them to a world of technology and build a library where they can read new books and learn about the world beyond the confines of Becheve.

We will renegotiate the deals for the money wives under the age of 18 and pay back the debt their families owe to the lender. We will do all of these things whilst simultaneously running a global campaign to end child marriage in Africa.

WE WILL NOT LEAVE BECHEVE UNTIL SOMETHING CHANGES.

It will be very shameful if we reduce this to gender wars on twitter.

We all have a responsibility to those without a voice.

Let us all become duty bound and show up for these girls in every capacity.

I hope the government intervenes too.

It will take time but we won't give up.

Culture is no excuse for child abuse.

It is time to do great things from a small place.

Tweet from Tunde Onakoya (@Tunde-OD) on Sunday, October 23, 2022

Chess in slums initiative

Concluded

MY people say that an elder does not refuse to be advised. However, he reserves the right to refuse the advice if he is poked in the forehead in the process of advising him or her. This is why I am going to beg all my elders before I commence this piece. Please forgive your daughter. My wisdom is exceedingly small, but my questions are excessively big. Please forgive me if I offend you. Forgive me if I offend your sensibilities and permit me to have your listening ears. I promise not to poke you in the forehead.

The question that weights on my mind is the question of our Federal Character. When I was young, I use to see the rainbow colours of our nation represented in our Federal Character. She was beautiful to behold. I use to see the Ibibio man leading the kanuri man. The hausa man leading the efik man, the angas man leading the yoruba man, the Fulani man leading the anang man, the anang man leading the yoruba man and the yoruba man leading the birom and the angas man leading the kanuri man mention a few. They all took turns to lead and follow but today things are not the same. We were the original rainbow nation.

Today, I hear that brothers do not take turns to lead and follow anymore. I hear that one tribe supersedes others in intellect, loyalty, and knowledge. I hear that one tribe is favoured over and above other and I wonder why. My question is why was the federal character created in the first place? Was it not created to help us live as a unity in diversity. Let us look at the act establishing the Federal Character Commission:

FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT, ETC.) ACT

An Act to establish the Federal Character Commission with responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels of government.

Its *raison d'etre* is the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels of government and the enforcement, monitoring and the promotion of same. My question is, is there compliance with the stipulations of this act? Obviously, there is not looking at the scale. I hear that it has to do with finding people who are competent. I believe that since Nigerians are the most educated Africans worldwide, we should have competent people from every tribe and tongue in Nigeria. Let us look at the functions and powers of the commission:

Functions of the Commission

(1) The functions of the Commission shall be-

a) to work out an equitable formula, subject to the approval of the President,

for the distribution of all cadres of posts in the civil and the public services of the Federation and of the States, the armed forces, the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies, bodies corporate owned by the Federal or a State Government and Extra-Ministerial Departments and parastatals of the Federation and States;

(b) to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels of government.

(c) to take such legal measures

Where is our federal character?



Gbajabiamila



Lawan

including the prosecution of the heads or staff of any Ministry, Extra-Ministerial Department or agency which fails to comply with any federal character principle or formula prescribed or adopted by the Commission.

(d) to work out-

(i) an equitable formula, subject to the approval of the President, for distribution of socio-economic services, amenities and infra structural facilities.

(ii) modalities and schemes, subject to the approval of the President, for redressing the problems of imbalances and reducing the fear of relative deprivation and marginalization in the Nigerian system of federalism as it obtains in the public and private sectors.

(e) to intervene in the operation of any agency of the Federal Government, subject to the approval of the President,

where in the opinion of the Commission the function of the agency concerned is relevant to the functions of the Commission and the Commission is of the opinion that it is not being effectively implemented.

(f) to advise the Federal, State, and local governments to intervene and influence providers of services, goods and socio-economic amenities to extend such services, goods and socio-economic amenities to deprived areas of the country.

(g) to ensure that all Ministries and Extra-Ministerial Departments, agencies and other bodies affected by this Act have a clear criterion indicating conditions to be fulfilled and comprehensive guidelines on the procedure for-

(i) determining eligibility and the procedure for employment in the public

and private sectors of the economy.

(ii) the provision of social services, goods and socio-economic amenities in Nigeria.

(h) to ensure that public officers shall, in the performance of their functions, adhere strictly to rules and regulations made pursuant to this Act.

(i) to advise the Federal Government of Nigeria on the structure and rationalization of any Ministry, Extra-Ministerial Department or agency; and

(j) conduct such other functions as the President shall, from time to time, assign to it.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt-

(a) the posts mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of this section shall include those of the Permanent Secretary in the Civil Service of the Federation or the State Civil Service, Directors-General in Extra-Ministerial Departments and Parastatals, Directors in Ministries and Extra-Ministerial Departments, Senior Military Officers, Senior Diplomatic Posts, Managerial Cadres in the Federal and State Parastatals, bodies corporate, Agencies and Institutions; and

(b) socio-economic services, amenities and facilities mentioned in paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of this section include those in the sectors of education, electricity, health, commerce and industry, telecommunications, transport

Its *raison d'etre* is the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic, media and political posts at all levels of government and the enforcement, monitoring and the promotion of same. My question is, is there compliance with the stipulations of this act? Obviously, there is not looking at the scale. I hear that it has to do with finding people who are competent. I believe that since Nigerians are the most educated Africans worldwide, we should have competent people from every tribe and tongue in Nigeria.

To be continued

PSALM 34:4 says, ***I sought the Lord and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears.*** The question is why does the devil tempt people to be afraid? Have you ever thought about that? If the devil could do anything in your life, he would have gone ahead and done it. If the devil could kill you or stop you from being prosperous, he would have done that right away. The answer is because he cannot do anything to you with your knowing or unknowing consent.

Through thoughts, ideas and suggestions, which he puts in our minds, he tries to paint a negative picture of our lives. He does it because he does not have the power to do what he is suggesting. If he had the power to do it, he will go ahead and do it. He speaks to your mind and tells you this sickness will kill you. If he could kill you with the sickness, he would have just consummated the process. The reason why he suggests these things is because all the power he has is the power of suggestion.

The devil cannot fulfill his will in your life except you cooperate with him. His power has been taken away. Jesus has stripped him of his power and now all he has are suggestions, lies and deception. So he suggests things to you, and except he can get you to agree with him, those things will not and cannot remain permanent in your life. They have no authority to do so.

You must have a passing through mentality in life. You are passing through these things. They are coming to pass. You will come out bigger and better on the other side. Do not agree with the devil and allow him to make permanent something that is temporary and you are just passing through. Except he gets you to agree with him and to say the things he is suggesting, and act upon them, he cannot establish his will in your life.

This is why the Psalmist said; ***I sought the Lord and he heard me and delivered me from all of my fears.*** God wants you delivered from all fear. The fear of lack, sickness, death and anything - fear is the only way Satan can get an inroad into your life and establish his will.

If you will learn to shut down

the thoughts, ideas and suggestions of the devil by trusting God and speaking his word over your situations and over your mind, then you will remove every access Satan has. Then you will see that every situation that Satan is directly involved in will turn around and dissipate in your life. He cannot keep you in any circumstance except he gets you to agree with the

with it.

Amos 3:3 says; ***Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*** So right now, you can dislodge Satan's advantage in your life. You can reverse the curse and change the dynamics of your circumstance and introduce the power of God into it. You can see the power of God vault you out of that circumstance and see amazing opportunities



You can agree to break seize



“***I sense the power of God come upon someone today, as you respond to God's word in simple faith; as you understand that Satan has no right to fulfil his will in your life and you refuse to agree with him. Refuse to agree with him by agreeing with God's word.***”

in Jesus name. You will discover that all the devil can do is threaten you and shout but right in the middle of his screams and shouts, the power of God will cause you to have a mighty testimony.

In Psalm 23:5, it says; ***thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*** This is the exciting thing about God's word. It is true even in the face of Satan's threat. It is not a matter of how you feel but your decision to agree with God. Right now, decide that God's power is working where you need it the most. Rather than Satan's will coming into manifestation, know that it is God's will for your life; it is His goodness and His mercy that is coming into manifestation today.

The Psalmist also said; in Psalm 23:6 ***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*** I declare that is your portion today as you trust God and shut down that force of fear. As you decide to aggressively believe what the word of God has said about your life today, the power of God invade every circumstance and put you on a mountain top of testimony and give you a song of victory that you will never stop singing all the days of your life.

To be continued...

thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

When you understand the operation of fear, you will know how easy it is to shut down the devil because he is defeated already. As you agree with Almighty God and what he has spoken concerning your life and circumstances, you literarily shut down the operation of the spirit of fear in your life. Whatever the devil has sponsored in your life will turn around to become exactly what God has said. This is how we introduce the power of God in our lives and our circumstances.

Somebody reading this is going to trust God today and see the power of God work in their life like they have never seen before. I see the hand of God lifting somebody out of shame today. The devil has said you will be in that position forever; he is just suggesting it because he does not have the power to make it permanent except you agree

and fortunes visit you where you are to turn things around.

Right now, you can see the healing power of God, favour and advantage come to you. You can see dry spells broken and water flowing in the wilderness of life by learning to trust God and refusing to accept what the devil says about your circumstance.

Remember, fear is Satan's only access into your life and fear is manifested in your life through thoughts, ideas and suggestions. Whisperings of the devil in your mind seeks to tempt you to wrongly interpret circumstances that you are faced with today. Learn to tell yourself, God is on my side, He is helping me right now. I will not be ashamed. God is on my side, His power is working on my behalf because I am in covenant with God.

If you are a child of God, these are things you must learn to declare; trust God and what He has said in His word about the circumstance of life. When you have found out what

His word has said and you have found out His present commitment to you and the full weight of His power and resources deployed to that situation, you will realize that no situation in your life can resist the weight of God's power, favour and resources. Glory to the name of God.

I sense the power of God come upon someone today, as you respond to God's word in simple faith; as you understand that Satan has no right to fulfil his will in your life and you refuse to agree with him. Refuse to agree with him by agreeing with God's word.

Find out what God's word says and agree with God instead. Agree with God that He is with you and is your ever present help. Agree with Him that he is the healer of every sickness in your life and that He preserves you and gives you longevity of life. Agree with Him that He is the one that gives favour an opportunity to smile upon you. Agree with God that your life is moving upward and forward today and that dry spell is over in the name of Jesus.

Agree with God that the siege of hell is broken over your life and that the determinant counsel of hell is now disappointed in your life

"Somebody reading this is going to trust God today and see the power of God work in their life like they have never seen before. I see the hand of God lifting somebody out of shame today. The devil has vault you out of that circumstance and see amazing opportunities and fortunes visit you where you are to turn things around.

INTERNATIONAL

New Tunisia electoral law "eliminates" gender parity

A new law introduced by Tunisian President Kais Saied's government in September has "eliminated the principle of gendered parity" in elected assemblies, the United States-based group Human Rights Watch has warned.

The law passed on September 15 requires that candidates secure 400 signatures from registered voters in their constituencies.

"The new law strips gender parity provisions from a previous electoral law that strove to ensure equal representation between men and women in Tunisia's elected assemblies, although Tunisia's new constitution explicitly upholds this principle," Salsabil Chellali, Tunisia director at HRW, said on Wednesday.

"Ensuring gender parity in elected assemblies was one of the major accomplishments for women's rights following Tunisia's 2011 revolution," she added.

Moreover, the law bars election hopefuls from having their political campaigns financed publicly, which critics say favours men and those with wealthier backgrounds.

"These requirements



Saied

especially disempower women who are less likely to have the same powerful local networks to sponsor their candidacy as men and the same financial means as their male counterparts. Together this is likely to contribute to their political exclusion," Chellali noted.

Parliamentary elections in Tunisia are scheduled for December 17.

Last month thousands of Tunisians demonstrated in the capital, Tunis, denouncing Saied's moves to consolidate political power and demanding accountability for the country's long-running economic crisis.

Saied moved to rule by

decree after shutting down parliament last year and expanding his powers with a new constitution passed in a July referendum.

Critics say his actions have undermined the democracy secured through a 2011 revolution that removed longtime leader Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and triggered the Arab Spring.

A worsening economic situation, compounded by supply shortages in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, has agitated many in the North African country of 12 million.

Cash-strapped Tunisia is in talks with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout loan of about \$2bn.

REDWAN Hussein, representative of the Ethiopian government, left, and Getachew Reda, representative of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), right, sign a peace agreement between the two parties during a news conference regarding the African Union-led negotiations to resolve conflict in Ethiopia at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) offices in Pretoria.

Regional and world leaders have hailed the peace agreement between Ethiopia's government and Tigray rebels, raising hopes for an end to two years of brutal conflict marked by atrocities, including killings, gang rapes and starvation.

Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, the African Union mediator, said the agreement signed on Wednesday in South Africa marked a new "dawn" for Ethiopia.

The war, which broke out in November 2020, has pitted regional forces from the northern region of Tigray against Ethiopia's federal army and its allies, which include fighters from other regions and neighbouring Eritrea. It has killed thousands of people, displaced millions and left hundreds of thousands on the brink of famine.

Here is a quick round-up of

Ethiopia peace deal hailed as a "new dawn"

reactions to the deal: "The agreement signed today in South Africa is monumental in moving Ethiopia forward on the path of the reforms we embarked upon four and a half years ago."

"Our commitment to peace remains steadfast. And our commitment to collaborating for the implementation of the agreement is equally strong."

"The two parties in the Ethiopian conflict have formally agreed to the cessation of hostilities as well as to systematic, orderly, smooth and coordinated disarmament."

"This moment is not the end of the peace process. Implementation of the peace agreement signed today is critical for its success."

"Making peace has proved more difficult and more intractable and elusive than presiding over the killing of women and children and destruction of property."

"The war over the last two years has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands and has turned Ethiopia, once on the cusp of great economic progress, into a bad parody of itself and caused tremendous suffering to the people of Tigray."

"The African Union's announcement of the signing of a cessation of hostilities between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front represents

an important step towards peace."

"It is very much a welcome first step, which we hope can start to bring some solace to the millions of Ethiopian civilians that have really suffered during this conflict."

"Further negotiations are encouraged to reach a permanent ceasefire agreement and launch broader political talks."

"Welcome important agreement between the Ethiopian Government and Tigrayan authorities to end the terrible conflict in northern Ethiopia."

"I applaud their choice of peace, and the mediation efforts of African Union, South Africa and Kenya. UK is ready to support the peace process."

"We must remain vigilant in the days and weeks to come. All too often, civilians remain vulnerable to mass atrocity crimes as peace agreements are being implemented. Ensuring the agreement's implementation, including the departure of Eritrean forces, whose government was not part of the negotiations, is critical."

"The lasting solution can only be through political engagement and being able to accommodate our differences, our diversity, while still remaining a united Ethiopia. It's my hope that all parties will go back and ... begin the process of dialogue. The lasting solution can only be dialogue."

Ethiopia peace deal hailed as a "new dawn"

A French parliament session was thrown into turmoil after a far-right legislator was accused of yelling "back to Africa" to a Black colleague who asked a question on migrant arrivals.

Parliament member Carlos Martens Bilongo of the leftist France Unbowed party was questioning the government over a maritime rescue boat that is carrying hundreds of passengers in the Mediterranean Sea, and has not received an assigned port to bring them to.

Charities have appealed to the French government to take them in or help find a solution.

Bilongo was interrupted by Gregoire de Fournas, a newly elected member of the far-right, anti-immigration National Rally (RN), who says he said.

The President of the lower house of the French parliament Yaël Braun-Pivet subsequently suspended the legislative session, later saying the comment would be investigated.

The comment sparked

criticism and condemnation as it was alleged de Fournas may have directly targeted Bilongo with his words, as in the French language the pronouns "he" and "they" are pronounced the same.

De Fournas defended his comment and accused opponents of "manipulation", and his party also denied any personal attack on Bilongo. De Fournas later apologised to Bilongo for "the misunderstanding in my comments caused".

However, Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne urged the assembly to sanction the far-right MP saying, "racism has no place in our democracy".

Bilongo called the comment "shameful".

Stephane Sejourne, who leads President Emmanuel Macron's centrist party, said de Fournas should resign, and the left-wing Nupes alliance said he should be expelled.

A parliamentary committee will meet Friday to discuss the incident, which could see de Fournas punished with a temporary exclusion from the assembly.

North Korean aircraft detected

SOUTH Korea scrambled 80 military aircraft, including advanced F-35 fighter jets, after detecting 180 North Korean warplanes flying within North Korean territory – the latest defiant show of military strength by the nuclear-armed country.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, the North Korean warplanes were detected in various areas inland and along the country's eastern and western coasts, but they did not come particularly close to the inter-Korean border.

None of those planes breached the South Korean military's virtual "tactical action" line, which is designated to be located 20-50km (12-31 miles) north of the two countries' land and sea boundaries. The action line is for monitoring

purposes to give the South enough time to respond to provocations or attacks.

The South scrambled 80 of its warplanes, including an unspecified number of F35 fighters, but there were no immediate reports of incidents involving the two air forces.

The JCS said South Korean forces were "maintaining a firm readiness posture for further provocations" and monitoring the situation in coordination with the United States.

Al Jazeera's Rob McBride, reporting from the South Korean capital, Seoul, said some of the North Korean aircraft movements had been close enough to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that separates the two Koreas to trigger the scrambling of South Korean

jets in response.

The Korean People's Army Air Force holding a military drill in an undisclosed location.

Months of tension between North Korea and allies South Korea and the US appears to be reaching a new level as Pyongyang moves to demonstrate its opposition to ongoing military exercises south of its borders, while also showcasing its new military firepower.

North Korea had warned Seoul and Washington that their decision this week to hold the "Vigilant Storm" joint military air drills would receive a response.

When South Korea and the US announced on Thursday they were extending the Vigilant Storm exercises by a day in response to North Korea's earlier missile launches, an official in Pyongyang warned that the situation had entered a dangerous phase.

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

"It is a very dangerous and false choice," Pak Jong-chon, secretary of the Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, said of the decision to extend the drills.

"The irresponsible decision of the US and South Korea is shoving the present situation, caused by provocative military acts of the allied forces, to an uncontrollable phase,"



Jong-Un

INTERNATIONAL

Sudanese protest against military government

Reactions have continued to trail as Sudanese protesters rally in the streets of the capital city Khartoum recently, marking one year anniversary of a military coup that distorted Sudan's transition government. In spite of everything, the country has remained mired in a political and economic turmoil. HOSEA NYAMLONG writes with Agency report.

HOWEVER, several thousands marched through the city centre chanting "No to Military Rule." This was in remembrance of what happened last year October 25, 2021, when General Abdul Fattah al-Burhane's coup put an end to the democratic transition.

Recall that in 2019, Sudanese citizens forced out the regime of Omar al-Bashir's dictatorship rule that lasted for 30 years. Sudan has been ruled by the military government for 53 years out of its 66 years of gaining independence in 1955 Sudanese.

The civil unrest in Sudan started in December 2018, when the President Bashir's government imposed emergency austerity measures to stave off economic collapse, with the cuts in bread and fuel subsidies that sparked demonstrations in the country over the high cost of living standards. Citizens were angered and they went out in the capital, Khartoum protesting against the government for not giving way for civilian rule to continue.

There have been disturbing reports of increased tensions among Sudan's different security forces. This has sparked concerns in some quarters that if a political solution is not found, Sudan could descend into conflict and divisions as seen in Libya, Yemen or elsewhere, in a region already beset by instability of government.

The combination of political conflict, economic crisis would likely double the number of people facing acute hunger in Sudan to above 18 million people before the end of 2022.

It was observed that in the absence of a political solution, crime and lawlessness will be rising while inter-communal conflicts have taken the entire western Darfur region and farmers are forced off their land by violent attacks, villages burned, and homes looted.

A seven-member Transitional Military Council (TMC), led by Lt-Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhane has been set-up. The council said it needs to be in charge to ensure order and security that will transform the country to a better one.

Presently, the Sudanese economy is in shambles. It needs a civilian rule that would work out modalities to recover the loss of its foreign funding and economic mismanagement that have pushed the Sudanese economy to the brink since the coup.

The coup was widely condemned, by foreign donors and international financial institutions terminating cooperation with Khartoum. There have been attempts to bring back civilian rule through various diplomatic initiatives, but there still is no clear roadmap to forge ahead.

The coup came just two and a half years after, a longtime after President Omar al-Bashir was



Protesters in the capital city of Khartoum

removed from office following a popular revolution, which paved the way for a political transition and the stabilization of the Sudanese economy. Just as the country was getting back on the right track and making good economic progress, before the removal of the civilian-led government that derailed these efforts.

The mismanagement by the army has reversed the progress made between 2019 and 2021 and exacerbated the cost-of-living crisis, price hikes, and business sector recession etc.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and partners issued the 2022 Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan was 925,000 refugees and benefitting 231,235 people from host communities at a cost of US\$517 million. Over 1.2 million refugees are expected to be in Sudan by the end of 2022. Refugees will need multi-sectoral interventions to address their needs and to improve self-reliance over the long-term.

Investments in local infrastructure and strengthening of gender-sensitive education, health, nutrition and WASH services are also needed to ensure that local services have the capacity to serve the increasing needs of refugees and host communities. This would allow both communities to coexist peacefully.

Sudan is the second largest asylum country in Africa. The country hosts refugees and asylum-seekers mostly from South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Syria, Yemen and other countries such as Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The largest refugee populations in

the country are South Sudanese and Ethiopian refugees. Sudan is one of the main hosting countries for South Sudanese refugees with over 800,000 refugees in the country of whom 3,500 arrived in January 2022.

In addition, Sudan hosts over 73,300 Ethiopian refugees across the country of whom 51,000 refugees arrived in eastern Sudan (Kassala and Gedaref) and Blue Nile State since November 2020 following violence in the Tigray region.

Approximately 70 per cent of Sudan's refugee population live outside of camps, with local communities which are hosting refugees on their land in towns and villages. This includes refugees in urban areas and more than 100 settlements across the country.

Many out-of-camp settlements are in remote and underdeveloped areas, where resources, infrastructure and basic services are very limited.

Against this backdrop, time is short for Sudan to reach a solution to its protracted political crisis, there is the need to hasten the process to resolve all matters affecting the growth of the country.

On this note, urgent steps need to be taken, in other to overcome the consequences, if not this would be felt beyond national borders, by impacting a whole generation of Sudanese into poverty.

To save its economy, Sudan needs civilian rule to embark on a journey of re-opening itself to the world and restoring normal diplomatic and economic relations with international financial institutions and donors.

The civilian government need to be in full control of its policy-making that state institutions

economies.

There is need to continue the anti-corruption measures to recover assets stolen by the previous regime in other to put the Sudanese economy back on track from a "fragile state" to a developing state.

To this end, the international community would also have to play an important role, especially in stabilizing the Sudanese economy and help the country resume the debt relief process and ease access to concessional loans for infrastructure and basic services such as health care, education, and food security.

Political Solution in Sudan needs the civilian-led Government because the takeover by military leaders is threatening the country's democratic transition.

The political agreement was

shattered on October 25, 2021, when the military staged a coup, deposing the appointed civilian prime minister, Abdalla Hamdok, and scrapping the constitution weeks before military leaders were scheduled to transfer power to civilian leadership need to be upheld for the best interest of the Sudanese and for democracy to be maintain in Sudan.

Sudan citizens are still protesting that they don't want the military rule to continue, urging the military Government to give way for the civilian Government

Political transition is possible in Sudan, only when the citizens would aligned with the ideas of democratic tenets in agreeing to resolve their conflicts among themselves.



Gen.al-Burhan



'Jos has lost many talents'



Can you please tell me a little about yourself?

My name is Henry Samson Mafulul, I am a filmmaker (screenwriter, director, producer, actor); Though I studied Geography and Planning at the University of Jos, but I had always wanted to make movies. I have acted in and directed movies shot in Nigeria, Denmark and South Africa e.g. 'Europe in my Heart' and 'Desperate Journeys' are films which addressed issues of Human Trafficking and Prostitution in Nigeria and Europe. Presently, I am the CEO of Maverick Film Dept; the Executive Director/Team Lead at the Jos Film Initiative JOFII and an LSX Fellow at New America Foundation.

When did you start having a dream of

are working on?

Over the years, Jos has lost many young talents to the search for greener pasture issues which I personally think is understandable considering the lack of a thriving entertainment industry, where all the necessary elements that make up the industry are working together to keep the wheels spinning e.g. the radio, television, film studios, theatres, cinemas, prints, entertainment magazines, publicists/advertisement companies, talk shows, marketers, training centers/schools, creative/cultural/film festivals, etc. As part of our contribution to the solution, The Jos Film Initiative was birthed.

The Jos Film Initiative-JOFII, a Jos based non-



working in the industry?

My growing up days was greatly influenced by music and television as my parents loved and gave us access to music and the TV and I fell in love with it ever since I discovered "Sesame Street" in the very early 1980's. I watched almost all the programmes on TV both those I understood and those I did not. Even as a kid, I stayed up to watch the late night movies. As time went by and I got older, this whole TV thing became my passion and I have pursued it ever since.

Please educate us on this new project you

profit youth development and empowerment initiative was designed to grow the Jos film/cultural/arts and creative sector through training, festivals, competitions, grants and awards. JOFII also uses film/media production; videography, photography, modeling, fashion, music, other creative arts; cultural/entertainment projects as tools to showcase culture, tourism and hospitality; promote peace and good governance and advocate for girls, women and human rights.

Our Vision is to deliver World standard trainings, events and opportunities in film/media and creative arts to the Plateau youth.

Our Mission is to harness the talents of youths by harnessing the skills of local and international industry educators, practitioners and organizers to deliver best practice trainings, festivals, competitions, grants and awards opportunities in the creative and cultural arts to the Jos youth.

Our Trainings:

'Point & Shoot' is designed as a youth skill acquisition based training in photography and videography/filmmaking (producing, directing,

Continued on page 26

Couples who became close friends after ending marriage

Not all marriages last forever, but that doesn't mean the separation has to be final. Some former celebrity couples decided to stay friends, even after they went through a divorce. Whether they have children that they're co-parenting, or just decided to have an amicable separation, these celebrity couples can prove to be an inspiration for all of us.

Demi Moore and Bruce Willis



Although Demi Moore and Bruce Willis were married for over a decade, and eventually got a divorce in 2000, they are still very good friends. Demi even attended Bruce and his second wife's vow renewal ceremony in 2009.

Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan



Although they went through a difficult divorce, the former couple are still friendly with each other. Jenna Dewan said that she is happy about starting a new chapter in her life.

Orlando Bloom and Miranda Kerr



Miranda Kerr also has a good relationship with both her ex and his current partner, Katy Perry. The supermodel revealed that they often hang out together and that Orlando Bloom likes Miranda's new boyfriend too.

Continued on page 25

EVER'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Health

Why do I have chin and neck hairs

SOMETIMES, chin or neck hair is more than irritating. It might be a sign of an underlying medical condition. Let's take a closer look at why we get chin and neck hair and the best way to handle it. What causes chin hair in women? Typically, hair grows from the root or hair follicle just under the skin. This can be due to genetics or age. Menopause can trigger more chin, neck, or facial hair. Research shows different racial groups can have different levels of androgen and resulting body and facial hair. Hair follicles are unique for everyone and how they respond to testosterone can differ. The rate of hair growth from follicles also varies.

This can result in a few random long hairs in unexpected locations like the neck. For most people these random hairs are normal. When chin hair is a health flag a little facial hair is common and normal, this includes chin and upper lip area. Excess hair on the body or face in females is known as hirsutism.

Sudden changes in facial hair patterns might mean your body is sending a sign something has changed. It can signal a hormonal imbalance caused by a medical condition or a side effect of medications. Examples include:

What causes chin hairs?

Everyone has hair on their chin and this is perfectly normal. We all have vellus follicles that produce very fine, tiny light-colored hair that is often referred to as "peach fuzz". Vellus hair serves a purpose, which is to help regulate our body temperature.

Your hormone levels shift periodically and throughout your lifetime because of aging, weight gain, and other factors, including pregnancy and menopause.

Even a slight increase in androgen or imbalance between your male and female sex hormones — which everyone has — can result in more terminal hairs in places you may not expect, like your chin.

There are a number of factors at play when it comes to facial hair. Some facial hair is normal and harmless, while some can be a sign of an underlying medical issue. In most cases, chin hairs are normal.

Getting rid of an unwanted chin hair

There's not much you can do to stop chin hairs from growing — they're just a part of being human. You do, however, have many options for removing random chin hairs if they bother you.

Options for getting rid of chin hair include:

- tweezing
- shaving
- waxing at home or by a professional
- professional threading
- professional sugaring
- laser hair removal
- electrolysis



A couple of stray chin hairs can be easily plucked out with tweezers. Shaving is another fast and easy way to remove chin hairs. The downside to shaving is that you'll likely have to do it more often and regrowth appears coarser.

Contrary to popular belief, your hair doesn't actually grow in thicker — it just appears that way because the tips of the hairs are blunt rather than tapered after shaving.

When a chin hair is a health flag

There are times when chin hair is a red flag that something may be going on with your health. Excessive chin or facial hair, or suddenly increased growth in hair on any part of the face, may be a sign of a condition called hypertrichosis. The type of hypertrichosis specific to women is called hirsutism.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, hirsutism is common and affects 5 to 10 percent of women of childbearing age. It can cause dark, coarse hair growth on the chin, upper lip, chest, abdomen, and back.

Though the exact cause of hirsutism is not always known, it can also be caused by several medical conditions.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)

PCOS is the leading cause of hirsutism. This common condition affects as many as 12

percent of U.S. women of childbearing age, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's characterized by a group of symptoms that affect the ovaries, including:

- tiny cysts in the ovaries
- high levels of androgen and other male hormones
- irregular or missed periods

Along with excessive or unwanted hair, people with PCOS often also experience:

- weight gain
- heavy periods
- acne
- headaches

- skin tags
- dark patches in skin creases

Females with Cushing syndrome often grow excess facial hair and have irregular periods. A fatty hump between the shoulders, purple stretch marks, and a rounded face are other common signs of the condition.

Non-classic congenital adrenal hyperplasia (NCAH)

NCAH is a milder form of a genetic condition known as congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) that occurs later in life. The condition is very rare and doesn't always cause symptoms. Women who do have symptoms experience those related to excess androgen, such as:

- excess facial hair
- frontal baldness
- menstrual irregularity
- infertility

Androgen-secreting tumor

Androgen-secreting tumors of the ovaries or adrenal glands are

rare and account for just 0.2 percent of cases of hirsutism in women. The excess hair caused by these types of tumors usually grows suddenly and continues to grow even with medical treatment.

The excess hair may be accompanied by other signs and symptoms, such as:

- high testosterone levels
- increased muscle mass
- enlarged clitoris
- deepening of voice
- increased sex drive
- male pattern baldness
- abdominal or pelvic mass

When to see a doctor

You should see your doctor if you experience an increased growth of facial or body hair over a short period of time.

Hair growth that is accompanied by other symptoms, such as severe acne, a change in your voice, or irregular periods should also be evaluated by a doctor.

A dermatologist can look at your chin hair and determine if you should be screened for PCOS or other medical conditions based on your appearance and other symptoms.

Having some hair on your chin is perfectly normal and usually a cosmetic concern more than a medical one. Chin hair can be removed safely using a number of at-home and professional methods, if you choose to do so.

If you have a lot of hair on your chin or experience increased hair growth suddenly, it could be a sign of a hormonal imbalance. Excess body hair in unusual places or chin hair that's accompanied by other symptoms should prompt a visit to your doctor to find the cause.

Source: [Healthline.com](https://www.healthline.com).



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Relationship

Why idolizing may harm your partner

DATING is a multi-faceted venture. We're dealing with people's misperceptions, unintended projections, and misplaced insecurities.

But what causes people a lot of pain, and they don't even realize they're doing it, is idolizing the person they date.

People create this phenomenon when they believe the person they're dating is above them in some way.

Maybe the other person's looks have you dreaming about finally obtaining them all for yourself. Perhaps their success makes you feel like they're always just a step above you.

And while it might seem harmless, idolizing the person you date causes a lot of hurt, for you and them.

If you're wondering if you idolize your partner or the people you date, there are a few signs you can look out for:

When you think of life without them, you feel empty.

When someone is put in the position of your "everything" the thought of losing them feels life-shattering. It's different from losing someone you simply love and care about. It feels like losing



a limb or the "best thing to ever happen to you."

When they mess up, your world feels rocked.

In your mind, the other person can do no wrong; you are the only one that messes up in relationships, not them. There are specific times you can recall when they made a mistake — at work,

forgetting plans, or locking their keys in their car — and you made all these mistakes for why the mistake happened.

Maybe you even blamed yourself.

They call all the shots.

When it comes to making big decisions, you default to giving them that power. Maybe you think

validation from them in the form of compliments. You may rely on them monetarily.

People who idolize their partners have trouble maintaining a life outside of the relationship.

Arguments feel like the end of the world.

You do everything you can to avoid fights, but very often, they happen. And when they do, you feel like it will end your relationship.

As a result, your emotions are all over the place. You're angry, sad, scared, and upset. Even if the argument lasted an hour, you feel the impact for days after.

Whether you're the one providing the alter or have found yourself unwillingly upon one, idolization sucks. In reality, a serious relationship means to equals coming together.

But pedestals aim to do the opposite.

Why idolizing your partner hurts them.

When you put someone on a pedestal, you minimize them to an idea. You're saying that their beauty or success defines who they are. In your mind, they can do no wrong when it comes to those aspects.

They're no longer a complex human being, wrapped up in traumatic life events and insecurities — they're a perfect anecdote that you've created.

So when they do inevitably mess up — which everyone eventually will — you'll either fault them or won't support them, out of denial. Which doesn't sound like a loving relationship to me.

I've dated men who saw me as a prize to win (how do I know? Through the grapevine and sometimes, straight to my face). But it was dehumanizing. I wanted a real, deep connection with someone. Not a person who minimized me to this one idea based on my looks and accomplishments.

Why idolizing your partner hurts you.

The notion of she/he is "out of

my league" is ridiculous. We are all human beings figuring out how to navigate life. By saying the people you date are above or below you implies your value is based off the people in your life.

Which isn't true.

Putting yourself in a position of less than, instead of giving yourself a nice stepping stool to rise up to their level, will ultimately lead to a constant feeling of inadequacy. That will only build up inside you as resentment.

One day, it's bound to explode.

The reality is, relationships level the playing field.

When you get into a relationship with another person, you both hold the same power. At any point, one of you can break it off. You both need to put in the effort to maintain a thriving relationship.

You're both team members. You go from vying for someone's admiration or proving you're worthy to date — though I'd argue that isn't healthy either — to the stages that come after deciding you both want to be together.

If you don't accept that your opinions and decisions matter as much as your partner's your relationship will always feel like you're not worthy of being in it.

That doesn't mean admiration is unhealthy, though.

With this all being said, admiration is not the enemy. Appreciation for how your partner's looks and the hard work they put into their career is still important. They just can't be the only part of the relationship you focus on.

And they most certainly can't make you feel inadequate.

You can love different aspects of a person without thinking they're better than you. You can accept a person's love without feeling you're above or below them.

Love yourself and insecurities begin to vanish.

If you struggle with feeling like you aren't worthy of your relationship, then chances are, you don't value yourself. Cultivating self-love is a beautiful remedy to feeling inadequate. Believing you deserve the best is going to help you rid any notions that you're the only lucky one in the relationship.

Because they are also lucky.

You'll only be able to accept someone's love when you can love yourself. People nowadays are in relationships ridden with insecurities and wondering why things aren't working out. It's because they can't believe that their partner loves them; how can they when they don't love themselves?

Let's take these pedestals we put people on and burn them. Let the expectations and idealizations be released into the smoky air and never again fall into the fallacy that you're above or people the people you date.

In a relationship, you're both equals. And it'll do you good to start believing that.



it's because they know the "best dinner spots" or their friends are cooler than yours.

You see as someone who is more so invited along on their life.

You have trouble standing up for yourself.

You know what bothers you. You know what hurts your feelings.

But when the other person crosses those boundaries, you don't speak up. You're scared of their reaction; you worry that they'll decide to stop dating you. So instead of stating how you feel, you keep mum.

You depend on them a lot.

When you put someone on a pedestal, you believe they can provide a lot of value to your life that you couldn't provide on your own. You might seek



Reality Bites

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Signs and ways of dealing with depression

DEPRESSION is a mental health challenge that can eventually eat you up if you don't keep personal trackers and checks to watch out the signs and parameters and assess yourself.

There are many causes ranging from loss of loved ones, tragedies, disasters, accidents, bankruptcy, financial and emotional challenges, disappointments, unfulfilled dreams and desires, among others.

The death of popular Nollywood actress Ada Ameh of the favourite Popular comedy sitcom 'The Johnsons' this week was so tragic to many because the actress had shared variously how she is battling with mental health issues after losing her only daughter Aladi in 2021 alongside seven of her family members.

According to the health experts, there are some signs that shows a person is having depression and there is a thin line between being unhappy and being depressed.

Healthline editorial team say "Being unhappy isn't the same as being depressed. Depression is a term often used loosely to describe how we feel after a bad week at work or when we're going through a breakup. But major depressive disorder — a type of depression — is much more complicated. There are specific symptoms that determine whether it's depression or the sadness we all sometimes experience in life".

However determining if persistent, unshakable dark feelings are a result of depression can be the first step toward healing and recovery.

They suggest you read these warning signs to see if it's time for you to see a mental health professional.

1. Hopeless outlook

Major depression is a mood disorder that affects the way you feel about life in general. Having a hopeless or helpless outlook on your life is the most common symptom of depression. Other feelings may be worthlessness, self-hate, or inappropriate guilt. Common, recurring thoughts of depression may be vocalized as, "It's all my fault," or "What's the point?"

2. Loss of interest.

Depression can take the pleasure or enjoyment out of the things you love. A loss of interest or withdrawal from activities that you once looked forward to — sports, hobbies, or going out with friends — is yet another telltale sign of major depression. Another area where you may lose interest is sex. Symptoms of major depression include a decreased sex drive and even impotence.

3. Increased fatigue and sleep problems

Part of the reason you might stop doing things you enjoy is because you feel very tired. Depression often comes with a lack of energy and an overwhelming feeling of fatigue, which can be among the most debilitating symptoms of depression. This could lead to excessive sleeping.

Depression is also linked with insomnia, as one might lead to the other and vice versa. They can also make each other worse. The lack of



quality, restful sleep can also lead to anxiety.

4. Anxiety. While depression hasn't been shown to cause anxiety, the two conditions often occur together. Symptoms of anxiety can include nervousness, restlessness, or feeling tense feelings of danger, panic, or dread rapid heart rate rapid breathing increased or heavy sweating trembling or muscle twitching trouble focusing or thinking clearly about anything other than the thing you're worried about

5. Irritability in men

Depression can affect the sexes differently. Research shows that men with depression may have symptoms such as irritability, escapist or risky behavior, substance abuse, or misplaced anger. Men are also less likely than women to recognize depression or seek treatment for it.

6. Changes in appetite and weight. Weight and appetite can fluctuate for people with depression. This experience may be different for each person. Some people will have an increased appetite and gain weight, while others won't be hungry and will lose weight.

7. Uncontrollable emotions

One minute it's an outburst of anger. The next you're crying uncontrollably. Nothing outside of you prompted the change, but your emotions are up and down at a moment's notice. Depression can cause mood swings.

8. Looking at death

Depression is sometimes connected with suicide. People who

die by suicide usually show symptoms first. Often people will talk about it or make a first attempt before succeeding in ending their life. If you think someone is at immediate risk of self-harm or hurting another person, get help for the person. If you have had some of the previously mentioned symptoms for more than two weeks, you might be suffering from major depression disorder. Recognizing that you're depressed is essential to getting the right help.

Depression affects millions of people, but there are varying treatments available, from lifestyle changes to medications. No matter the path of treatment you choose, asking for professional help is the first step to getting back to feeling like yourself again.

How to overcome depression

Jabeen Begum in a piece on Webmb.com says being depressed can make you feel helpless but there's a lot you can do on your own to fight back. Changing your behavior -- your physical activity, lifestyle, and even your way of thinking -- are all natural depression treatments.

Get in a routine. If you're depressed, you need a routine, says Ian Cook, MD. He's a psychiatrist and director of the Depression Research and Clinic Program at UCLA because depression can strip away the structure from your life. One day melts into the next. Setting a gentle daily schedule can help you get back on track.

Set goals. When you're depressed, you may feel like you can't accomplish anything. That

makes you feel worse about yourself. To push back, set daily goals for yourself. "Start very small," Cook says. "Make your goal something that you can succeed at, like doing the dishes every other day.

Exercise. It temporarily boosts feel-good chemicals called endorphins. It may also have long-term benefits for people with depression. Regular exercise seems to encourage the brain to rewire itself in positive ways, Cook says.

Eat healthy. There is no magic diet that fixes depression. It's a good idea to watch what you eat, though. If depression tends to make you overeat, getting in control of your eating will help you feel better. Get enough sleep. Depression can make it hard to get enough shut-eye, and too little sleep can make depression worse.

Try not to nap. Take all the distractions out of your bedroom -- no computer and no TV. In time you may find your sleep improves. Take on responsibilities. When you're depressed, you may want to pull back from life and give up your responsibilities at home and at work. Don't. Staying involved and having daily responsibilities can help you maintain a lifestyle that can help counter depression. They ground you and give you a sense of accomplishment.

If you're not up to full-time school or work, that's fine. Think about part-time. If that seems like too much, consider volunteer work. Challenge negative thoughts. In your fight against depression, a lot of the work is mental -- changing

how you think. When you're depressed, you leap to the worst possible conclusions.

The next time you're feeling terrible about yourself, use logic as a natural depression treatment. You might feel like no one likes you, but is there real evidence for that? You might feel like the most worthless person on the planet, but is that really likely? It takes practice, but in time you can beat back those negative thoughts before they get out of control. Check with your doctor before using supplements. "There's promising evidence for certain supplements for depression," Cook says.

Do something new. When you're depressed, you're in a rut. Push yourself to do something different. Go to a museum. Pick up a used book and read it on a park bench. Volunteer at a soup kitchen. Take a language class.

"When we challenge ourselves to do something different, there are chemical changes in the brain," Cook says. Try to have fun. As strange as it might sound, you have to work at having fun. Plan things you used to enjoy, even if they feel like a chore. Keep going to the movies. Keep going out with friends for dinner, avoid alcohol and other drugs. Substance misuse is common in people who have depression. You may be more likely to turn to alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs to deal with the symptoms of your depression. It's unclear if drinking and using drugs causes depression. But long-term drug use could change the way your brain works and worsen or lead to mental health problems.

THE SOW WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Build maturity in relationship through commitment

By **KAY BOLDAN**

RELATIONSHIP can be daunting because while we want them to be fun and whimsical, they often end up being a mirror that highlights our areas of needed improvement and concern.

But part of learning to see the value of relationships is facing some of the stumbling blocks that, if left unaddressed, can keep any one of us from experiencing that sense of love, intimacy, and connection. We all have these stumbling blocks, these scars we're working through.

And yet, there is a difference between something that trips you up and something that blows up your whole relationship.

If you are looking for relationship maturity, there are some major potholes you'll want to evaluate and, if possible, work to either avoid or address in your own life. If unchecked, any one of these things can take over your relationship.

Unspoken expectations

Everyone in a relationship has expectations. Scratch that — every human being on planet earth has expectations.

In order to have relationship maturity, you have to realize that the goal isn't to eliminate expectations completely. Rather, the goal is to learn how to control your expectations so they don't end up blowing up in your face.

To control your expectations,



you need to voice them. Most things sound better in our heads than they are in reality.

When we speak our expectations out, we give ourselves the opportunity to evaluate the merit and necessity of those expectations.

It gives us a chance to let our partner know where we're at, mentally, physically, emotionally. It also opens up a door to our deeper emotions, our fears, hopes, and desires.

A negative self-image

Our self-image is made up of

many things — our past, our pains, and our perceived circumstances.

We craft our image based on the praise or lack of praise of people closest to us, on the ways we've been hurt or on the moments of success we've experienced growing up. We hold on to words, to feelings, and we look for validations and affirmations that seem to confirm who we believe we are.

Even though our self-image is a composite of so many areas of our lives, we tend to internalize negative feedback more than the positives.

Our self-image is often like trust. It takes a long-time to build, but it only takes a moment to break.

If you have a very negative self-image, it will be hard for you to reach relationship maturity, mainly because your negative self-image will likely lead you to latch on to your partner in ways that are unhealthy.

Unwillingness to trust

There is a depth in every relationship that is reserved only for those who are willing to break through the barrier of vulnerability.

In order to do that, you need to trust that your partner will value your vulnerability and respect your emotions and feelings.

These pain points are real. Trust issues lead to negative beliefs, as well as increased levels of anxiety and stress. A person with trust issues often spends more time building barriers that block feelings of pain, rejection, and even love.

Proclivity for comparison

You cannot focus on growing your relationship into maturity if you are always focused on what others are doing, saying, or thinking.

We have created various tools in our society which are comparison magnets. Most forms of social media are hinged on the feeling of comparison and exclusivity. Many forms of advertisement are similarly rooted.

Relationship maturity means learning to best value what is right in front of you. You can waste so much of your life and your relationship pining for something you may or may not ever get.

5. Refusal to listen

Because we're not perfect and we are prone to make mistakes and goof up, it is crucial that we are willing to listen to others. Especially to those who are closest to us.

If you refuse to listen to your partner, you will eventually end up heading in different directions. It's like driving in a new city and refusing to heed the instructions on your GPS. You'll likely end up in a completely different destination than you intended.

Listening isn't just about hearing. It's about admitting that there is more to the story than just your side. It's giving credit to new ideas, even when they challenge your way of living.

The best way to prove you are listening is by implementing another's advice.

Resistance to be courageous

Facing your imperfections is hard and tedious work. We want to be able to snap our fingers and just wish away the hard parts of growing up and becoming mature, but it never works like that.

It's more like driving across the country. It's long, often monotonous, and exhausting.

Without courage, you'll be hard-pressed to ever experience true maturity with your partner. Courage is the willingness to take on some risk in order to experience a greater reward.

Maturity is not a badge you earn

Most couples view maturity as a tier to reach or a badge to earn. Much like the girl scouts.

But true maturity isn't a level, it's a commitment. No one has each or even one of these six landmines completely figured out. Where you start in your relationship is rarely where you end. Time invites new challenges and new circumstances into each of our lives.

Therefore, if you want to truly experience relationship maturity, you must address these six potholes and do it consistently. Without that commitment, you'll wake up one day and realize that while you were sleeping, one of these tensions snuck past your defenses and got into your



BUSINESS WORLD

Accelerate growth to transform Nigeria

LIKE in the 1980s and 1990s, Nigeria's economy experienced a contraction in 2016 and 2020. At every point, growth returned to a positive trajectory. At the core of this positive growth is the contribution of the Financial and Professional Services (FPS) Sector. This is what EnterpriseNGR's premier State of Enterprise (SOE) Report 2022 underscores. The report is the current-state assessment of the FPS sector and spotlights its contribution to national growth and development. The report also highlights key challenges that must be resolved to accelerate growth in each of the FPS sub-sectors, including Banking, Insurance, Capital Markets, Asset Management, Pension, Non-interest Finan. OBI IBEKWE writes.

BANKING led other sub-sectors on many performance indicators and demonstrated direct benefits to the economy and people. In 2021, Deposit Money Banks had total assets of ₦62.9 trillion, equivalent to 35.7% of the national gross domestic product. The entire financial institutions contributed 3.2% of gross domestic product. This means that the institutions contributed ₦3 of every ₦100 generated in the economy. The Insurance sub-sector, which provides resilience to businesses, individuals and families, experienced improved performance with premium income north of ₦600 billion in 2021. About 55% of the premium income was paid out in total gross claims. This demonstrates that insurance is actively helping individuals and businesses alleviate the impact of unexpected adverse circumstances. However, the sub-sector's 0.37% contribution to national growth tells us that there are longstanding challenges, including low levels of insurance literacy and awareness that need to be addressed to accelerate growth.

Besides Banking and Insurance, Capital markets are critical to sustainable economic development. The equity market capitalisation reached ₦22.3 trillion, while the debt market turnover attained the ₦198.9 trillion mark. These values sum up the enormous trading transactions and businesses that were facilitated by the markets. Infrastructure fund investments grew by 79% over three years from 2019 to 2021, increasingly expanding growth opportunities for the national productive base. Closely linked to Capital Markets is the Asset Management sub-sector, which drives the bulk of the markets' activity. The sub-sector is coming of age and has over 1,200 registered operators engaged in various aspects of the markets. In the first three quarters of 2020, these operators supported the issuance of new securities valued at ₦2.8 trillion. Private equity funds' total investments grew approximately 20% in 2021, and the growth of total assets under management doubled that, climbing by 40%. These developments demonstrate that private equity funding is gradually evolving in Nigeria as an alternative source of funding to support companies' formation and expansion.

Pensions is one of the regulatory



Ahmed

success stories in Nigeria. With 9,586,291 pension contributors as of December 2021, the total pension fund assets under management grew by 3.7% to ₦13.4 trillion. The value of pension fund assets is equivalent to 7.6% of GDP at current market prices. More is required to speed up growth, particularly, improving pension penetration in the informal sector. For Non-interest finance, the impact is seen in how the sub-sector is broadening financial inclusion and accelerating ethical investments. The three non-interest banks, with ₦448.1 billion in total assets in 2021, facilitated ₦188 billion worth of loans and the six Sharia-compliant mutual funds listed on the market accumulated ₦17.4 billion in total investment. The

enormous potential of non-interest finance in Nigeria can be realised by addressing the insufficient awareness of this genre of finance and slow pace of financial innovations to support it, among other challenges. With just a few Fintech companies in early 2000s to about 250 in 2021, FinTech in Nigeria has rapidly evolved. Fintech companies are supporting payments, insurance, credit, investment, identity management, on-demand services, among many other financial products. In terms of impact in digital payments, about ₦8.1 trillion mobile-based transactions were facilitated in 2021, compared to ₦3.1 trillion in 2020, a whopping 164.5% increase that affirms the



Emefiele

important contribution the sub-sector is making to the national financial inclusion drive. While the potential of FinTech is enormous, challenges include weak interoperability and slow pace of regulation, among others. For Professional Services, in addition to the Big Four auditing firms, there is a growing number of firms in Consulting, Accounting and Legal Services, that are helping businesses across all sectors of the economy to improve their operations. As of June 2022, there were 21,917 registered members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and over 120,000 registered legal practitioners. 166 reporting accountants/auditors and 376 solicitors registered as market operators to provide support services in the capital markets specifically. The Professional, Scientific and Technical Services sector, of which Professional Services is a part, contributed ₦2.3 trillion, (about 3.2%) of GDP in 2021. The sector's contribution to company income tax receipts in the last two quarters of 2021 was approximately ₦9.3 billion. EnterpriseNGR notes that performance can be higher if the lack of a central regulatory body, shortage of talent, and other challenges are addressed.

The global sustainable finance space grew in prominence, with

about \$3.2 trillion sustainability-themed funding available in 2021. As of December 2021, Nigeria's green bond market was valued at ₦55.52 billion. While the space is gaining traction locally, it is important for Nigeria to explore ways to attract more of the globally available funds, and address over dependence on oil, foreign exchange risk exposure, among other challenges.

The performance of the FPS sub-sectors in 2021 demonstrates the pivotal role of FPS in Nigeria's economy, particularly its contributions to governments, businesses and people. The FPS sector has the potential of driving Nigeria's transformation into Africa's premier financial center. EnterpriseNGR is an operator led professional policy and advocacy group with a mission to advance Nigeria's transformation as Africa's premier financial services centre. We are focused on advocating for the collective effort of all stakeholders required to address the current challenges bedeviling the sector.

Through this premier edition, EnterpriseNGR has identified existing gaps in sub-sector data, from a shortage of data to a complete lack of it. We will work with key partners to bridge the data gaps in future editions. The State of Enterprise Report 2022 is available for free download at <https://enterprisengr.com/policy-research/>

source: BusinessDay

"With just a few Fintech companies in early 2000s to about 250 in 2021, FinTech in Nigeria has rapidly evolved. Fintech companies are supporting payments, insurance, credit, investment, identity management, on-demand services, among many other financial products. In terms of impact in digital payments, about ₦8.1 trillion mobile-based transactions were facilitated in 2021, compared to ₦3.1 trillion in 2020, a whopping 164.5% increase that affirms the important contribution the sub-sector is making to the national financial inclusion drive. While the potential of FinTech is enormous, challenges include weak interoperability and slow pace of regulation, among others. For Professional Services, in addition to the Big Four auditing firms, there is a growing number of firms in Consulting, Accounting and Legal Services, that are helping businesses across all sectors of the economy to improve their operations."

BUSINESS WORLD

Buhari seeks N2 billion for Aso Rock vehicles

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari is planning to spend N1.96 billion on new vehicles in the Presidential Villa amid a deepening economic crisis and cash crunch that has seen the government admit to owing contractors nearly a trillion naira.

The State House Permanent Secretary, Tijjani Umar, said next year's elections would necessitate frequent travels and thus the need to replace the presidential vehicles. Nigeria's electoral law prohibits using state apparatus in any party's advantage.

The vehicles in the Presidential Villa are due for a replacement, Mr Umar said while defending next year's budget proposals before the Senate Committee on Federal Character and Intergovernmental Affairs.

"This has resulted in frequent breakdowns and an unsustainable expenditure on repairs/replacements of parts," Mr Umar declared.

The whopping sum is required to purchase what Mr Umar described as "operational vehicles" — some of which are "very expensive". He said some of these vehicles would be used for travel as the country slipped into an electioneering mood.

Mr Umar is however worried that the N1.96 billion "would still be inadequate to meet existing requirements," claiming the administration was frugal enough despite budgeting such a whopping amount on vehicles amid deepening economic crisis.

"2023 is an election year which entails frequent travels with associated costs as well as the replacement of vehicles by the incoming administration," he said.

The N1.96 billion earmarked for Aso Rock's vehicle replacements is part of the 2023 State House budget proposal. Like Mr Umar, several heads of ministries and agencies have lamented the rigorous cuts in the 2023 budget by the scrutinising national assembly committee.

Mr Umar had argued that the 2023 budget proposal of N21.1bn is comparatively lower than the 2022 appropriation of N40.1 billion by 19.01 per cent. He also said commitments to facilities in the State House would take 65 per cent of the total appropriation, noting the sum of N7.20 billion has been proposed for the year 2023 as against N7.76 billion in 2022.

However, the Buhari-led administration is proposing to spend nearly two billion naira to replace the Aso Rock vehicles at a time Nigerians are lamenting the rising cost of living and economic hardship.

Earlier this year, the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA) warned that Nigeria's economy was on the brink of collapse. The association noted that soaring inflation, energy cost and dwindling naira value against foreign currencies were



Buhari

battering the nation's economy.

The Director-General of the association, Wale Oyerinde, added that the economy was crumbling due to Nigeria's poor aviation sector, stuttering education system, rising debt, depleting foreign reserves and rising fuel subsidy expenses.

In August, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, confessed that Nigeria was broke, adding that the

government does not have money to prosecute capital projects in the coming year.

"As you can see, the dollar that has been hovering around N500 and N600 is now above N700," he said. "The truth is that there is no money anywhere. The money that the FAAC (Federation Account Allocation Committee) has been sharing is money from taxes, customs and other revenue-generating agencies."

FG hands over 228 hectares gari irrigation project

THE Federal Government has handed over the 228 hectares Gari Irrigation Project to farmers in Jigawa and Kano states.

Five Local Government Areas of Kazaure and Roni in Jigawa State, and Kunchi, Dambata and Makoda LGAs in Kano State, under the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority are benefiting.

The handing over was done by Mrs Oyeronke Oluniyi, Director, Irrigation and Drainage, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, on behalf of the Minister, Mr Suleiman Adamu.

Oluniyi in a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria in Abuja on recently said the project was part of efforts to support Government's food security and employment creation target.

She noted that the irrigation projects, delivered to the farmers in parts was in its sixth phase, following government's decision to complete all projects sectorally for maximum benefits.

She said the ministry, through her mandate in irrigated agriculture had aligned with the present Administration's vision to diversify the nation's economy and lift many people out of poverty before 2030.

She said the ministry had engaged the services of an Interface Consultant to establish and strengthen Water Users Association (WUAs), for effective operation and maintenance of the irrigation system.

According to her, farmers'

associations and the River Basin Development Authority are being trained on effective irrigation systems, and modern agricultural best practices.

"The concept of the interface consultancy is to promote Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) by empowering the farmer's community around the project.

She commended the contribution of the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority towards the performance of the management transfer process from Government-controlled to farmer-managed. The director however urged the RBDAs to ensure that farmers and their associations took their new responsibilities

AKINWUNMI Adesina, president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), has called for more transparency, accountability and efficiency in the management of public infrastructure financing in Africa while discouraging countries from using their natural resources to back up recently at the ongoing African Investment Forum, with the theme: 'Economic Resilience Through Sustainable Investments' at Abidjan, Cote D' Ivoire, expressed concern that rising public debts due to unsustainable public infrastructure financing plans would mortgage the future of countries that make such mistake.

"All public infrastructure financing should be transparent, and competitive pricing should be done in such a way that it gives value for money to those countries. There must be transparency and efficiency in the use of public resources for infrastructure," he said.

He noted that public financial efficiency and financing were important, adding that the focus should not be on financial commitments deployed into infrastructure, but on the efficiency of the expenditure.

The AfDB president further explained that the bank and its partners have embarked on three major areas of priority which he said would promote the economic transformation

Adesina calls for transparency in public infrastructure financing

of the continent. These are Agriculture, promotion of Electric car manufacturing and Renewable energy.

Adesina disclosed that in the area of agriculture, the bank would work collectively with its partners to support the various Special Agro-industrial Processing Zones (SAPZs) across Africa, adding that they are doing a lot in that regards.

According to him, "We want to turn around agriculture into a wealth sector. We will change the face of rural agriculture and we have committed ourselves to that.

resources together to make electric cars in Africa a reality."

On renewable energy, he said that the bank and its partners would be making \$20 billion dollar investments to generate 10,000 megawatts of solar power across 11 countries that would provide electricity for 250 million people in Africa.

Earlier in his remarks, Benedict Oramah, president and chairman of Board of Directors, African Export-Import Bank, (Afrexim), said the recurrent global shocks,



Adesina

"We will put our technical

currently unleashed by the lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing Ukraine crisis and the intensification of geo-political tensions are reshaping the world in a way not previously imagined.

He also said that although shocks have adverse ramifications for African economies, "they can also serve as a springboard and present enormous opportunities for Africa to rethink, reimagine and re-write their stories in a positive manner that would endure."

Oramah, who spoke on the theme: 'Trade and Investment — How can Africa be More Competitive in a Global Context' said that at the height of the pandemic downturn in 2020, the continent's average Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contracted by only 1.6 percent against world average of 3.3 percent, with several of its economies recording positive growth.

He further explained that notwithstanding the observed resilience and robustness of its economies, it is sad to note that over 56 percent of African countries rated by at least one of the major global rating agencies, were downgraded, compared to 9.2 percent in Europe and 28 percent in Asia.

The Afrexim Bank president remarked that the effect of the inexplicable mass downgrade was to precipitate far-reaching economic crises as African bond prices crashed and made it difficult for most, if not all, to access the international debt capital markets, pointing out that most ended up at the doors of International Monetary Fund (IMF), with their heads bowed and unsure of how to manage mass anger at home.

purposes.

"It is now an established fact, that a well-structured Water User Association promotes a sustainable and better managed irrigated agriculture.

"The quality of water used for irrigation is essential for the yield and quantity of crops, maintenance of soil productivity, and protection of the environment.

"Also, of great relevance is to human health as regards consumption of some food items eaten directly or mildly cooked."

She however called on women and the youth to lead in promoting the attainment of good quality water in canals and reservoirs for safe crop production through irrigation. (NAN)

UN seeks support for floods victims in Nigeria

THE United Nations (UN) on Thursday called on the international community to support Nigeria as it faces unprecedented floods, which have impacted more than three million people.

UN Spokesperson Mr Stéphane Dujarric, told correspondents at the UN headquarters in New York that the Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr Matthias Schmale had made an appeal for assistance.

"More than 100,000 hectares of farms have been flooded, damaging staple food crops such as cassava, rice, and plantain. This will aggravate the already alarming food and nutrition crisis across Nigeria.

"As floodwaters slowly recede, the priority is to help people to get back to what is left of their homes and regain

lost assets and livelihoods. Similarly, Dujarric said Niger was also facing severe flooding, where heavy rains are continuing to claim lives and wreak havoc on homes and infrastructure.

"Our humanitarian colleagues tell us that more than 330,000 men, women and children are now impacted by floods in all eight regions of the country. "Since the rain started in July, 195 people have died and more than 200 people have been injured. More than 36,000 houses have collapsed," he said.

According to him, the southern regions of Zinder and Maradi have been hit particularly hard, with entire neighbourhoods submerged.

He said the agriculture sector throughout the country was also impacted. "We, along with our humanitarian

colleagues, are providing support of the Government, delivering essential items.

"The 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan for Niger is looking for 552 million dollars; it is only 42 per cent funded," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Mr Mustapha Ahmed, Director-General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), said the flood killed no fewer than 300 persons, injured 500 persons and displaced 100,000 others in 2022.

NEMA also said houses and farmlands were submerged in Lagos, Yobe, Borno, Taraba, Adamawa, Edo, Delta, Kogi, Niger, Plateau, Benue, Ebonyi, Anambra, Bauchi, Gombe, Kano, Jigawa, Zamfara, Kebbi, Sokoto, Imo, Abia States, and the Federal Capital Territory. (NAN)

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

'Entrepreneurial success isn't what you think'

Want to be an entrepreneur, start your own company and be a millionaire? Ninety-nine percent of the people who answer "yes" will fail. So if this is your dream, what are you doing right now to turn that dream into a reality? The world we live in has changed dramatically in the past 30 years. The way we work, the way we play and the way we view success has all changed, especially for the younger generations. The entrepreneurial spirit is alive like never before, but it isn't what you might think. While the youth of today want success more than ever, most people go about it all wrong and end up failing, writes JENNIFER SPENCER.

GARY Vaynerchuk, serial entrepreneur and CEO of VaynerMedia, recently appeared as a guest on Breaking into Startups podcast to give his insight on the future of our economy and how young generations can turn it around and live their dreams.

Today's distorted reality: We are doing it all wrong.

What we see on reality shows and social media is deceiving. Overnight successes are displayed as if it is the norm. Living a luxurious life without working seems to be becoming the new dream reality. And to go along with that, the new "thing" right now is starting a business. It is the sexy thing to do. People today are graduating high school and instead of going to college, going to grad school or saving for retirement, they want to start a million-dollar business. They want to be the next entrepreneur blowing up the Facebook newsfeed, yet they don't know what is involved to actually get there.

"Starting a company has become standard, and I think that is insane and scary. It is like going to the NBA is standard," Gary explains. Over 99 percent of startups fail. It is extremely hard to build a big business. According to Gary, 99 percent of people don't have the ability or skill to build a business that makes a million-dollar profit. The bottom line is that entrepreneurship isn't for everyone, because it is a lot of work.

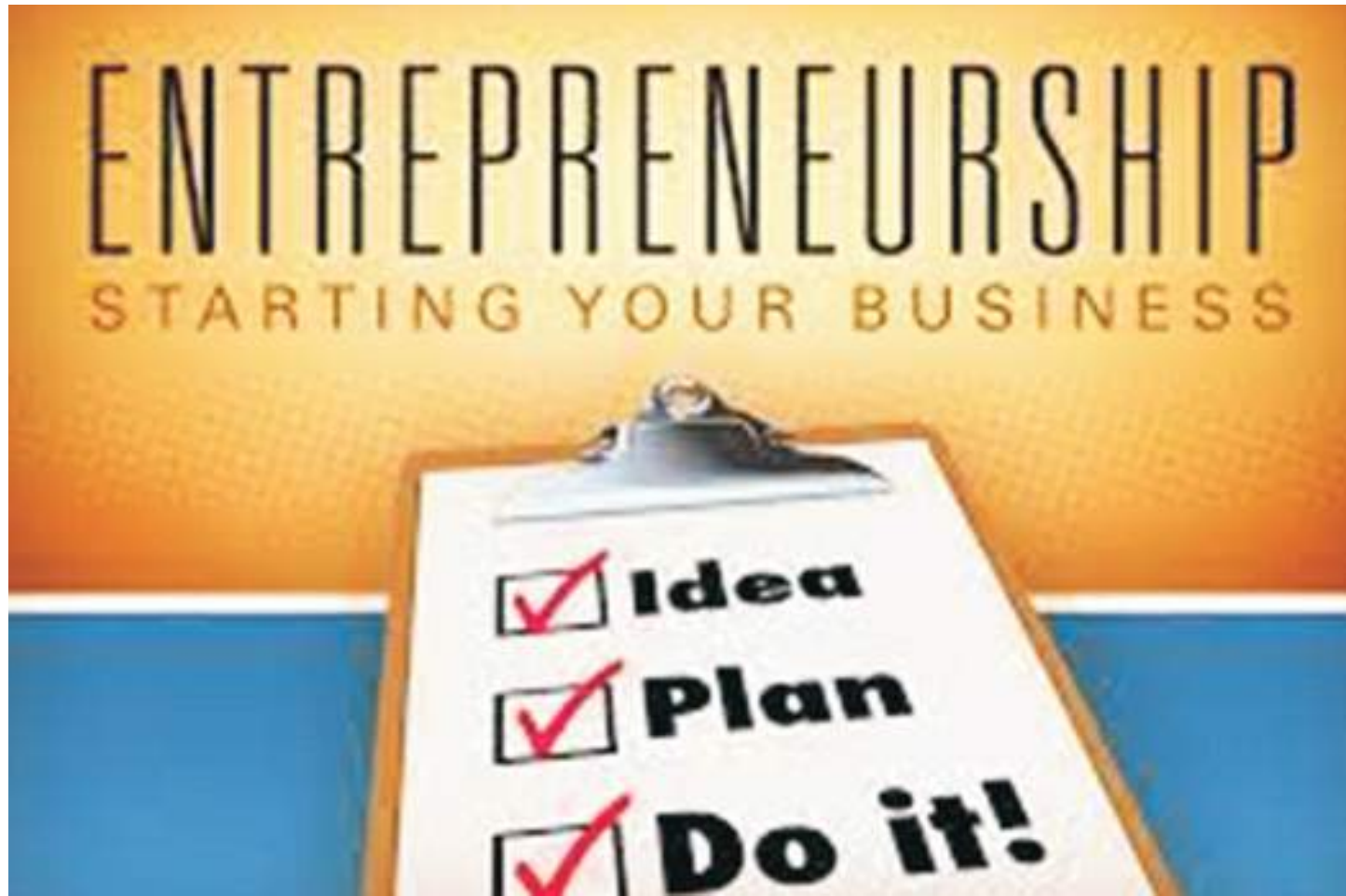
While TV and social media may make it seem like overnight success is a real thing, talking to any successful entrepreneur will shed light on the true story: the failures, the years of making no money, the time spent learning. Running a successful online business isn't something you can learn in a classroom. "It's like sports. You can read books about how to play basketball all day long, but until you get out on the court, you don't have a clue."

So while the youth of today talk about being ambitious, they either lack the dedication it takes to go the long haul or have been given the wrong impression of what it takes to succeed. And this is why so many fail.

The future of million-dollar online businesses.

Facebook and Uber are the hottest things around, and they were created by "kids." There will probably always be new technologies and cool businesses popping up created by younger generations, but a very intriguing market of million-dollar entrepreneurs is predicted to make an appearance in the near future. And they may surprise you.

Gary predicts that people who are in their 60s and 70s who have



lived with the internet for over 20 years will be building online businesses that turn a million-dollar profit. They will be the majority rather than those in their 20s. Why? Because unlike the younger generations who believe they know it all, this genre of people actually do. They have lived. They have worked and seen the way the world operates. They know what problems need solving because they have lived through those problems. They also understand the internet, and this makes them more likely to succeed.

"I have this great idea. Why not turn a retirement home into an incubator -- like a Facebook campus? These people are in the game, and they are going to live to 110 or 115 because of it."

Debt has a way of killing dreams. People go into debt as a way to build the fantasy life they see others living on TV or posting about on social media. Unfortunately, the math doesn't make sense. And when basic math doesn't make sense, the economy is in trouble.

Way too many young kids are living well outside their means. Gary gives an example: "When a college grad is \$213,000 in debt, has a job that pays \$84,000 salary and is still able to borrow \$500,000 to buy an apartment, it is over." He predicts that college debt will break our economy in the next five years much the same way the housing crisis did in 2008.

The education landscape has evolved over the past five decades. Back in the 1930s and

1940s, vocational skills taught students very specific skills that were used daily at their jobs. As colleges became the big thing, they built a brand around being the "American dream." But so many people today now understand that they use so few of the skills and knowledge they learned in their four-plus years of college ... yet many are still paying off the debt they racked up while attending that college learning the knowledge they never use.

When the pendulum swings the other way, colleges will have to rebrand just as the banks had to do after the housing crisis. And parents will stop sending their kids to college. College debt will bring down our economy, and it isn't far off.

There is no easy money.

A few people win the lottery or inherit fortunes, but outside that extremely small percentage of people, money doesn't typically land in your lap. There is a myth going around that you can be a millionaire and not have to work for it. Unfortunately, that just isn't true.

A lot of people are starting businesses, going into debt doing so and then losing it all when their business fails. After all, 99 percent of startups fail because people do it wrong.

But that doesn't have to be your story. There are going to be successful, millionaire entrepreneurs in the future, and you could be one of them.

What is the right way to get there? In Gary's opinion, kids who want to build businesses must have a humble start. "Kids should

go work for someone for free. Eat shit for the first 5-10 years. Get in front of the best person you can manage. Watch. Learn." And then take what you learned and build a business in your 30s and 40s. This is when you'll succeed.

"People complain. People whine. And the problem with these people is that they need to work. I think people are unbelievably soft to the ambition coming out of their mouths."

"I want you to win," Gary says over and over. And this is why he is sharing what he has learned over the years with budding entrepreneurs. What Gary stresses is the importance of acquiring new skills. Go to a vocational school or a coding bootcamp to learn something useful. There is no good reason not to because there are so many options, no matter what your background may be. Hack Reactor and App Academy are

graduating a new wave of software engineers who came from non-traditional backgrounds. These young graduates are getting placed in top Silicon Valley tech companies and will be well primed to start their own businesses in 10 years with the knowledge they acquire. Another example is Always Hired, which helps non-tech people get jobs in tech sales.

That is how you do it. Learn valuable skills and work for these companies. "This is how you avoid becoming a mere statistic."

In order to build that successful business and become that million-dollar entrepreneur, work on building a foundation in your 20s and early 30s. Work for it. Understand that it does take time, and impatience will bring you down. Gary's success didn't begin to take shape until he was in his mid 30s. There is no easy money. Remember that.

"Plateau United Football Club of Jos has thrashed visiting Al Akhdar S.C of Libya 4-1 in their first leg match of the 2022/2023 CAF Confederation Cup final playoff round fixtures, played at the MKO Abiola National Stadium Abuja on Wednesday. The win brighten the qualifying chances of Plateau United to the group stages of CAF Champions League, with Al Akhdar must beat them 3-0 in the return leg, slated for 9th November in Libya. Commenting after encounter, Hon. Daniel Dung Dalyop, Plateau State Commissioner for Youths and Sports Development, expressed happiness with the out come of the game, opined that even though he never wanted Plateau United to concede a goal. I'm highly elated, I can't quantify my joy. Even though we had wanted it to be a clean sheet, but this is what the boys were able to give to us and we look forward to the return leg in Libya and I hope they will do their best to qualify." " Our players and the management of the club have been motivated, this is the best that ever happened to them and they appreciates what governor Simon Bako Lalong is doing to them," he said".



Continued from page 18

'Jos has lost many talents'



editing, lighting, sound and cinematography). Since 2019 JOFII has used this platform to empower and develop about 80 Jos youths with photography, videography and screenwriting skills free of charge.

Our Festivals:

Rock International Film Festival - RIFF is a 4-Day event which comes up from the 3rd – 6th of November, 2022 at Fox Hotels Jos, 9am – 4pm daily; it is the maiden edition of an annual 'Human Rights Film Festival' it is the first in Nigeria and scheduled to take place in Jos every November; screening includes local and international short,



<https://www.instagram.com/thejofii>
<https://twitter.com/TheJosFilmInitiative>

What are some of the challenges you are facing?

Our major challenges in this and other projects is the lack of access to funds. Theft and mugging even within the City, this why our festival starts and ends early (9am – 4pm)

Do you see Plateau getting back its grove in the film industry, What would be your advice in this regard?

When people rise with passion, love and structures like JOFII and other initiatives, Plateau will definitely get back on its feet again.

My advice is for Plateau/Jos creatives to rise and engage the process, nothing gets built in abstract or by depending on outsiders. People must rise up into the various components that make an entertainment industry thrive.

Are you synergizing with either the private and or public sector?

We are primarily working with the private sector but we have received consents from some public agencies

Your final word?

My final word is "Things don't just happen, people make things happen in the Land and there are no dry Lands, there are only dry people"



feature & documentary films. RIFF particularly extends special opportunities to young filmmakers whose films address social and human rights issues. RIFF concludes in an awards night tagged Rock-Awards.

RIFF's Major Objective: Is to use this platform to better society as we educate and sensitize the youths (students and young adults who make up more than half of the population of Jos) on basic Human Rights and abuses; to create awareness of the importance of a strong and lively civil society that advocates for civil and political rights; to inspire activism and campaign; and positive public debate amongst these youths which would birth action on human rights issues and abuses

Future Plans: JOFII is working towards widening opportunities through

- Photo/Video Walk and Competition
- A cultural festival
- Dance Competitions
- The Film Academy (TFA) interactive reality TV show contest
- Creatives Grant program

Check out our website and social media handles for photos, videos and more information

<https://www.jofii.org.ng>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheJosFilmInitiative/>



Couples who became close friends after ending marriage

Continued from page 16

Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony



Jennifer Lopez said in an interview that she didn't feel her best during her marriage to Marc Anthony, but after their separation, they became great friends and parents to their twins.

Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillipp



Although their relationship had its ups and downs, the former couple did everything in their power to offer their children a great childhood. That includes staying on good terms with each other too. Most recently, Reese and Ryan got together for their son's birthday.

Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton



Angelina and Billy remain good friends even after their split that happened almost a decade ago. Billy Bob Thornton revealed that even if they might not see each other often, they still talk regularly.

Change of Name

NAOMI	JOHN	AMINU	MANGWA	GLORIA	INGAH
I, formerly known as NAOMI ALI SUNDAY , now wish to be known and addressed as NAOMI ALI GARA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as LADI GYANG DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN LADI OYASCO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as USMAN FALKE , now wish to be known and addressed as AMINU USMAN FALKE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as TINA MANGWA now wish to be known and addressed as MANGWA TINA ITA . Correct date of birth is 28/01/1999 not 26/01/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as OGECHUKWU GLORIA EGWUONWU , now wish to be known and addressed as GLORIA EGWUONWU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ATUKUTU RIFKATU OZI , now wish to be known and addressed as INGAH RIFKATU ADANJO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
IBRAHIM	JOHNSON	ATINKI	TENIMU	GANAKA	GERALDINE
I, TUGUNLEP IBRAHIM , wish to state that my correct date of birth is 01/01/1981 not 25/03/1973 as captured on my BVN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JOHNSON SHWARMAK BULUS , now wish to be known and addressed as, JOHNSON SHWARMAK DAPUN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as AGAU AZAKO ATINKI , now wish to be known and addressed as ATINKI AZAKO ANGAU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GOLRIT RICHARD DAVID , now wish to be known and addressed as TENIMU DAVID GOLRIT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GANAKA LILIAN AUGUSTINE , now wish to be known and addressed as G A N A K A L I L I A N NENPENMWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as GERALDINE BAWA LONGTSEN , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GERALDINE BAWA-PUPEPET . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
MRS. ABIGAIL	MUHAMMAD	LAMWANG	DUSUTANG	YUNUS	ISYAKU
I, formerly known as MISS. ABIGAIL DACHUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ABIGAIL DANBOYI BAJUME . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MOHAMMED NAFISATU, NAFISATU MOHAMMED DALHATU, MUHAMMAD NAFISAT DALHATU, NAFISA MOHAMMED DALHAT, NAFISA MUHAMMAD DALHATU, MOHAMMED NAFISAH DALIHATU , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD NAFISA DALHATU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as THOMAS NANBUT LAMWANG , now wish to be known and addressed as LAMWANG NANBUT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as HABILA DUSUTANG MARKUS , now wish to be known and addressed as DUSUTANG SHERIDAN HABILA MARKUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as KHADIJA YUNUS , now wish to be known and addressed as YUNUS KHDIIJA KHAMIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ISYAKU MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as ISYAKU MUSA DANMALAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
OKEKE	BWAN	DUAMWAN	YENTUN	DANJEM	LENGJI
I, formerly known as OKEKE CHUKUEMEKA VINCENT , now wish to be known and addressed as OKEKE CHUKWUEMEKA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as PANLE GABRIEL DAJAP , now wish to be known and addressed BWAN GABRIEL PANLE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DUAMWAN JULIUS ARO , now wish to be known and addressed as DUAMWAN DANLADI JULIUS . Correct date of birth is 01/10/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as YENG TUONG GURUMLAT , now wish to be known and addressed as YENTUN PAULINA GURUMLAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NANBET DANJEM , now wish to be known and addressed as DANJEM FAVOUR MONDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as LENGJI ROSE CHUNDUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as LENGJI ROSE SAMUEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
RAHANATU	DAUDA	SATI	AHMAD	BASHAP	KAMSEN
I, formerly known as RAHANATU AHMED , now wish to be known and addressed as RAHANATU AHMED AMIN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MAFENG DAUDA GYANG , now wish to be known and addressed as DAUDA CHARITY GYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SATI GOIMKUK now wish to be known and addressed as SATI GWIMKUK PAUL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ADAMU BABANRABI YAHAWA , now wish to be known and addressed as AHMAD ADAMU . Correct date of birth is 12/12/2003 NOT 05/05/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DUNG JOSHUA DAVOU , now wish to be known and addressed as BASHAP JOSHUA DUNG . Correct date of birth is 10/01/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as EDDEN SYLVESTER DAWAP now wish to be known and addressed as KAMSEN DAWAP EDDEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
JOSEPH	YALE	MIRACLE	MAGAJI	KINGSLEY	ANITA
I, formerly known as BARAU ABARI , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH ANTHONIA ABARI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as YALE KUMRET MAKROP , now wish to be known and addressed as YALE MAKROP KUMRET . Correct date of birth is 5/7/1991 Not 5/7/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MIRACLE EMEKA , now wish to be known and addressed as MIRACLE EMEKA OBASSI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BUBA GERTRUDE GAMBO , now wish to be known and addressed as MAGAJI FATIMA GAMBO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KINGSLEY OBIDA , now wish to be known and addressed as KINGSLEY SUNDAY OBIDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ANITA KATYEN DAIKA, ANITA KATYEN GEORGE DAIKA , now wish to be known and addressed as ANITA DAILA-TAIBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ELIZABETH	JATAU	HASSAN	YOHANNA	YOHANNA	JACK
I, formerly known as ELIZABETH OHAJI , now wish to be known and addressed as ELIZABETH NKECHI OHAJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JATAU NENDIRMWA VICTORIA , now wish to be known and addressed as JATAU NENDIRMWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as HASSAN AMOS DODO , now wish to be known and addressed as HASSAN DODO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AZI YOHANNA AZI , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA KEVIN AZI . Correct date of birth is 22/12/2002 Not 22/12/1993 All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AZI AKUMBO DEBORAH , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA TALATU AZI . Correct date of birth is 25/5/1977 Not 05/5/1977 All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAVID NANRET JACK , now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID PRUDENCE JACK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NEWS

Atiku a political tourist-shettima

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

As struggle to take over the control of the nation's resources from President Muhammadu Buhari, in 2023 general elections gathers momentum, Alhaji Usman Shettima a Brother to the All Progressives Congress (APC) Vice Presidential candidate, has urged Nigerians not to vote for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Presidential candidate, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar whom he described as a political Tourist.

Usman Shettima made the call in an event organized by the Assistant Director, North East Grassroot Engagement Committee, Tinubu/Shettima presidential campaign council, Mrs. Maryam Alexander in her country town Dass, headquarters of Dass local government area of Bauchi state recently.

According to him, the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar who has been in the habit of living Nigeria for Dubai after

losing in any election in his quest to rule Nigeria doesn't deserve the votes of Nigerians.

"My advice to you is that, you should not throw away the water you have available in your kettles just because you have sighted a mere cloud", Shettima said.

"Who is Atiku Abubakar in the Northeast? All I know is that, Atiku Abubakar is from Adamawa but has not done anything for them, he didn't do anything for Adamawa", not to talk of Bauchi, Borno, Taraba or Yobe he said.

"Upon all the myriads of security challenges bedeviling the Northeast Atiku has never for once, whether through print or electronic media, sympathizes with either Adamawa, Borno, Yobe or the Northeast people as a whole"

he observed.

Alhaji Usman said the former Vice President is in the habit of bolting out to Dubai as soon as he loses election and will not be back until after four years.

"We are certain and believing in Allah who gives power to whom he so wish that if Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu wins in 2023 he will never disappoint us, he will certainly bring a lot of progress and development to our nation.

In her remarks, the assistant director, Mrs Maryam Alexander expressed appreciation to the leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for appointing her to serve in that capacity.

She promised to work with women leaders, coordinators of candidates running for various political offices under the party at the grassroots, among others toward ensuring the victory of the party from top to bottom in 2023.

Mrs Maryam who mocked Bauchi state government for distributing goats as empowerment packages to hungry PDP members in the state, said that the APC presidential candidate is not after money but the general well-being of Nigerians.

While assuring the presidential candidate of the party that Bauchi and the entire Northeast belong to the APC, Mrs Maryam said that the plights of civil servants and pensioners in Bauchi state is enough to speak volume for the success of the APC ahead 2023.

Nigeria Standard gathered that thousands of APC campaign stickers were distributed to residents of Dass during a street march embarked upon by the convener and her supporters as part of strategy to woo people to the APC while saying abityu to PDP maladministration in Bauchi state.

SAMUEL

I, formerly known as **SAMUEL WILLIAMS EMADOGO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMUEL WILLIAMS OKPOSIO**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DEATH

The is to inform the public of the dead of **BABAGANA MOHAMMED** which occurred on the 17th January 2020 at Gulak Adamawa State.

All concerned authority and the general public to take note.

SIGNED
SANI MUSA
Next of Kin

Space for Sale

NEWS

PLSG terminates contract with Bleneson

By PALANG KASMI

THE Plateau state government has in a statement recently said that it had revoked its contract with the former executor of the Lalong Legacy Projects and given a new contractor.

The government in the statement, signed by the Commissioner for Information and Communications, Hon. Dan Manjang assured that contrary to media reports, the termination of the project from the former contractor, Bleneson Services Nigeria Ltd. is valid and irreversible.

The statement read: "The attention of the Plateau State Government has been drawn to media reports purportedly emanating from a press conference said to have been granted by one Engr. Lawanson Ngoa, Managing Director of Bleneson Services Nig. Ltd, the former contractor engaged by the Plateau State Government to carry out its Legacy Projects dubbed the Lalong Legacy Projects".

"During the said Press Conference allegedly held in Jos on 31st October 2022, the Managing Director of the erstwhile contracting firm made spurious, false and misleading allegations against the Plateau State Government over the termination of the contract and its re-award to a new contractor with a view to misleading the public, currying undeserved sympathy and unfairly disparaging the Government of Plateau State".

"Among other things, the said Engr. Ngoa claimed that the government has no right to terminate the contract "while he is still alive and that there is a pending case before the court on the matter".

"Although he did not state the court where his case is pending or the nature of the case and the reliefs he seeks, the government has found it necessary to put the records straight before he gets away with his misleading assertions".

The commissioner said sequel to the failure of the contractor to deliver the projects within agreed timelines, the Plateau State Government issued a Notice of Termination of the Contract with Bleneson Services Ltd, "the contractor" (not Engr. Lawanson Ngoa), via a letter on 9th March 2021 in line with the letters and spirit of the agreement of the parties which allowed either party to terminate the contract upon giving appropriate notice as stipulated under the contract.

He said upon receipt of the Notice of Termination, Bleneson neither responded nor contested the reason for the termination as given by the Plateau State Government in the letter.

"Therefore, after the period of Notice of Termination had elapsed without any response or reaction from Bleneson, the Government of Plateau State considered the termination as concluded, with same having been accepted by conduct, by the silence of the contractor", said Manjang.

The Commissioner also disclosed that after the termination, the company evacuated all its materials, machinery and staff from the project sites and moved them out of the state, stating further that "It was after therefore clearly an afterthought that Bleneson went to court to seek for Orders of Injunction supposedly to stop the Plateau State Government from terminating the contract, already terminated via the state's Letter of Termination, dated 9th March, 2021.

"Eventually, based on a Notice of



Lalong

Preliminary Injunction filed in the Suit on account of Bleneson's refusal to abide by the a Pre-action Protocol required to be issued by every litigant before commencement of the Suit, the High Court of Plateau State, after hearing the objection struck out the Suit".

He blamed the company for not complying with the requirement of the Rules of Court in order to qualify to reinstate the Suit in writing with its claims, which if not amicably resolved will then confer on it the right to institute a Suit of damages, but Bleneson chose to appeal the Ruling of the Court to the Court of Appeal, which said Appeal is still pending".

Manjang said Bleneson had no right under the law to insist on carrying out a contract the state has clearly evinced an intention not to allow it continue, and it is within the state's right to do so.

He stated that Plateau State Government is not in breach of any Court Order by continuing with the work.

The government's spokesperson said upon successful termination of the contract and repossession of the project sites, Plateau State Government, in line with the terms of the contract, wrote Bleneson to come forward for a meeting towards appointment of an Independent Valuer to ascertain claims (if any) and to facilitate reconciliation of accounts as envisaged, but Bleneson rebuffed the invitation.

The statement said government expressed surprise when he claimed that the Plateau State

Government never invited him for any resolution meeting.

The commissioner advised citizens not to be fooled by the misleading and false claims by the Managing Director of Bleneson that the termination was done behind them or they were not invited to make their claims.

He added that following the refusal of Bleneson to cooperate and put forward its claims for work done or losses incurred, stakeholders in the project met and took a decision to invite the President of the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) to appoint an Independent Valuer to assess the level of work done to allow for reconciliation of accounts.

He also disclosed that the task was successfully carried out and a report submitted, which records are intact and the fact that the process of terminating the contract was painstakingly followed in line with due process.

He said the doors of the Plateau State Government are still open for Bleneson to come forward with any claims for debt, damages or losses incurred as a result of the termination and had given Bleneson Ltd time to take advantage of the ample opportunity given.

According to him "The contract with Bleneson therefore stood terminated and irreversible upon the expiration of the Notice of Termination".

"The Plateau State Government has since taken possession of its sites and found another contractor to complete the projects which could not be delivered by Bleneson as agreed in the erstwhile contract".

AS part of activities marking the International Day to End Impunity Against Journalists, Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, Niger State Council, has expressed its support to the Articles of United Nations declaring 2nd November, every year as the International Day to End Impunity Against Journalists.

In a statement jointly signed by the Council Chairman, Comrade Abumadu and the Secretary, Comrade Usman Chiji, indicate that the day was set aside to create awareness on the inherent dangers faced by journalists while discharging their duties.

Comrade Abu Nmodu said NUJ would stand against any form of impunity against journalists as the 2023 general elections draw nearer.

The State Chairman of NUJ described the theme for this year; "Keep truth Alive, Protect Journalists, Protect the Truth", as apt in view of political developments, especially in the African continent.

Comrade Nmodu noted with concern that, over the years, journalists have suffered various forms of impunity due to misuse of power and lack of political will by leaders to control forces of power.

UN, NUJ sues for end to impunity

From **Mathew Jwantu, Minna**

He pointed out that, in Niger State, however, there has been low rate of impunity against journalists since he assumed office last year and that, minor ones recorded were properly managed.

The State Chairman of NUJ who assured that, Journalists would continue to work in accordance with the ethics of the profession, urged political actors to be tolerant and accommodating with journalists in bringing out facts to the public.



Isiguzor

CORBON trains youth, women

From **ANENE AIKE, Sokoto**

THE Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria under its CORBON - N-Power Build project has trained no fewer than 10,000 Sokoto young men and women within the last three years.

The big boss of the builders while answering fielded questions by Journalist said its in a bid to arrest the phenomenon of building collapse, as well as changing the unemployment narrative as well as ensuring quality, standards and competence in the building industry.

He said the drive was aimed at strengthening focus on trainees to learn, achieve proficiency, expertise and required basic knowledge with certification by CORBON against building collapse in the

exercise, assuring that they are equally reviewing the Act and working with relevant laws to ensure artisans, trainees safety, remuneration as well as getting registered and recognized accordingly.

The Mr Samson Opaluwa, National Chairman, Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria made the disclosure recently during the flag off of the state Batch C1 Monitoring and Evaluation Unit.

He said the initiative being anchored by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development was a milestone with positive testimonies towards improving the lives of young schooled and unschooled Nigerians especially those within the unemployment bracket.

According to him, no trainee will be neglected at the end of the

He said he wants to ensure that artisans are knowledge driven for competence and value in addition to moving the country forward.

He noted that given the desired conducive environment for the project to impact beneficiaries and actualise the FG's dream through its N-Power initiative, trainers and trainees would turn around Nigeria for good in the construction and building industry sub-sector of the economy.

He further decried the spate of building collapse, describing the phenomenon as a draw back and unhealthy for investors, workers in the industry and the country's image in particular.

"This is why the Council has deliberately offered to support the FG N- Power Build drive towards changing the narratives by ensuring active engagement and involvement of young Nigerians for efficient performance.

According to him the Council is also stepping up to ensure objective and in depth assessment of building sites meet laid down regulations and laws bordering on quality control and standards in accordance with best practices.

Opaluwa explained that observing the basics of designing a responsive framework for maintaining standards, building codes and laws were imperative to avoid the frequent recurrence of building collapse which will greatly help to stop the phenomenon.

Also, the state Implementation Committee Chairman of CORBON, Shehu Ahmad noted that the drive to facilitate training of young men and women in the state was a good omen that would launch the unemployed to the next level of self development.

He said the trainees were resilient, committed and industrious.

BASIC-85 holds reunion meeting

BY **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

The committee of BASIC-85 told students of the defunct School of Preliminary Studies (SPS) Keffi, Mr. Yakubu Taddy, said the essence of holding this year's reunion meeting was to chart a way forward towards harvesting from their respective contacts, bond and relationship.

He stated this recently during an interview with journalists at their 2-Day reunion meeting of the association at De-Bridge Ville Hotel Limited Jos, the Plateau State capital where members trooped in from different states to grace the occasion.

The Chairman said, "We have formed a very strong bond and our members have gone to higher places working in some different walks of lives. The alumni thing is for us to come together as a bond and keep contacts and we want to

harvest from the contacts, a relationship and not that when we finish, we go away.

"In Keffi, it was good and we decided to take it a step further. This is the second reunion we are holding in Jos and we are calling it a hybrid meeting in the sense that some of us are not here physically, but some will join us through the virtual network so that we can engage. We are finding a lot of things to do to move forward.

"This is because somehow, some of us are exiting from our places of work. So, we need to have that friendship because when you get older and you do not have friends, you might die early. So, we want to sustain that togetherness and by this, we also hope that all other people of different sets who went to

SPS Keffi will come together", he encouraged.

Taddy said, although the school was no more because it has been transformed to Nasarawa State University, but they were doing everything humanly possible to give back to the school no matter how little since the dream of this university started from School of Preliminary Studies. He pointed out that "we are proud to have a sitting governor, a former Speaker of the House and so many as school mates".

On his part, a former Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt Hon. Michael Dapialong, who is of Basic'85 said "Set 85 which is Basic'85 is an interesting set. We have lots of great memories and have engaged in various works and activities. And to me, School of Preliminary Studies, Keffi is one of the best places to study.

"This reunion means a lot to us as it offers us the opportunity to meet ourselves, share the good old memories and chart the way forward as critical stakeholders in the society and to think on how to better the Nigerian economy and proffer solutions in most diverse various areas. And we have some good and experienced persons", he enthused.

There were words of commendation friendship from Mrs. Joan Yakubu Dazel, Solomon James Abdu and Barr. Gyado Dalyop respectively as they could not hide how happy they were to have met for the first time with some of their mates after 37 years of graduating from the institution. They later reconvened at a dinner and barbecue and dancing and merry making continued.

NEWS

Seek counterpart donor funding -Lar

From DORCAS PANYES, ABUJA

SEEK counterpart donor funding- Lar Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology, Hon Beni Lar has urged the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHETSCO), to seek counterpart donor funding for science research, to boost the actualization of the agency's mandate of driving the growth of scientific knowledge in the nation that can ultimately transform the country's science and innovation sector.

Hon Lar ,said this in her address during the 2023 budget defence of the Sheda Science and Technology Complex, SHETSCO.

According to the lawmaker, the 2023 budget focuses on in improving research capacity base ,robust collaboration between the Agency and industries, commercializing scientific research findings that will generate massive wealth for the nation and its citizens domestically as well as setting a pace for the future of SHETSCO viable operational existence and how the nation can optimize domestic research efforts and commercialization.



Lar

Hon Beni Lar, Chairman, House Committee on Science and Technology.

The Director General of the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESCO) Prof Paul Onyenekwu, while giving a breakdown of SHETSCO 2023 budget, said details include, Construction of Solar

Farm, National Health Insurance (NHIS), Salaries, contributory pension, purchase of diesel to generate power amongst others.

Prof Paul Onyenekwu, Director General of the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESCO).

The Nigeria Energy Commission was also before the Committee to defend 2023 budget.

Plateau JNC condoles Yilbissa family over father's death

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Executive Council of Joint Negotiating Council (JNC), Plateau State Chapter, has condoled with the family of its their Vice Chairman, Comrade Fwengak Daniel Yilbissa, over the demise of his father, Late Nde Daniel Wucholla Yilbissa who died last week.

The team led by its Chairman, Comrade Titus Mallau, apologized on behalf of members for not visiting his father while still in the hospital and during the burial due to some official engagements that took them out of the state and prayed that, the sole of his deceased father rest in peace with the

He described the Mr. Fwengak as the strong bond of unity as a union because he has sacrificed a lot to progress of the union saying, "on behalf of NLC and JNC, I wish to convey our sincere condolence message to the family and we pray that Baba

is resting in the bosom of the Lord.

We also pray that, God in his infinite mercy will comfort you and give the wisdom to continue from where your late father stopped. While you on earth, you always run to him for advice's, but now that he is no more, it now your turn to take that responsibility", Mallau encouraged.

Responding, the son of the deceased who is the State Vice Chairman of JNC, Comrade Fwengak Daniel Yilbissa, said there the need thanked God for all that happened because in everything, we should give thanks to the Lord and he confident that the father has gne to with the Lord.

While appreciatie the team for their show of love and sympathy to the family, the Vice Chairman, disclosed that his father was one of the

pioneers founders of Church Of Christ In Nation (COCIN) in Ballang-Kalep of Pankshin Local Government Area and was the only eldest son of the royal family Ballang-Kalep.

He, however, prayed that this show of love and concern shown by the Union to him should continue forever because God has made it possible for them meet and understood each other and have been a family even when they leave the public service.

Meanwhile, the wife of Vice Chairman, Mrs. Julianna Fwengak Yilbissa, thanked them for condoling with them and prayed that God would continue guard them wherever they going in the course of union activities. She described Late Baba Yilbissa who is her father-in-law as the best father-in-law in the world who have shown her love and care while alive and she was going to miss him dearly.

so that the impact can be felt by matching words with action", she assured.

Ambassador Yarima, however, described the Plateau State Chapter of NAWOJ as one of the outstanding chapter in the country and called on the NAWOJ members to work together as one and continue to sacrifice to the peace and security of the society for development of Nigeria and beyond.

SUNDAY STANDARD understands that, with this UN Eminent Prestigious Award, Ambassador Jennifer Yarima, has been placed on notary of a Senior Citizen of the Country and would henceforth be given other privileges just like any other person that can enjoys privileges abroad as an Un Eminent Ambassador.



Yilbissa

Afro Award ceremony for Los Angeles

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Africans and Americans, who distinguished themselves in various fields of endeavours would be honoured with prestigious awards at the Los Angeles 2022 Afro Award ceremony

Film Director, Taiwo Oduala, Founder and Executive Producer, Afro Awards, made the disclosure in a statement issued in Nigeria and made available to our correspondent Oduala said that the most anticipated event of the year, Afro Awards 2022, "is billed to be broadcast live on Sunday, Nov. 6 at Regal La Live 1000 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, California 9 0 0 1 5 , U S A . " "Afro Award 2022 will honour American and African community leaders, philanthropist, dignitaries and celebrities. "The main focus of the award is to support people who have demonstrated exceptional humanitarian excellence in various fields," he said.

According to him, since inception, the Afro Awards has hosted and honored over 5,000 individuals at the core front of humanitarianism and philanthropy in American and African communities.

He gave names of some of the 2022 honorees to include; Curtis Young (Son of Dr. Dre), Masika Kalysha (VH1's Love & Hip Hop; We TV's Growing Up Hip Hop), Fatima Maada (First Lady of Sierra Leone) and Ayuko Babu (Founder and CEO of Pan African Film Festival).

Others are Tina Weisinger (Counder of HAP Awards), Hubert Nakitare (Hip Hop

artist and activist), Lea Cher Pump (Owner of The LadyLike Foundation), His Royal Majesty, Oba Yisa Olusola Olaniyan (Humanitarian; Founder of AHBEAH Awards), Seye Kehinde (Journalist; Humanitarian) and Davido David Adeleke (Nigerian-American Singer; Humanitarian),

Also to be honoured are Rochel Pamphile (CEO of Rocky R&P Entertainment), Dr. Lance McCarthy (Business Consultant; Humanitarian), Fatimoh Muhammed (Philanthropist ; Humanitarian), Afro Nation (World Biggest Afrobeats; Humanitarian), Sam Anwuzia (Founder of ZAFAA Awards; C E O N o l l y w o o d Entertainment; Humanitarian) and Senator Ademola Jackson Adeleke (Senator ; Humanitarian).

Others are Chief Tajudeen Amoo Adeleke (Legendary African Drummer ; Humanitarian), Ade James (African Legendary Photographer ; Humanitarian), Yinka Rythym (Musician; Philanthropist; Humanitarian), Charmaine Blake (Owner of Charmaine PR Firm), Kandias Conda (Owner of Celebrity Brand) and Madam Lara Okunnubi (Philanthropist/Humanitarian).

The director explained that Red carpets arrivals start by 5:00pm with the main event at 7:00pm and an after party at 10:00pm.

He said that the host for this year's event is no other person than the VH1's Love & Hip Hop Star Masika Kalysha.

Oduala urged the public not to miss the all important Sunday event but endeavour to be there live or watch it live



Mohammed

PLG approves employment of healthcare personnel

By DUMAH RANDONG

In its efforts to improve the health needs of the citizens, the Plateau State government has approved the employment of health care providers in the services of it's health institutions.

This, the government believed will go a long way in addressing the challenges being faced due to shortage of manpower.

Governor Simon Lalong disclosed this recently while declaring open the Annual National Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, PSN holding in Jos.

The Conference with the theme: "Medicines Security In An Unstable Economy," was the second in the state since its establishment 95 years ago which brought together experts in the Pharmacy profession to brain on critical issues that would move it forward.

Represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, Lalong said his administration was at the verge of completing the General Hospital and Trauma Centre in Ryom as well as the General Hospitals in Kwall, Kanke and Mabudi in Langtang South LGA.

He said government is currently supporting the Plateau State Public Emergency Health Centre in curbing emergency diseases

active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The Minister disclosed that the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Research Development was in process of completing a pilot facility for the local production of pharmaceutical ingredients noting that this will also serve as a facility for the practical training of required human resource capacity.

While appreciating the Pharmacies for their continued support in achieving the universal health coverage, Dr Ohanire assured of collective effort to achieve vaccine and vaccine security as a component of overall national security as a panacea for economic resuscitation and stability.

He said he aware of the challenges faced by the sector such as application of tariffs on some imported pharmaceutical raw materials, lack of foreign exchange to do business and advised members of the profession to take advantage of the African Free Trade zone which was new a frontier of international trade capability for strengthening Ngeria's economy and wondered why the unpaid April and May 2018 salary due to pharmacists in some hospitals were yet to be paid despite being budgeted for.

NEWS

2023: Taraba NUJ Correspondents' Chapel engages candidates

From VICTOR GAI,
Jalingo

THE Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, (NUJ) Taraba State, has concluded arrangements to interface with candidates vying for political office in the State.

According to a press statement signed by Secretary of the Chapel, Femi Bolaji, the maiden media engagement would provide the platform for the candidates

to "reel out their plans for the State and the Federal and State constituencies if elected for the position they are vying for".

The media engagement which would be streamed live on a dedicated Facebook page "Taraba Correspondents' Chapel Media Parley, The Road to 2023", would also feature political stakeholders, civil society organisations, the traditional and religious institutions as well as the security agencies who are expected to sensitize the citizens on the new electoral law and how democracy can be deepened.

The statement also added that the 33 members of the union who represent various national and international media (Electronic and Print) organisations would have a mini press interaction with guests.



Darius

According to the Chairman of Taraba State Correspondents' Chapel, Gabriel Yough, the initiative is the union's modest contribution to their host State.

He enjoined residents of Taraba state to follow this process to the latter in order to make an informed decision about their future in 2023.

He also encouraged Candidates of all political

parties for Governorship, Senate, House of Representatives and various State Constituencies to take advantage of the forum.

Also, Chairman, Organising Committee of the Media Parley, Saidu Sadiq Adamu, said the forum would not be a platform to settle political scores, but one where politicians would tell citizens of Taraba state what they would do to better their lives if voted into power.

CHAIRMAN of the National Population Commission (NPC), Hon.Nasir Isa Kwarra has assured Nigerians of the commission's commitment to deliver accurate, reliable and acceptable census that would be relevant to drive a sustainable national development.

Kwarra disclosed this in a keynote address during a 2 day State level workshop on compendium of localities for the 2023 Population and Housing Census for all the 17 Local Government Council Chairmen and Stakeholders at the Conference Hall, office of the Deputy Governor Plateau State last Thursday, he said that the commission has finalised list of localities in preparedness for the Census next year.

He expressed that the National compendium of localities were the results of the Enumeration Area Demarcation (EAD), exercise that was done earlier in data collection of all localities in the state with a standard modern day definition of locality, distinct population cluster, Populated centre and settlement etc.

He added that the soft copy of the localities list would be given to the Local Government Chairmen for them to study, to check for misspellings and correction of their localities.

Hon.Kwarra who was represented by the Federal Commissioner of population and Housing census,

NPC set for successful census

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

representing Plateau State Hon.Mrs.Cecilia Dapoet, stated that developing nation as Nigeria, need to know her population size, which would help in budgeting and planning, in order to achieve a meaningful and sustainable development.

She appealed to citizens to join the commission in the bid to give our dear country a reliable demographic data through the forthcoming 2023 general census.

Earlier in a separate good will messages from the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon.Sylvanus Tappun, Hon.Miskoom Alex Na'antuam, ALGON Chairman Plateau State and Chairman of Shendam LGC, State Deputy Director of Independent National Electoral Commission(INEC), Shehu Abdul Baba

Others are Mrs Tabitha Kaneng Pam, State Director National Orientation Agency(NO),HRH Gowom Rei of Barkin Iadi Da Edward Gyang Bot and Mr.Go'ar Ayuba a stakeholder from Kanke.

They all pledge their support in ensuring that the commissions succeed in the forthcoming census exercise next year 2023 by

sensitization of citizens to see the importance of census and for them to also own the process by being availing themselves to be counted.

However,they state that population census is not politics, but getting the data of her citizens for development.

While saluting the courage of the commission in ensuring that all the necessary processes were put in place to conduct a credible census in 2023 by a successful Enumeration Area Demarcation (EAD), exercise that was done in all the Local Government Areas of the state.

SUNDAY STANDARD reports that Mrs.Tani Abdulsalam, the lead leader from the Commission's Headquarters Abuja, Department of Cartography presented digital state locality lists Map showing the total coverage and assured participants during the programme that the commission has captured all the 774 local government areas in Nigeria.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of soft copy of the locality list to the Local Government Chairmen by Hon.Dapoet and urged them to study the lists on time.

CSOs stage breast cancer awareness walk

From ABBAS GUNGURA,
Bauchi

In its zeal and determination to create more awareness on the effects of Breast Cancer within communities, a coalition of three Bauchi based civil society organizations have commemorated this year's October Cancer month with a grand walk across major streets of Bauchi metropolis.

Addressing the mammoth crowd that turned out for the over 3 kilometer walk, a Consultant with the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), Dr.Adamu Bala Ningi lectured on the need for prevention and early detection of breast cancer, saying that "greater percentage of deaths from breast cancer occurs in Africa and it is due to late detection of the scourge. "Usually by the time the patient comes to the hospital, the cancer has spread and eventually leads to death even after surgery".

In an interview with some of the organizers, the founder of Alheri YS Foundation, Miss. Alheri Yusuf Sarauta said the objective of commemorating the breast cancer month was to bring to limelight the need for women to always seek for medical attention the moment they notice anomalies in their breast. She also dispute the myth that breast cancer cannot be cured

pointing out that, "there are many survivors of breast cancer that are hale and hearty within our community. This was as result of the fact that the breast cancer was detected early enough by the victims and commenced medical treatment".

The CEO and Founder of AABA Life Foundation (ALFO) Aisha Adam Bappa said that for the first time they (Coalition of CSOs) saw the need to organise the walk in addition to series of public lecture to commemorate the breast cancer month.

Bappa thanked those that participated in the walk and also urged them to be breast cancer awareness champions. She also reiterated the resolve of the coalition to key into all global activities that seeks to bring the issues around breast cancer on national discourse.

Nigeria Standard in an interview with a breast cancer survivor at the occasion, Ms. Elizabeth Kah, reiterated the need for women to always check their breasts for any signs of lumps, especially after menstruation.

Kah believes that early detection and treatment remains the best option for surviving breast cancer pointing that, "I was able to detect the lump in my breast early and seek for medical attention. Today, 19 years after my surgery, I am still

alive, healthy and full of energy".

Receiving the placard carrying crowd that terminated the walk at the Government house Bauchi, the State Governor Bala Mohammed commended the effort of the CSOs for the first ever awareness walk on breast cancer in the State describing it as historic.

Represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Barrister Ibrahim Kashim, the Governor expressed appreciation for organising the breast cancer awareness campaign. Saying that the state government is committed to ensuring

effective and efficient healthcare services in the State.

The breast cancer awareness walk which was held on the 31st October, 2022 was organised by three CSOs in Bauchi State, namely: Alheri YS Foundation, AABA Life Foundation (ALFO) and Barrister Ibrahim Kashim (BIK) Foundation.

The Nigeria Standard gathered that October of every year is being set aside globally to highlight issues around breast and cervical cancer with a view to giving victims hope and creating more awareness on prevention and early



Kwarra

Court reserves judgement on guber candidate case

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

THE Court of Appeal, Yola Division, has reserved for judgment in the case between Professor Jerome Nyame and INEC, the PDP and three others.

Nyame is seeking for the nullification of the judgement of the Federal High Court Jalingo that upheld the nomination of Lt. Col. Agbu Kefas (rtd) as governorship candidate of the PDP in Taraba State.

The appellant argued that Agbu Kefas never bought

the nomination form and expression of interest form or participated in the screening exercise.

"When some of the people who nominated him have claimed that they did not so nominate him, these are part of the issues that we presented to the trial court but in its wisdom, the trial court held that it was not enough and that our matter was not properly instituted and that we

ought to come by originating summons. So we are aggrieved by the trial court," Eko Ejembi Eko, Counsel to the appellant told journalists.

On his part, Counsel to the 2nd and 3rd respondents, Musa Tende, said "they have not even complied with the court order that was granted to them leave to serve processes at the Federal High Court Jalingo which up till now they have not

served".

He added that they are therefore praying the court to dismiss the suit for lack of merit.

Meanwhile, the session which was presided by Justice Obande Festus Obunya, had adjourned to the 16th November, 2022 on the appeal of the Speaker, Taraba State House of Assembly seeking to be joined as appellant in the suit filed by Prof. Jerome Nyame.

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Continued from page 10

naira which 11 years after its introduction to control money laundering and stop corruption, modification and rebranding was carried out when all colours of the naira were changed under Muhammadu Buhari when he happens to be Nigeria's Head of State. In 1991, 50 kobo and N1 were both turned to coins and N50 notes introduced under the then Head of States, Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. Four more denominations of N100, N200, N500 and N1000 were seen in 1999, N2000, 2001 and on 12th October 2005 respectively all under President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Na'ainna further declared that, "a remarkable and significant change was done under Olusegun Obasanjo in which N5, N10, N20 paper notes were introduced respectively. The naira was further redesigned and rebranded in 2014 in commemoration of Nigeria's 100th centenary anniversary since amalgamation, the rebranding affected N100 alone which at that time, Goodluck Jonathan was the president."

One area of worry for policy watchers and analysts is the fact that most if not all the redesign and rebranding often happen during elections or electioneering periods. Peter Imouokhome, an economist wrote under the title, "redesign, Redistribution of the Nigerian Currency: When Economies Reverse its Postulation" that, "while we go through our unique challenges, let us not fail to postulate solutions that address them and while the undertone to major economic policies are not unconnected with political consideration. It behooves for the sake of the greater good of the society. The trend tells the story better.

"According, to information published on the CBN website on February 28, 2007 as part of the economic reforms, N50, N20 N5 banknotes N1 and 50 kobo coins, were reissued in new designs. A federal election was thereafter held on the 21st of April 2017. In 2015, just before another general election, the N100 note was redesigned and reissued to the public. This year, there is a new re-issuance with activities preceding the 2023 general elections beginning. The questions are on policies made to cushion political effects or to address economic challenges? Again, with socio-political and economic themes very much interconnected; the answers are far-tetched."

Imouokhome further opined that, "the CBN has attributed the new release to the rate of currency hoarding and its quest to nip kidnapping in the bud. These reasons are non-economic classified and it can be argued that in fact, they do not directly address the current challenges that the Nigerian economy faces. As we approach the 2023 general elections in the months to come, we look forward to seeing the gains and impact of the recent redesign of the currency being made positively on the economy."

He said further that, "where this doesn't happen, we can be right to say that this exercise came with its sinister motives and runs foul of the goals of contractionary monetary policy with more money to be spend on the various designs, production, distribution of new currency thereby introducing more volume of money in circulation and in fact with a risk to further worsen the inflationary



Naira rebranding and controversies

pressure on Nigerian Naira." Equally too, according to Senior Analyst at Parlian partners Limited, Gafar Bashiru, Leadership newspaper, Monday, October 31, 2022) the timing of the 2023 general elections is unexpected and raises concern. Citing some benefits of the move, he said it will to an extend help reduce counterfeit currency in circulation, and might help bring in some of the 5 percent of the currency into the vaults of commercial banks. He further revealed that its may temporarily curb some corrupt practices by providing accountability as customers must deposit their cash into their accounts before getting the new currency whilst helping the Federal Government to identify tax evaders and increase Federal Government tax revenue generation.

However, he said the major downside of the redesigning of the note is the high cost of printing the new currencies given Nigeria's existing debt profile. Aside, he said it might fuel demand for foreign exchange as a store of value given the unpredictability nature of policy makers. As the old note would no longer be legal tender after January 31, 2023, Bashiru noted that this unexpected move could increase the level of money laundering." As against the desire of the CBN to use the redesigning to curb inflation in the country, he said, it could spur and "increase the level of inflation (demand pull) as individuals that cannot account for large sums of cash may start to buy properties and fixed assets thereby creating artificial demand".

He added that, "it can lead to cash

shortage if not managed properly. While we acknowledge the benefits of the policy to change some of the currencies in circulation, we must also highlight the need for the apex bank to adopt policies that would strengthened the naira. Since the apex bank halted the sales of dollars to Bureau de change, (BDC) operators in 2021 the naira has lost more has 30 percent of its value. Examining the "benefit to cost" of this new policy, we think that the cost out weights the benefits and might continue to drive the naira in a downward trajectory".

Nevertheless, some individuals and groups are of the fervent opinion that the new policy of the CBN to redesign and rebrand the naira is a good omen that would be to the benefit of the Nigerian economy in general. The Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) has also commend the federal government over the sudden move to redesign high denominations of Naira notes, including N200, N500 and N1000 banknotes. The CNPP in a statement issued in Abuja by its Secretary General, Chief Willy Izugwu said that, only politicians who intend to buy votes and pay kidnapers, will kick against the move by the CBN". According to Leadership newspaper reports, Saturday, October 29, 2022), the umbrella association of all registered political parties and political associations in Nigeria said, "the efforts of the CBN to control the amount of money in circulation, where N2.7 trillion out of the N3.3 trillion are in the vaults of commercial banks across the country and are found to be

supposedly be held by members of the public, is of high risk for the country's economy and her internal security.

"it is therefore obvious that many politicians, especially since 2015, have amassed illicit wealth and depleted the national commonwealth to the extent that the currency in circulation has more than doubled since 2015, rising from N1.46 trillion in December 2015 to N3.2 trillion as of September 2022, according to the CBN data. Certainly, this is unacceptable in any economy controlled by same financial experts," the statement said.

The Secretary General said, CNPP was glad at the timing for the naira notes redesignation as there is no better time than in an election year, especially where politicians have made vote-buying an alternative to convincing the electorate through their track records and capacity to govern beyond rhetoric, as well as commitment to selling the manifestos of their political parties during campaigns.

It further declared that "so as dramatic as the move may seem, the CNPP is totally in support of the CBN and the CBN Governor, Mr. Godwin Emefiele on the policy initiative and hereby call on all security agencies, including the Directorate of State Service (DSS), The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the ICPC to redouble efforts to reduce insecurity and electoral corruption by placing all politicians contesting in the 2023 general elections on perpetual surveillance. "We urge the anti-graft agencies and commission to use the opportunity created by the new and

existing currencies exchange window from December to January 31, 2023 when the excising currencies shall cease to be legal tender to monitor illicit campaign financing, ransom for hostage takes and drug barons.

"In the same vein, bank managers should be banned by the CBN from any form of home delivery of cash to citizens and corporate organizations until after February 1, 2023 to ensure that the country reaps the gains of the CNN monetary policy. We urge the CBN to ensure that all exchanges of old notes with new notes should go through the bank accounts of the individuals and corporations can be made to explain sums of monies to security operatives especially the EFCC."

"It must be noted that, in this effort of trying to revitalize the naira to boost the economy, it is not only the duty of security agencies but every Nigerian is involve at this critical and crucial moment. The patriotic activities of whistle blowers should take the centre stage of this moment of redesigning and rebranding of the naira notes. Like Paul Jatau wrote in his "Random Musings" Column, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, Wednesday, November 2, 2022), "let it be understood that no undertaking comes without a cost. Some would definitely be affected both positively and negatively when the redesignation of the currencing happens. But that is the sacrifice we have to make as a people. Indeed, the Judden surge in the purchase of the dollar and other foreign currencies is a confirmation of the dirty and illicit money being held by some people."

Metro-Focus

Keeping public spaces neat: Whose responsibility?

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

OVERGROWN grasses and shrubs are now the norm around us. The most worrisome are those seen in the heart of the city especially around public spaces, institutions and even offices. For a state whose logo is 'peace and tourism' an unkempt environment calls for concern. It gives us a very bad name among the comity of states.

One of the things most governments are engaged in is selling their states to investors. To sell one's product successfully involves packaging. If Plateau will make headway in that direction, then some measures have to be taken to make that a reality.

A drive around town has revealed how unkempt the environment around most public institutions are. Take for instance, the long stretch of Airforce Military School fence that faces the road that goes down to Rayfield, seat of government, it is overgrown with shrubs. And it makes the area look bad. In the past, the school authority used to ensure it was well trimmed.

The outward appearance of most offices, schools, institutions are wearing an unkempt outlook. Where there should be flowers, one sees overgrown grasses or shrubs. A good example are properties opposite St Finbarr's Catholic Church, Rayfield. This is the same road that leads to Government House. The attention of the owners of these properties should be drawn to the fact that they have a responsibility to keep the property neat not only inside but outside because it affects how the state looks.

It is also on record that, majority of these structures are residential houses of people who do not live here on the Plateau, but wish to have a gigantic building and only employed the services of young people as security to look after their property without any serious maintenance.

Most of these houses are around Rayfield, Millionaire Quarters, Ibrahim Taiwo, JD Gomwalk road, Yakubu Gowon way, Murtala Muhammad way, Apollo Crescent, both State and Federal Law cost, Bukuru Express way and so on. Sadly, as beautiful as these buildings are, maintaining their surroundings is a problem.

We are not in any way discouraging lovers of Jos-Plateau from coming to build here, but helping in making Plateau healthy, beautiful and safe is what we are requesting. It is possible that you were attracted to the state by its serene environment, clement weather, beautiful topographical setting and hospitable nature of its residents. However, we are requesting that you help in



making this town more beautiful and attractive.

Unfortunately, more attention is always given to grasses inside the premises, leaving the side facing the road bushy until the exit of rainy season where they can set fire to burn them. This is making the beautiful city not attractive and we do not expect government or Plateau Ministry of Environment to send its cleaners to these institutions or houses to clear the grasses for us.

Although, some few have interlocking to the road lane, but majority of these institutions and houses do not care about how their outside view looks like. For some institutions, all they care about is what their take home would be at the end of every month.

They fail to understand that when you fail to make the

environment of your organisation clean and attractive to whoever comes in, you are destroying what it was meant for and it affects patronage especially when it is a business organisation.

Even just for the fear of snakes and other reptiles, one needs not be told to cut those grasses down to avoid any avoidable incidents that may bring pain to us while still at work or on our way out. It is not safe to deliberately create hiding place for these dangerous reptiles in a big city like this.

This has made the beautiful city of Jos look untidy of recent. It is of note that we are exiting the rainy season having witnessed regular downpour and it has ensured grasses are outgrown everywhere. But it should not be a reason for us to leave the environment bushy.

Thank God, the Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako LaLong, has re-instituted the monthly sanitation exercise in the state where movement would be restricted from 6am to 10am as was obtained in the past.

It would be recalled that, years back, the state government contracted waste management to some private organisations, but not much was achieved. Although, it started well but it crashed along the line either for noncompliance on the side of the citizens or lack of seriousness on the part of the contractors. Only God knows!

In spite of the several meetings and negotiations between these contractors and the State Ministry of Environment over the years, waste materials and grasses

were seen along our major streets. It is possible that the failure of this privatization was what forced government to go back to the old practice of strict monthly sanitation exercise.

However, it will also be good if government would instruct institutions and residential houses to not just stay indoors during this exercise as a sign of respect to the order, but should be seen clearing their surroundings. All hands should be on deck to change the look of Plateau State.

In fact, drastic step should be taken against these institutions or residential houses who deliberately leave grasses to outgrow, so that, our dream of being the tourism haven of Nigeria would be achieved. It may not be out of place to keep awareness going so that, a fine could be charged against any defaulter.

SUNDAY PEOPLE

TINUBU, SHETTIMA, LALONG AND OTHERS IN LAGOS

Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, APC Presidential candidate, his runningmate, Sen. Kashim Shettima, Director General of the Presidential Council Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) of Plateau State and others recently met in Lagos with stakeholders



Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, flanked by the Governors of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State (right) Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State, (left) on arrival at the meeting



Cross section of some members of APC Presidential campaign



DG of the Presidential campaign Council, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) addressing the meeting



Stakeholders at the meeting listening to speeches



All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, (middle) with his Vice Presidential candidate, Sen. Kashim Shettima (left) with the Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila



Governors Nasir Ahmed El-Rufai of Kaduna State with his Plateau State counterpart, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong



Governor Lalong in a handshake with APC Vice Presidential candidate, Sen. Kashim Shettima



Cross section of the Presidential council members and stakeholders at the meeting

RRW31: Ember months and safe motoring

THE term Ember Months connotes the last four months of the year (September - December). These months are in no way different from other months of the year. They comprise of 30-31 days like any other month of the year. The days are neither prolonged nor the hours extended. It is also not mere superstition as some believe. The road networks and the environment are not in any way altered even though the weather may change. Usually it is the same vehicles, and drivers that still ply the road even though in higher volumes. The only peculiar thing about Ember Months is that it is the time of the year that is often characterized by high vehicular and human movements from one part of the country to another. The months culminate in a major Christian holiday Christmas celebrated on December 25 worldwide. Ember months are the time of the year when people take time out from their usual work schedules to visit their families and country homes. Nigerians usually crisscross the length and breadth of the country to spend the Christmas break with their extended family members. Like Eneke the proverbial bird

in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart, traffic management authorities like the Federal Road Safety Corps, Vehicle Inspection Officers, the Police and other state-owned traffic bodies step up their activities at this period to curb drivers' excesses and save lives on the highways. Road transport unions and companies take advantage of the beehives of activities by doubling their efforts and trips to triple their profit margin. The result is mad rush on the road causing chaos, deaths and untold hardship. Motorist should remember that life in its entirety is a vicious circle. As such, the additional income accruable from the extra efforts hardly makes any difference. A large chunk of the extra cash goes into vehicle maintenance and servicing owing to the natural wear and tear effects on the vehicles. The usual hike in the prices of commodities in the market during Ember Months makes nonsense of our efforts resulting in vanity at the end of the day. In the long run truth be told, we are making haste and going nowhere. We are at best going around in circles. We ought to do some stock taking and sober reflections. Are we really

making progress or retrogressing? Is it really worth the efforts and pains? We need to come to ourselves and save each other the needless stress and distress expended in breaking our backs trying to rake in extra cash. Research has shown that road traffic crashes occur more at Ember Months than any other periods of the year. This makes the whole scenario penny wise pond foolish to say the least. Let us slow down a bit and stop running our blood red hot at Ember Months. Life is more than Ember Months. Of what benefit is it to make all the money and never live to enjoy it? How then do we remedy the situation? First and foremost, we should make hales while the sun shines. This we can do by saving gradually from January towards December expenses. When we do so, we will be under less or no pressure towards December. The rush hour or injury time we usually witness during Ember Months will become a thing of the past. Moreover who says we cannot make everyday a Christmas by our lifestyles? Oh yes! we can. The choices we make today determines the outcome of tomorrow. A little adjustment here and there and the nightmare of Ember Months will be gone forever.



NEWS

BECO inspects school projects

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

DA Gyang Dudu the President of Berom Educational and Cultural Organization -BECO was at BECO Comprehensive High School Kwi, to inspect the newest addition of developmental projects at the school, encompassing an examination hall and big boxes of library books donated by Senator I. D. Gyang who himself was once a volunteer teacher for years at the school.



Sen. Gyang

This was said in a statement issued to news men Thursday in Abuja by Precious K. Nyako Special Assistant on Media to, Senator I. D. Gyang.

In his remarks having inspected the latest developments and general state of the institution, Da Dudu described Senator Gyang's project as a timely intervention that has met a crucial need in the school.

He added, "This hall started about two months ago and it has been completed. A school of this magnitude requires a hall like this which can be used for examination, assembly, graduation etc"

He commended Senator Gyang, other illustrious sons and daughters of Berom land and her well wishers for their

enormous contributions in ensuring that the once derelict school is being revived and is evolving.

Duba also made a call for more support from sons, daughters and wellwishers of the land so that the dream of expanding the School to a tertiary institution can be realised.

On behalf of the school, the Acting Vice Principal, Mr. Dalyop Emmanuel, poured out heartfelt gratitude over the strides so far achieved.

He added, "what you are seeing today is the consequences of vision and

quality of intention because this school was once in a sorry state. We appreciate Da Dudu and his excos for their efforts in pulling in these developments. We thank all who have made these contributions to see that the glory of this institution is restored. Like Oliver Twist also, we solicit for more."

In his entourage was BECO Secretary General, Da cholom Gyang, some elders, youths and members of Berom Entertainers association.

Bello commends HYPPADEC for impacting lives

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi state Governor, Yahaya Bello has praised Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission for its consistency support to impact positively on the lives of citizens.

Bello gave the commendation while declaring open Stakeholders Forum on Proposed HYPPADEC Medium Term Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 in Kogi State.

The governor who was represented by his deputy, Edward Onoja, urged HYPPADEC to consider the

presentations of the critical Stakeholders from the ten benefiting local government areas in the state as a working document for its 2022-2027 plan.

"The inputs of the critical Stakeholders from the ten local government areas, on what they believe is good for their people should take the centre stage as working document for HYPPADEC

"In doing so, it will facilitate HYPPADEC programme of actions to meet with the yearnings and aspirations of the citizens" the Governor affirmed.

The Governor however, urge local government council chairmen and their vices, traditional rulers and

some top government officials from the ten HYPPADEC Local Government Areas who are participating at the forum to make their presentations as they will benefit their people.

The chairman HYPPADEC Governing Council, Joseph Terfa Ityav in his address, stressed the importance of effective planning to achieve needed result "Planning is very important, if you don't plan, you will not have proper direction hence the need for the ongoing stakeholders forum "We are going to work in collaboration with relevant ministries/agencies for the five years action to enhance our activities in Kogi" Itayav disclosed.

Traditional rulers from the ten HYPPADEC Local Government Areas in Kogi, in their contributions at the forum hailed HYPPADEC for its task to improve upon the living standard of the people ranging from provision of motorised boreholes, agricultural inputs, youth/women empowerment and palliatives during natural disasters.

They particularly called for bridging of river Niger and building of more dams as lasting solution to the incessant flooding ravaging parts of the country.



Bello

SUNDAY FEATURE

MOTNA: First of its kind in Africa

MOTNA is now a full pledge museum of its own, operating under a different management from the Jos Museum as the public knows. The museum got its autonomy as a separate museum from Jos Museum on the 26th May, 2021 under the curatorship of Mrs. Rahina Garba Harun. The museum is situated along Tudun Wada road from the central Bank at No.7 Fidelis Tappun Road, Jos and can be reach at motna.museum@ncmm.gov.ng. Rahina Garba Haruna writes.

THE museum of Nigerian traditional architecture situated in Jos was built under the influence of Prof. Z. R. Dmochowski. The preliminary master plan of the site as well as the precise scale drawings were made from measured field notes 1958-1966 at the Research Field Centre of tropic architecture at Goanak Technical University Poland, under the direct supervision of Prof. Z. R. Dmochowski. It was accepted then as a dominical rule that the actual construction of any edifice should be done by craftsmen brought to Jos from the actual place where the copied building was originally erected. Thus the replica of the oldest palace of Katsina was executed by the court master builders – “Sarkin Mason” of Royal Highness the Emir of Katsina. The Kano city walls and gates were constructed under the supervision of old master builder, Sarkin Gin of Kano – Mallam Dan Baba. The Tiv settlement was erected by group of Gboko Builders while Rukuba compound by skilled craftsmen from Rukuba village while Pategi gate house was erected by Craftsmen directed by Estu Pategi etc.



Thus assumed, it will be a unique museum of its kind in African and due to its special character, unique to the world. The department was under National museum Jos located at the heart of Jos metropolis. It has the outstanding monuments of the geo-political zones of Nigeria. The monuments were constructed in 1973 with typical local materials of the host communities in order not to compromise standard or quality. They represent Nigeria's traditional architectural design artistry and historical identity and cultural values of the

indigenous communities. The department, monuments, heritage and sites was created from the Department of Museums and Monuments in 2002. The functions assigned to the department were:

1. Identification, inventory, documentation, conservation, protection and preservation of monuments, heritage and sites nationwide.
2. Declaration of monuments of outstanding values as National monuments.
3. Maintenance of national registry and inventory of the National Monuments and Sites.
4. Assist states and local government in sites inventory

documentation and conservation.

5. Assist in the development of Nigeria's cultural policy and preparation of conservation master plan for tourism.
6. Promote the implementation of international conventions on the heritage ICOMOS charters, recommendations and resolutions on conservation, eco-cultural tourism and cultural education.
7. Implementation of UNESCO world heritage programmes.

MOTNA, in conjunction with the above listed functions, has the duties, documentation,

conservation and development of management plans for monuments, heritage and sites. It was established in 1965-1970. Originally, 64 acres (25 hectares) of land was marked out for the construction of 48 ethnic structures (building). The sites are organized with groups of buildings representing the various ethnic-geographic grouping of Nigeria. The significance that the scenery of each site is as close as possible to its character and religion. Also, the relationship of groups were practicable analogous to their actual geographical position. Consequently, the whole area presents a miniature map of

Nigeria. The first foundation was laid in 1972 and so far, most buildings erected and on the Northern wing of MOTNA corresponding to the Northern lands of Nigeria. Other building are completed on the Eastern and middle belt wings, while other buildings are at the foundation level at the Western wing corresponding to the western lands of Nigeria. It values ranges from:

(i) Educational value: It serves as centres of learning eg. Institutes of Archaeology and Museum Studies places of excursions, pace of research, education and tourism.

(ii) Architectural value: monuments heritage and site denotes architectural icons a traditional architecture and building management through the use of sustainable local materials.

(iii) Memorial value: represents a memorial symbols, cultural identity and cohesion.

(iv) Spiritual value: portrays the honour, prestige and dignity of royalty, place of congregational worship, administration of justice.

(v) Historical value: monuments, heritage of sites represent that of traditional architectural designs, art and craftsmanship, transmission of skills and knowledge, good attitudes and the means of maintaining peace and unity.

By and large, the general public is hereby notified of the existence of MOTNA museum that is separate from the old museum Jos.

Rahina Garba Haruna is a curator in Jos Museum, Nigeria.



SUNDAY FEATURE

'JAPA' phenomenon: A call for action

Lately, Nigerians have developed an insatiable appetite to travel out of the country for good. Yes, for greener pastures because nothing it is going on at the moment has rekindled their hope for a better tomorrow. Not that Nigerians have not been traveling out before, far from it; just that the dimension it has taken since 2021 till date is cause for concern. All shades of people are leaving- the young, the old, the unemployed, and the gainfully employed. OBOLI AUGUSTINE writes.

THE expected change in the mantle of leadership in 2023 does nothing to their psyche to live out our present predicament as hope appears to have taken flight also. This forced departure from our shores has found a perfect expression in the word (Japa), which in street lingo means to bolt or run away from a terrible situation. It is a Yoruba word that means exactly what the street called it, and it is trending.

Everyone now 'Japa'. As a matter of fact, any friend you have not seen in two months may have left Nigeria. Beyond anything else, the (Japa) syndrome represents a lack of faith in project Nigeria. It is a vote of no confidence in the system. (Japa) is probably not new in our lexicon. The last time we came close to this trend was in the 80's when austerity measures were biting hard and Nigerians were fleeing the land. It was so bad that the then-military government started a massive campaign to stem the tide.

Remember the punchline: 'we have no other country but Nigeria and we must stay here to salvage it together'. Even that has no silver bullet. Remember also Andrew: 'Yeah meen, I am checking out. I am tired of this country, no water no light, etc' and if I may add no jobs for our teeming youths as dramatized by Enebeli Elebuwa of blessed memory. Veno Marioghe in her song -Nigeria go survive, pleaded thus: 'Andrew no check out ooo, stay and build Nigeria ooo, Nigeria go survive. Some of us out of our patriotic fervour heeded the entreaty and stayed back. I had the opportunity then but stuck my life and destiny to my country believing in hope that we can salvage it together and make it a better place for the generations to come.

I was wrong. I do not know whether I could look back today at my decision with pride because as a nation we are not thinking creatively and developing solutions. How come those issues of 40 years ago are still very much with us and getting worst? Somehow I feel so, but my children have a different opinion. Had I made that bold move, they would have been born abroad and perhaps that would have presented them with a chance for a better life. I have been accused of denying them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and subjecting them to a life of hardship and hopelessness. In Nigeria today, most people are existing not living, but they may not know because they haven't had the opportunity to compare what living life is like elsewhere. Therefore, to an extent their



Migrant workers and challenges of job creation

ignorance is bliss.

Perhaps I have in a roundabout fashion explained what I can glean as the reasons why Nigerians Japa. So why and how did we get here: even critical professionals, be it in medicine, academics, or computer science et al are all leaving the land. These are critical mass for the development of any nation that is serious to compete globally. Why do we spend time and scarce resources to train our talents and watch arm akimbo as they migrate to the services of other nations whose developed status we desire to attain? The brain drain is draining and suffocating the land.

The most important factor in the development of a nation is its human resources, how are we going or supposed to develop when our finest and best brains, including the energetic and vibrant youth, are leaving the country in droves to saner societies that have conquered the environment and space? Just how: when universities are closed at random for months, offsetting every plan of the youths, when lecturers are asking for improvement of the system for better days and the government is going for the jugular, when it is no longer at ease and the centre cannot hold? Tell me, why won't citizens Japa from the most inhuman living conditions foisted on us by poor and insensitive leadership over the years? The phenomenon started over 40

years ago, but still, we have not been able to find the cause of the disease due to poor diagnosis and treating the symptom rather than the disease or the root cause.

Haba, which way Nigeria? I am too old now for the Japa adventure but from the benefit of hindsight, where would I find the moral armament to advise people against leaving to develop other climes? It is a difficult product to market with our myriad of problems: a deeply divided nation with religious and tribal distrust at its highest levels in decades, a nation groaning in insecurity with the concomitant socio-economic implications.

Someone said that the issues are neither multidimensional nor one with oyzantine complexity. That it is simply leadership failure. This was further echoed by Chinua Achebe in his small book: **'The trouble with Nigeria'**. In this masterpiece, the author argued convincingly and with conviction that the trouble with Nigeria is squarely that of leadership, maintaining that there is nothing wrong with her people, water, and land.

I would not agree anymore with Achebe. Indeed, Nigeria is superfluously blessed with talents and natural resources that are the envy of other nations. Rich alluvial soil and arable land for agriculture are scattered everywhere, and scratches on most of our surfaces show deposits of all

kinds of minerals and crude oil which unfortunately has become our nemesis. We have leaders that are self-serving and who care less about entrenching a functional system.

We are where we are because leaders since colonial political liberation have not risen to the challenge of leadership to turn our political emancipation into economic independence and engender a sense of pride in our people. Our people are now economic refugees in the USA, Canada, UK, and other countries strewn across Europe. And the beat goes on.

The leadership issue in Nigeria and I mean leadership at all levels needs to be seriously interrogated. By some measure, we seem to have been on the right trajectory in the immediate post-colonial era before things took a turn for the worst. What snapped or went wrong? Methinks it is our leadership recruitment process that propped up leaders without vision and a clear strategy to achieve the set national objectives. From the political to the military leadership, Nigeria has not gotten it right. And this runs from regime to regime. Some no doubt performed or fared better than others but there is always a lacuna.

Now, the political firmament is alight and the gladiators are back on the trail, traversing the land with promises of hope from our pain and despair. The concern is we have been here

before. Yes, the de java. All lizards are lying prostrate, how do we discern the one without a stomachache? What Nigeria needs now is a leader with incredible knowledge, the capacity to deliver, and who is very angry with our state of affairs and is poised to bring in the urgency needed to resuscitate a comatose giant by hitting the ground running from the Eagle Square swear-in ceremony. We cannot afford to demand anything less, or our current pains will spin out of control and snowball into asphyxiation.

Gone are the days when a party or primordial consideration should rule our heads. Let us think with our heads now and let the morass we found our nation in catapult us to serve a greater cause for the love of country. This is when our patriotism is called to action. If we love Nigeria, let us get our PVCs ready to cast that all-important vote that will make or mar the direction our country is headed, nay impact our future and that of those we love. When the next shade of Japa will kick off due to our action or inaction, the question would be asked: where did you stand when the country needed men and women of courage and good conscience to collectively pull her out from the precipice?

Let us do our best to halt the Japa train and create nostalgia for those that went with the early train.

SUNDAY SPORTS

How Pele became the greatest player

By PHIL DAWKES

AS Brazil's team bus weaves its way through the streets of Mexico City en route to the Azteca Stadium for the final of the 1970 World Cup, the players on board joyously hammer out a samba beat. Every available surface, be it rain-flecked window, roof or unused seat, is an instrument.

Leading the way with his drum is singing winger Jairzinho, 'The Hurricane', scorer of a goal in every one of his team's five games so far in the tournament, all of them victories.

Joining in is Roberto Rivellino, the graceful attacking midfielder and scorer of the first of the 15 goals that has taken them to the final; Carlos Alberto Torres, the strong-willed, brilliant captain who helped keep holders England at bay in the group stages; Gerson, Tostao, Clodoaldo and the rest, superstars of this unparalleled side, on their way to immortality.

The noise is too loud for everyone to hear a single rattle fall to the floor, the players too engaged in their singing and thoughts of glory to pay much notice to the man who intentionally dropped it.

Pele - the greatest player in the world, the talisman of the team - is crouched, hiding, tears streaming down his face.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known to the world as Pele, knew only success during the first eight years of his international career.

He was just 16 years old when he made a scoring debut for Brazil in 1957, against Argentina no less. In less than a year, he netted twice in the final against hosts Sweden as his country won their first ever World Cup.

Four years later, in Chile, injury would curtail his game time but not his legend as Brazil made it back-to-back triumphs in the world's biggest tournament.

He was then undoubtedly the planet's finest footballer - fast, strong, skilful, intelligent, improvisational and unselfish. He was a global star, who crowds would flock to see. He adored the game and it adored him back.

Such status comes at a cost, though. His was to become a marked man and over the summer of 1966 he would find that others in the sport were unwilling to tolerate his genius. It was at Goodison Park, the home of Everton Football Club, that he would have much of his love for the game kicked out of him. Literally.

Portugal defender Joao Morais would be the last in a line of hatchet men tasked with nullifying Pele by any means at that World Cup, his most brutal act a trip followed by a two-footed lunge that left the Brazilian forward powerless to influence what would be a 3-1 loss.

The result confirmed Brazil's exit at the group stage and with it ended their proud, eight-year ownership of the Jules Rimet trophy in dire and hubristic fashion.

"A total, shameful failure" was how Pele later described it in his autobiography, adding: "Everyone thought we'd win with ease. But our preparations were not planned with the same humility as in 1958 or 1962. We were already starting to lose the title before we even set foot in England."

Beaten, bruised and thoroughly disillusioned, he turned his back on the international game.

It was a hammer blow to Brazil. Pele's power went beyond what he was capable of on a football field. He



Pele celebrates scoring the opening goal of the 1970 World Cup final

was a unifying force for a vast and multi-cultural country with large impoverished areas, from which he himself had emerged. He was a symbol of hope.

This was a man once declared a "non-exportable national treasure" following an emergency session of Congress when clubs from Italy came hunting his signature in his late teens.

His importance as a figurehead had only increased during a time of instability and uncertainty, with the country under military rule following the coup d'etat of 1964.

Relinquishing the World Cup was a blow. Losing Pele was unthinkable.

Time can be a great healer, as can perspective. Pele found comfort in both during the next few years and when attentions again began to turn to a World Cup he was a changed man to the one left reeling by his experience in England.

Fatherhood had helped to ease his dissatisfaction with football, while a tour to Africa with Santos and witnessing the huge, adoring crowds that gathered to see him - a black man - and his side gave him a new outlook on his importance as a role model.

He was also brimming with renewed confidence after a number of strong club seasons, during which he had taken his career goal tally to 1,000 - a moment of epic proportions in Brazil, where news of the great man reaching the landmark shared front pages with the Apollo 12 moon landing.

Pele was also not immune to that most gnawing of fears for all elite sports stars of wanting "not to end my career as a loser".

Finally convinced to return to the national side by promises of greatly-improved preparation by the Brazilian Commission of Sports and a clampdown on foul play through the introduction of yellow and red cards for the tournament in Mexico, Pele's decision was initially indicated by a stellar qualification campaign.

He contributed six of the 23 goals scored as a settled, scintillating side won six out of six under coach Joao Saldanha.

However, calm confidence soon gave way to chaos, with the erratic Saldanha at the centre of it, seemingly determined to undo all the good work by clashing with the media, employing dubious match strategies - most damningly in a defeat by Argentina - and sacrilegiously questioning Pele's place in the side.

His most ill-advised fight was the one he picked with General Emilio Garrastazu Medici, the president of Brazil's military regime, who did not take favourably to being told to stay out of national team affairs.

Saldanha was sacked soon after, but refused to go quietly, aiming much of his vitriol in the direction of his former number 10, firstly stating he was short-sighted (which was technically true but clearly not detrimental to his game), before escalating his attack with unfounded claims that he was unfit and suffering from a "severe illness", prompting a worried Pele to obtain reassurances from team doctors.

He was popular in Mexico. One previous visit to Guadalajara with Brazil had prompted nearly the whole town to close, with posters placed on street corners stating: "No work today, we're off to see Pele!" But the country was politically volatile in the summer of 1970. The arrest of a group of Cuban-trained guerrillas by police led to a tip-off of a potential plot to kidnap Brazil's star before the World Cup.

As a result, in the weeks leading up to the tournament, Brazil trained in a fortified camp, patrolled day and night by police and armed guards, with Pele himself hidden behind a circle of protection wherever he went.

That it did not have a detrimental impact was in part testament to the planning, which stretched back to friendlies played in Mexico as far back as 1968 and three and half

months of dedicated preparation ahead of the tournament, including 21 days spent training at altitude.

When it came, their first game against Czechoslovakia at the Estadio Jalisco was a release, not just for the determined Pele but a focused, honed squad and 96 million expectant people back home.

In a tournament televised live and in full technicolour for the first time to a global audience who only a year earlier had witnessed Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, the balletic movement and sublime skill of those clad in vibrant canary yellow and cobalt blue was an apt giant leap into a bold and brilliant new footballing world.

Empowered to use their independence and intelligence as well as their ability by Saldanha's successor Mario Zagallo, a former team-mate of Pele's in '58 and '62, theirs was a football beholden to attack.

Blessed with a plethora of number 10s, Zagallo found a way to accommodate them all - Jairzinho and Rivellino operating in versatile wide roles, Tostao as a false nine and Gerson playing deeper in midfield.

At the centre of it all was Pele, a magnet for the ball on the field and for eyeballs off it, his every touch meaningful, his every forward run simmering with intent and possibility.

His game had always centred around control, pace, power and vision, but here they combined in perfect synchronisation with his evolution as a player.

In '58 he was raw, in '62 he was injured, in '66 he was hampered but in 1970 he was experienced, fit, free and focused. This was uncut, flawless Pele and he dazzled like never before.

The opening game was a ferocious rebuttal to all those who had written him off, including Czech coach Jozef Marko who's side took an early lead but was then left to rue describing the forward as a "spent force".

An impudent nutmeg of Ivan

Hrdlicka was a taster, followed soon after by him winning the free-kick from which Rivellino hammered Brazil level. Better was to follow. On the hour mark, the number 10 rose in the box to perfectly cushion Gerson's pinpoint 50-yard pass in mid-air, steering it towards his landing before steadying himself to fire home. Jairzinho's late double completed a 4-1 rout.

What many remember most from that game, though, was not the goal Pele scored, but the one he did not - an outrageous lob from inside his own half that beat Czech goalkeeper Ivo Viktor but sailed inches wide.

Surging with a confidence that comes from total control over one's game, he would admit afterwards that it was pre-planned - devised after spotting that European goalkeepers had a tendency to wander from their line. His only regret was that he had not saved it for a more illustrious opponent, one of which was just around the corner.

England were the benchmark at Mexico 1970, the current holders that many felt had only grown stronger in the four years since their maiden World Cup triumph. For Brazil this was a 'final before the final'. For Pele, it was also an emotional hurdle to clear.

It had been England celebrating in the summer of 1966 as Pele sat at home, nursing his bruised body and pride. Symbolically, this was the game in which he could finally lay all the frustration of four years ago to rest.

He did not disappoint in an extremely high-quality but also fiercely-contested encounter often boiled down simplistically to Brazil's attacking flair versus England's defensive ferocity. The English could also play, Brazil and their talisman equally able to mix it.

Alan Mullery, the man tasked with marking Pele, has since admitted to hitting the forward hard in the game to try and throw him off, but that he was physically and mentally equal to it.

In his autobiography Nobby Stiles, who watched on from the bench that day, wrote: "It was nothing less than daunting to see the ease with which Pele held off his marker. Repeatedly Mullers tried to hustle him off the ball. Repeatedly, he failed."

Only twice, though, did Pele fully escape from the efficient Mullery's dogged attention - the first resulted in arguably the finest save of all time, the second settled the game.

Gordon Banks' save is part of English football folklore - a physics-defying leap to tip the ball over his bar from pretty much the whitewash of the goal-line. At the other end of the field, Brazil keeper Felix could only clap in appreciation. Pele himself described it as "the save of that tournament and of most other tournaments you could care to mention".

That the ball was propelled towards goal by the forehead of the world's greatest player cements its legend.

Jairzinho scored Brazil's winner but it was made by the skill of Tostao, who beat three England defenders before crossing, and the vision of Pele, who in one fluid movement in the tightest space shaped to shoot before flicking the ball to his right, perfectly into the path of the goalscorer.

"When Brazil scored their winning goal, we saw another vital aspect of Pele's game - humility," continued Stiles. "It was best expressed in his understanding of the needs of the team. Pele cut out two England defenders with the simple pass that played in Jairzinho. That was pure Pele."

SUNDAY SPORTS

Esy/Sports Management International in collaboration with Elisha-D Global Service organized a 7aside grassroot football tournament recently



Kick off by, Hon. Justice Hamidu Kunaza



Auwal Barde, captain of NACHI FC in a handshake with Hon. Justice Kunaza, President of NACHI FA



Cross section of the guests at the finals



Elisha Dauda, the Chief organizer of the tournament and the CEO of EST/SPORTS management international



Action picture from the finals



Line up of Nanti Academy, runner up of the tournament

Photos: Ibrahim Lot

World Cup 2022: FIFA tells nations to focus on football

Fifa has written to all 32 teams competing at the World Cup to tell them the time has come to "focus on the football".

The tournament, which starts in Qatar on 20 November, has been surrounded by controversy.

Qatar has been criticised for its stance on same-sex relationships, its human rights record and its treatment of migrant workers.

Peaceful protests have been planned by some players.

England's Harry Kane and nine other captains of European teams will be wearing 'One Love' armbands.

Denmark will wear "toned-down" shirts for the World Cup to protest against Qatar - their kit provider Hummel said it "does not wish to be visible" in a tournament it claims "has cost thousands of lives".

Paris, and other French cities, are refusing to screen World Cup matches in public areas, despite France being the defending champions.

Australia's squad has released a video urging Qatar to abolish its laws on same-sex relationships.

Speaking this week Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said it was "not fair" to expect players to make political statements or protests at the tournament.

And England's Beth Mead said on Thursday it is "disappointing" the tournament is being held in Qatar. Mead, who is openly gay, does not think the Gulf state is the "right place" for the tournament to be staged.

Other off the field issues include Russia currently being banned by Fifa after the invasion of Ukraine. In addition the Ukrainian FA have called for Iran to be banned from the World Cup for "systematic human rights violations". They believe a crackdown on protests in the country "may violate the principles and norms" of Fifa.

The World Cup has been moved to the winter for the first time. Qatar initially proposed to



Norway players, including Erling Haaland (far left), wore shirts last year saying 'human rights on and off the pitch' in protest of the Qatar World Cup. Norway have not qualified for the tournament.

host the finals during the summer in air-conditioned enclosed stadiums, but the plan was rejected.

Qatar's World Cup organisers state "everyone is welcome" to visit the country to watch the football, and that no-one will be discriminated against.

In addition to calling on countries to "now focus on the football" the letter, signed by Fifa president Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura says: "Everyone is welcome regardless of origin, background, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality."

It also states: "We are aware that there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world."

Seven new stadiums have been built for the event, as well as an airport, roads and about 100 hotels. Qatar's government says 30,000 foreign labourers have been hired just to build the stadiums, with most coming from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and the Philippines.

Human rights groups have complained about the treatment of foreign labourers in Qatar, and the number who

have died there.

In February 2021, the Guardian said 6,500 migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka had died in Qatar since it won its World Cup bid in 2010.

The number is based on figures provided by the countries' embassies in Qatar.

However, the Qatar government said the total was misleading, because not all the deaths recorded were of people working on World Cup-related projects.

The government said its accident records showed that between 2014 and 2020, there were 37 deaths among labourers at World Cup stadium construction sites, only three of which were "work-related".

BBC Arabic has also gathered evidence which suggests Qatar's government has under-reported deaths among foreign labourers.

England's Football Association has backed calls for compensation to be awarded for "any injury or death related to any construction project" for the World Cup.

PLAYERS on the European-based DP World Tour will receive guaranteed money for the first time in the 2023 season.

BBC SPORT said that, the prize money rises to a record \$144.2m (£124m) for the circuit's tournaments outside the four men's majors and WGC Matchplay event in Texas which also count on the tour's schedule.

But Valderrama, the recent home of the Andalucia Masters and 1997 Ryder Cup, will not stage a tournament.

It is thought the Spanish venue will stage one of LIV Golf's events in 2023.

A new "Earnings Assurance Programme" guarantees a minimum \$150,000 (£133,120) to players who compete in 15 or more events on the DP World Tour, which tees off in the southern hemisphere later this month.

DP World Tour chief executive Keith Pelley said the change "recognises and rewards" players' achievements.

The initiative was agreed at a meeting of the tour's tournament committee last week. It is being underpinned by the circuit's enhanced partnership with the American-based PGA Tour which was strengthened last June.

The US tour is introducing a guaranteed income of \$500,000 for its players, among a raft of measures introduced to help combat the threat posed by the Saudi Arabian-funded LIV outfit.

"I have always believed that it is an incredible accomplishment for any professional golfer to simply gain their playing

DP World Tour golfers receive money for first time



McIlroy

rights," Pelley said in a statement.

"And this new initiative recognises and rewards that achievement.

"Although we will never lose the magic of the meritocracy and purity of a performance-based structure, this now offers certainty of income to those players who have made it to the pinnacle of the professional game in Europe."

Pelley's schedule for the new season includes at least 39 tournaments to be played in 26 countries, starting with the jointly sanctioned Australian PGA Championship in Brisbane and the Joburg Open in South Africa.

There will be increased prize funds from \$8m to \$9m for the first four Rolex Series events in 2023; the Abu Dhabi Championship, Dubai Desert Classic, Scottish Open

and PGA Championship at Wentworth.

The schedule includes new tournaments in Singapore, Thailand and South Korea, while the Irish Open at the K Club moves to a new date in early September.

The Italian Open will be played in early May at Marco Simone Golf and Country Club which will stage the Ryder Cup near Rome in the autumn.

"Our overall prize fund for the 2023 season represents almost \$30m more than five years ago and also underlines the strength of our partnership with the PGA Tour, who are working with us to drive revenue and a long-term growth plan," Pelley added.

This year's season concludes with the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai from 17-20 November.

WTA Finals: Swiatek starts with win against Kasatkina

World number one Iga Swiatek beat Daria Kasatkina in straight sets to make a winning start at the WTA Finals.

BBC SPORT said that, Poland's Swiatek, 21, defeated the Russian 6-2 6-3 to record her 46th straight-set win this year on the tour.

That is the most main draw straight-set wins recorded in a

single WTA season since Serena Williams (66) and Agnieszka Radwanska (46) in 2013.

Meanwhile, French world number six Caroline Garcia, who plays Swiatek next, defeated Coco Gauff 6-4 6-3.

Garcia, 29, is making her return to the singles competition at the season-ending finals after a five-year absence.

Swiatek saved two break points before taking a 3-0 lead against world number eight Kasatkina with a forehand winner in Fort Worth, Texas.

She established the same advantage in taking charge of the second set, facing just one more break point as she recorded her fifth victory of the year over Kasatkina.

The US Open champion is the

third player to win 13 consecutive matches against top-10 ranked opponents in a single year since 2000, after Justine Henin (15 in 2007) and Venus Williams (14 in 2001).

"I think I started pretty well and that gave me a lot of confidence," Swiatek said on the Tennis Channel.

"But you have to be really careful and patient against Dasha. I wanted to play in a really solid way but put pressure on my opponent."

The tournament, featuring the eight best players of the year, was moved from usual host city Shenzhen for the second successive year following the WTA's suspension of all tournaments in China amid concern for Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai.

Paris Masters Djokovic, Alcaraz reach quarter-finals

Novak Djokovic reached the quarter-finals of the Paris Masters with a straight-set win over Karen Khachanov.

BBC SPORT said that, Serbia's former world number one, the sixth seed, beat the Russian 6-4 6-1.

The 21-time Grand Slam winner, 35, will next face the third seed, Denmark's Casper Ruud, or Italy's Lorenzo Musetti for a place in the semi-finals.

Earlier, world number one Carlos Alcaraz, 19, also reached the last eight with a straight-set win, beating Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov 6-1 6-3.

The Spaniard will face Russian seventh seed Andrey Rublev or Denmark's Holger Rune next.

Djokovic has won the title in his past two appearances, in 2019 and 2021, winning 16 of his past 17 matches in Paris - with his only loss coming against world number 19 Khachanov in the 2018 final.

Although Djokovic broke Khachanov in his first service game, the Russian broke back to make it 3-3, before the Serb

took his opportunity to clinch the set by breaking Khachanov again at 5-4.

Khachanov then held his serve but Djokovic breezed through the rest of the second

set to clinch victory in one hour and 27 minutes.

Contesting his second event since winning the US Open title and becoming the top-ranked men's player in

September, Alcaraz backed up his opening straight-set win over Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka with another clinical display.

The Spaniard won nine of the first 10 games as he wrapped up victory in one hour 12 minutes.

Dimitrov was able to bring the second set back on serve at 3-3 but Alcaraz then escaped two break points in the seventh game before sealing victory.

The Paris Masters is the final regular ATP Tour event of the season, before the ATP Finals get under way in Turin on 13 November.

Aiming to win his third ATP Masters 1000 title of the year following successes in Miami and Madrid, Alcaraz is guaranteed to be the top seed in Turin after world number two Rafael Nadal suffered a second-round defeat by American Tommy Paul.

Should he triumph in Paris, the teenager would secure the year-end world number one ranking before his debut appearance at the Finals.



Novak Djokovic is currently ranked seventh in the world



Iga Swiatek won the French Open and US Open this year and is the only major singles champion at the WTA Finals



PFL: Doubt surrounds December 1st Kick-off date

THE tentative kickoff date announced during the week by the Interim Management Committee in charge of the Nigeria Professional Football League is looking very much unlikely, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

As participating clubs intensify their training for the season, IMC proposed December 1st 2022 as the new kickoff date for the 2022/2023 league season.

The 2021/2022 league season under the former body League Management Company, ended in June with Rivers United winning the title for the first time in their history.

According to the new update, the NPFL Head of Operation Davidson Owumi on Saturday confirmed again that IMC has not announced any date for the kickoff.

And he further said the date will be announced immediately after they finish consultations with league critical stakeholders.

Meanwhile, ahead of the 2022/2023 Nigeria Professional Football League season, the chairman of Nasarawa United Barr. Isaac Danladi has assured the players of the government support, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

In preparation for the new season, the 'Solid Miners' has been in a closed camp and has also engaged in a series of warm-up games and preseason competitions.

"The close camping here is to enable us to have full concentration ahead of the task ahead of us.

"There's no cause for alarm based on what I have seen so far.

"We appreciate everyone for the relative peace, and if we continue on this path, the



sky will be our limit coming Season.

"We are going to work with a manageable size of players this coming season so that we can properly address the needs of each player on our payroll.

"So, I am here to encourage you and say that the administration of Governor AbdullahiSule is solidly behind the team and its members.

"Though it's election period, the Governor has assured us that the coming season would be better than the previous ones in the area of both moral and financial support.

"I am very optimistic that with hard work, we can surpass our previous performances by God's grace", he told the club

media. Nasarawa United finished in the 6th position on the table last season.

lumideOyedje Re-elected As Nigerian Olympian Association President

Former Team Nigeria Captain, OlumideOyedje (OLY) has been returned as the President of the Nigerian Olympians Association at its Elective Congress held in the Ondo State capital- Akure.

According to the statement, the election of the new executive to be led by the former NBA star has been described by the congress as a

milestone to herald the continued strengthening of the Olympics family in Nigeria.

The statement also said that the post of the first Vice President went to Lawrence Iqaibom, who competed at the 1984 and '86 Olympics.

Retired quarter-miler and Queen of the track, FalilatOgunkoya, emerged as the second Vice President.

A member of the 1996 gold medal Dream Team, Emmanuel Babayaro, got elected as the General Secretary while Ekuta Catherine Ewa, who

competed at the 2004 Athens Olympics, was voted as the Assistant secretary.

In the same vein, the post of Treasurer was won by Emmanuel Oshomor.

Other elected members included Mary MpoluluNwachukwu who was a member of the Team Nigeria handball team to Barcelona '92 Olympics as the Financial Secretary.

Former national judo champion, Suleiman Edibo Musa, was elected publicity secretary while Juliana NegeduAkhare was elected as welfare Officer for the 2022 to

2026 term of office.

The oath of office was administered by Barr Victoria Nlenugbo who was also the electoral chairperson.

The certificates of return were presented by the representative of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, Kemi Ogundahunsi.

Addressing the congress, Oyedje appreciated all members for the confidence reposed in the new members of the executive which resonated through their votes.

He promised to run an open and all inclusive administration that would better the lots of all Nigerian Olympians.

"To walk fast, you can walk alone but if you want to walk far, you have to walk with people.

This is the dawn of another era where we have another opportunity to build on things done in the past.

I call on all Olympians home and abroad to join hands to ensure that the efforts of our heroes are not forgotten."

Meanwhile, the Ondo State Commissioner for sports, Ologun Oke who was the Chief Host, thanked the Olympians for their service to their fatherland.

He said Nigerians would forever be indebted to them through their exploits in sports that brought joy on the faces of Nigerians.

He also said that he would make sure the country was discussed in good light amongst the comity of nations.

World Cup 2022:

FIFA tells competing nations to 'focus on football'

FIFA has written to all 32 teams competing at the World Cup telling them to "now focus on the football" following a controversial build-up.

Host Qatar has been criticised for its stance on same-sex relationships, its human rights record and its treatment of migrant workers.

The tournament starts on 20 November.

The letter urges that football should not be "dragged" into ideological or political "battles" and it should not be "handing out moral lessons".

Peaceful protests have been planned by some players.

England's Harry Kane and nine other captains of European teams will be wearing 'One Love' armbands.

"Whatever we do, it won't be enough" - Jordan Henderson speaks to 5 Live Breakfast about Qatar World Cup concerns

Denmark will wear "toned-down" shirts to protest against Qatar, with kit provider Hummel saying it "does not wish to be visible" in a tournament it claims "has cost thousands of lives".

Australia's squad have released a video urging Qatar

to abolish its laws on same-sex relationships.

Paris, and other French cities, are refusing to screen matches in public areas, despite France being the defending champions.

Yasmine Ahmed, UK director of Human Rights Watch, called the Fifa letter "nothing short of appalling", while Amnesty International's Felix Jakens told BBC Radio 5 Live:

"There's never been a right time to talk about human rights issues in Qatar as far as they [Fifa] are concerned.

"Now is the time to apply pressure on these issues.

Once the World Cup rolls out of town, are we still going to be having conversations about Qatar? I don't think we are."

The letter, signed by Fifa president Gianni Infantino and secretary general FatmaSamoura and seen by the BBC, reads: "We know football does not live in a vacuum and we are equally aware that there are many challenges and difficulties of a political nature all around the world.

"But please do not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political

battle that exists.

It adds: "At Fifa, we try to respect all opinions and beliefs, without handing out moral lessons to the rest of the world. No one people or culture or nation is "better" than any other. This principle is the very foundation stone of mutual respect and non-discrimination.

"And this is also one of the core values of football. So, please let's all remember that and let football take centre stage.

"We have the unique occasion and opportunity to welcome and embrace everyone, regardless of origin, background, religion, gender, sexual orientation or

nationality."

MPs call on Southgate and Kane to act over Iran

The England team has been asked to consider making a "display or gesture of solidarity with Iranian women fighting for their civil liberties" when the two countries meet in their opening match at the World Cup on 21 November.

Layla Moran, the Liberal Democrats' foreign affairs spokesperson, has written to coach Gareth Southgate and captain Harry Kane telling them such a move would be "hugely meaningful in raising awareness about the Iranian government's condemnable actions".



Norway players, including ErlingHaaland

WORLD SEARCH Answer the clue and search for the word

G	A	B	R	I	E	L	A	C	H	F	E	R
I	Z	A	C	B	S	D	Y	I	D	G	F	E
G	S	I	T	A	U	B	O	N	O	M	E	D
N	I	K	I	U	T	H	E	F	X	L	S	D
F	U	L	W	Z	L	B	K	A	M	J	T	E
J	R	A	H	M	E	D	Y	N	F	R	U	V
T	Q	R	O	Q	S	C	X	T	D	V	S	I
E	E	U	G	T	N	W	T	I	G	E	R	L
E	M	A	L	A	I	K	A	N	P	I	Q	S
A	E	K	S	M	E	Y	H	O	J	K	O	I
P	N	U	Z	K	A	M	A	R	U	I	L	N
C	M	J	B	P	D	N	G	V	O	F	W	M
A	H	N	I	G	E	R	I	A	M	V	K	X

- World record holder in 100m hurdles (6)
- Malaika (7) German long jumper
- Bala (5) Nasarawa Utd Coach
- Ebi (5) Super Falcons Captain
- Gianni (9) FIFA President
- Musa (5) Super Eagles Captain
- Woods (5) American PGA Player
- Austin (6) Rivers United Captain
- Jesus (6) Arsenal Striker
- Usman (6) Nigerian UFC fighter
- Super Eagles name in the sixties (9)
- Winners of the Atlanta '96 football trophy (7)
- Golf Peg (3)

By IBRAHIM T. LOT