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FRC rates states low on financial prudence

The Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC), an agency of the Federal Government charged with encouraging financial prudence at all levels of government, has rated States low on implementation of a federal law on financial prudence.

The FRC Executive

Chairman, Chief Victor Muruako, who spoke on the matter during a three-day Awareness and Sensitization Workshop on Transparency and Accountability, which the Commission is hosting in Yola, said that although most states have adopted the National Fiscal Responsibility Law, the states are generally not implementing the law.

Leaflets distributed by the FRC at the Zonal workshop in Yola states that 31 states have signed the fiscal responsibility law or at least have laws designed to achieve financial prudence, with exception of only Borno, Imo, Kano, Rivers and Zamfara states.

The FRC chairman, in an interview in the course of the Northeast zonal workshop which entered

the second day yesterday, "Fiscal Responsibility Commission hopes to prepare states to further align with federal government's fiscal management framework as the nation braces for an uncertain future.

He said: "We are here (at the workshop in Yola) to encourage states that are yet to establish the fiscal responsibility law to do so.

Even some states that have the law are yet to establish the fiscal responsibility agency.

"Some of them who have the agency are not allowing them to work. Some of them that have adopted the law, some of them are only on paper. We need to implement this reform which will definitely help our public finance management.



Muruako

Terror alert: FCTA orders installation of CCTVs

Arising from the series of security advisory issued by some Embassies in Abuja warning their citizens to avoid public places in the nation's capital, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Executive Committee (EXCO) has enjoined residents to install Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) in public places and buildings.

The EXCO also reassured the residents of the FCT of their safety, insisting that adequate security arrangements have been made to sustain the state of law and order in the nation's capital, Abuja.

The EXCO, which gave this assurance during its 12th Meeting at Gwarinpa I District, Abuja, said every necessary arrangement has been made by the government in conjunction with security agencies to

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From left, Bishop of Ibadan Anglican Diocese, Most Rev. Joseph Akinfenwa, Ondo State Governor, Rotimi Akeredolu, SAN, wife of the Bishop, Mrs Akinfenwa during an award presentation to the Governor at the 16th Jesus Festival Dinner of the diocese in Ibadan at the weekend

'Those campaigning with religion dubious'

Ondo Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu (SAN) has described those campaigning with religion for the 2023 election as fraudulent, saying they should be ignored.

He spoke at the 16th Jesus Festival Dinner of the Ibadan Anglican Diocese at

the Ibadan Civic Centre, Agodi, Ibadan. He was the chairman of the occasion.

Akeredolu argued the antecedents of prominent candidates in the forthcoming presidential election should be the yardstick for measuring their capacity to lead the country.

He charged Nigerians to keep the debate on equity and justice alive for peace to reign in the country. He also stressed that the South must produce the next president in the spirit of equity and fairness.

Akeredolu, who noted that competence and integrity should be the

criteria for recruiting leaders, stressed that the recent debate on representation on account of faith is most unnecessary.

He said: "The recent debate on representation on account of faith is most unnecessary. Competence and integrity should be the

criteria for representation.

"All those who do not wish to be ruled by persons of dubious character should endeavour to be active in the days ahead. Let all those with their PVCs vote for candidates of their choice. All candidates should be put to the

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News

'Those campaigning with religion dubious'

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strictest proof of their claims.

"Anyone who exhibits any shred of doubt should be rejected roundly. The antecedents of prominent candidates in the forthcoming presidential elections, and even ALL elections, should be

evidence of capacity. The manifesto belongs, largely, to the party.

"We must tell all self-appointed spokespersons of the Christian faith to leave partisan politics for the practitioners and concentrate on the works for which they are called or appointed."

Terror alert: FCTA orders installation of CCTVs

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safeguard the lives and property of all residents.

According to the EXCO, "Even before the issuance of the advisory, the security agencies have maintained and upscaled surveillance through their personnel within the Federal Capital City to ward off any security breach.

"The installation of Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) in public places and buildings, to complement ongoing efforts by government at tackling the prevailing security challenges in the country in line with National Security Council advice will no doubt, enhance surveillance and deter criminal activities around the Federal Capital City, Abuja," the EXCO stated.

The EXCO recalled that the Minister of the FCT, Mallam Muhammad Musa Bello, had earlier convened an emergency security meeting where issues concerning the security alert given by some embassies in Abuja, to their citizens were exhaustively discussed and measures are taken to sustain the current state of security and prevent any

breach.

The meeting, however, urged residents to cooperate at all times with the security agencies by volunteering useful and timely information that will assist in nipping any form of criminality in the bud.

The EXCO noted that the first phase of the joint security operation by G-7; being states that are contiguous to the FCT, which ended on the 25th of October, this year, recorded a remarkable success, especially with the arrest of bandits and rescue of kidnapped victims.

In a statement issued to newsmen in Abuja, the FCT Director of Information and Communication Muhammad Hazat Sule stated that; "Today's FCT EXCO meeting was presided over by the FCT Permanent Secretary, Mr Oluade Adesola, who represented the FCT Minister, Mallam Muhammad Musa Bello, and attended by the Chief of Staff to the FCT Minister, Mallam Bashir Mai-Borno, Secretaries of Mandate Secretariats, AMMC Coordinator among others."

Domestic carriers are counting their losses over the inability to carry out flights from the Murtala Muhammed Airport Terminal (MMA2) Ikeja in Lagos.

Since the early hours of yesterday, only three airlines- Ibom Airlines, United Airlines and Valujet Airlines- were able to operate single flights out of the terminal.

Stranded passengers, who could not gain entrance to the MMA2, are rushing to the General Aviation Terminal (GAT), operated by the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to purchase tickets and process their flights.

Worried over the development, one of the affected carriers - Ibom Air called on the feuding parties to seek an amicable resolution to the crisis.

In a statement Ibom Air management said: "This is to bring to the attention of our esteemed passengers and the public, that our

Airlines count losses over Lagos Airport's protest

operating terminal out of Lagos, the Murtala Mohamed Airport 2, operated by Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited has been completely closed off to workers and passengers alike by the Labour Union, very early this morning.

"Efforts are currently being made to resolve the situation; however, please note that this action will greatly impact our flights scheduled in and out of Lagos today.

"We greatly regret the impact of this unexpected action on your day's plans as we urge you to kindly stay close to all our communication channels for subsequent updates.:

Commenting on the development, a passenger lamented: "As we speak, no other flight has been able to operate from the terminal as the protesters



Sirika

are preventing intending passengers from gaining access into the terminal."

Aviation unions are accusing the terminal operator: Bi- Courtney

Aviation Services Limited (BASL) management of terminating the employment of the 37 staff without recourse to due process.

CLO demands commission of enquiry on insecurity

The Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO), has called on the Federal Government to set up a judicial commission of enquiry, to investigate the current spate of insecurity in the country.

The organisation in a statement issued on yesterday, by its Executive Director, Comrade Ibuchukwu Ohabuenyi Ezike, described Nigeria's security challenge as 'threatening both human lives and property of the natives, especially as accusing fingers continued to point at the military, police and certain lawless natives in the crime'.

It said, "Confessions made by many Nigerians, including some freed victims of the terrorists, indicate that security agents and some natives collaborate with the

terrorist Fulani killer gang to commit these dastardly human rights infractions.

"All over Nigeria, we experience these heinous human rights violations by Fulani herdsmen hugely aided by security agents and the rural communities, but no efforts have been made by the federal government to interrogate this wickedness.

"We make haste to say that government's failure to check the evil activities of these evildoers leads to its commission in large propensity."

CLO recalled that bandits recently turned the Nike-Ekwegbe-Opi junction road, the only access road connecting the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and Enugu, Abia, Ebonyi, Imo, Akwa Ibom and Rivers states 'into a war theatre where

numerous unsuspecting journey makers were abducted in the glare of policemen and soldiers at the many extortion checkpoints on the road'.

"Of these victims were students of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), who were returning to school after the ASUU strike, officials of Enugu State government and the former secretary to the government of Enugu State, Dr Daniel Shere.

"A week before this raid, three kidnapping incidents occurred at the Four-Corner/Nvene area of Ozalla Community in Nkanu West LG area of Enugu State. The abduction took place beside an army checkpoint.

"While the kidnapping incidents lasted, the soldiers didn't only watch the terrorists operate, they were said to have monitored the counting of ransom brought by the families of the victims.

"Besides, the terrorists bore Ak-47 arms and barreta pistols with which they terrorise their victims. At Agbogwugwu, a neighbouring community to Ozalla, the former PDP youth leader, Okoye, was kidnapped for ransom.

"Men of God are not left out by these perpetrators. The terrorists have brutally attacked the Church of God during which some worshippers were murdered and others abducted. The prelate of Methodist Church Nigeria, Archbishop Kanu, was kidnapped some years back.

"His revelations after he was freed were threatening. Last Monday, Rev Fr Malachy Asadu of St Theresa's Catholic Diocese, Nsukka, was kidnapped on his way to his Parish after a diocesan ecclesiastical meeting.

"Few months ago, at a Mass in a Catholic Parish in Owo, Ondo State, the Fulani terrorists invaded the Mass

and murdered several worshippers. Previously, too, Chief Olu Falae, former secretary to the government of the federation, was abducted in his farm on Owo Road, Akure, Ondo state.

"The Abuja-Kaduna road has, at a time, become a 'no pass area' because many commuters have been kidnapped there. The height of Kaduna kidnap was the attack of a train and abduction of its passengers. The whole of the Middle Region had been sieged by terrorists and we can go on."

Against this background, the Organisation demands, among others, "The inauguration of a judicial commission of enquiry to understudy the activities of these criminals and publish its findings and recommendations for full implementation.

"Request the international community and diplomatic institutions in Nigeria to intervene and help Nigerians prevail on the ailing APC government to take fast and positive steps in arresting this scourge."

It, therefore, urged governors of the victim states or regions to pull resources together, with the aim to protect the lives and property of their citizens, pending the period the federal government would take action.

The organisation also recommended encouraging and boosting the operations of indigenous security organisations, interrogating the local and rural communities, where these terrorists live and operate from.

It as well tasked the National Assembly, to enact a law that would give the host governors the power to control the operations of security agencies operating in their states or regions, especially with respect to the protection of lives and property of the natives

Miyetti Allah lists conditions for peace

The leadership of the Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, a Fulani Socio-cultural Association, on Monday listed conditions and measures that government and communities must take to restore lasting peace, unity and tolerance among farmers and herders in various troubled communities across the country.

One of the conditions is the need for immediate designation, gazettement and development of all the 415 grazing reserves across the states.

This was contained in the communique released at the end of the expanded National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Abuja, on Monday, under the leadership of the National President of the Association, Alhaji Bello Bodejo.

According to the herdsmen, the designation, gazettement and development of all the 415 grazing reserves across the states of the Federation is the only first strategic step in addressing the challenges confronting Fulani herders in

Nigeria.

National Secretary of the Association, Saleh Alhassan, who presented the communique to journalists at a press conference in Abuja, on Monday, said the NEC, at the meeting, harvested and considered reports submitted from different states on issues that concerns the Fulani pastoralists and arrived at some suggestions that would, perhaps, herald lasting peace and unity among several communities in Nigeria.

He said the NEC also suggested that such steps should include the building of earth dams and solar boreholes, the building of veterinary clinics, development of dairy (milk) collection centres, among several others.

Secondly, they demanded an end to the alleged continuous profiling of Fulani pastoralists, particularly by Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, through his "satanic" anti-grazing law that has allegedly been used to confiscate and auction

millions of cattle belonging to Fulanis in Benue- Nasarawa and Benue-Taraba border communities.

The Association warned about imminent self-help options if the Inspector General of Police failed to set up a panel to unmask those responsible for the alleged genocidal massacre of Fulani pastoralists in Taraba State and ensure justice is done to the victims' families.

They dismissed the consistent claims of farmers-herders conflicts as a major setback of instability and insecurity in Nigeria, stressing that the conflicts are exacerbated by alleged activities of states-sponsored vigilantes and tribal hordes who willfully continue to carry out extra-judicial killings of Fulani pastoralists.

They, however, presented a request to the Federal Government demanding the establishment of the Federal Ministry of Nomadic Affairs whose mandate will be to broaden educational opportunities and address



Telecom tariff increase reversal: Matters arising

The Nigerian telecommunications sector has remained, perhaps, the most dynamic section of the economy for over two decades. It is a major news maker. One day, it is news for new milestones, new technologies and new vistas, and the next day, regulatory restrictions, multiple taxations by the government and its agents or else disruption of service by the same. It is a real roller-coaster ride. Writes ELVIS EROMOSELE.

YET, the sector has proven resilient, even before resilience was a thing. To get to where it is today, the players have invested heavily, struggled with and overcome myriads of obstacles and continue to stretch to do new and exciting things. It strives to keep abreast of the latest development across the globe.

It is clear that the telecoms revolution championed widespread access to broadband internet services and the attendant benefits, enabled the growth of e-commerce and precipitated the emergence of the digital economy. This is, in addition, to direct contributions to the economy through taxes paid, job creation and sustenance of many MSMEs.

While some experts point to government policies and fair regulatory practices as the biggest enabler of growth in the sector over the years, some argue that the government and its agents are also the greatest obstacles to the sector achieving its full potential.

One simply needs to look back to the recent SIM/NIN policy and attempt to evaluate the cost: millions of lines were lost, businesses closed, people lost jobs and the economy constricted.

Last week, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), the regulator of the telecoms industry, ordered operators, MTN and Airtel, to immediately reverse the hike in their data tariff plan they implemented on their respective networks the previous week.

News reports indicated that



MTN and Airtel subscribers suddenly realised that the operators had commenced a new data tariff plan, which was an upward review of the cost of their voice and data plan, without prior notice.

The NCC immediately stepped in. It ordered the mobile network operators to reverse the hike in response to the complaints by the subscribers. In a statement signed by the director, public affairs at

NCC, Reuben Muoka, the commission stated, "The attention of the NCC has been drawn to media reports of unilateral implementation of the recently approved 10 percent upward tariff adjustments for some voice and data services by the service providers, on their networks.

"The consideration for 10 percent approval for tariff adjustments for different voice and data packages was in line with the mandates of the Commission as provided by the Nigerian Communications Act, 2003, and other extant Regulations and Guidelines, as this was within the provisions of the existing price floor and price cap as determined for the industry.

"The decision was also taken after a critical and realistic review and analysis of the operational environment and the current business climate in Nigeria, as it affects all sectors of the economy.

"Furthermore, even though the tariff adjustment was proposed and provisionally approved by the management, pending the final approval of the Board of the Commission, in the end, it did not have the approval of the Board of the Commission. As a result, it is reversed."

This simply means that the NCC agreed with the operators that the tariff increase was due in the light of the prevailing economic situation but its board thought otherwise and failed to approve the new tariff. In the meantime, operators had gone ahead to implement the new tariff and have now been directed to reverse it.

In truth, the matter extends beyond the NCC. Everything rests squarely on the table of the minister of communications and digital economy, Isa Ibrahim Pantami. He has maintained that his priority is to protect the citizens and ensure justice for all stakeholders involved. This is not mere rhetoric. He has this demonstrated severally.

It will be recalled that he recently obtained the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari for the suspension of the proposed 5 percent excise duty, in order to maintain a conducive enabling environment for the telecom operators. The industry rightly commended him.

In this case of tariff increase, he argues that as much as there is an increase in the cost of production, the provision of telecom services is still very profitable and the subscribers mustn't be subjected to a hike in charges.

The Commission in its statement noted that it will also continue to abide by its time-tested process and international best practices to ensure efficient pricing mechanisms for the telecoms industry in Nigeria.

Nice sounding words no doubt but the reality is that in situations like this someone is getting the short end of the stick and it's definitely not the regulator.

The NBS reveals that inflation has exceeded 20 percent with food and power as the biggest drivers of the rise.

Has anyone bothered to ask how the operators are coping? In under a year, the cost of diesel has risen significantly and hovers around N850 per litre. Of course,

the electricity distribution firms have also increased their tariffs even though the service has not improved in any way. A certain paid cable service has ignored threats from the National Assembly and gone ahead and increased its tariff. The case is in court.

Telcos find themselves in a pickle, whatever course of action they take they will likely end up as villains.

If the tariff rise holds, Nigerians will no doubt consider them insensitive. And if the tariff remains the same when everything else is rising, it erodes profit, deprives the shareholders and impacts negatively new investments. For the telcos, it is a zero-sum game.

I'll be the first to admit that I'm biased in this matter. I'm both a stakeholder and a shareholder. I want the low tariff to remain but equally worry about the sustainability of the current practice.

I wonder about how it would affect the injection of new funds and the need to keep the industry in step with global developments. I am convinced that something has to give and soon.

This brings to mind, the story of boiling an egg and potato. The same hot water that makes the egg hard equally makes the potato soft. In this hot water of policy somersault, how the operators will react is anyone's guess. Let's keep an eye on the telecom operators, the next couple of weeks promise to be exciting.

Source: BusinessDay



Danbatta



Domestic gas supply rises by 14% FG

THE Federal Government has revealed that the estimated performance of Nigeria's domestic gas supply obligation increased by 14.14 per cent to 64.8 per cent in 2021.

It pointed out that the country's gas supply volumes are set to grow further in 2022 compared with the 50.66 per cent achieved in 2020.

The Chief Executive of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, Farouk Ahmed, disclosed this at the 2023 Domestic Gas Demand Requirements workshop in Abuja.

He explained that Nigeria's gas demand requirement also rose marginally by 5.9 per cent to 250 million standard cubic feet per day in 2022.

Ahmed said, "As at end of September 2021, the estimated performance of the domestic gas supply obligation was 64.8 per cent compared to 50.66 per cent achieved in 2020, when comparing annual total domestic supply obligation allocation to the actual daily supply met."

"The increased performance of 14 per cent in the preceding domestic gas year can be majorly attributed to the concerted efforts implemented by the regulator and all our stakeholders towards



Sylva

enhancing the performance of the market."

The NMDPRA boss, however, noted that despite the improved performance recorded in 2021, the domestic gas market had continued to experience significant challenges.

He outlined the challenges to include infrastructural capacity constraints, payment assurance and long outstanding legacy debts of gas supplied to the power sector, as well as poor performance of sanctity of contracts. Others include constraints on the evacuation of generated power and low investment flows into the sector, among many challenges.

Ahmed, however, assured participants at the workshop that all necessary preparations had been made to ensure that this year's Domestic Gas Demand Requirement was coordinated in a safe,

productive and efficient manner. He said the regulatory process of establishing a DGDR was a critical milestone in the implementation of the key provisions of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021, which were defined for the supply of wholesale marketable natural gas for the domestic gas market.

The Manager, Gas Production and Flare Monitoring of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Jennis Anyanwu, expressed optimism that Nigeria would meet the 12.2 billion standard cubic feet of gas target as set in the Decade of Gas initiative of the Federal Government.

He added, "Certainly, Nigeria can meet the deadlines set for the Decade of Gas. There is a high-powered political commitment to ensure that this happens".

trillion invested in renewable energy from 2000 to 2020, only about 2%, or \$60 billion, came to Africa.

"The West African region received just 7% of that, about USD4 billion. To reach our goals, sufficient capital must be made available in the region, and we must do our part in creating the enabling environment for these funds."

"This is a crucial time for us to collaborate as neighbours and work interdependently, leveraging on our cooperation and abundant energy resources to secure for ourselves and our children a sustainable energy market for the socio-economic development of the region."

"In particular, we must work together on strategies and reforms needed to crowd in the investments required for real and impactful projects and progress on the ground. Lack of access to finance remains the biggest challenge for accelerating action on energy

access and climate goals in Africa."

Osinbajo recalled that at COP26, in Glasgow, President Muhammadu Buhari made a commitment on behalf of Nigeria to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060/

He added that "The realisation of this goal depends on the implementation of our nation's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) which was recently launched by this administration."

The Ambassador of Spain to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Juan Ignacio Sell, said energy poverty and security needed to be addressed to achieve sustainable energy transition.

"The EU is planning to allocate 600 million euros to the sustainable energy sector in West Africa alone," he said.

Aliyu said that his ministry was working hard through the Presidential Power Initiative (PPI) to improve the country's national grid's operational capacity.

THE Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on Monday inaugurated its 2022 World Oil Outlook (WOO).

The WOO was inaugurated at the ongoing Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) 2022 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

ADIPEC is the global energy industry's most influential meeting place which convenes ministers, energy leaders, and professionals to identify opportunities that will unlock new value in the energy landscape.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the conference, which is holding from Oct. 31 to Nov. 3 has its theme as "The Future of Energy: Secure, Affordable and Sustainable".

First published in 2007, the WOO offers a detailed review and assessment of the medium- and long-term prospects for the global oil and energy industries to 2045.

OPEC's Secretary-General, Haitham Al Ghais, in launching the publication said the 16th edition of the flagship publication incorporated analysis of the industry's various internal and external linkages.

He said it dwelt on shifting

OPEC inaugurates 2022 World Oil Outlook at ADIPEC

dynamics that had seen a renewed focus over the past year of the interplay between energy affordability, energy security, and the need to reduce emissions.

"It provides insights into energy and oil demand, oil supply and refining, the global economy, policy and technology developments, demographic trends, environmental issues and sustainable development concerns," he said.

He said the WOO 2022 again underscored the increasingly complex nature of the global oil and energy industries.

"Is a great honour to return to ADIPEC to launch this year's WOO, an event that continues to go from strength-to strength. This is tribute to the leadership in the UAE."

"Highlights from 2022 WOO include that 'The world economy is expected to be more than double in size, and the global population rise by 1.6 billion between now and 2045,' he said.

Based on the outlook, he said global primary energy demand was forecast to continue growing in the medium- and long-term, increasing by a significant 23 per cent in the period to 2045.

"The world needs to annually add on average 2.7 million barrels of oil equivalent a day to

2045, while all forms of energy will be needed to address future energy needs.

"Oil is expected to retain the largest share in the energy mix throughout the outlook period, accounting for almost a 29 per cent share in 2045.

"Other Renewables – combining mainly solar, wind and geothermal energy – expand by 7.1 per cent p.a. on average, significantly faster than any other source of energy."

"All major fuel types witness growth, with the exception of coal."

"Globally, oil demand is projected to increase from almost 97 million barrels a day (mb/d) in 2021 to around 110 mb/d in 2045," he revealed.

He said the outlook indicated that India was set to be the largest contributor to incremental demand, adding around 6.3 mb/d to 2045.

He said Global refining capacity additions were projected at 15.5 mb/d between 2022 and 2045 while global oil sector would need cumulative investment of \$12.1 trillion in the upstream, midstream and downstream through to 2045, equating to over \$500 billion each year.

Marketers threaten strike, protest N185/litre fuel

THE Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, says it will withdraw its service over constant increment on the price of the premium motor spirit in the Eastern part of the country.

The marketers, onin a statement, blamed private depots for the hike in price.

According to them, they were buying from depots at N185 per liter, noting that after adding other expenses, the price would increase to N200 per litre.

The marketers regretted that even at N200 per liter, their businesses could not thrive considering the high cost of diesel to power the station and the exploitation from private tank depot owners and NUPENG.

They implored the Federal Government to revive all NNPC depots within the Eastern zone to enable them get the premium motor spirit at a regulated price.

They also sought the intervention of the Nigerian Labour Congress in appealing to NUPENG to reduce the loading fee.

The statement read, "It is no longer news that premium motor spirit, known as petrol, is sold at N200 per litre in the Eastern part of Nigeria, including Portharcourt, Enugu, Owerri, Awka, Uyo, Cross River, Aba, Yenagoa, Makurdi, Lokoja. The real cause of hike in price is the incessant increment in price

of premium spirit from private depot owners. A litre of fuel is being sold to us at the rate of N185 per litre."

"When you add transport and logistics including the exploitation by NUPENG in the name of union fee, which is over N120,000 per truck, the price will be more than N200 per liter. Even at N200 per litre, considering the high cost of diesel to power the station and the exploitation from private tank depot owners and NUPENG, our business cannot thrive. Our various associations have met, and we have resolved to

withdraw our services."

"Hence, we cannot cope with the harsh environment of doing business, caused by private depot owners and NUPENG."

"We're calling on the federal government to revive our various NNPC depots within the Eastern zone to enable us to get premium motor spirit at a regulated price. We are also calling on the Nigeria Labour Congress and the management of NNPC to please appeal to the leadership of NUPENG to lessen our burden by reducing the loading fee."



Kyari

COP27: FG to strengthen ties with W/African countries

VICE President Yemi Osinbajo has disclosed that the federal government is seeking effective collaboration between Nigeria and other West African countries on energy transition.

The Vice President made the call in Abuja while declaring open the two-day International Energy Transition Week, Nigeria – ECOWAS Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) 2022, themed, 'Achieving Sustainable Energy Targets in the ECOWAS Region: Moving from Resilience to Transition'.

Osinbajo, represented by the Minister of Power, Abubakar Aliyu, restated the call on developed countries to bridge the disparity in energy investments.

He said, "Of the \$2.8



Business & Economy

The evolving Nigerian Naira notes

There has been evolution of currency used in Nigeria prior to 1960 and even after, which is one aspect of Nigeria's financial services revolution and global best practices, JIBRIL SALISU NA`INNA writes.

ACCORDING to international best practices, a national currency ought to be redesigned and rebranded after every 7-10 years' time. Like the United States Dollar introduced 230 years ago had undergone several redesigns in different times right from the day of its 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 currency of the United Kingdom introduced 1222 years ago had too undergone several redesigns and rebranding virtually after passage of every King and Queen of England and in time of need for new denomination introduction.

The currency, Naira, first introduced on 1st January, 1973 by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) under the then head of state General Yakubu Gowon and governorship of the apex bank by Dr. Clement Nyong Isong who served from 15th August 1967 to 22nd September 1975, CBN which is the only legal tender issuer body in Nigeria had since from then up till date been modifying and rebranding the currency which is the global best practices for both the paper note and coin. The Nigerian Naira has failed to undergo changes within the period of 5-8 years in accordance with globally recommended best practices not until this time.

The first currencies introduced were the 50 kobo, ₦1, ₦5, ₦10 and ₦20 respectively. Nigerians should know the antecedents of the evolving Naira when 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 who happens to be Nigeria's head of state and Alhaji Ahmed Abdulkadir as the CBN governor then. In 1991, 50 kobo and ₦1 were both turned to coins and ₦50 notes introduced under the then head of state Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida with the same man in 1984 as CBN governor. Four more denominations of ₦100, ₦200, ₦500 and ₦1000 was seen in 1999, 2000, 2001 and on 12th October 2005 respectively all under former president Olusegun Obasanjo under the governorship of Dr. Paul A Ogunwumma, Chief J O Sanusi and Prof. Chukwuma C. Soludo. Also, a remarkable and significant change was done under Olusegun Obasanjo in which ₦5, ₦10, ₦20 and ₦50 notes were changed to leather note from paper notes respectively. The



Naira was further redesigned and rebranded in 2014 in commemoration of Nigeria's 100th centenary anniversary since amalgamation, the rebranding affected ₦100 bill alone which at that time Goodluck Jonathan was the president and the rebranding was under the governorship of the present CBN governor Godwin Emefiele. Nigeria has in the past years not been redesigning and rebranding any of its currency nearly more than the internationally expected years for a country to rebrand and redesign its currencies but now, again under President Muhammadu Buhari led federal government and governorship of the bank under Godwin Emefiele, four denominations of the Naira currency will undergo redesign and rebranding which is going to be historical and commendable. By the time the new currency is ready for circulation, PMB would have set a record as the first Nigerian president whom under his watch the Naira undergone redesign and rebranding twice, one as a military head of state and as a democratically elected president.

It is important to note that, currency rebranding is very crucial as it paves way for introduction of new features to it which would definitely be more advanced so as to give it more authentication and secure it better importantly to counterfeit deterrence, it gives avenue for mopping up of worn out and torn notes in circulation so as to give it more eye-value to foreign

interactors and even to investors. Every currency redesign is aimed a possible restoration and strengthening of confidence in economy of a nation as if there is much circulation, it leads to inflation according to Irvin Fishers "Quantity theory of money" and the level of currency circulation is less important than the level of its GDP. Higher money in circulation makes banks have not enough cash to lend to businesses which eventually makes them increase interest rate but controlling its flow and having enough may lead to a bit fall of interest rate. As we approach the political, it is culturally known that there is always possibility of vote buying and too much spending during campaigning period, one would say it is to deter such practices that it was decided that the rebranding take place, it will help in forcing politicians spend within INECs accepted limit for campaigns. Corrupt officials and those with ill-gotten wealth will at this moment in time be exposed as the Nigerian financial intelligence unit NFIU, the banks and the EFCC will be ready at ground to question any deposit of huge some amount of denomination just to swap it with the new to avoid the loose of illicit fund, this will obviously become a plus to government as if proven illicit it will be seized and forfeited into government coffers and eventually be channelled to important sectors of the economy in need.

Different nations have gone through currency redesigns as they cope through different changes and Nigeria is no exception. This could be a result of changing regimes, or of new principles and beliefs.

Regardless of what triggers the change, all this only means one thing; redesigning an entire set of currencies that spell a gainful change in an entire nation.



Emefiele

Politics

'Labour Party will not witch hunt anyone'

By FWENJI GO'AR

THE Plateau State Governorship candidate of the Labour Party, Dr. Patrick Dakum has assured that his government will not witch-hunt anyone.

Dakum was speaking during an exclusive interview he granted **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently, in which he touched on a wide range of issues, including what he intends to do differently if elected Governor in 2023.

Speaking, Dakum said a Labour Party government in Plateau "is not a party that would come to witch hunt anybody." He says the Labour Party would not waste its time looking backward. That there is no reason turning back, because the people that have turned back in the past have achieved very little.

Governor "Simon Bako Lalong is the leader of Plateau State today. He's doing whatever he sees as his best. And then when he finishes, he will go." Dakum said he can't claim to know exactly what circumstances make the Governor take certain decisions, but he believes he can do better if given the



Dakum chance.

On the reasons why he joined the Labour Party, Dakum said "the circumstances surrounding the party (APC) are the reasons we left and are Labour Party." He believes that the ambition of Labour Party would enable them do better.

He says going back, and starting to set up commissions

of enquiry, just to "catch somebody is a waste of time."

And that they "do not intend to dissolve local governments, because it is illegal." He said his Deputy (Pwajok) is an SAN. That they would not come and start doing something illegal. Government, he says "will run with a forward-ever mentality" so that they would be able to perform.

...party belongs to workers

By YVONNE ISHOLA

THE governorship candidate of the Labour Party, Dr. Patrick Dakum has emphasized that the Labour Party belongs to the Nigerian workers. "Because it was given birth to by the NLC and TUC."

He made this disclosure on Monday in his residence in an interview with **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** newspaper.

Dakum pointed out that at the national level, there is a charter of agreement between the Labour Congress and what they call governance which demands the protection of the workers' right. It includes that the worker gets his due as at when due.

The agreement also prescribes that the worker would have a conducive working environment where he would be productive.

The governorship candidate says one of their goals is to right size the workforce not down size by putting round pegs in round holes.

This involves putting

every worker where he would be best productive. So that the civil servant would operate with a business mind.

Dr. Dakum said that it would involve attitude change which in turn would change the fortunes of government owned businesses like media outfits. Giving an example with **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** which used to be the voice of the North and the government respected their views in the past.

"I believe we have a huge responsibility to move the state forward along with workers, because it is our party,"

Dakum reiterated. And added that 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, he

pointed out.

Mr. Dakum stated that Labour Party is for everyone, thus its logo of "Mama, Papa, Pikin". There is something for everyone to better the lot of Nigeria. Nigerians need a change, he emphasized.

INEC to track campaign finances – Official

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) says it will work with relevant stakeholders to track campaign finances, vote buying and other anomalies before, during and after the general elections.

Mrs Hauwa Kangiwa, INEC Administrative Secretary in Sokoto State, said this at a stakeholders meeting on Monday in Sokoto.

She assured that all updates and arrangements,

identifications and invitations will be done to carry all collaborating agencies along.

The administrative secretary, however, disclosed that a total of 124,963 Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) were yet to be claimed in the state.

She explained that 86,446 of the unclaimed PVCs were from 2019; 25,380 for those registered in 2021 and 13,137 for those that transferred their voting

centres.

According to her, 148,446 new PVCs have been sent to the 23 local government areas for distribution.

Kangiwa told the stakeholders that the commission had received 3,991 units of Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) to be used during the 2023 general elections in the state.

According to her, the BVAS will be configured and assigned to polling units

across the state.

She added that INEC staff members were being trained in effective handling of the BVAS ahead of the elections.

The administrative secretary assured that the commission was ready for the elections, and would continue to interface with different stakeholders, as part of its voter education programme.

"The commission is well prepared to conduct the 2023 general elections, the preparation will take the commission up to the day of elections and beyond.

"All departments and local government offices are working tirelessly to make sure that our constitutional duties are carried out effectively," Kangiwa said.

Mr Ibrahim Abdullahi, Chairman, Coalition of Non Governmental Organizations in Sokoto state, expressed fears that the "alarming" rate of vote buying may affect the outcome of the general elections.

He therefore urged INEC and security agencies to take decisive action to check the disturbing trend.



Ayu

Taraba Assembly pleads with staff over unpaid allowance

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

The Taraba State House of Assembly is making frantic efforts to persuade its staff not to shut down the Assembly over unpaid seven years outfit allowance.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that last week, the Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN), Taraba State Chapter had issued a 7-day ultimatum following the expiration of a 21-day ultimatum to the Taraba State government to offset the 7 years backlog of

outfit allowances owed its members.

In the letter jointly signed by the Chairman, Comrade Ibrahim Bala Yusuf and Secretary, Comrade Yahuda M. Atwen, dated 26th October, 2022 and addressed to the Honourable Speaker, Taraba State House of Assembly, the workers warned that failure to address the matter before 4th November 2022 would result in an indefinite strike.

"A 7 day ultimatum is hereby issued starting from Wednesday 26th October to

Friday 4th November, 2022 for the state government to respond positively. After which the union may decide to embark upon an indefinite strike if no positive response is received," the statement read.

But during plenary Monday, the Speaker came out publicly to announce for a meeting between the Assembly and the association which actually took place after the plenary session.

According to the Chairman of the association, the Speaker, Joseph Albasu

Kunini, pleaded with the staff for time to interface with Governor Darius Ishaku on the matter.

He however maintained that the association still stands on the Friday November 4th, 2022 deadline for the allowances to be off set or else they will embark on strike.

Meanwhile, **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** learnt that based on the official timetable, the Governor is billed to present the 2023 budget to the House on Monday 7th November, 2022.

Feature

By BEATRICE NUHU AYUBA

Eagle as symbol of strength

EAGLE is a common name for many large birds of prey of the family Accipitridae. The eagle is a (generally) large sized bird of prey meaning that the eagle is one of the most dominant predators in the sky. Eagles are most commonly found in the Northern Hemisphere including Europe, Asia and North America. Eagles are also found on the African continent.

There are more than 60 different species of eagles in the world with only 2 of these eagle species being found in the USA and Canada. However, one of these eagles species is one of the most common species of feathers but their bright white colour makes the bald eagle very distinguishable. The golden eagle is the only other species of eagle found on the American continent.

The size of an eagle is dependent on the species of eagle. Eagles can range in size from 40cm to over 1m in height. The wing span of an eagle tends to be at least double the length of the eagle's body. Eagles have feathers on the ends of their wings which the eagles move up and down to help them when flying.

Eagles are dominant predators and are known as birds of prey. Eagles feed off smaller birds and bats in the sky and small mammals and fish on the ground. The eagle is well known for its incredible eyesight. An eagle's eyesight is so good that an eagle can apparently see a mouse on the ground when the eagle is still high in the sky.

The eagle is used as a symbol in many national flags and emblems all around the world, as an eagle is believed to resemble power or good fortune. Eagles are dominant and ruthless predators in their environment and eagles therefore have very few natural predators themselves. Eagles are most likely to be hunted by smaller animals when they are chicks or still young and inexperienced so they are fairly vulnerable.

Female eagles build their nest in tall tree tops or on high cliffs where they are at their safest. The mother eagle tends to lay two eggs, which hatched after about a month. In many eagles species however, one of the eagles chicks is naturally slightly stronger than the other chick, with the



stronger chick generally killing its weaker sibling.

Eagles have adapted well to their dominant predatory lifestyle. Not only do eagles have exceptional eyesight and are about to soar remarkably quickly through the air for such a large bird, but eagles also have pointed beaks and agile feet known as talons. The beaks of the eagle are so strong that the eagle is able to carry its prey in its feet until it reaches a safe place to eat it.

Characteristics

Eagles are different from other birds in many ways, for instance, in their physical appearance and habits. They are larger in size, they are preying birds, and are more powerful, with heavy heads and hooked beaks.

Their powerful hooked beaks are created so that they can tear flesh from their prey. Their strong muscular legs hold the prey while

eating.

Their eyesight is also one of their best assets, as their extremely large pupils ensure minimal diffraction (scattering) of the incoming light so they can see the prey easily.

They have very large spreading wings, which are broad and relatively longer than other birds. They are more direct and have extra strength to provide faster flight to these carnivorous birds.

Breeding

Breeding season changes with latitude variations such that northern pairs breed considerably later than the southern pairs. Most eagles begin to breed for the first time in their fifth year. Though we have had birds breeding as young as 3 years old, many individuals may not breed until they are well past 5 years old. Eagles typically lay between 1 and 3 eggs. Generally, nest building begins to

intensify in October, courtship starts from late December through mid-January, and most pairs have laid eggs by mid-February. Virtually most pairs lay by the end of February or early March.

Habitat

Eagles are fairly adaptable in habitat but often reside in areas with few shared ecological characteristics. They are best suited to hunting in open or semi-open areas and search them out year-around. Native vegetation seems to be attractive to them and they typically avoid developed areas of any type from urban to agricultural as well as heavily forested regions. Eagles live in nest built by themselves. The general lining of the nest is often referred to as bowl because of its shape. Nests are lined with fine materials including marsh grass, field grasses, corn husks, pine straw etc. These are fine materials surface that is composed of very fine plant material with good insulating qualities. During the breeding season, adults sleep either at the nest or on a branch in the nest tree or nearby tree. Eagles have a specialized mechanism in their foot that allows them to lock it in position so they can sleep without controlling it. This is similar in concept to a horse sleeping standing up.

Lifespan

The lifespan of eagles vary depending on their type and species. Three of them will be examined:

The average lifespan of bald eagle in the wild is around 20 years, with the oldest confirmed one having been 38 years of age. In captivity, they often live somewhat longer. In one instance, a captive individual eagle in New York lived for nearly 50 years. Golden eagles are fairly long living birds in natural conditions. The oldest known wild golden eagle was a bird banded in Sweden which was recovered 32 years later while a captive Philippine eagle was once recorded to have lived for 41 years in Rome Zoo. Generally therefore, the average lifespan of an eagle irrespective of its species can safely be put at between 20 to 35 years. Some, when in captivity may live a bit longer.

Feeding

Eagles are dominant predators and are known as birds of prey. Eagles feed off smaller birds and bats in the

sky and small mammals and fish on the ground. In any case, there species and difference in type somewhat determines what they eat.

Bald eagles eat fish, waterfowl, turtles, and muskrats. They are capable of carrying about 4 pounds in their talons and hence they don't mind hunting for bigger prey. Fish comprise a major portion of their diet. They like to eat fish such as trout, salmon, herring, carp, bass, mullet, and even eels.

Golden eagles, which are also one of the most commonly found species, have the same features as the bald eagles.

They too have great vision, sharp talons, and a hooked beak, which gives them the liberty to hunt for their prey. The factors play a very important role in the hunting, and thus have to be understood well.

These eagles would prefer to eat hares, rabbits as their basic food, ground squirrels, prairie dogs, and marmots are their second favorite if they can't find rabbits.

Other choices of food can be mice, martens, foxes, young deer, and mountain goats. They also feed their young ones with such a big catch.

Golden eagles generally feed on other birds too; those that are either tiny or those which can't fly very fast become their prey.

During the winter months, there is a scarcity of food and hence, they hunt down bigger prey which last for longer time, like the caribou and goat-antelops.

Economic importance

Even after decades of environmental education, humans still remain the greatest threat to the eagles of the world. Many eagles are shot each year by hunters and sportsmen who prefer live target practice, as with other birds of prey, some eagles are hunted for the taxidermy market, a few are taken for falconry, and some are captured as part of the lucrative international trade in zoo specimens, they also occupy a top position at the food chain, especially for humans as an exotic meat. Also, as a highly charismatic species of estimated that 20-30 million dollars in annual earnings.

Ayuba is of the Institute of Archeology and Museums Studies Jos



IMAGES

BUHARI FLAG OFF RETREAT FOR SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS

President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday flagged off Conference and Retreat for Senior Police Officers in Owerri, Imo State.



President Buhari (right) inspecting the Guard of honour mounted by the Nigeria Police Force



President Muhammadu Buhari adjusting his reading glasses at the conference



Nigeria's President (left) being accompanied by the Inspector General of Police, Usman Baba Alkali, Governor Hope Uzodimma and others on arrival



President Buhari in a photograph with the host Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State (right)



Cross section of conference participants listening to the Presidential speech



President Buhari declaring the conference open



From left are, Governor Mai Mala Buni of Yobe, Governor Uzodimma of Imo State, President Buhari and the IGP, Usman Baba Alkali



President, Muhammadu Buhari, IGP Usman Baba Alkali, other visiting Governors, Ministers in a group photograph after the opening ceremony

Politics

Governors, constitutional amendments and the endless charade

Laws are made for posterity and not for the egos of certain personalities. But for our lawmakers and governors, their present station and egos must be satiated first...It is not just governors who are sabotaging constitutional amendments over time; lawmakers at both federal and state levels and the executive are complicit in the conspiracy against useful, dynamic and incremental legislations for good governance in Nigeria. Writes ZAINAB SULEIMAN OKINO.

PENULTIMATE week, I touched briefly on how legislators at the state level are pocketed by their governors, such that the former are not just at the beck and call of the latter, in an arrangement in which they ought to be independent, but that state legislators are like babies bottle-fed by governors. The analogy being made was to that of Rivers State governor, Nyesom Wike, and the manner of his de-recognition of Celestine Omehia, with the legislative support of the state's House of Assembly. They helped do Omehia in, in Wike's ego war with his erstwhile ally. That article, which was titled "Weaning legislatures from executive feeding bottle", which became more relevant a few weeks after, is excerpted below:

"One sore point in our experimental democracy is the role of legislatures. In theory it is said to be independent, but in practical terms one is an appendage of the other at least in Nigeria. It is worse with state Houses of Assembly.

Our all-powerful governors, with a dictatorial streak in a supposed democracy have turned state legislatures into tools for manipulation despite their supposed independence. Each time any governor is unhappy with any elected member of his cabinet, whether his deputy or House of Assembly officials, the governor simply bribes the state's lawmakers to do his biddings, however he wants it — recall or removal. The legislators only make laws that please their master-governors. It is a shame that such a political vendetta which took place at the Rivers State House of Assembly was orchestrated by these pawns called legislators.

Since 2007 when Celestine Omehia was sacked by the Supreme Court to make way for Rotimi Amaechi to be the governor of the state, the man (Omehia) was quietly nursing his wounds until 2015, when Governor Wike emerged as governor. He supposedly honoured Omehia and restored him as an ex-governor and paid his entitlements using the same Rivers State House of Assembly to pass a law to that effect.

Although everyone knew that the governor's motive was to spite his former friend turned



foe (Amaechi), nobody in his wildest imagination ever thought that Wike would turn around to derecognise Omehia. That he did when he used the state House of Assembly to remove him as ex-governor just because he (Wike) fell out with him (Omehia), over support or otherwise for Atiku Abubakar and in a swift manner the governor assented to that obnoxious action of the so-called lawmakers.

For the governor, it is all about loyalty to him without regards to the moral or legal implications of his actions. So embarrassing. When Omehia was in his good book, it was all rosy, but when he listened to his heart and loyalty to the party, and decided to throw his weight behind Atiku, he became an outlaw.

Not even a general can fight on all fronts and hope to win all. Wike is advised to selectively choose the right battle to fight before he loses all. Seriously, Nigeria needs to restructure and make changes to our constitution for the true independence of each arm of government. This hopefully will stop the executive excesses, recklessness and gangsterism of governors.

No one needs a lesson on why the state assemblies are reluctant to pass those bills. It was the voice of Esau and the hand of Jacob, going by past precedents, as governors had stopped the autonomy of their state Houses of Assembly in the past; something that would have strengthened democracy, the

advancement of the people, and interest of the lawmakers. As such, when DSP Omo-Agege pointed accusing fingers at them, he was not far from the truth.

Those who read that short piece wondered why I didn't make it the main article. Soon after that came the bombshell from the Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo-Agege, that 25 out of 36 states have refused to vote on the constitution amendment bills, thereby revalidating the excesses of governors once again.

The National Assembly had passed 44 amendments and would need state Houses of Assembly to vote on those amendments. Six months after, only 11 states — Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Delta, Edo, Kaduna, Katsina, Kogi, Lagos, Ogun and Osun States — have voted on them, while the others are yet to do so. Constitution amendment bills require the approval of two-thirds (24) of the 36 state Houses of Assembly before they can be presented for the president's assent.

The remaining 25 states that refused to act on the bills hinged their concerns on some other issues that are important to them. The four bills stopping the 44 that are hanging are contained in a letter from the Conference of Speakers to the National Assembly Joint Committee on Constitutional Review. They are: Establishment of State Police, State Judicial Council, Streamlining of the

Procedure for Removing Presiding Officers of the State Houses of Assembly and Institutionalising Legislative Bureaucracy in the Constitution.

The Conference of Speakers may have a genuine case (especially on the matter of state police), even as we all know that governors pull the string from behind and perhaps are unperturbed that laws are not made to satisfy the selfish purpose of individuals. On the other hand, why did the Omo-Agege committee leave out the issue of state police and judicial council for states? If the senators are concerned about such being abused, so are the concerns of people about the Federal Government's abuse of the existing instruments.

No one needs a lesson on why the state assemblies are reluctant to pass those bills. It was the voice of Esau and the hand of Jacob, going by past precedents, as governors had stopped the autonomy of their state Houses of Assembly in the past; something that would have strengthened democracy, the advancement of the people, and interest of the lawmakers. As such, when DSP Omo-Agege pointed accusing fingers at them, he was not far from the truth.

Bad as this is, it is retrogressive for elected governors to hold down equally elected legislators of the state Houses of Assembly. How can we right all the wrongs in the constitution if we shy away from doing the right thing by correcting all the grey areas gradually? State Houses of Assembly will remain appendages for as long as governors are in charge with the current constitution, and so shall we remain stagnant.

Omo-Agege said: "We are aware of the undue interference with legislative processes and the political capture of some state Houses of Assembly by some state governors. No doubt, some state governors have worked tirelessly to turn the Conference of Speakers and some state assemblies into puppets, thereby undermining and delegitimising the legislative institution at the state. This interference has been ramped up, especially in

opposition to the bills granting financial and administrative autonomy to local governments".

But the National Assembly is not entirely blameless, even as we acknowledge their inclusion of financial autonomy for local governments. The Omo-Agege committee failed to also pass progressive bills like the five gender bills, citizenship for foreign spouses of Nigerian citizens and the indigene status bill for husbands of women married to men outside their own states.

It didn't even sponsor important bills that could engender true nationhood, where citizenship will supplant ethnicism and indigene status, while enabling citizenship for any Nigerian residing in any part of the country after a certain period of time, towards the unity of the country. Does it make sense that children born in Kaduna State claim Kogi State that they know nothing about? This arrangement is not just divisive, it is the root cause of our mutual suspicion and ethnic rivalry.

Bad as this is, it is retrogressive for elected governors to hold down equally elected legislators of the state Houses of Assembly. How can we right all the wrongs in the constitution if we shy away from doing the right thing by correcting all the grey areas gradually? State Houses of Assembly will remain appendages for as long as governors are in charge with the current constitution, and so shall we remain stagnant.

It is just as well that Omo-Agege is now crying foul. Most of the previous efforts at constitution amendment ended in fiasco since Obasanjo's third term proposal was thrown into the dustbin in 2005 or thereabout; the same way Saraki's Senate's amended proposals were ignored because the current Senate leadership, in cahoots with the presidency, didn't want ex-President Bukola Saraki to emerge as Senate President the way he did in 2015.

Laws are made for posterity and not for the egos of certain personalities. But for our lawmakers and governors, their present station and egos must be satiated first, the same way a series of constitution amendments have remained a cyclical merry-go-round. For this last exercise that seems now in jeopardy, a billion naira was said to have been spent. So, what next after the Deputy Senate President's disclosure? Money gone down the drain! Just like that? Again? It is not just governors who are sabotaging constitutional amendments over time; lawmakers at both federal and state levels and the executive are complicit in the conspiracy against useful, dynamic and incremental legislations for good governance in Nigeria.

Zainab Suleiman Okino is a syndicated columnist. She chairs the Editorial Board of Blueprint. She can be reached through zainabokino@gmail.com.

"We are aware of the undue interference with legislative processes and the political capture of some state Houses of Assembly by some state governors. No doubt, some state governors have worked tirelessly to turn the Conference of Speakers and some state assemblies into puppets, thereby undermining and delegitimising the legislative institution at the state. This interference has been ramped up, especially in opposition to the bills granting financial and administrative autonomy to local governments"

News

Jos commuters decry increased spate of theft

By Ali Danladi

COMMUTERS in and around Jos Bukuru Metropolis have in recent times been subjected to untold hardship and pain due to threft and loss of their valuable property on transit.

Our investigation reveals that some miscreants who use commercial vehicles like small cars and tricycles constitute then selves into gangs to rob commuters of their valuaes especially mobile phones and small bags.

It was revealed that these gangs usually cramp passengers in their vehicles with their gang members, making them to sit in the middle while they occupy the side seats.

Davou Garose and David Paul, both students of the Jos Campus of the Plateau State Polytechnic who have been victims of this dastardly act narrate their steal thus:

"After leaving school for Terminus through first Bank British American junction, these people will pick you. And once they notice you are carrying a mobile fummy, they will start behaving phone just to distract you with the aim of picking your phone especially if you expose it in your breast picker.

"Once they have targeted the phone or any valuable for that matter or they have already picked it, they will say they are no longer going your way. This is a play to force you



Dadareng

to alight and join another vehicle.

She says, before you understand their man, they have left you. It is after some time that you would discover your phone or your valuable in missing.

They therefore advise commuters to always tutuck away their valuables into inner pockets or their bags before boarding any commercial transport.

With the soaring cost of mobile phones due to the crashing of the value of the Naira to the Dollar, Most victims have lost many documents in their phones and after valuable information due to the loos of their phones.

Officials of the Association of Communicable Tricycle Riders

and those of township taxi have been enjoined to cautions their members from these criminal few among them against their ills.

Commuters have also been encouraged to also make it a habit to always pick the registerlation numbers of vehicles and tricycles they board before their journeys.

Meanwhile security operatives around town have been encouraged to be alert on the streets as some victims of these miscreants may raise alarm for assistance.

Although there was no contact with the state security operatives on this matter at the time of filing this report, it is now a common development within Jos metropolis.

THE Conference of Directors and Chief Traffic Officers have called on the federal and state governments to digitize the operations of the road traffic administration to meet present realities in order to guarantee security , safety on the roads and revenue generation for the state.

The Vehicles Inspection Officers, VIOs made the call at the National Conference of Directors/ Chief Road Traffic Officers of the federation with the theme" Leveraging on Technology As a Tool for Motor Vehicles Administration To Enhance Road Safety, Security and Revenue Generation" that held on 25th- 27th October, 2022 in Lokoja, Kogi State.

They noted that the call to computerize the operations of road traffic management subsector has become necessary in order to enhance efficiency for the protection of lives and property on the roads.

The conference noted that the automation of their operations will ensure seamless discharge of their mandates thereby blocking leakages in revenue generation and ensure that safety and security of motorists are guaranteed as most crimes are perpetuated through the roads.

Speaking to journalists, the Chief Motor Inspection Officer of Kogi State, Engr. Ahmed Enesi Dauda commended Gov. Yahaya Bello for creating enabling environment for the hosting of 2022 edition in the state.

He equally applauded him for being among the first state

VIOs hold conference, advocate enhanced welfare packages

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

governors to have digitalized the operations of VIOs in their states which has reduced the perpetuation of crimes on the roads and blocking of revenue leakages.

Ahmed noted that as part of their constitutional responsibilities, VIOs are to take charge of road traffic activities and make sure that all motors plying the roads are road worthy and drivers appropriately licensed to drive the type of vehicles they are driven

He added that they are responsible for issuance of drivers license and ensure that they are up to date in conjunction with some agencies of government.

Allaying fears of the some agencies duplicating their functions, he said other agencies are complementing their efforts as there is no friction whatsoever, provided the agencies stick to their constitutional mandate.

According to him, Kogi State is a nucleus of this country providing thoroughfare to motorists from the North and South, hence , the need for other agencies to assist in the traffic control and management .

So, if we have an agency trying to complement our efforts, we welcome it. We have been surviving without friction with other agencies, such as Road Safety Corps and Kotrama. We have our mandate, which is all about vehicles' road worthiness and drivers to be appropriately licensed to drive particular vehicles.

Vehicles Inspection Service is a department in the Ministry of Transportation. And from the background of Vehicles Inspection, from the colonial era to this dispensation, we have been instituted by the constitution to perform the role.

We have been doing our jobs right from when Nigeria was in three regions to 12, 19, and now 36 states and Abuja," Dauda revealed.

On the issue of technology, he said, although, they have been performing duties manually, due to the advent of technology, Motor Inspection Services have been computerized. He said most state offices have toed the line

He disclosed that in Kogi , road traffic administration conduct its inspection by computer, adding that it has enabled precise result of faults with the vehicle

He called on the motoring public to avail themselves for the checks which will dissect the problems. He stressed that all one needs is to go to the mechanics with the exact fault with the vehicle .

You only need to give instructions to your mechanic to fix the problems, because faults have already been identified. You don't need to do trial and error."

While commending Gov. Bello for his support to the department, he urged him to look into their welfare, Saying the job of VIOs is different from the core civil service as they have no specific closing hours with high hazards on the job.

He appealed for the provision of more operational vehicles as the only one that is serviceable is grossly inadequate for effective coverage of the roads across the state

According to him, the department is the pillar of the Ministry of Transportation, which ensures that the highways are safe, secure and generate revenue, making them important to the ministry and the state.

Speaking at the sideline, the Executive Secretary, Nigeria Transportation Commissioners' Forum, NTCF, Mrs Chinwe Uwaegbute insisted that the only future for the Road Traffic Officers is to embrace technology as the manual operation has gone for good.

She said most sectors of the economy, such as the health sector have since gone digital, as such, the department should not be left behind.

She noted that the sector, when fully automated, will guarantee enhanced security, safety and maximum revenue generation.

The Executive Secretary revealed that most crimes are being committed on the roads, hence, the need for the application of technology to curb insecurity and safety cannot be overstated.

She added that the digitizing the operation of traffic administration would equally reduce road accidents, most importantly the ones caused by articulated vehicles.

Mrs Chinwe urged owners of vehicles to bring their vehicles for periodic checks to avoid brake failure syndrome which has become major cause of road accidents. According to her, "We at the Motor Traffic Administration are eager to embrace technology, as we can't do it alone. We are soliciting the support of the governments, and the private sector for enhancing seamless operations.

She charged all Nigerians to speak out against reckless driving and owners of rickety articulated vehicles that have become mass killers, to embrace modern technology as provided by Road Traffic Administration.

Earlier, in his welcome address, the Executive Governor of Kogi, Alhaji Yahaya Bello has commended the body for choosing Kogi State to host the 2022 edition of the conference.

He told the conference that it was his passion for VIOs that he has to create enabling environment for the smooth hosting of the event.

Represented by the Commissioner for Transportation , Joseph Baron Okwoli, the governor noted that in his commitment to safety and secure roads, he has remained one of the few state governor to have computerized motor traffic administration.

He enjoined the participants to feel at home and enjoy the warm hospitality of the state throughout the conference.

Village head, others arrested by NDLEA

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

THE operatives of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have arrested one Abubakar Ibrahim, a 38-year old village head of Gidan Abba in Bodinga Local Government Area of Sokoto State, with 3kgs of cannabis sativa and 4,000 tablets of exol-5.

The operatives also arrested 10 other suspects in various operations across seven states and recovered 991,320 pills of pharmaceutical opioids, 1,251kgs of cannabis and khat as well as 46.637 kilograms of meth, cocaine and heroin.

This was contained in a statement by the Director of Media and Advocacy, Femi Babafemi made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD newspaper titles. Babafemi stated that "On the same day, operatives at the SAHCO export shed intercepted cans of tomato paste going to the United Kingdom at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja Lagos. NDLEA operatives attached to the SAHCO import shed on Wednesday 26th October intercepted a total of 15 cartons containing 802,000 pills of Tramadol imported from Dubai, UAE and Karachi, Pakistan.

He explained that while 10 cartons of Tramadol 225mg came in from Dubai on Ethiopian Airlines flight, four cartons of 100mg and a carton of 225mg Tramadol came from Karachi, Pakistan on another Ethiopian Airlines. A thorough search of the consignment revealed that the tomato cans were used to conceal 36 pellets of cannabis with a gross weight of 21.30 kilograms. A cargo agent, Sodehinde Akinwale has been arrested in connection with the seizure.

The Director Media and Advocacy also said, "Two days after, Friday 28th October, operatives attached to the NAHCO

import shed of the Lagos Airport seized five cartons of dried khat leaves, weighing 107.70kgs that came in from Bangkok, Thailand through Dubai on an Emirates Airline flight.

Also, he added that "A follow up operation on the seizure of 11.90kgs Meth concealed in the heads of dried fish going to Dubai, UAE on 5th August has led to the arrest of a 30-year-old bricklayer, Babatunde Quadri Mamowora on Thursday 27th Oct in Sango Ota area of Ogun State in collaboration with men of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) in the area".

He also stated that in the same vein, a 27-year-old Madu Chukwuemeka Miracle has been arrested by operatives at the Akanu Ibiam International Airport, AIIA, Enugu on arrival from Nairobi, Kenya via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Wednesday 26th Oct as a search of his three bags revealed seventy-six (76) foreign bathing soaps made with cocaine in one of the bags while another has two plastic bottles containing cream like liquid, which tested positive to cocaine.

He said the cocaine bars weigh 10.650 kilograms while the liquid cocaine weighs 2.496 kilograms, bringing the total weight to 13.146 kilograms. Intercepts bus loaded with Meth in Kogi State, NDLEA operatives on stop and search operation along Okene-Abuja highway on Thursday 27th Oct intercepted a Chisco branded bus coming from Lagos to Abuja with a consignment of 32.9kgs Meth packaged as tubers of yam; 376 grams of cocaine and 215 grams of heroin.

While the bus driver, Chief Pascal Chigozie Nmaram was promptly arrested, a follow up operation in Abuja same day led to the arrest of the recipient of the illicit cargo, Mr. Ikenna Jude Akunne who confessed he was detailed to travel with the consignment to Spain the following day, Friday 28th Oct



Village head, others arrested by NDLEA

through the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja.

Meanwhile, operatives of the state command of the agency have destroyed five hectares of cannabis farms at Agbonkete, Iyaya Camp, Igalamela/Odolu LGA, where a suspect, Augustine Agbenyo, 34, was arrested with three sacks of both fresh and dried leaves and stems of the illicit substance.

While operatives seized 146,000 pills of Tramadol 225mg in a buy and bust operation in Oshodi area of Lagos State on Tuesday 25th October, the village head of Gidan Abba village, in Bodinga Local Government Area of Sokoto State, Abubakar Ibrahim, 38, was arrested in Bodinga town same day with 3kgs of cannabis sativa and 4,000 tablets of exol-5.

In the FCT, operatives on patrol along Kwali-Abuja highway on Monday 24th October intercepted a truck with 915.8 kilograms of cannabis and arrested three suspects: Kabiru Ibrahim, 40; Muhammad Muawiyya, 30, and Adamu Adamu, 24.

In Adamawa State, operatives arrested two trans-border traffickers, Abdullahi Mamuda (aka Mama) and Aliyu Abdullahi (aka Garga) at Skylight Hotel in Jambutu, Yola North. A search of their vehicle, an ash coloured Toyota Corolla car with registration

number JMT 146 TE (Adamawa), revealed 39, 320 tablets of Tramadol, 225mg concealed in different compartments of the doors of the car.

Preliminary investigation shows the trans-border traffickers took off from Onitsha in Anambra State and travelled to Jimeta, Adamawa State where they lodged in the hotel before heading to Belel, a town along the Nigerian - Cameroon border where they would repackage the drugs as ordinary consumables and ferry across the river to Garoa in Cameroon.

Operatives in Ondo State on Friday 28th October stormed a 2-bedroom building in Uso town, where they arrested one Okon Etim, 45, with 12 bags of cannabis sativa weighing 207kgs.

Reacting to the strings of arrests and seizures in the past week across Kogi, Lagos, Sokoto, Adamawa, Ondo and the FCT as well as the MMIA and AIIA Commands of the Agency, Chairman/Chief Executive of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) commended the officers and men of the various Commands for their unrelenting commitment to the presidential mandate to clear Nigerian forests and communities of illicit drugs in whatever form.

News

Tambuwal flags off distribution of motorcycles

GOVERNOR Aminu Waziri Tambuwal has flagged-off the distribution of 5,714 motorcycles as loans to Sokoto State civil servants.

**From ANENE AIKE,
sokoto**

At the ceremony, Governor Tambuwal said the incentive is a further testimony of his firm commitment to the enhancement of service delivery by workers.

At the venue of the distribution, the Governor explained that considering the difficult economic situation confronting the nation, the government has decided to provide a tax waiver on the procurement of the motorcycles to be distributed.

The release issued to newsmen by Bello Muhammad further explained that as a result, the loans, facilities were also subsidized by 30%, thereby significantly reducing the unit cost of N350,000 per motorcycle.

He said his administration has been proactive in devising strategies aimed at catering for the needs of the civil servants in the state since he took over the mantle of leadership.

According to him, his administration, has since its inception in 2015, pursued articulated and people oriented policies and programmes that are implemented successfully because the workers are adequately supported.

"We have, in this regard, endeavoured to provide all that is required to propel good governance through the optimal performance of the civil service machinery."

He explained that as a government, his administration is not unaware of the critical role of civil servants in propelling the machinery of governance and service delivery to the people.

He also listed some of the notable achievements of his administration in the civil service sector as: sponsorship of workshops, seminars, in-house trainings, retreats and induction courses for workers in partnership with professional institutions such as the National Institute of Management (NIM) and Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) among others.

Others are: special computer training for all civil servants with a minimum of SSCE qualification, prompt payment of salaries, allowances and pension, swift implementation of the new national minimum wage with consequential adjustments and the implementation of revised Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) for our medical doctors.

More achievements are:

the implementation of the CONPCASS and CONTEDESS for academic and non-academic staff of our tertiary institutions; among others.

Equally, he stated that his administration had completed and allocated the Kalambaina Housing Estate to civil servants on owner occupier basis, just as all Government Quarters to occupants were sold to many civil servants at subsidized rates.

Along that line, the administration, Tambuwal noted "is working with Family Homes Funds Ltd. to construct over 5000 houses for civil servants and other deserving people in the state.

The Government, he added, is also facilitating the

establishment of a state-owned Public Service Institute which will become operational in the first quarter of 2023, for continuous training and retraining of workers to achieve effective performance.

In his remarks, the Head of Service, Abubakar Muhammad (mni), said whereas many administrations in the country nowadays rarely bear their statutory responsibility as a result of economic down turn, the Sokoto State government has gone extra miles to provide not only the workers emoluments but added more incentives in order to boost productivity in the state civil service.

Despite that, the Head of Service said every month no worker in the state civil service is being owed any salary up till this month of October.

NEDC donates relief items to Bauchi State

**From
ABBAS GUNGURA,
Bauchi**

AS part of efforts to alleviate the plight of victims of flood disasters in the state, the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) has donated assorted food and non-food items to the Bauchi State Government.

The Nigeria Standard learned that the food and non-food items donated to the state government by the commission include 10,000 25kg bags of rice, 5,000 blankets, 5,000 mats, 3,000 gallons of vegetable oil, 5,000 pieces of wrappers, 3,000 pieces of Shada and 3,000 children wears.

The NEDC Managing Director, Mohammed Goni Alkali who presented the items on behalf of the commission to Governor Bala Mohammed at the Government House in Bauchi recently sympathized with the people of the state over the devastating effects of the flood in some parts of the state.

Goni lauded the state governor over the state government's proactive efforts to contain the effects of the flood in the state and said that the commission wrote a letter to the state government in order to synergize by providing preventive measures to address issues of flood disaster in the future.

"One of the reasons we are here is that on the 18th of August in Maiduguri, the world humanitarian day was celebrated under the leadership of Mr. President. And on that occasion, we as a commission promised that we are going to show our humanitarian face to the people of the North-eastern states and we promised to provide food and non-food items"

"The President received our pronouncement and handed it over to the Vice-Chairman of a committee he set up to settle and rehabilitate the IDPs in the Northeast. The

committee is currently dissolved, but we were directed to go and give the items we promised to each state"

"The third reason why we are here, your Excellency as you know, we have many projects going on in the state. We have the road projects from Kirfi to Gombe Abba. We have the housing project going on, and we have in each of the tertiary institutions in education and health, either federal or state, projects going on. We want to discuss, articulate and come back here in no distant future to do the ground-breaking ceremonies as well as the foundation laying ceremonies for these projects," he said.

In his response, the State Governor, Bala Mohammed commended the humanitarian commission for its laudable programmes, projects and initiatives that have positively impacted the Northeast region that has been ravaged by activities of insurgency.

Governor Mohammed who noted that the NEDC is one of the legacies President Muhammadu Buhari will leave behind in the country, appreciated the gesture of the commission, saying that the donation was timely, considering the extent of damages wrecked by the flood in the state.

"What you have brought is beyond our expectations, but like Oliver Twist, we have written to you already, even before you sent a letter. Again, you wrote a letter immediately after this flood that happened in the country.

"I want to appreciate your observations and condolences because lives and properties were lost. Some of our local governments were cut off and they are in the Northern part of the country"



Naira redesigning: Matters rising

THERE is a disconnect within Nigeria's ruling class. Policy issues have, and, are generating a lot of debates between those who ordinarily should not be working at cross purpose with each other. Recently, the Central Bank Governor, Godwin Emefile, told Nigerians that the CBN would redesign the Naira and reeled out a number of reasons why that action was going to be undertaken at this point in time. The decision to change the complexion of the currency seemed not to have gone down well with some sections of the Nigerian society. A number of dissenting voices disagreed with the decision. That, for me, is normal in a democratic society.

In response to some of these unfortunate and sad banter between some of the minders of the economy, **The Nigeria Standard** editorial of October 30", 2022, took the pain to explain some of the positives that are accruable from the action of the CBN thus "Currency rebranding is a norm in every serious and modern economy. In some economies, currencies are rebranded or redesigned after every seven years. To be sure, currency rebranding 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 currencies more authenticity and secure them better. More 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 interactors and even to investors."

It went on to say that "Every currency redesign is aimed at a possible restoration and strengthening of confidence in the economy of a nation as the Central Bank of Nigeria has alluded to the fact that there is about three trillion naira in circulation, yet only a little over a trillion is in the banks with the rest being in the 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 its GDP, it leads to inflation. Higher money in circulation makes banks have not enough cash to lend to businesses which

eventually makes them increase interest rate but controlling its flow and having enough may lead to a bit of fall of interest rate."

Premised on the above therefore, it was needless and sad for the Minister of Finance to come out publicly to disparage the CBN Governor. What one thought was that the Hon. Minister would have placed a call to the CBN and ask questions as to why that activity was being undertaken. The Hon. Minister's comment exposed to Nigerians how ignorant our leaders are. That the Minister of Finance did not know that the CBN is an independent establishment which only reports to the President says a lot about the kind of leaders we have. For her not to know that since the Babangida era, the CBN was removed from being a parastatal under her Ministry speaks to the fact that we have a set of very unserious people leading us as a people.

Thankfully, however, President Mohamadu Buhari has come out to say that he sanctioned the action of the CBN governor. But why did the Honourable Minister not see it as expedient to speak with the CBN governor privately instead of displaying her ignorance to the public? Is it to say, that the Permanent

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Premised on the above therefore, it was needless and sad for the Minister of Finance to come out publicly to disparage the CBN Governor. What one thought was that the Hon. Minister would have placed a call to the CBN and ask questions as to why that activity was being undertaken. The Hon. Minister's comment exposed to Nigerians how ignorant our leaders are. That the Minister of Finance did not know that the CBN is an independent establishment which only reports to the President says a lot about the kind of leaders we have.

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Secretary of her Ministry, who is on the Board of the CBN does not report to her or she was just being mischievous? Or should we assume that the Minister was pandering to the whims of a section of the country which she felt she represent at the expense of the rest of the country? As a Minister of the Federal Republic, who had sworn on oath to defend the interest of the nation she should know better and not play politics with matters that would impact on the lives of the generality of the people of the country. Afterall, we are told by lawyers that ignorance of the law is not an excuse. This then should have guided the Minister.

Permit me to say unequivocally that as a Nigerian, I feel let down by the actions and utterances of the Minister for Finance. And, that I do not have confidence in her ability to steer the economy of this great country from the precipice considering the sufferings Nigerians are going through at the moment. For other rabble rousers like the sheikh who has acquired the status of the spokesperson for bandits and kidnappers, it is understood. They are in business. It does not matter to them that peoples' lives are being wasted in the booming industry that kidnapping has become.

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 currency happens. But that is the sacrifice we have to make as a people. Indeed, the sudden surge in the purchase of the dollar and other foreign currencies is a confirmation of the dirty and illicit money that is being held by some people. That there is over two billion naira held up in private vaults should be a thing of concern to any right-thinking person. That our currency is dirty and tattered should even make the action of the CBN welcomed. Like the President said, only those who have illicit or stolen public money should worry about the action of the CBN, otherwise there is no course for worry. Let us support the CBN to succeed.

News

PLSG approves bill to establish gender commission

BY PALANG KASMI

The Plateau State government has approved the bill to establish a gender commission, to facilitate the implementation of the Gender Equal Opportunity (GEO) Law in the state.

The approval was announced by the Commissioner for Justice, Chrysanthus Ahmadu, at a press conference at the end of the State Executive Council meeting on Wednesday in Jos.

He said the commission, critical as a prerequisite for the smooth implementation of the GEO law, would consolidate efforts to end inequality and discrimination against women in all spheres of life.

Commissioner for Education, Secondary, and Hon. Elizabeth Wapmuk said the GEO draft bill approved by the council will go a long way in boosting the fortunes of women particularly the girl-child that needs opportunities for education, empowerment and employment.

She said "I believe that this bill is important and if passed into law will give smiles and some sense of confidence to the women in the state".

"It will prohibit gender discrimination socially, politically, economically. And in the bill, there is also provision for the protection of maternity status and reproductive health of women. You know what has been happening to women when they are pregnant and the kind of discrimination against them. In fact, as far back as 1974, women were not given maternity leave but with this type of proposed bill coming into law, I believe that women will smile".

Wapmuk was optimistic that some of the socio cultural practices against women like discrimination in political, economic and public life, and how they are given names in politics, will be minimal if the bill passes. She added that "The sky will be the limit for women".

Briefing newsmen on other decisions taken by Council, Ahmadu disclosed that also approved was a bill to establish the Plateau State Investment Promotion Agency (PSIPA) to boost the state's economy.

Mr Ahmadu explained that the agency would incorporate the One-stop Investment Centre and the state Public-Private Partnership Agency to improve its business environment further and attract investment.

The justice commissioner further mentioned that the council approved the Plateau State Agricultural Policy and Implementation Plan 2022-2027 and a bill to establish Rural Access Road Agency and State Road Fund.

Explaining further, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hosea Finangwai said Plateau is among the 13 states in the



Lalong

country benefiting from a World Bank project to address the difficulties farmers experience in conveying their goods and services.

Finangwai disclosed that the intervention under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP3) would address the challenges essential agencies experience in transferring innovation to rural farmers for improved

agricultural products and services.

According to him: "The essence of this bill is to ensure we create a mechanism for sustainability of the project by taking social amenities to the doorsteps of our farmers."

"This is aimed at improving the economy, improving their livelihood, increasing their income, and generating revenue for the state government", he said.

GSSS Ogaminana emerges quiz competition winner

THE Government Science Secondary School (GSSS) Ogaminana, Adavi LGA, at the weekend emerged Kogi State winner of the National Quiz Competition organized by the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS). The 7th edition of the quiz competition, held at GYB Model Science Secondary School, Lokoja, involved six selected secondary schools from the three senatorial districts of the state. The GSSS Ogaminana emerged winner with 50 points, while Soladad Group of Schools, Okene, and Saint Peters College, Idah, came second and third with 40 and 35 points respectively.

In his remarks, Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman, the Director General of NILDS, said the quiz competition was aimed at encouraging the students to imbibe the reading culture, engaged in critical thinking, national consciousness and awareness. He added that it would provide continuous education as well as broaden the knowledge of students and youths in legislative processes, history and ensure proper understanding of civic and democratic governance. Sulaiman, who was represented by the State Coordinator of the competition, Mr Richard Isere, said the quiz would be conducted at three levels viz-a-viz state, zonal and grand finale at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja. He said the winning team from

each of the six zones and FCT would contest in the grand finale scheduled for November 28, 2022. The director general urged the students to abide by the rules of the game in the true spirit of sportsmanship to avoid interference, so as to achieve the desired objective. On her part, the Director, Education Support Services (ESS), Mrs Dora Oyeyikpo, said the competition would increase awareness on the role of legislative arm in the nation's democracy, among others. Oyeyikpo appealed to all relevant authorities to engage youths in such competition to create a healthy academic rivalry among them. She commended the Nigeria



Bello

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has said that his administration will partner with the two sister bodies of animal scientists in Nigeria, the Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN) and the Nigeria Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) to improve livestock and other sectors for the betterment of Bauchi State.

Bala Mohammed gave the assurance during a courtesy visit by the two bodies of the association recently at the Government House, Bauchi.

Governor Bala appreciated the Institute's decision for choosing Bauchi State as venue of their very important

Bauchi partners animal scientists for improved livestock

general meeting, saying that Bauchi under his leadership will partner and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure improvement in the livestock sub-sector in addition to addressing the challenges bedeviling the entire agricultural sector.

On his part, the immediate past Tetfund Secretary, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro expressed his appreciation for the commitment of Governor Bala towards providing good leadership that will facilitate the rapid development of the state.

Professor Bogoro urges the good people of the state to fully support the present administration of Governor Bala for the betterment of Bauchi State and Nigeria.

Also speaking during the occasion, the President of the ASAN, Mr. Raymond Obiajulu Isiandinso, and NIAS President, Prof. B.Y. Abubakar OFR in their separate remarks, acknowledged the efforts of Bauchi State government towards livestock production and pledged to support the government to succeed in the sector.

NEDC donates relief items to Bauchi State

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

As part of efforts to alleviate the plight of victims of flood disasters in the state, the North-East Development Commission (NEDC) has donated assorted food and non-food items to the Bauchi State Government.

The Nigeria Standard learned that the food and non-food items donated to the state government by the commission include 10,000 25kg bags of rice, 5,000 blankets, 5,000 mats, 3,000 gallons of vegetable oil, 5,000 pieces of wrappers, 3,000 pieces of Shada and 3,000 children wears.

The NEDC Managing Director,



Mohammed

Mohammed Goni Alkali who presented the items on behalf of the commission to Governor Bala Mohammed at the Government House in Bauchi recently sympathized with the people of the state over the devastating effects of the flood in some parts of the state.

Goni lauded the state governor over the state government's proactive efforts to contain the effects of the flood in the state and said that the commission wrote a letter to the state government in order to synergize by providing preventive measures to address issues of flood disaster in the future.

"One of the reasons we are here is that on the 18th of August in Maiduguri, the world humanitarian day was celebrated under the leadership of Mr. President. And on that occasion, we as a commission promised that we are going to show our humanitarian face to the people of the North-eastern states and we promised to provide food and non-food items"

"The President received our pronouncement and handed it over to the Vice-Chairman of a committee he set up to settle and rehabilitate the IDPs in the Northeast. The committee is currently dissolved, but we were directed to go and give the items we promised to each state"

"The third reason why we are here, your Excellency as you know, we have many projects going on in the state. We have the road projects from Kirfi to Gombe Abba. We have the housing project going on, and we have in each of the tertiary institutions in education and health, either federal or state, projects going on. We want to

discuss, articulate and come back here in no distant future to do the ground-breaking ceremonies as well as the foundation laying ceremonies for these projects," he said.

In his response, the State Governor, Bala Mohammed commended the humanitarian commission for its laudable programmes, projects and initiatives that have positively impacted the Northeast region that has been ravaged by activities of insurgency.

Governor Mohammed who noted that the NEDC is one of the legacies President Muhammadu Buhari will leave behind in the country, appreciated the gesture of the commission, saying that the donation was timely, considering the extent of damages wrecked by the flood in the state.

"What you have brought is beyond our expectations, but like Oliver Twist, we have written to you already, even before you sent a letter. Again, you wrote a letter immediately after this flood that happened in the country."

"I want to appreciate your observations and condolences because lives and properties were lost. Some of our local governments were cut off and they are in the Northern part of the country"

"You cannot go to Zaki Local Government now, you have to go through Jigawa or Kano state and even the contiguous local government, are not connected."

"The wash-out was so monumental because of the flood coming from Jama're and Ningi Rivers and this is because we have not been able to provide water resource solution to the amount of flood that is coming around this area," he explained..

Feature

Modernization globalization: A threat to cultural heritage

The National Commission for museums and monuments is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of museums and for discoveries of heritage sites, ensures the preservation and study of traditional arts and culture. SULE PHILIP SHALLANGWA writes

THE commission also has powers to schedule monuments and antiquities, and to control archeological excavations and the export of antiquities (Fasuyi, 1973). But the efforts by NCMM have often been stalled by some challenges ranging from low subventions and findings from government to carry out their statutory responsibilities. Other challenges are some government developmental projects which destroy cultural heritages, conflicts and social change implied an alteration, modification or shift in behavior, attitude, social institutions and social structure.

Most Nigerian social institute and structures such as a family, marriage and kinship systems are threatened by the wave of modernization, technological developments and globalization. For instance the value system has gradually been eroded as issues like respect for elders, chastity, integrity and morality are considered archaic, while wrong values like disrespect, disobedience, nudity, fraud, etc osirisi a new journal of African studies vol. 12.2016, 288 kidnapping corruption are entrenched and this has been traced to the failure of the family system. Parents in their quest for wealth and materialism abandoned their primary responsibility of inculcating right moral values into their children through proper parental training.

This affects the society in the long run negatively by leading to chaos and conflict. Conflict is a situation of misunderstanding or disagreement between two or more persons. The various



natural and cultural heritage in Nigeria such as monument, museums, game reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and road constructions, buildings and large-scale agriculture destroys cultural heritages, artifacts, and historical relics. Most times construction engineers do not embark on cultural or environmental impact assessment (EIA) before carrying out any construction. We most therefore, note that the past is the key to the present, as anyone who does not know where he or she is coming from, might not know where he is

going in future. Nigerians most therefore, be perspicacious and pragmatic in the way they execute developmental projects and ensure there is peace and stability to ensure sustainable preservation of our cultural and natural heritages.

Economic, Tourism & Development potentials of Nigerian cultural heritages. Nigeria stands to benefit a lot if her cultural heritages are adequately preserved. It has great potentials of boosting the country's economy through tourism. When cultural heritages are properly preserved and advertised through the print and electronic media, they stand a change of attracting tourists from the nooks and crannies of the world. This would be a plus to national revenue and GDP, which will in turn provide more funds for the development of the country. Nigerian cultural heritages also are capable of promoting mutual understanding and respect among Nigerians. For instance, when people attend state or national cultural festivals, people appreciate the various cultures exhibited by people in Nigeria and this can engender unity in diversity. Museums could contribute to Nigeria's appreciation of aesthetics, relaxation, and leisure, which could go a long way in dousing tensions and high blood pressures.

Some non-material cultural heritages such as values of respect, integrity and labour, will re-orientate Nigerians from materialism to appreciating appropriate morally, right pursuits and endeavors. All these will culminate into better Nigeria. Now that Nigeria has a cultural policy that was

approved and launched in 1988 (Lo.Bamijoko, 2009) The cultural policy is anchored on preservation of culture, promotion of culture, presentation of culture, establishment of administrative structure and provision of funds for its implementation. To this extend therefore, if myriads of the Nigerian cultural heritages are preserved and state festivals of arts and culture at the local government levels, are organized and winners should be sent to the state festival and finally to federal festivals of art and culture competitions. By so doing the basic essentials and appreciation of Nigeria cultural heritages will be inculcated into younger generations.

By and large, the challenges

confronting Nigeria cultural heritages are, public enlightenment, funding, sponsoring archaeological excavations and research, provision of holistic securities in museums among others. Proper re-orientation of the police and collaboration with international police (Interpol) and with UNESCO is also recommended. Cultural resource managers/officers and personnel who are often collaborators with traffickers should be well remunerated, installation of surveillance cameras proper documentation of artifacts, among others. Shallangwa is a Chief Superintendent of Monuments National Museum, Kaduna.



Foreign News

Israelis vote for parliament

ISRAELIS are back at the polls to vote in parliamentary elections for the fifth time in just three and a half years, with the race expected to be close between supporters of opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu and his opponents.

It is unlikely, however, that either side will be able to command a large majority in the 120-seat parliament, with pre-election polls predicting a tight race.

Voting started at 7am local time on Tuesday and will carry on until 10pm, giving the nearly 6.8 million people who have the right to vote plenty of opportunity to cast their vote.

"Is it the fourth or the fifth or the sixth election – I can't keep track," Yochi Hadad-Klapholtz, a mother of three in Jerusalem, told Al Jazeera, highlighting the dysfunctional nature of Israeli politics in the past few years.

The elections are the result of the collapse of the previous government and the dissolution of parliament in June after defections from the governing coalition made former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's position untenable.

That coalition, currently led



Lapid

by Yair Lapid, was formed by an unlikely combination of parties with conflicting views on everything from state and religion to the Israeli occupation and Palestinian statehood, LGBTQ rights, and economic policies.

What has united them was their fierce opposition to Netanyahu, who had served as prime minister for 12 years and is on trial for alleged bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

Netanyahu is keen to pass legislation that will prevent him from being tried.

In the previous election, held in March 2021, he midwived a joint slate between two far-right Jewish politicians, which helped one of them, Itamar Ben Gvir, to get into the parliament, also known as the Knesset.

The other, Bezalel Smotrich, was already in parliament.

NORTH Korea has warned of "powerful follow-up measures" in response to the largest joint air exercises between the militaries of South Korea and the United States in almost five years.

A spokesperson for North Korea's ministry of foreign affairs described the air drills on Tuesday as a "ceaseless and reckless" military provocation designed to prepare for attacks on North Korea, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported.

The joint US-South Korea air exercises — dubbed "Vigilant Storm" — were in preparation "for aggression mainly aimed at striking the strategic targets of the DPRK", the spokesperson was quoted as saying by Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency, according to Yonhap.

The DPRK is the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"If the US continuously persists in the grave military

UN nuclear watchdog starts 'dirty bomb' claims

THE United Nations' nuclear watchdog said it had begun inspections in Ukraine as part of "independent verification" of Russian allegations in Kyiv is producing so-called dirty bombs.

Inspectors of the

event," the Chinese UN mission said in the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

"The co-sponsors use human rights issues as a political tool to interfere in China's internal affairs like Xinjiang, to create division and turbulence and disrupt China's development," the mission added.

Calling the event "disinformation propaganda," the letter accused the sponsors of violating "the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and norms of international relations".

Thousands join anti-Rwanda protests in Goma

THOUSANDS have protested in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) city of Goma, denouncing Rwanda's alleged support of M23 rebels, as Kinshasa recalled its interim acting ambassador from Kigali in a further souring of relations.

The protests on Monday come as M23 have tightened their grip on the surrounding countryside.

"We denounce the hypocrisy of the international community in the face of Rwanda's aggression," Mambo Kawaya, a civil society representative attending the demonstration, told AFP news agency.

A mostly Congolese Tutsi group, the M23 resumed fighting in late 2021 after lying dormant for years, accusing the Congolese government of failing to integrate its fighters into the army.

The group's resurgence has destabilised regional relations in central Africa, with the DRC

North Korea gives warning over military air drills

provocations, the DPRK will take into account more powerful follow-up measures," the spokesperson said.

Pyongyang was prepared

and "ready to take all necessary measures for defending its sovereignty, people's security and territorial integrity from outside military threats," the official said, Yonhap reported.



Jong-un

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have "begun – and would soon complete verification activities at two locations in Ukraine", the agency said in a statement on Monday.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said he would later this week provide "his initial conclusions about the latest verification activities at the two sites", the statement added.

The inspections follow a written request from the Ukrainian government to send IAEA teams there.

Russia has accused Ukraine of preparing to use dirty bombs against Moscow's troops. Ukrainian authorities have strongly denied the allegation as an attempt to distract attention from Moscow's own alleged plans to detonate a dirty bomb in order to justify its own escalation of hostilities.

The agency said last week it had inspected "one of the two

locations a month ago and no undeclared nuclear activities or materials were found there."

A dirty bomb is a conventional bomb laced with radioactive, biological or chemical materials which are spread in an explosion.

Last Thursday Russian President Vladimir Putin called for the IAEA to inspect Ukraine's nuclear sites "as fast as possible". Putin has said the government in Kyiv wanted to "cover the traces of the construction of a 'dirty bomb'," claiming he also knew approximately where the construction was taking place.

The IAEA in Monday's statement also urged the release of a Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant employee, who was detained some two weeks ago.

The plant – Europe's largest atomic facility – was captured by Russian troops in March in the early days of the invasion.

UN members condemn China over abuse of Uighurs

FIFTY countries have called on China to "uphold its international human rights obligations" in a joint statement read out during a United Nations debate that condemned violations against Uighurs and other predominately Muslim minorities in China's Xinjiang region.

The statement, read out by Canada during a debate of the UN General Assembly's human rights committee on Monday, expressed concern that China had refused to discuss a UN human rights office report which found that the treatment of Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in Xinjiang may constitute "crimes against humanity".

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report had made "an important contribution to the existing evidence of serious and systematic human rights violations in China", according to the joint statement.

"In view of the gravity of the OHCHR assessment, we are concerned that China has so far refused to discuss its findings," it

added.

Violations in Xinjiang noted in the joint statement included mass detentions, surveillance based on ethnicity and religion, restrictions on cultural identity and religious practice, destruction of mosques and shrines, enforced disappearance, forced labour, family separations, and forced abortions and sterilisation.

"Such severe and systematic violations of human rights cannot be justified on the basis of counterterrorism," the countries said in their statement.

China should fully implement the recommendations in the OHCHR report, the statement adds, including the release of those arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang and also clarify the locations of those still missing, and facilitate contact with their families and reunions.

Dai Bing, charge d'affaires of China's permanent mission to the UN, described the concerns expressed over the human rights situation in Xinjiang as Western "hype" designed to "contain" China. "Today, it's China that's in the crosshairs of their punitive flak. Tomorrow, it would be

another developing country targeted by them," he said.

Human rights groups have accused China of sweeping a million or more people from Muslim minority groups into detention camps in Xinjiang where many have said they were tortured, sexually assaulted, and forced to abandon their language and religion.

The camps were just one part of what the rights organisations have called a ruthless campaign against hardline groups in Xinjiang that also included draconian birth control policies and all-encompassing restrictions on people's movement.

In early October, China managed to avoid a discussion of the OHCHR report at the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council after most of the body's 47 members blocked the beginning of the debate.

Human Rights Watch called on Monday for the UN Human Rights Council to again try and hold the debate "as soon as possible".

"Clearly, diplomatic momentum in favour of holding Beijing accountable for its human rights violations is growing," Right Watch's UN director Louis Charbonneau said in a statement.

The Uyghur Human Rights Project said that more UN member states were "pushing back on China's treatment" of Uighurs in Xinjiang.

Last week, the United States, United Kingdom and others organised a meeting to follow up on the OHCHR report. China's UN Mission sent a letter to all UN member states expressing its "resolute opposition" to the meeting and strongly recommending that they boycott "this anti-China event".

"It is a politically motivated



Tshisekedi

Feature

2023: Campaign promises and credibility gap

Evidently, Nigerians are getting nauseated and discontented with the political elite who have over the years been reneging on their promises. The frequency at which campaign promises are broken by successive governments has become a subject of debate. It is quite worrisome that there is a big trust deficit in government. Writes -Chindapha Ngop

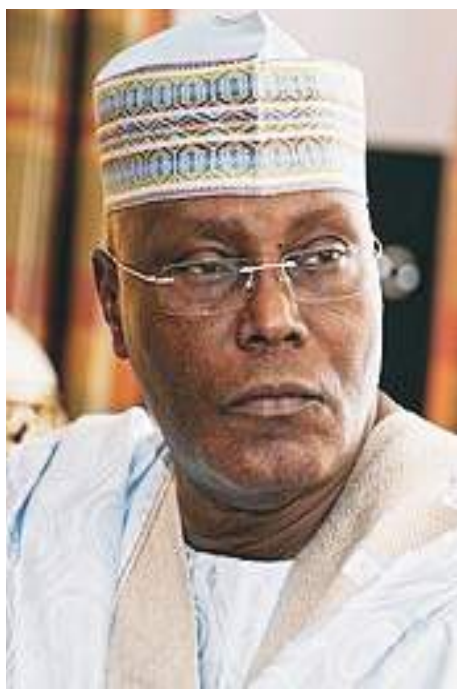
CAMPAIGN promises are presumably veritable tools that change voters' beliefs on which best political party or candidate to vote for during electioneering campaigns. In advanced societies, politicians are often held on their failed promises, whereas in Nigeria, campaign promises have become mere 'cheap talk' and manipulative rhetoric's. Just as the saying goes, "it is easier said than done". Judging political parties and their candidates on the content of their manifestos or commitments is becoming a herculean task for Nigeria voters because most often their campaign manifestos are built on lies and falsehood.

Kabir O. Alagbe in his article titled, Home Opinions of Lying Politicians and their Media handlers (**Tribune online**, June 17, 2022) aptly captured the deceitful nature of Nigerian politicians, he expounded that, "in contemporary Nigeria, politics is about lies by an organized minority dictating and manipulating public opinion not for the purpose of creative leadership, public or national interest. It is not to assist the downtrodden class living on one or two meals per day or having no food at all".

These repeated unfulfilled promises by our politicians have, severely ruined the confidence of the electorate on elections. While the politicians have exhausted their lies and excuses for not keeping to their campaign promises by playing 'blame game' tactics over their incompetence when they get into office, the masses on their part are running out of patience. Their trust on Nigeria politicians capacity to lift them out of the circle of poverty have long fizzled out as the quality of life have continue to be on the decline.

In less than 4 months now, Nigerians will be going back to polls for the 7th times since 1999 to vote candidates of their choice from the 18 registered political parties into various political offices and most political parties in their bids to canvass for votes of the 2023 general elections have started launching campaigns to sell their presidential candidates and their political parties manifestos again. But will 2023 general elections be different? Or will Nigerians change their beliefs about candidates and parties on the quality of their manifestos or policy statements?

Already, the three dominant political parties; the All Progressives Congress (APC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the new bride, Labour Party (LP) have saturated the political atmosphere with ambiguous and grandiose speeches. As they strive hard to persuade voters, the parties have repackaged their old lies of the unkept promises again to build supports and solidarity around their candidates most especially the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC). The question now is, are the two dominant parties still saleable commodities? Can their candidates be sold to the electorate after their parties have repeatedly failed Nigerians for over two decades? Can the two parties be trusted? More still, will the electorate continue to be docile while they allow the desperate and deceptive politicians get away with their common good? Some Nigerians are of the opinion that the dominant parties should grovel and saunter off.



Atiku

The uncomfortable fact is that, the two major parties, the All Progressive Congress (APC), and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are the parties that have raped Nigerians into inconsolable grief today. We do not need experts to tell us that there is Public outrage that PDP and APC have appetite for manipulation and lying and they are trusted to be given another chance.

In the 16 years of the Peoples Democratic Party's rule, there was little or no indication that, the party did deliver on any of its promises. Among other promises, PDP promised to fix the economy, fight corruption, fight unemployment, to fix our industries, and to revamp the power sector. From Obasanjo, Yar Adua, and Jonathan, a total of N2.74 trillion was said to have been injected into the power sector but what Nigerians got in return was endless power outages. PDP government promised to create employments for the teeming populace but the party policy initiatives, instead of generating jobs for Nigerians ended up throwing millions of Nigerians out of job through its unpopular policy of deregulation and privatization. Rather than making the national assets more functional, the PDP government sold over 100 government enterprises and that led to massive job losses, casualization and wages cut.

Speaking recently at the presidential flag-off campaigns of PDP in Akwa Ibom State, the Party's presidential candidate and former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar who happened to be the one that presided over the sales of our national assets that engendered high rate of unemployment and pervasive poverty which of course were the major indices that have given rise to other challenges eg corruption, insecurity, Boko Haram, insurgency etc, was singing same soothing song, promising to rescue Nigeria from insecurity, poverty, youths unemployment and disunity if elected. But few weeks after he (Atiku) pledged to unite the country in Uyo, consciously or unconsciously, Atiku, perhaps out of desperation shot himself in the foot during an interactive session with Arewa joint committee on town hall policy dialogue in Kaduna by saying "I have traversed the whole of this country, I think what an average Northern



Tinubu

needs is somebody who is from the North, and who also understands the various parts of Nigeria and who has been able to build bridges across the various parts of the country. This is what the Northerner needs, he doesn't need a Yoruba or Ibo candidate, I stand before you as a pan-Nigerian of Northern origin.

For sure, his supporters would say he was quoted out of context but the fact remains that, it was quite a divisive statement coming from someone who claims to be a detribalized Nigerian who is seeking, to be the president of a country that is deeply divided along ethnic, religious and regional identities. Atiku who is running under the PDP logo today has no moral justification to condemn APC because he once said APC was the best party in the country when he found himself in APC. Infact, he declared in 2014 that "As for me, as far as I am concerned, APC is my last bus stop". Atiku popularity has fade because his political ideology of flip-flopping from one party to another in search of a presidential ticket has made him a desperate and a politician with fickle and unstable character whose body language has already betrayed him, therefore, his words can never be taken serious.

On the other hand, the All Progressives Congress after its successful merger in 2013 was able to wrestle power from PDP in 2015, under the 'Change Mantra' because PDP was unable to address the issue of corruption, insecurity and unemployment among other issues. But APC could not learn from the mistakes of the then ruling party PDP. According to pundits, APC also swept its promises under the carpet and have also failed woefully. Before its political journey, APC assertively said this to Nigerians' In the past, political manifestos in Nigeria were hardly different from mere platitudes and general statements to which parties could not be held accountable. The APC manifestos is different. We clearly stated what we will deliver to Nigeria when elected into office. "Have Nigerians seen any change? The APC manifestos has become chestnuts. Instead of fixing the old challenges facing the country, new challenges were added. APC promised to make one Naira equal to one dollar, today Naira has fallen to the lowest level in the history of the country, now one dollar is sold at N742. APC promised that fuel will be

sold as low as #40 per litre, today, fuel is being sold at #250 per litre.

The ruling party promised to fight Boko Haram to a dead end in less than a month, the party promised to revamp our refineries in four years, today the party is in its eight year the conditions of the refineries are worse than they met it. Nigerians are being pushed to the brink as the gap between the rich and the poor continue to widen. As someone puts it, "will Nigerians still be alive to vote in 2023" with the harsh economic realities. The presidential candidate, Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress, APC, in his policy document tagged. Renewed Hope 2023' with focus on economic prosperity, national security, infrastructural and social development he has reassured Nigerians of his determination to solve the country's complex challenges.

As a party leader, can Tinubu be excused for his party failure? Tinubu has been unsuccessfully struggling to distance himself from the failure of the ruling party, APC, At a rally organized by some APC youths in the South West at Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan, Lagos in April 16, 2022, he said "Nigerians have the right to be angry as Buhari has not lived up to their expectations". He further said President Buhari should stop the "lamentation of the past as excuses for his failures".

"We cannot continue with excuses or NEPA failure. No. No nation can make rapid development without electricity. Give us that and if we cannot be successful, then you can abuse us. But you cannot give us erratic electricity that is un dependable and then blame us again that we are lazy, "the APC leader told the youths.

As soon as he was given the ticket as the Presidential candidate of the All Progressive's Congress (APC), Ahmed Tinubu contradicted himself by saying if elected he will continue with the President's legacy. The passage of time will tell.

Peter Obi, the Presidential flag-bearer of Labour Party, LP, who left APGA to join the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP that stole his mandate in 2003 will not be pardoned for the failures of the two major parties, PDP and APC because he was at a time part and parcel of the established political elites that have put the country into hodgepodge for the past 23 years. Peter Obi who resigned his



Obi

membership of PDP just few days before the party's convention in may this year cannot be said to be a saint amongst the presidential candidates.

It would be safe; therefore, to posit that the three Presidential candidates and their parties have played one role or the other in the engrossed mess Nigeria has found itself in today. But some Nigerians would want the law of the 'de minimis non-cur at tex' be applied in the case of Peter Obi who has just taken refuge in Labour Party LP. Some claim his sins are lesser compared to the candidates of APC and PDP. After his emergence as flag bearer of Labour party, Peter Obi pledged to return Nigeria to its rightful owners. He promised to fix insecurity, unemployment and pull Nigerians out of poverty. But Nigerians have heard this promise before.

Interestingly, Peter Obi is receiving the kind of rosey welcome that President Buhari received in 2015. Can Peter Obi make a difference? Peter Obi should tell Nigerians how he is going to generate money to execute his promises as Nigerians would no longer take the drama of blame game anymore. My beef with the Nigerian politicians is that they lie with impunity. A typical Nigerian Politician is a liar and hypocrite out of desperation they jump from one party to the other if their personal interests are not protected in the parties they belong. In fact, they change their colors more often than Chameleon, and that is the more reasons why from 1999 till date none of the challenges we had as a nation has been addressed, rather our challenges keep on multiplying day by day.

To put the politicians on check, campaign promises or manifestos should be made a legal instrument so as to hold them accountable after elections. Promises made should and must be delivered and fulfilled. The world is changing rapidly, so much that, it is beyond the control of one single individual to cause a change in a country of about 200million people. The arduous task, therefore, before whoever will emerge as the President of the country is his ability to identify the talented brains who will work with him to fix the mountain of the challenges country is facing.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Living

Different cockroaches and how it affects your health

COCKROACHES can be quite a headache in your household. Besides being unpleasant to see around, they also carry substances like their feces on their body. They can release these substances into the air causing allergic reactions or asthma attacks. They can also contaminate your food, utensils, and even the surfaces where you prepare your food. This may cause health hazards like food poisoning and infections.

Where Do Cockroaches Live
Cockroaches typically prefer living around the kitchen for easy access to food and water. Common places for cockroaches to hide out are:

- Wall cracks
- Behind or under furniture
- Below the sink
- Kitchen cupboards
- Drains
- Garden
- Around water heaters

Identifying Cockroaches
German cockroaches typically live in clusters near their food source and will only come out when it's dark. They reproduce faster than other types of roaches. Because of this, the majority of German roaches in any population are in their nymph stages. You will mostly find the German cockroaches gathering under your stove, dishwasher, and refrigerator. They defecate and mark these places as clustering points. You can spot their feces as dark spots where they like gathering.

The American cockroach. The American cockroach is the largest on this list, growing to about two inches long. They have a reddish-brown color with lighter thorax edges. They are less common in homes and will mostly hang out in a sewer, basement, boiler room, or steam tunnel in a commercial building.

American cockroaches take about 15 months to go from egg to adult. The adults grow wings that cover the entire body.

The Oriental cockroach. The oriental cockroach, or the waterbug, is mostly found in garages, basements, and crawl spaces. This cockroach thrives in cool, moist places. Because of this, you may find some outside hiding in mulch or leaves where they can live through the winter. This also makes them slow growers. You can identify them with their blackish color, and small wings.



Nymphs are usually brown in color, but get darker as they develop into adults.

The Brownbanded cockroach. The brown-banded cockroach lives in warm areas of around 80 F. You may find them in ceilings, electronics, light fixtures, motor housings, or sometimes outdoors. They are more colorful and a bit smaller than the German cockroach and may live even in non-food areas of the house.

The woods Cockroach. The name 'woods cockroach' is used to refer to a couple of roach species found outdoors. But this doesn't mean that they won't enter your house when they get the chance. You will typically find them in logs, trees, stumps, and

woodpiles. They may get into your house during the spring to mate. This type of roach is also attracted to lighting. It only grows up to less than an inch long. Their wings grow beyond their body, making them very good fliers.

Cockroach Health Risks
As cockroaches move around your house, they shed their body parts and excrete feces and saliva. When these substances get into the air they have the same effect as dust mites in your house. They may trigger asthma or allergies when you inhale them.

Other conditions that may be spread by cockroaches include:

- Diarrhea
- Cholera

- Typhoid fever
- Leprosy
- Dysentery
- Plague
- Poliomyelitis

Symptoms of Cockroach Allergy
Cockroach allergens can cause chronic symptoms that last longer than other seasonal allergies. You may have a cockroach allergy if you have some of the following symptoms:

- Skin rashes
- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Nasal congestion
- Ear infection
- Sinus infection

How to Eliminate Cockroach

Allergens

There are various things you can do to prevent cockroach allergens from spreading. This is especially helpful in public spaces like your home and schools. Controlling cockroaches will go a long way in protecting people with allergies. Consider:

- **Extermination.** For extermination, consider getting a professional to do it if the situation is bad. You can also try Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques that work for you.

- **Keeping your home clean.** Cleaning is crucial to prevent making the environment conducive for cockroaches to thrive. Clean off food scraps from the floor and under large furniture. Food trapped under things like your refrigerator and stove may make an easy food source for roaches.

- **Reducing humidity.** As seen earlier, some cockroaches love damp places. Keeping your home free of damp spaces will eliminate the water for most roaches and other house pests.

- **Target approach.** Find the places in your home where cockroach allergens collect and take care of them. This includes areas like beds, clothing, carpets, and furniture. Make sure to clean your bedding at least once a week with hot water and encase your pillows and mattresses. Avoid having unnecessary fabrics and furniture around because they may house cockroaches and allergens.

- **Getting rid of the carpet.** The carpet may hold a lot of allergens. Cleaning efforts like vacuuming may only make the situation worse since that can stir up the allergens left by the roaches. Consider replacing your carpet for smooth flooring. If this is not an option, make sure the person with allergies is not in the house when vacuuming. You should vacuum your carpets at least two to three times a week.



EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Coping with the causes of "mom guilt"

By **JASMINE KAMAL**

MOM guilt: Its causes and how to deal with it

What is mom guilt?

Simply put, it is the feeling of guilt that can overwhelm a mom, at some point, causing her to think that she is falling short or not doing enough for her children. A mom would feel like she didn't or isn't doing what she's supposed to in order to make them better, whether emotionally, physically, or even compared to other children. She begins to feel a weight on her shoulders and a heaviness in her chest, worried about her baby or children.

Does mom guilt last a long time?

Some moms struggle with strong mom guilt for a while and then it goes away. While for others, it never goes away or lasts for many years. It may even get worse, if you're unable to deal with it or process it. **Pressure from family and friends**

After birth, a mother is under extreme pressures, having most people around her telling her the importance of breast feeding, that she has low milk supply (even if she doesn't), and that she has to find a solution. These are the traditional hereditary tips that have always been passed on from one generation to next. They make the new mom feel incredibly guilty about not being able to feed her baby well enough. Also, these pressures continue for years, taking on different and topics.

Comparing your child to others

As the child grows, the mom enters into a constant struggle of

comparison. If she sees that a baby has started speaking or walking before hers, she immediately begins to blame herself. Having thoughts like... "I must have done something wrong that led him/her to not do these things in time." Of course, the comparing does not end here, it can even get harder with time, comparing all the smallest little details.

Social media

With the spread of social media, virtual images that are not an accurate representation of reality often affect how a mother views herself. She begins comparing herself to other mothers. For example, if she sees a cute picture of a mom and her child, she would blame herself for not making a memory like this happen with her baby or she can start to believe that this mother's life is perfect, with none of the difficulties she's facing and so on...

Lack of self-confidence

Sometimes mothers suffer from a lack of self-confidence and insecurities, that have been there since childhood. What makes them always feel like they're not doing enough is that they think they're not good enough and they should be doing more and better. This is also a problem that can keep growing as their babies get older.

enough is that they think they're not good enough and they should be doing more and better. This is also a problem that can keep growing as their babies get older.

5. Her experience with her parents

Some mothers had experiences of neglect from their own parents



and might not have resolved or dealt with these issues. This can lead to her to a fear and need for control to prevent her from making the same mistakes. She could often feel like she's falling short of being a good parent, just like her's.

Which mothers are most likely to experience mom guilt?

The truth is, it is hard to find a mother who is completely exempt from that guilt. Yes guilt is not a healthy emotion, but unfortunately most mothers go through it. However, there are those with which it can get really unhealthy and obsessive, to the point where it really requires therapy and has to be taken

seriously.

1. Mothers who struggle with mental health problems.

2. Mothers who suffer from postpartum depression.

3. Mothers who do not have enough awareness or the necessary information about everything related to motherhood.

4. Working mothers (society makes them feel like they're taking away from their child's needs for their own personal needs and success.)

How to deal with mom guilt

Identify the source of guilt

We just talked about the causes of guilt, and now the first step in dealing with it is to what the source or cause is for you...

Be honest with yourself

Take a pen and paper, and write

down the good things that you do for your children and on another paper write down the negatives or for your children and on another paper write down the negatives or the things you think you're lacking in (and the source of guilt you came to understand in point #1). Try to find a link between the two paper. For example, you think you're not feeding your baby enough and that's why they're thin, look in your other paper and see how many times you feed them a day and what nutrients that contains. Then do some research and ask their doctor to make sure you're on the right track.

Avoid people who are toxic and negative

We are all surrounded by people who have negative effects on us, our emotions and energy. So take a closer look at the people around you and distance yourself from those who don't make you feel good about yourself or are constantly criticizing you and how you are as a mom.

Educate yourself about parenting

You will not be able to determine whether you are or aren't doing enough for your children, if you don't know what should and shouldn't be done when it comes to raising them. Try to read a lot about parenting, nutrition, psychology, behavior, health and more, from different sources with different views and opinions so you can have a full rounded view and education to help you do the best you can.

Talk to a specialist or doctor

Always consult a doctor. You feel like you're failing their health? Take them to the doctor for a checkup. Your child isn't walking yet? See a doctor as soon as possible. You're still feeling guilty, despite taking the necessary measures? Why not see a therapist or psychiatrist, so you can address your feelings and know how to cope with them?



Editorial

Resurgence of kidnappings in rural communities

A few days ago, the Nigeria Police, Plateau State Command foiled a kidnap attempt along St Augustine College Du in Jos South Local Government Area, successfully neutralizing one of the hoodlums. The operation carried out by both the police surveillance and crack team led to the recovery of one AK4 rifle with breach number AE 353550 including eight rounds of 7.62*39mm.

THOUGH overwhelming incidences of unabated kidnappings have been happening in the country, yet the nation's security agencies have continued to strategize towards ensuring that these acts of criminality are nipped in the bud. These efforts have so far not achieved the needed results considering the magnitude of prevailing security challenges in the country.

REACTING over the incident, Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Bartholomew Onyeka while commending his men for achieving this feat, however, assured residents of adequate security as the Command had strengthened its security apparatus to fight criminality and improve peace. He however, cautioned that such success can only be sustained when and if citizens continued providing timely information to his men and other security agencies.

THIS most recent operational success is coming on the heels of several kidnappings which are manifesting in rural communities in the country and which have become sources of concern amongst stakeholders in the state. These unabated killings have also been extended to areas which hitherto enjoyed relative peace.

BEFORE now, most of our rural areas have been safe heavens for the citizenry due to the peaceful and harmonious coexistence in these places. Over the years, several factors have contributed to the issue of rural insecurity in the country. Some of the factors which have continued to aggravate this menace include unemployment, poverty and lack of access to basic services.

BUT again, the deliberate infiltration of evil minded individuals without effective and efficient monitoring mechanism has contributed to devastating developmental anticipation of the entire citizenry. The resurgence in activities of insurgents and criminally related activities may not be unconnected to the military operations in some enclaves of these insurgents which has necessitated relocating their nefarious activities to other vulnerable areas of the nation.

IN 2022 alone for instance, about 2,968 people were killed while 1,484 were abducted in Nigeria from January to March 2022, according to a data released by the Nigeria Security Tracker, (NST). According to the data, more people were killed in the North Western region than in other regions in the country.

HERE on the Plateau, many innocent citizens have been abducted and huge ransoms paid to effect the release of these victims. Sad enough, from traditional rulers, top government officials, local government executives and rural citizens, no one is safe any longer, as a result of this menace particularly in our rural communities. Unfortunately, many of these rural areas which have become vulnerable and prone to such inhumane attacks also lack some basic amenities and, or, security structures which would proactively prevent these nefarious activities from happening.

WE are of the strong opinion that since the federal and state governments have what it obviously takes to tackle the raging kidnappings in particularly rural areas, the needful must be done so as to save citizens from this menace. On the other hand, our rural communities must always be security conscious and report any suspicious persons and, or, movement to enable our security agencies be on top of situations.

I want to use this medium of **The Nigerian Standard** Newspaper to appeal to the Federal Government to implement all the agreed demands of the ASUU so as to avoid any prolong strike again in our public universities in the country. I want to also call on the federal government to take education seriously. This is because Education remains the bedrock of any given society.

The recent 8 months strike has caused more than harm to students because it is regrettable that most of these issues have been on table for many years without resolution. ASUU started going on strike as far back in as 1998 during the military regime of President Ibrahim Babangida. The solution then was to proscribe the union while most of the issues that generated the strikes remained unresolved.

There is no doubt that these recurring strikes have pushed many of our students into crimes. It is not surprising that we keep witnessing an upsurge in

crimes and insecurity in the country. Is it no wonder that we keep witnessing an increase in the level of crime in the country. Is it not enough for our students roaming the streets to join these groups of kidnappers, bandits and terrorists threatening the peace of the country?

Today, the situation is sad because an average Nigerian university

How to avoid ASUU strike

undergraduate that has no access to materials that will equip him or her for the future challenges because of constant strikes. Delayance in academics calendar also lower the standard of education. It has of course lowered our education in all ways or ramifications. It is important to note that both students and lecturers who spend a particular time fighting for their survival instead of concentrating on learning cannot gain meaningfully from this

situation.

Government should make education at all levels compulsory. Education should be made fundamental human right like other rights in our constitution. I also wish to appeal to the Federal Government through this medium to raise budgetary allocation specially for education so that we won't have to go through the strike in more years to come.

To end these recurring strikes in universities is to

stop building more public universities. governments at both federal and state levels which must stop establishing more universities when the existing ones are not properly funded.

The crises and unstable standard in our education sector requires urgent solutions and this can only be done through good governance. We always pray for a better change one day.

Haruna Joy Tsokwa
Kwararafa University
Wukari, Taraba State.

The culture of youth restiveness

POLITICAL violence is becoming a global phenomenon which many nations try to contend with within their political system. This can be in form of crises in the society particularly during elections where most politically related violence are always attributed to the teeming youths that are supposed to be the backbone of every society. Due to idleness, lack of education, unemployment, poor orientation and greed of the political class our youth are becoming vulnerable in our society.

Another factor which reinforces violence in African political system is the desperate attitude of African politicians, the desperation to win election and occupy political offices

by all means is a major cause of political violence.

In some cases, it is the contestants who in their quest for political powers organize some youths and provide arms that will be use to enforce fear during election and it is said that "when two elephants fight only the grass suffer". It is simply the youths who are at the middle of those desperate fellows aspiring that are being use against each other and even to the civilians who are peacefully exercising their rights to vote for a representative with pure intention and hoping to choose a credible candidate that will protect their interests.

During campaigns, the money and offer of some materials to the voters

have become the order of the day across African nations. It is also a factor responsible for continued spread of political violence. The level of poverty on the continent is such an intimidation where the innocent youths may be recruited for violence which is done just to survive. The politician use of huge amount of money during electoral campaigns in form of gift to the poor especially those in the rural areas just to win peoples votes is not good for the people and democracy. Who would then be on ground during election to snatch ballot boxes and cause confusion, specifically, the youths are targeted as instruments of perpetuating violence and

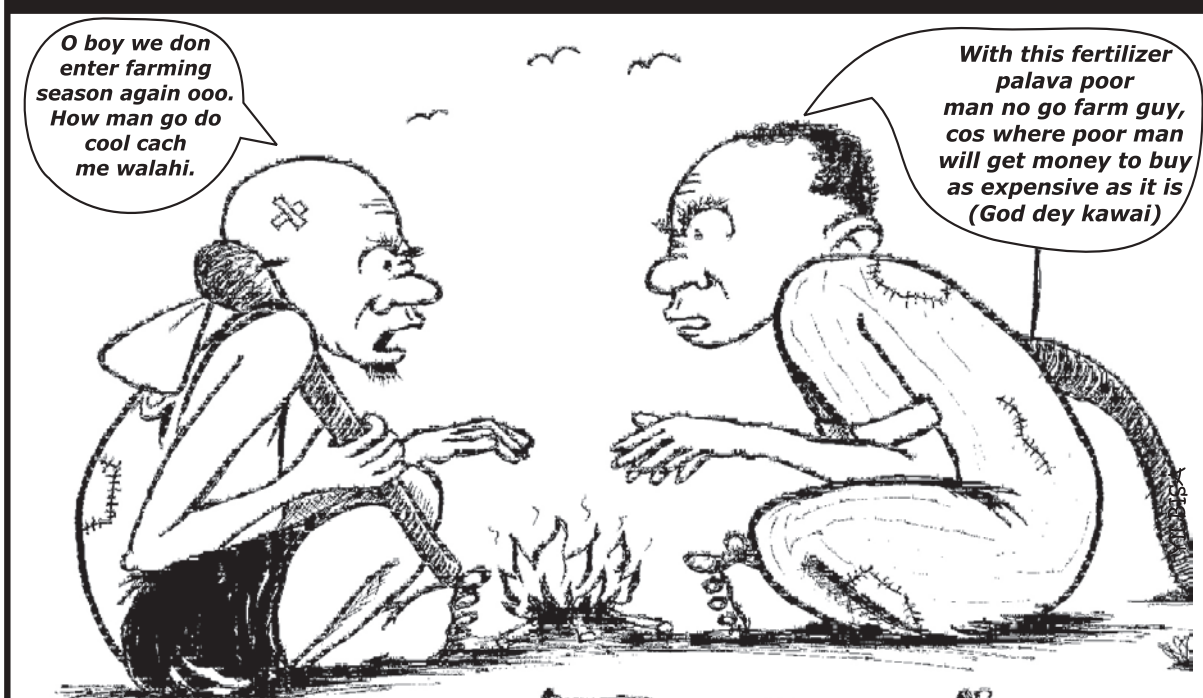
their hearts are poisoned with money and other items which can make them participate and not be concerned of the danger involved in executing such acts.

For this phenomenon to discontinue, there must be a favourable, peaceful atmosphere for citizens to participate in the country's democracy and be able to elect their representatives peacefully without any molestation. The youths should therefore be cautioned on accepting any gift from politicians or be used as violent instruments to disrupt any peaceful election process in the country.

Gloria Jared is an IT student from Kwararafa University, Wukari.



Standard Cartoon



Opinion

By **NICHOLAS IBENU**

The essence of foundational learning

EVEN before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, children globally reported poor foundational reading and maths skills. Most children in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria, also experienced this learning crisis that worsened due to prolonged school closures and other disruptions to the education system during the pandemic.

By reading this article, you are demonstrating your ability to read. By calculating how much change you need when purchasing something at the shop, you draw on your ability to do maths. Text and numbers are everywhere: on newspapers, road signs, advertisements, subtitles in movies, contractual agreements, bank statements, and emails from coworkers. Beyond foundational skills' ability to revolutionise how you navigate the world, these skills will also allow children to absorb more advanced content within the curriculum. Without this base, they fall behind and never catch up. Despite how essential reading and arithmetic are to experiencing and navigating the world, many children in Nigeria are not acquiring these skills in school.

According to The State of Global Learning Poverty 2022 update, 70 percent of 10-year-

old children in low and middle-income countries cannot read a simple text with comprehension. The situation is similarly dire in Nigeria, with many young learners unable to read, write and perform basic numeracy activities. A survey conducted in 2020 by the Nigeria Education Data Survey (NEDS) reported that only 66.8 percent of children aged 12 to 14 could read at least one of three words, and only 67.3 percent of children of the same age group could add single-digit sums.

The Ministry of Education recently reiterated that it is committed to continually adopting existing and emerging innovations that advance learning. Evidence-based approaches that will accelerate the learning of foundational skills, such as Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL), are more critical now than ever. The TaRL approach, pioneered by Pratham and evaluated and refined for over 15 years in India in collaboration with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), is an accelerated learning approach that ensures that children catch up on foundational literacy and numeracy before they complete primary school. Since 2016, TaRL Africa, has been supporting TaRL pilots and scale-ups across over ten countries in Africa. In

Nigeria, TaRL Africa has partnered with various governmental and non-governmental actors to support TaRL programmes in seven states, namely Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi, and Yobe.

TaRL zeroes in on classroom practices, enabling and motivating teachers to ensure all learners attain basic literacy and numeracy skills. Children are assessed using a simple testing tool at the classroom level and then grouped according to their learning level rather than their age or grade, creating an environment where level-appropriate content is quickly learned. For a period of the day, children in middle-upper primary focus on the learning of foundational skills using a specific accelerated learning methodology, providing children with an opportunity to catch up.

TaRL programmes in Nigeria are embedded within the government system and leverage its human and material resources to foster sustainability and to scale. In collaboration with the government and partners, programmes are designed to ensure cost-effectiveness and strengthen the capacity of government personnel from school to the state level on

foundational learning. In Kebbi state, for example, the state government has also committed its financial resources to pilot, sustain and scale up the programmes. TaRL is now being implemented in approximately 2000 schools across the seven states in Nigeria.

Personally, it is very inspiring to see the excitement on children's faces as they learn using fun and interactive activities and as they make leaps of progress from being able to identify letters only to reading words and short stories within a short period in a TaRL classroom.

To improve learning outcomes in Nigeria and ensure children gain foundational skills, we need collective leadership working together at all levels—in schools, government, and communities to drive foundational learning. Firstly, this commitment needs to be augmented with practical and concrete action and evidence-based plans that advance accelerated learning and recovery of the lost learning time due to COVID-19 school closures.

Secondly, the government must recruit, train and motivate teachers to ensure that all children, including the most

marginalized, can access quality learning. The government must support teachers with adequate tools, professional development opportunities, and ongoing mentoring support to deliver targeted instruction so that no child is left behind.

Thirdly, the language of instruction must be brought to the forefront of education policy discussions, as evidence demonstrates that teaching children in a language they use and understand at home has the potential to support the development of foundational skills.

Additionally, the government must increase access to accelerated learning interventions that have been proven to support children in catching up. The TaRL approach has been identified by the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel approach as a "good buy" on cost-effective approaches that are improving global learning. The government must assess learning levels regularly and prioritize teaching the fundamentals to enable all children to reach their full potential and participate in society.

Umoren is TaRL Africa's Nigeria Country Manager

By **Prince CHARLES DICKSON**

Nigeria, the floods and the 'never ready' culture

COLOUR TV transmission was introduced first at Benue Plateau Television, Jos, in July 1974 and in India it was introduced in 1979.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said over 1.5 million children in Nigeria are at an increased risk of waterborne diseases, drowning and malnutrition, as a result of the severe flooding in many parts of the country.

According to a statement released by the UN body, the flood, which has affected over 2.5 million adults and children in 34, out of the 36 states in the country, has displaced 1.3 million people.

Cases of diarrhoea and water-borne diseases, respiratory infection, and skin diseases were also revealed to have already been on the rise.

In the Northeastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe alone, a total of 7,485 cases of cholera and 319 associated deaths were reported as of October 12.

In other states, the Humanitarian Minister says the deluge injured more than 2,400 people and partially or completely destroyed over 200,000 homes. With 108,000 hectares of farmland damaged, the floods could also hurt Nigeria's food supply, plus 332,000 hectares of roads and infrastructure have sustained damage.

In Bayelsa, the former president's home is submerged in the floods from flooding, which has affected 27 of Nigeria's 36 states.

Did I add to the fact that in September, a dam in Cameroon, which borders Nigeria to the east, released excess water? Nigeria does not have a dam to contain the overflow, even though the two countries agreed in the 1980s that one should be built.

This is Nigeria's worst flood in over a decade, there will be a food crisis

alongside displacement and waterborne diseases.

King Charles III, aka Omo Iya Charlie, the British monarch, has described the devastating floods that have ravaged the country in recent months as deeply saddening.

In a condolence message to President Muhammadu Buhari, the British monarch said he and his wife were "deeply saddened" about the situation. He sympathised with victims, adding that his thoughts were with those working to support the recovery efforts.

Even the US has provided \$1 million in support, but our government is at a loss on the direction to take.

It's all too human to look for someone to blame after a huge natural disaster, but that doesn't help anyone — certainly not the victims, the survivors or the people, whose livelihoods were washed away by the masses of water within minutes.

I hardly approach things like these, with a know-it-all attitude: Nigeria has 200 million politicians, leaders and experts, like in football everyone seems to be a coach, everyone is a disaster relief expert.

So, interestingly I am not fixated on the floods, but on very important allied issues around the flood and nationhood. The floods are basically a result of rapid urban growth and poor planning, which makes the issue worse. After heavy rains in urban areas, the most common cause of flooding is inadequate drainage systems and equally the almighty climate change.

The President has left for South Korea, for a Bio Summit. No national address, nothing put in place. We simply "never ready."

Where are our soldiers in this humanitarian disaster? In other climes, the military would have established flood relief camps across the country, with aviation sorties flying to far-flung areas of

the country to rescue thousands of stranded people.

The Nigerian army should ordinarily be the country's most efficient and well-resourced institution, and best positioned to carry out relief work on the scale warranted by the recent disaster. Sadly this is not the case.

Generally speaking, we have no national frameworks, policies, plans, guidelines, and risk assessments, as well as well-stocked warehouses for emergencies and revised building codes specially formulated for disaster preparedness and resilience. When we find one, they are merely limited to paper.

In a practical sense, the country has never taken disaster management as a serious matter. There is hardly any work done on improving the institutions that work on disaster management.

A nation divided by the forthcoming elections along ethnic, religious and all sorts of fault lines has no participatory approach to disaster management. With a very diverse landscape, which requires different planning in different regions. Therefore, along with investing and focusing on research and policies, disaster-resilient infrastructure is an important aspect to minimise risks for the future."

The truth is that communities generally did not respond to the little emergency warning issued by government officials. Flood warnings were taken lightly and no effort was made to vacate the houses/villages/communities etc. People were found stranded and engulfed in flood water in pockets, waiting for the government's help.

Organisational efforts at area level by the public themselves were not visible. Any emergency response mechanism at

area level did not exist at all. Inhabitants were not found cooperative with regard to security measures and capacity of boats.

Disciplined organisation of rescue operations and control of the public has not occurred, and this is not far-fetched because Disaster Management, which ordinarily should involve cooperative work among multiple organisations from multiple sectors, remains poor. There is an absence of a cohesive network.

The Nigerian army is currently not carrying out any major operations in the flooded areas beyond pedestrian relief materials being shared was a main source of concern for the rescue teams.

Even when the floods recede, there will be no comprehensive review of the National Disaster Management Policy, whether in terms of strengthening it and providing complete clarity on mandates, roles and responsibilities. There will be nothing like a strategic planning network on flood response established immediately to meet periodically (preferably quarterly in 'peace' time) to prepare for a cohesive response.

We are never ready, Colour TV transmission was introduced first at Benue Plateau Television, Jos, in July 1974 and in India, it was introduced in 1979. Decades after, we have not moved forward, we have seen growth, but there is no development, and our priorities are not set right in any form, another few years from now, we will be discussing another flood, and same reasons would apply, are we ready, would our culture allow for planning for the future, and would there ever be sound emergency preparedness construct — Only time will tell.

Change of Name					
<p>JOYCE</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOYCE DAVID ABUJAH, MRS JOYCE HASSAN MOMODU, now wish to be known and addressed as JOYCE ABUJAH RUBY All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUHAMMAD</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANIRU FATIMA, now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD FATIMA SALUHU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take</p>	<p>ADUKUMBEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANJUMA ARANDI SAMUEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ADUKUMBEN ALFRED ATAZA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>AKARANBANA</p> <p>I, formerly known as AKARANBANA CHRISTIANA ANIKA, now wish to be known and addressed as AKARANBANA CHRISTIANA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>OGUGUO</p> <p>I, formerly known as OGUGO IMMACULATE IFEOMA. now wish to be known and addressed as OGUGUO IMMACULATE IFEOMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>JULIET</p> <p>I, formerly known as IBRAHIM JULIANA DANIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as JULIET IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>NANCY</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANCY SUNDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as NANCY BARJE All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ANITA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ANITA BUBA, now wish to be known and addressed as, ANITA LUKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DOJI</p> <p>I, formerly known as DOJI PRECIOUS, now wish to be known and addressed as DOJI PRECIOUS RITSE. Correct date of birth is 09/06/2004. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>UMAR</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZULKI FULU, now wish to be known and addressed as UMAR ZULKIFULU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CATHERINE</p> <p>I, formerly known as CATHERINE YILBIAL, now wish to be known and addressed as CATHERINE YILBIAL RAPLONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>VOUJUNG</p> <p>I, formerly known as VOUJUNG ALFRED WANG, now wish to be known and addressed as VOUJUNG ALFRED PATRICK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>OGWU</p> <p>I, formerly known as OGWU REGINA, now wish to be known and addressed as OGWU REGINA OCHE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUSA REGINA KENANG DAVOU, now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA REGINA KANENG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DAMJOL</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANLAMI SINTIKI NDER, now wish to be known and addressed as DAMJOL SINTIKI DANLAMI. Correct date of birth is 30/06/1980 not 30/05/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>EKWUEME</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMES MILLICENT IFEOMA, ODO MILLICENT IFEOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as EKWUEME MILLICENT IFEOMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MRS. TAPGUN</p> <p>I, formerly known as GOEWAM ANGELA NICHOLAS, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS TAPGUN ANGELA GOEWAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ZHIKPAR</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZHIKPAR L. NANPON, now wish to be known and addressed as ZHIKPAR LOHVEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>RWAMKO</p> <p>I, formerly known as RWAMKO POMSAK, now wish to be known and addressed as RWAMKO PONSAK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KEDEM</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAKUM COURAGE SHEDRACH now wish to be known and addressed KEDEM COURAGE SHEDRACH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KEDEM</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAKUM BRIGHT SHEDRACH, now wish to be known and addressed as KEDEM BRIGHT SHEDRACH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YAHANNASU</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAHANNASU ALIYU SULEIMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as YAHANNASU ALIYU DALUK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AWOJOH</p> <p>I, formerly known as OJO MICHAEL ABASHE, now wish to be known and addressed as AWOJOH MICHAEL ABASHE. Correct date of birth is 26/10/1988 not 10/05/1984 and 26/10/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUTVURUK</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANKYER DONALD, now wish to be known and addressed as MUTVURUK NANKYER DONALD. All former documents remain valid. Jos East LGEA and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>SHEHU</p> <p>I, formerly known as SHEHU MOHAMMED KABANG, now wish to be known and addressed as SHEHU MUHAMMED MUTBA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JAMES</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMES STEPHINE, now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES STEPHINE NENMILIKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>WILLIAMS</p> <p>I, formerly known as GYANG KANGYANG CHOLLOM now wish to be known and addressed as WILLIAMS KANGYANG STEPHEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EMMANUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as MANFAN. JESSY, now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL JESSY MARTIN. Correct date of birth is 07/08/2001 NOT 07/08/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ASABE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ASABE LONGVANG, now wish to be known and addressed as ASABE LOHVANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KWAKSE</p> <p>I, formerly known as DINDAM SELPON now wish to be known and addressed as KWAKSE SELPON. Correct date of birth is 10/02/2000 NOT 09/06/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>LOHZING</p> <p>I, formerly known as LOHZING SARAH BALI now wish to be known and addressed as LOHZING SARAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as SUNDAY AYEGBA, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY C. SALEH. Correct date of birth is 27/08/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AZIH</p> <p>I, formerly known as AZIH GLADYS IKE, now wish to be known and addressed as AZIH GLADZYS. Correct date of birth is 02/11/1956 NOT 10/02/1956. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ITSE</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMSON EMMANUEL AJIK, now wish to be known and addressed as ITSE EMMANUEL AJIK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>USMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI USMAN FAHAD, now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN FAHAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ADANU</p> <p>I, formerly known as LOVINA DAVID, now wish to be known and addressed as ADANU LOVINA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>ELISHA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ELIJAH HANNATU KOSINI, now wish to be known and addressed as ELISHA HANNATU KOSINI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AHMAD</p> <p>I, formerly known as AHMED MUHAMMED AHMED, now wish to be known and addressed as AHMAD MOHAMMAD AHMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KURE</p> <p>I, ADAMU KURE, that my date of birth was wrongly captured in my BVN as 01/05/1980 instead of 01/05/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GOGOL</p> <p>I, formerly known as GOGOL BLESSING, now wish to be known and addressed as GOGOL BLESSING CHAMDANG. Correct date of birth is 28/11/2000 not 05/08/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LAR</p> <p>The General public is hereby notified that JUMAI BAHAGO is the same person as MRS. CATHERINE BENSON LAR. All former documents remain valid. Unity Bank, other concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IZANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as AGWON JOHN IZANG, now wish to be known and addressed as IZANG JOHN AGWON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DELE</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALLE SARDAUNA PONFA, now wish to be known and addressed as DELE PONFA SARDAUNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SARAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as KAFFOI SARAH DAZE, now wish to be known and addressed as SARAH DAZE AGUIGWO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NAANDI</p> <p>I, formerly known as NAANDI SHINPLANGNAAN LANYANG, now wish to be known and addressed NAANDI MARTINA GODIYA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ORINYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ORINYA GIFT OTOKPA, now wish to be known and addressed as ORINYA GIFT ZHATTAU. Correct date of birth is 20/01/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MRS BAMISILE</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS OGHENE JUANITA E., now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. BAMISILE JUANITA E. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SAMAILA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISMAIL ABDULRAHMAN MADUGU, now wish to be known and addressed as SAMAILA ABDULRAHMAN MADUGU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>JOHN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ANTHONY JUMMAI AKPAGBUL, now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN JUMMAI AKPAGBUL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MRS. HANNAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS HANNAH DAMILOLA ADENIKINJU, now wish to be known and addressed MRS. HANNAH DAMILOLA ADENIKINJU-OREBIYI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YOP</p> <p>I, formerly known as YOP CHUNGWOM SUNDAY DAKWAK, now wish to be known and addressed YOP CHUNGWOM SUNDAY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AUSTINE-OKEKE</p> <p>I, formerly known as OKEKE SAMUEL, now wish to be known and addressed AUSTINE-OKEKE SAMUEL IKECHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.+</p>	<p>AGU</p> <p>I, formerly known as AGU MATHEW CHUKWUEBUKAL, now wish to be known and addressed AGU MATTHEW CHUKWUEBUKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ISMA’IL</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISMAIL AISHA OTARU, now wish to be known and addressed ISMA’IL AISHA YAHAYA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MRS. FIDELIS</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS. YOHANNA MAGRET AJIJIKO, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. FIDELIS MAGRET BONGTIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>WALWAI</p> <p>I, formerly known as TIMOTHY NAANWOL WALWAI, now wish to be known and addressed as WALWAI VICTOR NAANWOL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LONGPIYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as LONGPIYA KAMSEN JOSEPH, now wish to be known and addressed as LONGPIYA JOSEPH KAMSEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHARLES</p> <p>I, formerly known as ENGR. EHIMWEN CHARLES USIGBE, now wish to be known and addressed USIGBE CHARLES. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHIMAObi</p> <p>I, formerly known as DYELPAM YEMU BABALE, now wish to be known and addressed CHIMAObi YEMU BABALE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MERCY</p> <p>I, formerly known as BULUS MERCY WALI, now wish to be known and addressed MERCY AMORO DABARA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

News

Jos North executive arm celebrates chairman

EXECUTIVE Arm of Jos North Local Government Council has rejoiced with the Chairman of Jos North Local Government Shehu Bala Usman as he marked his Birthday Anniversary Sunday 16th October, 2022.

Secretary of the Council, Pastor Samuel Gyang Chollom who conveyed the birthday greetings to the Chairman on behalf of his colleagues, described Shehu Bala Usman as a unifier, a peacemaker, a season administrator and a compassionate leader whose vision has impacted positively to the growth and development of the Local Government and the State at large.

The Council Secretary noted that the foresight of the Council Chairman in improving the lot of the citizens which has brought stability in governance and peaceful coexistence among the inhabitants of the area. Pastor Samuel Gyang Chollom paid glowing tributes to the virtues and steadfastness of the chairman in inculcating the spirit of inclusiveness,



Usman

where respect for the Traditional Institution, culture, ethnic, religious and tradition of people of the locality are richly observed irrespective of their affiliation in governance.

He commended the

Chairman for his magnanimity in carrying people along in the administration of the Council and prayed God to continue to give him more wisdom and strength as he mark this auspicious occasion.

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Riyom Local Government Council, Mafeng Gwallson has appealed to the Federal Government to repair bad portions of the Ganawuri - Manchok highway to ease the hardship being experienced by motorists and commuters plying the road.

The Council Chairman made the appeal during an assessment visit to the dilapidated Federal Road.

Mafeng Gwallson expressed worry over the hardship motorists are being subjected to on the road and declared that the Local Government would not fold its arms until the road gets the needed attention from the Government.

The Council Chief Security also appealed to motorists and commuters plying the road, particularly those living around Ganawuri - Manchok to be patient noting that the inspection was to ascertain the level of damage on the road with a view to report to the Federal Emergency Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to fashion out the best way toward its reconstruction.

Polinus Igbokwe from

Mafeng appeals to FG on Ganawuri-Manchok road



Gwallson

Kafanchan and Aliu Adamu from Ganawuri both commercial drivers lamented about the bad condition of the road which according to them is having an adverse effect on the users noting that a lot needed to be done to repair it to reduce their hardships.

They also appreciated the

Council Chairman Mafeng Gwallson for taken his time to inspect the dilapidated road.

The Ganawuri - Manchok highway has dilapidated to the extent that the commercial buses that used to ply the road, have had to abandon it for alternative access roads.

Bokkos LGC stakeholders converge for critical interface

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Bokkos Local Government Council, Hon. Joseph Guluwa has warned terrorists who are bent in wreaking havoc in the locality to vacate the area as the long arm of the law will soon catch up with them.

Guluwa said perpetrators

of the heinous crime against the peaceful people of Kulia's Mabel will not go unpunished as the security are making frantic efforts to bring them to justice.

The Chairman stated this at the requiem mass for the victims who were gruesomely murdered on Saturday 8th October,

2022.

Hon. Guluwa appealed for calm as security agencies will leave no stone unturned to unravel the perpetrators of this dastardly act to face the full wrath of the law.

He thanked Governor Simon Bako Lalong for approving the massive



deployment of security agencies to flush out criminal and terrorists out of Bokkos LGA.

The Chairman expressed satisfaction with the

assurances of the Plateau State Commissioner of Police and the General Officer Commanding Third Armoured Division of the Nigerian Army to beef up the security architecture in Bokkos order to secure lives and property of citizens.

"The People of Bokkos are peaceful and accommodating to all and sundry, but will not tolerate any act of criminality and banditry, Guluwa said.

"Am therefore using this medium to warn those who do not want to live in peace in Bokkos LGA to vacate immediately" the Chairman remarked.

He further called on all stakeholders to avail themselves on Thursday this week for the interface where far-reaching resolutions are expected to be taken to impact the security of the area.

Police Urges Nigerians to disregard recruitment information

THE Nigeria Police Force wishes to inform well-meaning members of the public that it has not commenced the 2022 Police Constables recruitment into the Nigeria Police Force contrary to a publication on Page 21 of Daily Sun Newspaper of Thursday August 11, 2022 by the Police Service Commission (PSC).

The Police similarly states unequivocally that the

advert has no connection with the Nigeria Police Force nor is it in tandem with the Police recruitment process, and should be disregarded in all its entirety. The website to which the publication refers intending candidates <http://www.recruitment.psc.gov.ng> - is not associated with the Nigeria Police Force.

The Nigeria Police Force hereby calls on all stakeholders and intending

applicants to discountenance the information in both the newspaper and on the portal as the website is not the official portal for Police Constables recruitment. The Nigeria Police Force thereby assures well-meaning Nigerians that the commencement of the 2022 recruitment exercise

will be announced via the official police e-recruitment website -

<https://police.recruitment.gov.ng>, the Nigeria Police Force official website - <https://www.npf.gov.ng>, and advertisements on national dailies and official police social media accounts as and when due.

Usman condoles Barr. Zaruma over sister's death

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government Council, Shehu Bala Usman has sympathized with the All-Progressives Congress APC, Secretary of the locality, Paul Zaruma over the demise of his Younger Sister Late Mary John Zaruma after a prolonged illness at Our Lady of Apostle Hospital in Jos.

The Chairman

described Late Mary Zaruma as a humble, kind-hearted woman who is dedicated to the growth and upliftment of her family and the society.

The Chairman in his condolence message to the Zaruma family, said he shared in their moment of grief, stressing that what affects the family invariably affects the

Local government Council in its entirety.

Shehu Bala Usman who conveyed his condolences on behalf of his Deputy, Leader and Members of the Legislative and Executive Arms, and political Associates, noted that though death is the necessary end to all mortals, he prayed God to comfort the family and grant Late Mary John Zaruma eternal rest.



Alkali

PROBATE NOTICE

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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Hezekiah Blessing Ladi late of Plateau State died on the 26 October 2020 at Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Hezekiah Yohanna Vwamse of No. 107 Mangha Street Nyango Gyel, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Esla Christiana late of Plateau State died on the 7th January 2022 at PSSH, Jos.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Monday Ayuba Awuka of Behind COCIN Church Nanmwa Abattoir Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Stephen Sati Gonap late of Plateau State died on the 10th July 2021 at Mangu LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Katshime Stephen Sati & Putkat Stephen Sati of Rong Villaage Kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Ibrahim Adams late of Plateau State died on the 6th May 2022 at Lokoja.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Ibrahim Momoh Rabi No. 24 Corrects Harmlet State Lowcost Jos. Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Ajiji Yakubu Azi late of Plateau State died on the 22nd May 2015 at Gombe State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Ruth Adija Yakubu of Angwan Paul Gindiri Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Abia Alexander Mbah late of Plateau State died on the 2nd June 2022 at Nenwe Animi LGA, Enugu State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Salome Chinyere Mbah of State Lowcost Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Esther Monday Choji late of Plateau State died on the 18th June 2022 at Anguldi Zawan, Jos South LGA Plateau	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Damack Choji Danbwarang of COCIN Church Anguldi Zawan Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Kwede Umaru Rafan late of Plateau State died on the 6th August 2022 at Tendin, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Maryamu Umaru of Tendin Village Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Monicah Diyock Godfrey late of Plateau State died on the 30th August 2021 at Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Nanret Diyock Godfrey of COCIN LCC Zarmaganda Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Gwomna Osaro Catherine late of Plateau State died on the 3rd July 2020 at Gindiri Road Mangu LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Esthon Emmanuel Timothy of No. 11 Gindiri Road Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Doka Adamu late of Plateau State died on the 20th August 2022 at Tal Balong, Pankshin LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Adamu Abdulhadi Gwimpup of Tal-Balong Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON LCPL Bulus Stephen late of Plateau State died on the 23rd September 2022 at Kachia, Kaduna State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Nelson Ishaku Stephen & Bulus Esther Stephen of close to Ecwa Church Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Peter Waziri Sanda late of Kaduna State died on the 6th July 2022 at Kaduna State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Tanimu Waziri Sanda of F.R.S.C. Jos Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON John Nendangtok late of Plateau State died on the 7th June, 2020 at Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Wudelwe John Nendangtok of D.B. Zang Junction Gyel Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Peter Pam Patrick late of Plateau State died on the 19 October 2016 at NAF. Hospital Jos Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Patrick Pam & Peter Weng Isaac of Zawan Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful father/grand son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Kurnap Boniface Rindap late of Plateau State died on the 12th November 2021 at PHC Langtang South LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Kurnap Nanmwa Philemon of Sabon Gida Langtang South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Arings Waje Peter Malan late of Plateau State died on the 15th July 2022 at Bauchi State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Arings Unajin Malan & Biliu Reinhard Arings of Angwan Daba, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Usman Isa late of Plateau State died on the 26th August 2022 at Kurgwi Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Awalu Isa Usman of No. 10/15 Bauchi road Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Wube Iwa Daniel late of Plateau State died on the 13th September 2021 at COCIN Hospital Panyam, Mangu LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Daniel Wukatda of Kabwair Kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Daniel Ayuba Dimka late of Plateau State died on the 14th June 2022 at General Hospital Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Amen Dimka Daniel of Kurgwi Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Gwom Denis (also known as) Denis Niangtel Guwom late of Plateau State died on the 3rd July 2022 at Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Guwom Richard Denis of Trade Centre Kuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Hangle Wetnan Litkang late of Plateau State died on the 1st April 2022 at Mangu, Mangu LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Kyendak Hangle Wetnan & Elizabeth John Hangle. All of Bwarak, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sister/daughter of the said	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Fantoek Longleng late of Plateau State died on the 25th November 2021 at Cottage Hospital Kwalla Qua'an-Pan LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Longleng Wusnaanlasoesan Fantoek of Nakum-Bwall, Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Bibiana Kwailong Maigida late of Plateau State died on the 14th March 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Hoomlong Maigida & Francis Anlong of Rantya Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful brothers of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Simon Harry Barsha late of Abuja died on the 13th April, 2022 at Abuja.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Hannatu Harry & Harry Kinanyi Shedrck of 22 Roadflat 16 Kado Estate FCT Abuja. Lawful widow/sonof the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Bello Bako late of Plateau State died on the 17th August 2022 at General Hospital Langtang North LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Bello Danjuma Venfa of Pilgani Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Joshua Luka late of Plateau State died on the 21st December 2019 at Ajikamai, Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Vinam Joshua Luka of COCIN LCC Ajikamai Shendam LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Audu Danjuma late of Niger State died on the 4th May 2022 at Cottage Hospital Bokkos LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Maryom Blessing Danjuma of C/o ECWA Bishara I Bokkos LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Sgt Ismail Sule late of Plateau State. Died on the 10th January, 2021. at Maiduguri, Borno State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Maimunat Abdulazeez Sule of Rukuba Barrack D. 82 Flat 7. Jos-North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Salisu Baba Abdullahi late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th August, 2018, at Kurgwi, Qua'Pan LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Sirajo Yusuf of No. Kurgwi Quan'Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Yunusa Hassan also known as Hassan Maigida late of Kogi State. Died on the 3rd July, 2022 at Imane Olamaboro, Kogi State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Nasiru Hassan Yunusa of No.12 Giginya Road Costain Quarters, Kaduna State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Inspr. Adole Jonah late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th Dec., 2021, at Kogi State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Mary Ojoma Jonah of St. Moses Catholic Church, Tudun Wada, Jos-North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Adamu Phoebe Zainab late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th July, 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Shallom Adamu and Abdullahi Alhassan of Guratopp Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Rahila Abaps late of Plateau State. Died on the 23rd June, 2022, at OLA Hosp. Jos-North LGA Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Yakubu Dewi Madugu of No.13A Alheri Zaria Road Jos-North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Engr. Emoka Chibuike Jonathan late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th April, 2021, at Awka Anambra State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Nkiru Frances Emoka and Kingsley Chijioke Emoka of GLO Head Quarters Abuja F.C.T. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Sunday Mohammed late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th August, 2022 at Gura Reyom Gyel Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT follami Samuel Sunday of Opposite Du Jos-South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
NAME OF DECEASED PERSON David Gokum Ranson late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st Oct., 2021., at PSSH. Jos.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Joy Pius Wakdung of St. Peter Catholic Church Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.	<p style="text-align: center;">Signed (LADI A. MADAKI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</p>		NAME OF DECEASED PERSON Abdullahi Muhammad Abdullahi late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th Oct. 2022. At JUTH, Plateau State.	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT Izzatu Lawan Baba Otu and Kabiru Muhammad Abdullahi of M7 Baban Anya Street Jos-North LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow/Brother of the said



By YVONNE ISHOLA

ONE of the commonest problems in most families is siblings rivalry. It manifests in a variety of ways. In the formative years, parents often overlook or laugh off their children's expressions of jealousy. A friend once shared how her eldest son was caught in the act of giving his 1 one week old younger sibling some swipes of cane. In this case, it was 3 broomsticks. The baby's high pitched cry was what alerted the mother.

It could have been worst. When asked why he hated his brother so, the 2-year-old said since the mother brought back her baby from the hospital, she had given him little or no attention.

The above example may sound hilarious but could lead to serious issues when not addressed the best way. If not now, in the future.

Parents preference of a child over the other or others has served to bring out the worst in the rejected or unloved child. The worst-case scenario is when it breeds enmity between siblings. A good example is the biblical story of Jacob and Esau,

Parents require wisdom in handling home front

Isaac's famous twins. In their case, the father preferred Esau (because he was an outdoor man and often brought him the game). The mother on the other hand preferred Jacob for the simple fact that he was an indoor man. With the help of his mother, Jacob stole his brother's blessings from their father. That was the last straw on the camel's back. The battle line was drawn.

Esau began seeking revenge. That began a long feud. These twins became sworn enemies who continued fighting all through the pages of the Bible.

The above parents fuelled their children's fight then sat by and watched as they tore each other to pieces. At this point in time, there was nothing they could do to correct their interference with God's plans. It was just God's faithfulness that prevailed.

A middle-aged man was lamenting recently that his mother has labelled him the black sheep of the family. Any time anything goes wrong in the family especially with his siblings, she blames it on him. She claims he has run down the family business. This has turned his siblings against him. She warned his elder brother from associating with him if he didn't want to be a drunk. The irony is that he learnt to drink alcoholic drinks through his brother. The man is so bitter and says he misses his dad who is late.

She claims he has run down the family business. This has turned his siblings against him. She warned his elder brother from associating with him if he didn't want to be a drunk. The irony is that he learnt to drink alcoholic drinks through his brother. The man is so bitter and says he misses his dad who is late.

On a lighter note. A man visited a

house and asked for the eldest. One of the family members asked if he was looking for the most respected because of his wealth. Or the eldest in age.

The above anecdote is the reality in most families where parents will dethrone the eldest because he is financially poor and has no social standing. At meetings, his voice will not carry weight because everyone will always agree with the one who has financial backing. His decision is final. In no time, the eldest would begin to feel unloved and disrespected. This can easily breed disaffection between the eldest and the rich and favourite son.

An embittered lady once disclosed how she was made by her mother to prepare peppered meat for her married younger sister. She did it joyfully. Only for her mother to begin ordering her around to serve her younger sister while her sister was treated like royalty. All because she is married to a wealthy man. At the end of the day, she cleaned up after her younger sister and ended up eating the wings out of the whole chicken



she prepared.

In some families, it is the brilliant children that are given preferential treatment. Gifted children are disregarded or treated as dull. This has killed the passion of some gifted children. One of the major reasons why it is said the grave is the richest place on earth because of the many people that die without putting their talents to constructive uses.

Parents have become so materialistic that it is he who pays the piper that dictates the tune. They have thrown morality to the winds and careless whose horse is gored as they look out for their interest.

The word of God says 'wisdom is profitable to direct'. Every parent needs wisdom in handling the home front and the children or we would end up bringing up enemies instead of brothers and sisters.

"Parents have become so materialistic that it is he who pays the piper that dictates the tune. They have thrown morality to the winds and careless whose horse is gored as they look out for their interest."



By HOSEA NYAMLONG

CRUDE oil theft has grown into a huge monster, threatening the Nigerian economy day by day.

The illegal activities of oil bunkering assumed a new dimension with the advent of agitation for resource control by the Niger Delta militants in the region.

Primarily, the agitation was for the demand for social amenities, infrastructure and increase in derivation fund from the Federal Government.

However, when the Federal Government is not able to meet up with all demands, some youths in their communities took up

arms against the government and engaged in criminal activities, such as hostage taking, destruction of oil facilities, oil theft, sea piracy and oil bunkering.

Nigeria lost \$3.2 billion in crude oil theft between January 2021 and February 2022, according to the statistics presented at a recent meeting held in Abuja between the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Oil Producers, Trade Union, and the Independent Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG) to discuss crude oil theft.

Similarly, the number of illegal refineries coming up every day is worrisome, because such nefarious activities have destroyed many farmlands, aquatic life and severe pollution.

The life expectancy of citizens within these region have being compromised, leading to lower life expectancy due to the criminal activities of oil

bunkers.

In April this year many lives were lost as a result of illegal oil theft in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area in Imo state where over 110 people died via a fire explosion in the creeks. Majority of the victims were youths

On 8th August, the Nigerian Navy was reported to have investigated the activities of a water vessel, MT Heroic Idun, owned by Hunters Tankers as domiciled in Norway, which was sighted in Akpo oil field in Rivers state suspected to have entered the field without authorisation and with the intent to illegally lift crude oil.

The captain was said to have been uncooperative and fled from the area. The vessel was eventually apprehended by the authorities in Equatorial Guinea, working with the Nigerian Navy. According to the Nigerian Navy, the vessel had not commenced lifting oil from the field

before it was apprehended.

The Federal Government in a bid to sustain receipt of oil rent had rid the Niger Delta of these criminal activities by deploying military troops to the region to arrest the criminals.

Oil theft is usually carried out by oil experts not by the common citizens. Notwithstanding, the havoc of such activity is heavily causing the national economy a fortune if not checked; the country is brought down to its knees. The situation portends danger for the country's social-economic losses development.

Today, Nigerias economy largely depends on crude oil earnings, which need to be protected from all quarters in the country.

It has been alluded that all these problems associated with oil theft in the country is as a result of lack of functional refineries in the country that would process the crude oil.

Currently, Oil bunkering

is becoming a lucrative business that the locals from the oil producing states would want to take part and get rich quick in no distant time has taken the minds of youths away from meaningful businesses.

Many stakeholders had raised the alarm on the massive losses being incurred on a daily basis and the danger of such on future investments in the industry.

As a matter of urgency government needs to commence the full implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act bill, in relation to the operational gazette between the hosts communities and oil companies in order to give them a reasonable percentage, instead of the current 3% derivatation.

Again, government should collaborate with the oil companies to provide social amenities to the communities of the Niger Delta, by giving soft

loans to small scale business owners to keep the economy viable in the region

It is reasonable for Niger Delta indigens to own the process of protecting the oil facilities in their communities with a robust synergy, with the regulators, Ministry OF petroleum resources including and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC).

Despite these measures by the Federal Government, observers are not confident in the ability of the Nigerian government to effectively block these huge leakages caused by few individuals. The moribund state of refineries and the activities of illegal oil bunkering refineries and crude oil theft has plagued the oil sector for so long without much efforts to stop the menace.

It seems that the effects is biting hard now more than ever, at a time when a significant portion of the country's revenue is going into debt servicing and petrol subsidy, with no solution in sight.

Protect our crude oil

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

NICODEMUS Samson Beska, is a Police Officer and Founder of Mulapnen Capacity Building Initiative (MUCABI), a Non-profit Organisation that is committed to the advancement of justice, peace and security through education in prisons.

Mulapnen Capacity Building Initiative (MUCABI) was established in 2014 as a nonprofit organisation that is committed to the promotion and advancement of justice, peace and security through education and leadership development. MUCABI is registered with the Nigeria Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) with the vision for the promotion of peace. Irrespective of tradition, tribe and religious affiliations.

Its mission is to provide essential security, educational services, community awareness and training in order to increase knowledge and understanding of the root causes of mass atrocities and to provide strategies for peaceful co-existence of communities in Nigeria.

MUCABI is a member of Cooperation Circle (CC) of the United Religious Initiative (URI)-an international grassroots interfaith peace building Network and the initiator of Association of Trained Prosecutors and Investigators of Nigeria (ATPIN), with the mandate of building bridges of friendship and cross fertilization of ideas for effective justice delivery.

As a promising young Nigerian and Police officer, he has the zeal to protect lives and property coupled with the desire to promote a society free of atrocities and drug abuse. And in looking for solution for these challenges in the society, this nonprofit organization is creating greater awareness for all with a school-to-school campaign which started in 2014. This was triggered by a number of young people arrested for different offenses spotted in Police custody.

His resolve therefore is to help young people starting with the school-to-school campaign

programme tagged: "Keep A Good Name Interaction". The campaign focused on the danger of criminality and drug abuse.

Such calumniated in visitation to quite a number of schools in Jos-South and North Local Government Areas with the message and coupled with the need for more outreach programmes which led to the establishment of MUCABI. Today, the ultimate mandate is

evidence-based investigation and prosecution and human rights. Others are geared towards offering training in leadership and governance because leadership plays an important role in the society as well as in other community organizations.

The MUCABI Leadership and Governance Programme help individuals to develop skills and to be effective leaders that would promote growth and development



MUCABI: NGO promoting justice and peace for prison inmates



MUCABI Advocacy visit

that of promoting peace, justice and security through education and leadership development in Nigeria.

Another area of focus is peace building, social justice, and security. This is done by building the capacity of stakeholders, consisting of young people and women in areas that would promote peace, justice and security in Nigeria. MUCABI offers both online and offline training and public lecture in a bid to strengthen the criminal justice system in Nigeria.

The focus is also to facilitate negotiation and mediation skills,

awaiting conviction constitute over 70 percent of total prison inmates. While currently has 75,589 prisoners out of which 24,450 are convicted while 51,139 of them are awaiting trial. The figure includes 1,509 women currently in detention.

MUCABI has continued to conduct its advocacy outreach particularly to the nooks and crannies of the state with the support of good spirited individuals as well as religious bodies.

Recently, MUCABI was named among the best crime preventive initiative in Nigeria-2022 by Acquisitions International under its nonprofit organization 2022 edition award for good service to humanity.

The organisation has also within its limited resources initiated service to humanity based on the philosophy, "do not despise your little beginning with such in mind they have continued to keep doing what is right for the good



Training programme

and better communication in the society.

MUCABI, also offers Justice, Security & Peace Education through organised Lectures focusing on sharing knowledge on global issues to improve the relationship of the law enforcement agencies and the general public for better understanding that would improve and secure lives and property. Its life sustainability programme seeks to strengthen community rehabilitation and reintegration of incarcerated individuals through three major components: such as, advocacy to shape decisions and policies in the areas of rehabilitation and reintegration of incarcerated individuals such as lobbying for a bill to establish an inmate trust fund, Provision of psychosocial support to inmates within the correctional centers and

ex-convicts at the point of release and Provision of in-prison inmates' development training and materials. These and other components are general toward implementation.

MUCABI technical project is intended to attract financial and support from local and international donors in future, considering the current statistics about Nigeria's criminal justice system, which calls for support of such projects to prevent prisoners ending up returning to prisons within five years of their release because of how the system works.

According to MUCABI more than 50 percent of Nigerians awaiting trial are inmates under the age of 30. A group known as the Network of Universal Legal Aid Institutions disclosed that, in Nigerian correctional centers, inmates

of society.

The organization is run by Nicodemus Samson Beska, a holder of M.Sc degree in Peace studies and conflict resolution from the National Open University of Nigeria. An Associate Member of the Nigeria Institute of Management and a member of Trained Prosecutors and Investigators of Nigeria.

He is also a Nigeria Police Officer, a trainer, a facilitator, a mediator and a social justice advocate as well as a trained paralegal, counselor and investigator who had also served in the Chief Magistrate Court, Bukuru, and Abattoir all in Jos.

As a researcher with a special interest in Criminal Justice System, Beska has bagged an award of excellence by the International Youth Parliament Ambassadors in 2019.



Beska

LALONG PRESIDES OVER OCTOBER EXCO MEETING

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors’ Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, (CON) last week presided over the State Executive Council (EXCO) meeting at its Chambers, new Government House Rayfield, Jos



Governor Lalong (CON) presiding over the EXCO meeting



Cross section of members of the State Executive Council before the meeting



Commissioner for Education (Secondary) Hon. Elizabeth Wapmuk going through some memos during the meeting



Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden (left) being greeted by Hon. Gyang Musa Dung, Commissioner, Special Duties and Commissioner for Works, Hon. Victor Lapang

LALONG CHAIRS ANNUAL HARVEST AND THANKSGIVING

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors’ Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) Chaired the 2022 Annual Harvest and Thanksgiving of St. Monica Catholic Church Rantya, Jos, represented by the State Secretary to Government, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu



Prof. Danladi Abok Atu (SGS) who stood in for the Governor during a prayer session



Parish Priest of St. Monica Catholic Church, Rev. Fr. Fred Wukari offering prayers at the Mass



Reverend Sisters and other Parishioners during the 2022 Annual Harvest and thanksgiving



Sir Joseph Ari and Lady Victoria Ari at the Annual Harvest and Thanksgiving

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Odd World

'My kids don't wear shoes, don't judge me'

WHEN it comes to raising her two children, Alex Tucker is the first to admit her techniques are far from conventional. The 25-year-old and her boyfriend Paul have been criticised for many of their decisions about bringing up Berkley, two, and Freya, one.

The couple don't use prams or high chairs, and won't let the two children wear shoes. They've also decided not to teach them how to swim, even though they live by the water.

However, the couple claim their controversial choices fit in with their rural lives and urge people not to judge their lifestyle.

Alex's children don't go to day-care and she instead takes them to work with her. Sometimes the couple even sack off going to work to look after the little ones.

The rural mum refuses to teach her children to swim, despite living on the waterfront, and they both roam around their land barefoot.

Alex shared her rules online, and has since received plenty of criticism from other parents, with one commenting that social services should be called.

Despite the backlash, she's defended her position by claiming shoes distort feet shape and prams and high chairs are not essential to their way of living.

Defending her choice not to give them swimming lessons, she said they would encourage her water-fearful kids to get into dangerous water to swim.

Alex, who works in the fishing industry with her boyfriend Paul, and lives on the Hawkesbury river in New South Wales, said: "I'm not bothered by people who don't agree with my 'controversial' rules. Mothers are criticised no matter what they do, and especially online.

"I'm opening the conversation for everyone to start thinking outside the box before straight up criticising someone's parenting when they don't know how different someone's lifestyle can be. I'm not preaching 'my ways' - this isn't a 'how to' manual. This is what works for our family."

They spend a lot of time on the water - but neither of the children can swim

Mum goes on pricey tropical holiday alone to teach her kids 'vital lesson'

Passenger slammed for jumping queue at airport - but he thinks he's in the right

Mum blasted for letting young son play in the garden at 'unacceptable' time

People think 350-year-old painting is 'proof' time travel is real after spotting iPhone

The kids even roam barefoot across the beach, on pavements and even go shoeless when the family embark on 8km hikes.

Even though some parents may question the choice, the mum insists going without

shoes is better for her kids.

She said it "shocked her" that so many people saw it as a big issue, as she claimed it's "pretty normal" not to wear shoes in Australia.

Alex continued: "Even then, if you are from a coastal town like us, it's normal to not wear shoes at the shops, and working on boats, it's also common to not wear shoes.

"Shoes serve purpose, like if the ground is too hot or too cold, or if snakes and wildlife is a valid threat, or if something hurts to walk on."

She said when you don't wear shoes it can cause your feet to toughen, which enables you to learn how to walk on rough surfaces.

The mum said it's just a part of the family's "way of life."

Alex's boyfriend Paul owns a fishing business and Alex, who has experience working as a fisherman and commercial captain, often helps on the boat when he's in need of extra crew members.

The couple often take their kids along to work, with Paul having them by himself if Alex is needed to help on another boat.

If the weather conditions are too bad for the children to join Paul on the boat, and Alex is busy, the dad will miss his day of work entirely rather than send their kids to day-care.

Alex said: "We are a rural family working in primary production - I am a stay at home mother out of necessity, like most rural mothers.

"I'm needed at home for more than childcare and housework - we are the people at the frontline of feeding the nation.

"If it is not a desirable day for them to come to work, one parent stays home, that's rural life."

One of the main rules that has concerned other parents is said to be the decision to not teach the kids how to swim.

Some parents have deemed this as "dangerous", but Alex has said there is a strong difference between water safety and swimming.

Alex said: "Swimming lessons was a difficult one to decide on, but I came to the conclusion that a toddler probably couldn't swim out of the river on their own.

"In the river here, currents and submerged objects are a huge factor for drownings, and while they have a healthy fear of the water, I won't encourage them to enter it by doing swimming lessons.

"We play by the river a lot, and when a toy falls in, they freak out and come ask me to get it."

She also said she doesn't know if she would call her methods "rules", as the mum claims they are just doing what works best for them as a family.

Culled from The Mirror



Prof. Fred Ayokhai's show of shame

BUT for the glaring video evidence, no one would have believed that anyone in the capacity of a senior lecturer with the Federal University Lafia, like Dr. Fred Ayokhai would throw discipline to the wind and descend so low to a point of attacking a vulnerable girl over a flimsy reason. It is unthinkable that such a respected scholar would be tempted to beat someone's else daughter in defense of his over a boyfriend tussle. Indeed, the video footage of the outrageous crime committed by this lecturer of History and International Studies has continued to beat the imagination of many citizens of this country.

Even though at this point, some of us may not be privileged to know what really happened which necessitated this huge act of embarrassment, the popular saying; pictures don't lie has effectively and efficiently explained this outrageous condemnable drama which has become the talk of town. Certainly, no sane individual who sees this video will not condemn the lecturer for going beyond red lines to protect the interest of his daughter.

Many others are however yet to come to terms with that which actually tempted the lecturer to invade this innocent girl's privacy and inflict such a callous and never thought-of injury on her. It is however ordinarily unexplainable that such a scholar would take to this disgraceful path knowing too well that its consequences would spell doom for both him and his entire family.

Trouble started after the scholar discovered that one Blessing Mathias was contesting to win the heart of a male friend who was also dating his daughter, Emmanuela Ayokhai. While trying to assist her daughter, Dr. Ayokhai in company of his other two children, Bob Praise Ayokai and Saint-Dan Ayokhai stormed the home of their victim where they gang-beat and subsequently naked her leaving her behind at the mercy of passerby.

Most shocking was the way and manner the victim was unabatedly humiliated even when she was begging that the professor and his family should forgive her for any shortcoming. Unperturbed about her physical well-being and how their psychological torture could cause her, both Dr. Ayokhai and his three children dragged their victim out of her house, naked her and ensured that they gave her a beating of her life.

Unmindful of their surroundings and or that anyone would see them, the perpetrators who thought that they were above the law took their victim to the bush where they continued to humiliate her the more. It was a horrible experience no one would wish it happens to any of his or her relations.

Luck however ran out of the perpetrators of this brutal and inhumane acts after the video leaked and found its way into the hands of security agents. Dr. Ayokhai and his children were immediately arrested and charged with six count charge of Criminal Conspiracy, House Breaking, and Criminal Force or Assault to woman with intent to outrage modesty,

kidnaping and Inflicting Physical Injury on one another. In the charge, the listed offences are punishable under Section 97 of the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria, Section 3(1) and Section 3(1) and 4 of the Nasarawa State Kidnaping (Prohibition) Law, 2019 Section 268(2) and 354 of the Penal Code Law of Northern Nigeria and Section 3(1) of the Nasarawa State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2019.

Interestingly, the case was reassigned and all the suspects remanded in prison custody pending a formal arraignment. Reacting over the incident, the management of the institution disassociated itself from the action describing it as "Unpardonable and shameful adding that it does not condone actions that undermine its core values. Certainly, Dr. Ayokhai's issue is one of the many painful but not isolated experiences many vulnerable teenagers and women go through in our contemporary society today.

Sad though, it is the kind of these disgusting scholars who happen to find themselves teaching our vulnerable children in various universities in the country. It is their type who hold our children to ransom to compromise and or remain in the system till thy kingdom come.

After repeatedly watching this disgusting video, yours sincerely was left to pounder on the reminding sanity left in the medulla oblongata of this crazy scholar. It is so intriguing that after such a long period of study, this was unable to tame these little demons in him.

In any case, how can a scholar who knows his onions become so emotional to the extent of ridiculing his entire career by protecting his daughter's promiscuous activity? How on earth was he not too intelligent enough to critically examine this issue and its severe implications, should he throw caution to the wind?

Today, Dr. Fred Ayokhai's brutal conduct has left many unanswered questions in the aftermath of this unfortunate incident. Even though it is anticipated that the long arms of the law would catch-up with them anyhow, the citizens of this country are still demanding for the immediate rehabilitation of the victim so as to integrate her into our society proper.

Thus, Blessing Mathias who does not deserve this complex ill-treatment must be provided all the medical treatment available so as to enable her overcome the trauma of this sad incident. Beyond this however, it is hopeful that the punishment anticipated to be dished out to the perpetrators of this heinous crime would deter others from taking to this path of humiliating any vulnerable citizen of this country.

As we commend the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, (NAWOJ), security agencies and other stakeholders for ensuring that this irresponsible lecturer and his children face the full wrath of the law, it is also hopeful that there would be a speedy dispensation of justice on this matter which would eventually heal some of the trauma inflicted on this innocent girl.

Interview

'We shall follow Blessing's brutality case to the end'

Jamila Chinwe Abubakar is the Vice President of Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, (NAWOJ) Zone D which comprises six states of the North Central region as well as the Manager, News and Current Affairs of the Nigerian Television Authority, (NTA) Lafia in Nasarawa State. In the aftermath of the alleged brutal attack on one Blessing Mathias by a lecturer with the Federal University Lafia, Dr. Fred Ayokhai and his three children, our correspondent Bulus Gambo engaged her on what the association is doing to ensure that justice is gotten for this vulnerable victim of senseless brutality. For the records, Dr. Ayokhai and his three children, Emmanuela Ayokhai, Bob Praise Ayokhai and Saint-Dan Ayokhai have all been arraigned before a High Court presided by Justice Aisha Bashir-Aliyu. Over six count charges have been leveled against them and they have been remanded in prison custody as the case has been reassigned pending formal arraignment. Excerpts:-

How did NAWOJ get to know about the issue of this lecturer with the Federal University Lafia, Dr. Fred Ayokhai presently facing charges at the Nasarawa State High Court for allegedly assaulting one Blessing Mathias and what has been your response?

We are journalists, and based on our training and practice, our ears are always on the alert while our noses are always sniffing and searching for news. We have informants everywhere and it was through one of such informants who called me that we got to know.

The mandate of NAWOJ is to fight against any form of injustice or molestation especially when it concerns women, children and girls. We didn't relent after we heard this case, we immediately contacted the police instantly and issued a strong worded press statement to not only condemn the act but insist that justice be served. It will interest you to know that so far, the suspects have all been arrested and NAWOJ will ensure that the necessary action is taken by prosecuting them. We will therefore keep our eyes on this issue from the beginning to the end of it. As far as this association is concerned; we are mandated to speak and stand for the voiceless. Therefore, this particular issue is and cannot be exception.

Indeed issues of gender violence and abuses of all kinds have been ongoing in the country, what has been the case in your state?

These cases I can say are a bit minimal when compared to what we hear from many other states. This may be as a result of the combined efforts of NAWOJ, office of the Wife of the Governor of the state, the Police and other gender friendly agencies that have also been fighting against gender violence. In one way or the other, we are all connected and doing everything possible towards making the society better. Therefore, I have been having a good working relationship with stakeholders towards ensuring that we all do our best in this



Jamila

regard.

Apart from seeking for justice for Blessing Mathias, is there anything to be done to arrest the trauma which the girl is experiencing right now?

As we speak, the girl in question is still in the hospital receiving treatment because the beating was severe. The plan we have on

ground is that NAWOJ intends to employ the services of a Psychologist to counsel her and do some brain therapy for her so that she can forget the past and move on. However, we must also appeal to kindhearted persons to also come to her aid nor matter how little. This gesture can also help her a lot. At this point, we all must

do all we can to help her stabilize. We must also stand by her family till the end of it all. I think this development will help them a lot at this critical moment of their lives.

Since you were returned as the Vice President zone D of NAWOJ, what been some of your priorities towards bettering the society?

Since I assumed duty, we have conducted enlightenment workshops for particularly women in this zone to raise their voices against gender based violence. We have also organized NEC meetings in Kwara and Nasarawa States where germane issues as such were discussed and we have vehemently fought against gender based violence in collaboration with the wives of the Governors of Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Niger and the wife of the Minister of the FCT who has been in the fore front of fighting this sad anomaly. It is because of the support we received from them that has made the case to reduce to the barest minimum in our state and other

places where we have engaged stakeholders.

I must also commend the collective commitment of the chairpersons of the zone and the FCT, members and the secretary of the zone and most importantly; the National President of NAWOJ, Mrs Ladi Bala.

What do we expect from you as intended in your programmes for the members henceforth?

What we hope to achieve in the coming years is welfare of members. We intend to introduce new programmes for our members that will better their lot. Therefore, we have the interest of our members at heart and we will continue to protect their interest and help in the area of their welfare improvement.

Are you experiencing any challenge?

Well, in every human endeavor; challenges are expected, our many challenges include lack of resources to follow up some cases to Higher Courts level. Another big hurdle is that of ignorance among families who hardly come out to report cases of rape and gender based violence despite the enlightenment campaigns we have been carrying out in the state capital and other local government areas. This development has hindered our anticipated progress. We are therefore hoping that things will get better soon in our society. We must do everything possible to protect the vulnerable who are always affected by these senseless attacks and the stigmatization which eventually follows.

How has been your partnership with both the state government and the private sector?

Like I said earlier, the wife of the Governor of Nasarawa State, Hajiya Silifat Abdullahi has been very supportive including the National Human Rights Commission which also has been supportive and I can assure you; we have achieved a lot through collaborative efforts.

Do you have any advice for NAWOJ members?

Well, my candid advice to our members is to keep faith with us and be rest assured that the future of NAWOJ is greater than the past. They should pay their dues as at when due, avail themselves for our activities and contribute meaningfully to the course of women, the girl child and children in general.

Final word.

My final words will be to our women. I want to encourage them to always support women, children and girl-child issues. Any time we have events, they should support the leadership of NAWOJ at all levels, pay their dues and engage in activities. To other individuals and governments at all levels, our request is funding and support. To our legislators, we need stringent laws against any kind of gender based violence. Thank you so much for this opportunity granted me to think aloud.

"We are journalists, and based on our training and practice, our ears are always on the alert while our noses are always sniffing and searching for news. We have informants everywhere and it was through one of such informants who called me that we got to know. The mandate of NAWOJ is to fight against any form of injustice or molestation especially when it concerns women, children and girls. We didn't relent after we heard this case, we immediately contacted the police instantly and issued a strong worded press statement to not only condemn the act but insist that justice be served".



Cows for Christmas

LAST week, when Governor Simon Bako Lalong visited two primary schools to commission some projects executed by the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), he left smiles on the faces of Teachers and pupils.

The governor was in company of key government officials and stakeholders in the education sector as they undertook the working visit on Thursday October 27th 2022.

He first visited the Model Primary School in Shehe, Shinko Rayfield where he commissioned blocks of classrooms and Educational Resource Hall that is meant to facilitate trainings, meetings and other activities for capacity building of Teachers.

As he arrived, he headed to the line-up of pupils waiting to welcome him and asked them "Are you happy to see me?"

They chorused "yessss" excitedly as he shook their hands and took to his seat. During his speech, the Governor expressed his administrations

commitment to education since 2015 by creating an enabling environment for Primary and Secondary Schools.

He said his administration has been paying counterpart funds for the past 9 years spanning from 2013-2021 of up to N16.7 Billion to transform the educational fortunes of children in the Basic education sector which has led to building of 1,528 projects across the state cited in schools.

Lalong expressed excitement on a recent report by the Universal Learning Solutions Initiative that said there is a 65 percent increase in literacy level among public primary school learners in the state in 2022.

He promised to sustain teachers welfare in many areas and used the forum to announce that the Legacy Projects of his administration, which includes state of the art schools, will continue, as all obstacles truncating its progress had been cleared.

He was taken round to inspect some artistic and creative arts on display which was done by the pupils of the school.

He climaxed his speech by receiving cheers from the crowd for donating cows to the teachers and pupils to use to celebrate and usher the Christmas season.

After that, he proceeded to the Obasanjo Model Primary School Hwolshe where he was received with a welcome song by waiting pupils and their teachers.

In his speech, he urged the pupils to make Plateau State proud with their academic

performances. He said "Read and work very hard. I pray that one of you will one day become governor, but remember that it was this school that made you who you are".

"Because it is Christmas time, I have donated 6 cows, in the 3 schools to be shared between the pupils and teachers".

"But it has a price, do not fail, read hard, make a mark, and make the founder of the model school, President Olusegun Obasanjo proud", he said.



News

Governor Lalong task PSN on fake, counterfeit drugs

By DUMAH RANDONG

GOVERNOR Simon Lalong of Plateau State wants the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, PSN to pay more attention to proliferation of fake and counterfeit drugs in the state.

The governor made the call while receiving on a courtesy call, the President of the society, Cyril Osifo at Government House, Rayfield, Jos, Monday.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria just like any other professional body was established to regulate the practice of the profession by ensuring ethics and discipline were observed.

Lalong represented by his Deputy, Professor SonniTyoden, appreciated the organization for the choice of the state for its conference and urged them

to adequately brainstorm on how to control fake and counterfeit drugs in the country.

The governor also called on the society to develop a better mechanism for the distribution of drugs in the country.

He appealed to the society to discourage its members from leaving the country for greener pastures, assuring them that their challenges would be addressed.

President, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, had appreciated the governor for signing into law the establishment of the Commodity Management Agency, noting that this will strengthen the organization in the state.

He appealed to the state government to implement the Pharmacy Consultancy Cadre in the state, support the citing of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Jos Campus 4, JUTH Lamingo as well as provision of vehicle for the association to fight fake and counterfeit drugs pharmacy and medicine stores across the state.

As Kaura Economic Empowerment Programme(KEEP) rounds up in Bauchi Local Government Saturday 29-Oct.2022, held at Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Memorial Stadium Bauchi, Governor Bala Mohammed flagged-off distribution of empowerment packages worth N160 million to beneficiaries of the Programme in Bauchi Local Government Area of the state.

Recall that before today, the programme covered 19 local government areas of the state, meant to strengthen inclusive participation of citizens in meaningful ventures in order to reduce unemployment, youth restiveness and to develop the state economically.

Addressing the beneficiaries at the Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Stadium Bauchi, the initiator of the programme, Governor Bala Mohammed said his administration will ensure that no citizen of the state is left out in the ongoing fight against poverty.

The items distributed to the beneficiaries according to the governor include motorcycles, cars, sewing machines, grinding machines, knitting machines, jerrycans of groundnut and palm oil and cash.

Governor Bala Mohammed

Governor doles out N160m empowerment packages

From
ABBAS GUNGURA,
Bauchi

who explained that N50,000 cash was given to 500 beneficiaries each, noted that the programme also continued to pay priority made provision for three motorcycles to each of the 20 wards of Bauchi Local Government.

He said N100,000 cash was given to women and youth leaders in each of the 20 local governments, including the provision of five buses to each of the 20 local governments.

Bala explained that the allocation for Bauchi LGA was much higher than others due to its position as the state capital, coupled with its demographic nature and population.

He said that the empowerment initiative is being carried out by providing the beneficiaries with the wherewithal and conducive environment to be economically productive and employers of labour.

The Governor added that the programme was designed to boost the economic activities of the enterprises in order to poverty

address the problem of unemployment and alleviate poverty among the people, especially women and youth.

The Governor maintained that his administration has continued to pay priority attention to the empowerment of the good people of Bauchi State through job creation to alleviate poverty.

Bala Mohammed pointed out that his government has put in place the Bauchi State Microfinance Institution Building Programme (MIFIN) to complement the Kaura Economic Empowerment Programme (KEEP).

"The aim of this programme is to develop and strengthen microfinance institutions and establish linkages among the institutions and other financial institutions in order to create a viable and sustainable microfinance system", he said.

Bala pointed out that the ultimate aim is to enhance access of the poor to financial services so as to boost the productivity of the micro and small scale enterprises to minimize poverty



Gov. Lalong

PROBATE NOTICE

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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Yilshap Dennis also known as Yilshap Dennis Yilde late of Plateau State died on the 2nd March 2022 at Jos Plateau Specialist Hosp.	Lawrence Dennis and Alfred Dennis all of Nten Doemak Quanpan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Son of the said deceased.	Ntang Gufur Titus late of Plateau State died on the 8th January 2020 at Mangu, LGA, Plateau State.	Naomi Titus Ntang of COCIN Church Kulben Kombun,Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.	Haruna Usman Dado late of Plateau State died on the 17th Dec., 2021 at Dengi, Kanam LGA Plateau State.	Hussaini Bala of Tuttung, Kanam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Brother of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Umeh Edith late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th July, 2020, at Jos, Plateau State.	Umeh Chizoba Thompson of No. 26 Laranto Behind Katako Police Station, Jos-North LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	James Victoria Omotayo, late of Plateau State. Died on the 21 August, 2021, at Army Engineer, Jos-North LGA Plateau State.	Adeniyi Olufemi Afolayan of No. 20 Kashin Ibrahim Street, Jos-North LGA, Plateau State Lawful Brother of the said deceased.	Momodou Senuma Azumi, late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th July, 2022, at ALPS Hosp. Diagnostics, Jos,	Momoh Sanni Momodu of Nigeria Postal Service Area 10 Garki Abuja. Lawful brother of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS
Renner Halima Cynthia also known as Renner Halima Cynthia Ngozi Late of Kano Plateau State, lawful brother State, Died on the 20th November, 2021, at Aminu Kano Tech. Hosp. Kano State	Greg Adim Kassim of B10 B quarters Maxwell Khobe Jos Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased.	Jeltu Naanman Daniel late of Plateau State. Died on the 13th August, 2022, at OLA Hosp. Jos	Iliya Daniel Jeltu of Kopshu Ampang West Mangu LGA, Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased.	Asamatu Mamzhi late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th August, 2022, at Yelwa Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	Ibrahim Asamatu Abdullahi of Yelwa Shendam LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS
Tokwam, Danung late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th June, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Tokwam Pannan Dakam of Lankan District, Pankshin LGA Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Air commodore Ishaku Gang Mwadkon late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th July, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Matilda Mwadkon Gyang o N0.4 Gold and Base close, Rayfield, Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Anaje Samuel Agigah late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th June, 2022, at Jos, Plateau State.	Jacob Samuel Anaje & Jummai Samuel Ogan of Bishe Assak, Bassa LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS
Habila Samuel late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th December, 2020, at Jos, Plateau State.	Anna Simi Dung of Zaramaganda Dadin Kow Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Dauda Ishaya late of Kaduna State. Died on the 19th February, 2017, at Bakin Kogi, Kaninkon, Kaduna State.	Isaac Dauda of ECWA Church Dakin Kogi Kaninkon, Kafanchan, Kaduna State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Nanna Nanpon Tyem late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th March 2021 at Lawrak Hosp. Jos.	Manchang Tyem Nanpon of Pajat Langtang North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS
Dr. Samuel Senmen Dabup late of Plateau State. Died on the 3rd January, 2017, at Kaduna State.	Margaret Dabup, Adelson Dabup & Jesse Dabup of NVRI Vom, Jos South LGA, lawful widow & sons of the said deceased.	Onwe Michael late of Plateau State. Died on the 31st December, 2021 at Maiduguri, Borno State.	Onwe Chikammadu of 332 Army Barrack Shendam LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Magaji Basale Hali late of Adamawa State. Died on the 25th July, 2022, at Maternic clinic, UBA.	Reuben Hali Mutsu & Simon Hali Mutsu of Living Faith Church Sabon Gari Kuma, Adamawa State, lawful sons of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS
Buba Biu Buluma late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th September, 2016 at Jigawa State.	Hauwa Buba Bulama Biu & Mairo Buba Dulama Biu of Angwan Hausawa Tudun Wada Jos North Lga, Plateau State, lawful daughters of the said deceased.	Nandap Rimdap Domven late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th Septmber, 2022, at Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA Plateau State.	Pondul Nandap Domven of Kurung Lazi, Shendam LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Clement Henlong Charles late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th March, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Azi Deborah Sambo of Fudawa Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS
Dinges Lydia Dosani late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th March, 2020 at Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	Dinges Rengkat Dosani of behind LEA STC Bungha Mangu LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Ventim Mamven late of Plateau State. Died on the 23th May, 2022, at Gen. Hosp. Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	Nanyak Polycarp Lakai of Fallam Langtang North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Onyebuchin Jery Chijindu late of Abia State. Died on the 23rd March, 2022 at Obosi Adamawa State.	Onyebuchi Emeka Prince of Atiku Street Rayfield, Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful brother of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Danjuma Maryanne late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th March, 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Alexander Danjuma Dewar and Dewan Andrew Danjuma of Holy Cross Cathera Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brothers of the said

Signed
(LADI A. MADAKI)
PROBATE REGISTRAR
PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

CHANGE OF NAME	
JOSEPH	NNAJI
I,formerly known and address as JOSEPH LONGS , now wish to be known and address as JOSEPH LONGS DABEM . All former document remain valid. The general public and concerned authority should please take note.	I,formerly known and address as NNAJI OKEY , now wish to be known and address as NNAJI OKECHUKWU . My correct date of birth is 21/09/1984 not 01/05/1984. All former document remain valid. The general public and concerned authority should please take note.

Sports

Lalong promises support for Plateau NSF contingent

By ANDRE BISYIT

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has assured Plateau State athletes of adequate preparations for the National Sports Festival tagged "Delta 2022", to enable them win Laurels to the state.

Lalong gave the assurance when he received the Torch of Unity from Deborah Pitmang, the zonal Coordinator, Federal Ministry of Sports and Youth Development in Government House Reyfield, recently, noting that government will continue its quest of promoting sports in the state.

Represented by Hon. Dung Daniel Dalyop, Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Lalong stressed that the state will fully participate in the Nigerian prestigious championship and will perform credibly well, because they are always ready for any competition.

He maintained that, "The state is poised to ensure that athletes are prepared for the Festival, as we learned from the previous time, where athletes were



Lalong

not properly mobilized for festival. We have plans to ensure that Team Plateau becomes a force to be reckoned with, not just at Delta 2022 Sports Festival but in the nation and the world at large", he said.

Earlier while presenting the Torch of Unity to the Governor, the Zonal Coordinator, Federal Ministry Sports and Youth Development, Deborah Pitmang stated that the Torch symbolizes peace, unity and friendship.

Pitmang advised the governor to motivate the athletes as doing that will yield positive outcome during the championship.

Meanwhile, the governor had also handed over the Torch to the zonal Coordinator for onward movement to the North East zone.

It will be recalled that the Torch has gone round the five other States of the North Central, starting from Niger, Kwara, Kogi, Benue and Nasarawa.

THE latest World Table Tennis rankings released in the early hours of Tuesday indicate that Nigeria's table tennis star Aruna Quadri has dropped one spot, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

The Germany-based player posted not a too-impressive performance in the recent WTT championship in Macao and Xinxiang.

Quadri crashed out of both tournaments in the round of 32 and his poor form was one of the reasons he dropped in the rankings.

The Nigeria star who ranked 14th in the previous ranking is now ranked 15th in the world with 1745 as the points accumulation.

WTT rankings: Aruna Quadri drops one spot



Quadri

Court adjourns suit against Sports Minister, Pinnick

A Federal High Court, Abuja, has fixed Feb. 6 for the mention of a suit filed against the Minister of Youth and Sports, Sunday Dare, and a former President, Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Amaju Pinnick.

The matter, which was scheduled for Monday, could not go on, hence, counsel to the parties in the suit agreed on the new date.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that in the motion marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/1376/2021, Harrison Jalla, Chief Victor Rumson Baribote, Austin Popo and the National Association of Nigerian Footballers (NANF) had sued

the NFF, Pinnick and the minister as 1st to 3rd defendants respectively.

In the motion dated and filed on Sept. 2, the claimants sought an interim order restraining the defendants, his agent, employees, staff, officials or electoral committee from organising or conducting any election into any executive office of the NFF pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice for interlocutory injunction.

In the affidavit in support of the motion deposed to by Fayenengigha Jacob, a lawyer in the chamber of Ukpong, he said that one of the complaints in the matter was the undemocratic manner in which the NFF was being constituted resulting in depriving the majority of the stakeholders and members of the NFF of having a say or contributing to the development of football in Nigeria.

According to him, the glory of Nigeria football has nosedived as a result of its undemocratic manner of the leadership of the said body.

Jacob said while the matter was still pending in court the defendants had gone ahead to announce and purportedly try to organise and conduct an election of the said body on Sept. 30 in Edo.

He said the substance of the matter would be defeated should the said election slated for September goes ahead without hearing of the

pending motions and substantive matter.

NAN reports that after the lawyer to the claimants, Celsus Ukpong, moved the ex-parte motion on Sept. 15, Justice Inyang Ekwo restrained the minister and Mr Pinnick from conducting the NFF executive election scheduled for Sept. 30 in Edo.

Justice Ekwo had ordered them or any person, acting on their instruction, to maintain a status quo pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice for interlocutory injunction, and fixed Oct. 31 for the hearing.

But the NFF filed an appeal against the court order.

In the notice of appeal marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/1376/2021 dated Sept. 27 and filed Sept. 28, the NFF (the appellant)'s counsel, Patrick Mekako, prayed the court to set aside its earlier order.

Against this backdrop, the Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja, on Sept 29, vacated the lower court order restraining the conduct of the NFF election scheduled for Sept. 30 in Edo.

Mr Ibrahim Gusau emerged as the new president of the NFF following the conduct of the election on Sept. 30 in Benin City, Edo.

Gusau, a member of the CAF Organising Committee and Chairman, Football Associations chairmen, garnered 39 votes to succeed Amaju Pinnick.

NFF refutes Mmadu's 101 official matches for Falcons

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) insisted Monday that former Super Falcons' player and one-time assistant coach of the team, Maureen Mmadu did not play up to 101 official matches for Nigeria as is being claimed by the former player and promoted in a section of the domestic sporting media.

NFF's Director of Media and Communications, Ademola Olajire, said on Monday that the Federation's records showed that the former midfielder played 52 matches for the team between 1995 and 2007 when she called it quits with the National Team.

"Our records show that between 16th February 1991 when they played their first official game (a FIFA World Cup qualifier against Ghana's Black Queens at the National Stadium, Lagos) and 18th September 2007 (when Mmadu featured in her last match for Nigeria against USA in Shanghai during the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup), the Super Falcons played a total of 103 official matches.

"Maureen Mmadu, who did excellently well for

Nigeria while wearing the green-white-green, only started playing for the team during a FIFA Women's World Cup match against Canada in Helsingborg (which ended 3-3) on 8th June 1995, when she came in for Ann Mukoro. Mmadu won about 52 caps in all, and certainly not 101 as claimed in some quarters."

The NFF insisted that it had become necessary to put the facts out in the public space after accusations of gender discrimination against the Federation by some former Super Falcons' players that

the body had honoured players like Joseph Yobo, Vincent Enyeama and Ahmed Musa who won up to 100 caps for Nigeria but discounted Mmadu.

"Before the NFF honoured Yobo, Enyeama and Musa, we put out the official matches played by each of them. The NFF has never identified, confirmed, celebrated or promoted Maureen Mmadu as having won up to 100 caps for Nigeria. Anyone domiciling such information anywhere is hanging on to unsubstantiable claims.

"There was no doubt that Mmadu gave her heart out and

worked assiduously hard on the field during her time representing Nigeria. But she did not win up to 101 caps. We challenge those promoting this fallacy to come up with those 101 official matches.

"For avoidance of doubt, official matches (that qualifies for a cap) are matches played wearing the green-white-green colours of Nigeria against a team wearing the colours of another country, and certified as such by FIFA. Matches against selected teams, clubs or warm-up games do not qualify in this direction."

Osimhen: First Serie A hat-trick leaves striker hungry for more

NIGERIA international Victor Osimhen hopes he can continue his goalscoring form after netting a hat-trick for Napoli in the 4-0 win over Sassuolo in Serie A.

The 23-year-old's superbly-taken treble on Saturday helped Napoli extend their lead at the top of the table.

He scored twice in the first 19 minutes and dinked in his third 13 minutes from time to make it seven league goals this season - and give him a share of first place in the Golden Boot race with Austrian Marko Arnautovic.

"That was my first professional hat-trick so I'm really excited about it," Osimhen told BBC Sport Africa.

"It's been a great return after a few challenges at the start of the season and hopefully I can continue this

form.

Osimhen spent over a month out with a thigh injury but has scored six goals in his past four outings across all competitions since his return.

He has become the fifth African to score a hat-trick Italian Serie A after Liberia's George Weah (for AC Milan in 1998), Cameroon's Patrick Mboma (Cagliari in 1999), Egypt's Mohamed Salah (AS Roma in 2016) and Senegal's Keita Balde (Lazio in 2017).

Former Wolfsburg and Charleroi forward Osimhen moved to Italy from Lille two years ago and, after two "learning seasons", the Super Eagles star is leading the way in Napoli's hunt for a first league title in 33 years.

With Osimhen in clinical form, Luciano Spalletti's Napoli have built a five-point

lead at the top of Serie A after 12 rounds.

The club's current run of 13 straight wins in all competitions has surpassed the previous record of 11 set by Diego Maradona's side in 1986-87, the season in which the Argentina legend captained Napoli to their first ever league title.

"I'd also like to thank the coach for the faith he's shown in me and I'm keen to keep this up, both individually and collectively.

Back in June, Osimhen scored four goals as Nigeria thrashed minnows Sao Tome e Principe 10-0 in qualifying for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.

An Under-17 World Cup winner with the West Africans in 2015, he is the top scorer in qualifying for the 2023 Nations Cup, with five goals.



Dare

Sports

World Cup

By ED DOVE

GOAL's Ed Dove picks a dream XI of African players who never featured on the grandest stage of all.

Bruce Grobbelaar enjoyed an almost unparalleled club career for an African player, winning six domestic titles with Liverpool as well as the European Cup in 1984.

He wrote his name in Anfield folklore with his performance in that final victory over AS Roma, but achieved very little during an international career with Zimbabwe.

Wael Gomaa was the rock at the heart of two of Africa's most dominant sides; the Al Ahly and Egypt teams who enjoyed such success during the last decade.

He was a big-game player, and thrived against many of the continent's best strikers during his trophy-laden career.

Nonetheless, he endured a miserable time in the 2014 World Cup playoffs, when that fine Pharaohs side were extinguished by Ghana, losing 7-3 on aggregate.

Musa Otieno - The Kenyan stopper was one of Africa's most underrated players, despite having won over a century of caps for the Harambee Stars.

He enjoyed a long spell in South African football with Santos, and was a talented, cultured centre-back who exuded authority.

Christian Chukwu may have enjoyed great success in the African Cup of Nations, where he was influential as Nigeria won their first title in 1980, but the World Cup eluded Chukwu during his playing career.

The influential former Enugu Rangers skipper also endured heartbreak as a coach when he failed to qualify the Super Eagles for the 2006 tournament in

Who are the greatest Africans who never qualified?



Abedi Pele

Germany.

Seydou Keita enjoyed success with Mali at the U-20 World Cup in 1999 when the Eagles finished third, but was never able to reach the senior tournament. Indeed, the West African heavyweights are still to make their maiden performance at the competition. Nevertheless, Keita was a key figure in Pep Guardiola's magnificent Barcelona team, winning exceptional praise from the coach after playing his part in three La Liga successes and two Champions League triumphs. He finished second in the African Footballer of the Year voting for 2011. Three La Liga successes

and two Champions League triumphs. He finished second in the African Footballer of the Year voting for 2011.

Mohamed Aboutrika - Among the greatest players, if not the greatest, never to play in Europe or South America, Aboutrika was a key protagonist in Egypt's Golden Generation of the last decade.

However, he never featured in a World Cup due to that fine side's inability to qualify, and a global audience were largely deprived the chance to witness this exquisite talent.

Ahmed Hassan accrued an astonishing 184 caps with Egypt, making him the most capped male international footballer in the history of the game.

While his 17-year international career was ultimately a frustrating affair in terms of World Cup qualification, Hassan was a part of a whopping four Afcon successes between 1998 and 2010.

He also achieved success in Turkey and Belgium, unlike many of his compatriots who never ventured too far beyond Egypt's shores.

Mohamed Barakat - One of four members of Egypt's Golden Generation to make the cut, Barakat was a talented playmaker and energetic midfield presence whose talents went largely unappreciated outside African.

The Mercurial may have suffered with injuries, but he was a key presence during a litany of club and international successes with Ahly and the Pharaohs.

He was named BBC African Footballer of the Year in 2005, and was an Afcon winner in 2006.

Bibo El-Khatib was another Egyptian to never grace the grandest stage of all, having called time on his international career before the Pharaohs

featured in their second World Cup—in 1990.

Egyptian to never grace the grandest stage of all, having called time on his international career before the Pharaohs featured in their second World Cup, in 1990.

The forward spent his entire career with Al Ahly, where he was an unflinchingly effective goalscorer, and won a swathe of domestic and continental honours with the Cairene giants. He'd claim the Afcon during his international swansong in 1986.

George Weah - The only African player to win the Ballon d'Or is surely the continent's greatest player never to play in the World Cup, and indeed, it would have

taken a truly herculean effort for Weah to have dragged tiny Liberia to the top table. Taken a truly herculean effort for Weah to have dragged tiny Liberia to the top table.

This mesmerising talent, and current Liberia President, won two Italian titles with AC Milan, and also enjoyed some success in England and France.

Abedi Pele - Ghana's greatest ever player was a genuine African superstar of the early 1990s, and won the Champions League with Olympique de Marseille in 1993.

He won the Nations Cup with the Black Stars 11 years earlier, and was named by CAF as the African Footballer of the Year on three occasions.



Keita



Chukwu



Quest



writer

Longji Aaron Bako

FRAGMENT

Pollination occurs when pollens are transferred from one flower to another resulting in fertilization and seed production. It is an essential ecosystem service that contributes to both the maintenance of biodiversity and food production. Pollinators are vital components of both wilderness and farmland ecosystems, they are therefore regarded as keystone species due to the disproportionately large role they play in the community structure.

Longji Aaron Bako

Ecosystem services: Emphasis on pollination, seed dispersal

Dispersal as co-evolution

PLANTS have co-evolved with some animals for the dispersal of their seeds to suitable environments and conditions. Interactions between fruiting plants and their seed dispersers are now largely recognized as diffuse mutualisms with seeds dispersed by an array of fruit consumers, whose behaviour and composition may vary both geographically and temporally, the tight co-evolutionary relationships between plants and seed dispersers are considered rare and limited to cases where seed size constrains a potential disperser assemblage, or to areas where the disperser community is impoverished. Vertebrate dispersers deliver ingested seeds to different microhabitats, this act of dispersal from the maternal environment is important in the diversification of germination timing. Plants dispersed by vertebrates have evolved seed appendages or coverings that are ingested and digested by animals that later eject the seeds in conditions suitable for germination. Dispersal can be carried out on the exterior of the animal or can be carried out after seeds have passed through the digestive system of the animals.

Endozoochory vs Exozoochory

Endozoochory: Seeds enter digestive system of animals, generally when they ingest plant structures closely associated with seeds, these are subsequently spat out, regurgitated or defecated in conditions suitable for germination, as seeds pass through vertebrate guts, they experience a variable scarification which serves as seed treatment. This process might diversify their timing of germination that is, asynchrony which may be advantageous in unpredictable environments. Passage of seeds through mammal guts changes the timing of germination, generally accelerating it and increasing its diversification that is, asynchrony. Prompt germination often enriches plant fitness by allowing early seedlings to outcompete later seedlings. The Elephants for example ingest and subsequently disperse seed of many plants such as *Parinari excelsa*.

B. Exozoochory: This explains how animals carry seeds on their exterior and further disperse them to areas they may find suitable to



germinate. This can be seen in the dandelion and other plants that have burs and / or spicules that stick to animal bodies and are further dispersed.

Pollination occurs when pollens are transferred from one flower to another resulting in fertilization and seed production. It is an essential ecosystem service that contributes to both the maintenance of biodiversity and food production. Pollinators are vital components of both wilderness and farmland ecosystems, they are therefore regarded as keystone species due to the disproportionately large role they play in the community structure.

It is estimated that 75% of crop species identified as globally significant, require a degree of animal pollination. Fruits and vegetables, which add variety to the human nourishment and provide essential nutrients, tend to depend greatly on pollinators.

Wild pollinators are important for agricultural production and it has been shown that diverse pollinator assemblages increase pollination services as a result of complementary resource use arising from variations in morphology and behaviour among pollinator taxa. In many developing regions, wild pollinators are the sole provider of pollination services available, particularly for small-scale farmers, because of the high

costs associated with maintaining managed colonies and perhaps limitations in technology to maintain a managed colony.

PLACING VALUE ON THE ECOSYSTEM ?

The issue of conferring value on the ecosystem and its services has been undergoing a lot of arguments. Some argue that it is impossible or unwise, that we cannot place a value on intangible resources as human life or other aesthetics. Meffe and Carrol, (1994) argue that when construction standards are set for roads, bridges and others. We are automatically valuing human life because spending more on the project will eventually save lives. The world today is in an economic age. Financial language is one that we understand in our discourse. It is an age of financial literacy and nations measure how well they are faring by measures such as GDP, profits and income. Books that nowadays emerge as best sellers are those on financial literacy. Little wonder there are headlines from the environmental protection such as, —global ecosystems are worth \$33 trillion, —Bats' estimated monetary value is placed at \$3 billion annually and so forth.

Opinions can be contrasting on whether or not nature and biodiversity should be conferred

economic valuations but as it is established throughout this write-up, nature provides us with direct goods and services which are valuable economically and affect our economy directly, nothing seems wrong in discussing and measuring or analysing those values to gain them better appreciation.

The services enjoyed from the natural ecosystems are very difficult or impossible to replicate. While it is also difficult to place direct monetary value on these services, what is possible is calculating some of the financial values. For instance, 80 percent of world's population depends on natural medicinal products, the value of pollination services rendered by animals such as bees, bats and birds for free can worth trillions of dollars, for example, in U.S only, it is estimated at 6 billion dollars annually.

The Financial based ecosystem valuation is partially a communication strategy since the monetary language is a much simpler and interesting one to the people of this age and for the fact that the economic value of ecosystem services is a reality, it is huge and noteworthy to a wide range of policy and decision makers. For instance, globally, about 75% of the crops depend to some extent on pollinators in order to produce food enjoyed by man this service of crop pollination has been estimated at

about 200 billion dollars. In the US, a recent study estimated the value of pollination by managed honey bees alone at 14.6 billion dollars and this is aside the services provided by feral pollinators which would have further raised this value.

Demand and supply determine price, as seen in the water and diamond paradox. It is only obvious that diamond is scarce as compared to water and therefore the reason for its higher price but unlike diamond, if there is no water at all in this world, life and its many processes may stop. The world would pay all it has to avoid losing its life support system. Another technique that can be used in the valuation of ecosystem services or nature in general, is to examine the costs avoided by the presence of an ecological feature or ecosystem service. For example, consider the amount we will have to invest in water treatment plants if we lose the wetlands and their service of water purification.

Ecosystem benefit indicator is an alternative to economic valuation and is a quantifiable feature of physical and social landscapes that relates to and defines the value of ecosystem goods and services. Both the monetary valuation and the Ecosystem benefit indicator can complement each other. Though the monetary approach tends to gain much attention and weight.

Concluded