

**Masari weeps
as he presents
budget**

Page 21



600 health workers resign from University College Hospital Page 2

Plateau for Atiku Movement indicts Jang Page 6

Court orders INEC to resume voter registration Page 2

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YESTERDAY, 22 November 2022, President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurates Kolmani oil drill in N/East

President Muhammadu Buhari broke the jinx of a fruitless search for crude oil in the Northern part of Nigeria. He has officially kick off the drilling of crude oil in Gombe and Bauchi.

Buhari did the ground-breaking ceremony of the Kolmani Oil Prospecting Lease (OPL) 809 and 810 at the Kolmani field site

located in Bauchi and Gombe states.

The President is carried out the historic exercise with the support of the Minister of State for Petroleum, Mr Timipre Sylva and the Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC), Mallam

Mele Kyari.

The oilfields in Bauchi and Gombe states will, according to a Thisday report, be developed by Sterling Global Oil, New Nigeria Development Commission (NNDC) and the NNPC Limited.

"The ceremony was attended by Mr President himself together with most

of his cabinet members including the Minister of State for Petroleum, Timipre Sylva," said an official of NNPC, who spoke off the records.

Last year, the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) issued a request for expressions of interest (EoI) on the development of the two

licences in Nigeria's northeast.

The integrated development of OPLs 809 and 810 in the Gongola Basin, in the Upper Benue trough, extends about 1,000 km from the Bight of Benin to Lake Chad.

Before then, the NPDC said it had discovered "huge commercial

quantities" of oil and gas in the Kolmani River, adding that the blocks were more than 700 km from the coast, posing challenges to export options.

It also proposed an onsite midstream refinery and power plant, saying that this would allow it to use these resources for local needs as well as "create an

Continued on page 2

Nigerian students lament delay in visa application

Some Nigerian students who applied for different research fellowship programmes in South African Universities have accused the South African High Commission of frustrating their programmes by refusing to issue them a visa eight months after application.

They said the high commission had refused to respond to their mails in an attempt to make enquiries about the reason for the delay.

One of the affected students, Abiodun Afolabi, who was offered admission for Fellowship Doctorate at the University of Pretoria

said he applied for the fellowship in October 2021 and got a letter of offer in December 2021.

He said for any Nigerian to apply for such a category of visa must get a police report from the South African police which he got around April.

It was gathered that the applicants were sent with a message via email

notifying them of the closure of Lagos and Port Harcourt centers for the visa application as applicants were told to go to the Abuja centre.

Afolabi was scheduled for a visa interview on April 26, 2022, in Abuja where he provided all the necessary documents. He said they were made to sign a disclaimer that visa

processing might take longer than usual.

He said, "They gave me an appointment in Abuja and I travelled all the way from Lagos. I provided everything they requested. Usually visa applications for this category take three to six weeks.

"But since April till date I have not received an update on my application

and no reason was given. Around October, one of their agents called to come to Abuja to fill a form and that if I did not come, my application would be cancelled. The agent also asked me to send a letter to my host University for confirmation that I am a genuine applicant.

"On getting there, I was

Continued on page 2



Buhari inaugurates first oil drilling field in Northern Nigeria

Buhari unveils new naira notes

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari will today unveil the new naira notes on Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor Godwin Emefiele has announced.

The unveiling takes place at the Council Chambers during the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting.

Emefiele said the CBN will

not extend the January 31, 2023 deadline for final introduction of the new naira notes.

The CBN Governor thanked Buhari for always defending the apex bank, the Senate for supporting it and the security agencies particularly the EFCC for seeing to the smooth transition of the

Continued on page 2



Emefiele

News

Nigerian students lament delay in visa application

Continued from page 1

made to fill the same form I completed in April. The Vice Chancellor of my host University had also sent letters to the high commission to make enquiries about the update on the process of the visa. I also sent them mail but there was no response from them till date. We are just in the dark and nobody is responding to all our enquiries."

The reports gathered that some of the affected students had lost their fellowship admission offers owing to the fact that they could not get the visa.

Afolabi said he was on the verge of losing his offer after the expiration of the November 2022 deadline given to him by the university.

The students condemned the action of the high commission toward their plight and for keeping mute and ignoring their messages describing it as an attempt to deny Nigerians students' admission into South African universities.

The students therefore called on the relevant government authorities to come to their aid and prevail on the high commission to process their visa without further delay.

In a statement issued by the aggrieved students, they said, "We are bringing the attention of the government and the public to the utmost disrespect and disregard for Nigerians by the South African High Commission.

"Overtime, Nigerians applying for SA visa have been constantly frustrated. While it may be understandable that some western countries have strict visa issuance policies against Africans, African countries are expected to have a relaxed visa policy for fellow Africans.

"However, this development cannot be said of South Africa. The South African High Commission has been notorious for accepting

Buhari unveils new naira notes

Continued from page 1

programme.

Emefiele also announced another interest rate hike to 16.5 percent while retaining other parameters.

The reason for increasing interest rate, he said, is because the decision of the CBN to tackle inflation has started yielding positive results as a result "tightening rates".

visa applications from Nigerians without any hope of attending to them, thereby traumatising Nigerians.

"They wasted applicants' time. Some applicants have had to wait for more than eight months just for a visitor's visa. Application for visitor's visa usually takes seven days. Of course most people miss their appointments because visa outcome was not ready.

"Furthermore, the South African High Commission and their allies send messages to threaten applicants over their own negligence. For instance, some people were sent messages to go back to resubmit the application form, months after they have submitted. The awkward thing is that no genuine reason was given for this move. Rather, they threaten applicants to follow their inhumane condition or risk losing

600 health workers resign from University College Hospital

NO fewer than 600 health workers have reportedly exited the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, Oyo State, in the last one year.

It was learnt that at least, 15 nurses, doctors and pharmacists, among others exited UCH on a weekly basis.

The News agency of Nigeria reports that the hospital management called for the removal of the bottlenecks in replacing the workforce due to the mass exodus of health workers.

The UCH Chief Medical Director, Prof Jesse Otegbayo, made the call at a news conference marking the 65th founder's day celebration of the foremost tertiary health institution in Ibadan on Monday confirmed resignation of clinicians.

He said, "Every week, I sign resignation letters of 15 health workers at the institution, who are mostly clinicians, that is, nurses, doctors and pharmacists, among others."

Otegbayo said from 2020 to October 15, 2022, no fewer than 600 clinical staff had left the hospital, noting that bureaucracy bottlenecks had been hindering their replacements.

He said there was an acute shortage of manpower due to push and pull factors like poor workers' welfare and insecurity, among others.

The Chief Medical Director said the

their application.

"They neither respond to mails nor allow calls to their contact numbers. The applicants are left traumatised. So many people have lost, or on the verge of losing, research fellowship opportunities just because of the Commission's uncanny treatment of visa applicants.

"One could allege that the phenomenon could be part of tactics to prevent Nigerians from visiting the country in another subtle xenophobic move that has been the case over the years.

"If they are not willing to offer Nigerians a visa, they should be plain about it rather than waste people's time. The Nigerian government ably represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs must rise up to challenge this dehumanising conditions from SA High Commission."

institution would continue in its strides as infrastructure and facilities were being overhauled in addition to human capital development.

He commended the institution's staff members for their dedication and commitment to uplifting

Court orders INEC to resume voter registration

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

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

Anajat Salmat and three

NDLEA seizes 250kg hard drugs, arrests 55 offenders

JOINT Security Agencies' Operation led by the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has dislodged open markets for illicit drugs across Adamawa State.

The raid operation which started at the Ngurore



Marwa

Continued from page 1
industrial hub" to provide economic benefits and employment.

At some point in the development of the facilities, in the midstream, the plan would involve a 150 MW power plant and a 50,000 barrel-per day condensate refinery.

The NPDC, as it was then called, had drilled the Kolmani River 2 well in 2019 and the Kolmani River 3 in early 2021. Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Mohammed, had also recently said the oil and gas exploration at Kolmani River in Alkalari Local Government Area of the state by the NNPC would 'reverse the narrative of poverty and underdevelopment in the state.

NNPC Limited has over the years expended monies on frontier exploration, but the spending has now been statutorily ingrained in the new Petroleum Industry

the institution by giving in their best and respecting the patients.

Otegbayo said the institution had acquired two sets of AutoClave, 64-Slice CT machines and two mammography machines to improve clinical services.

"It is our style to keep on acquiring equipment that

others had sued INEC as the sole defendant in a suit marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/1343/2022.

In the originating summons filed before the court, the plaintiffs argued that INEC cannot stop the CVR contrary to the stipulated provisions of the constitution.

They urged the court to order the electoral umpire to resume the exercise in accordance with the law of the country.

drugs market saw operatives confiscating a three-bedroom bungalow used to store assorted narcotics.

Also in the operation, 55 persons were apprehended in connection with various illicit drugs offenses; just as a total of 258.469 kilograms of banned substances were seized.

Some of the alleged drug barons arrested were; Gollaya Buba, Abdulrazak Saidu, Abbas Baba, Isaac Jacob, Sadiq Iya and Aliyu Umar. They were arrested in Mubi, Gombi, Michika, Ganye and Kojoli, the birth place of Nigeria's former

Buhari inaugurates Kolmani oil drill in N/East

Act (PIA) 2021.

The new piece of legislation has now raised funding for frontier exploration to 30 per cent, which implies that the NNPC Limited would have more funds to develop oil fields around the country.

According to the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Nigeria currently has crude oil reserves of about 37 billion barrels. Kolmani fields could hold as much as one billion barrels of crude oil reserve, which could significantly raise Nigeria's oil reserve.

The oil discovery in the north is coming at a time crude oil production has dropped to around one million barrels per day in the country, as a result of oil theft and vandalism, thereby hobbling the ability of the country to earn foreign exchange.

In a piece welcoming Buhari to the oil drill site, Dr



Buhari

Aliyu U. Tilde, the Commissioner of Education in Bauchi State, said history had been made for the two sister states who have been 're-joined' by the oil find. As presented by Daily Trust, Tilde traced the history of the Kolmani River serving as the border between Bauchi and Gombe to the era of two disciples of Usman Danfodio—Yakubun Bauchi and Buba Yero, respectively.

According to him, there were some clashes between the two over where their boundary would be but in 1817, Sultan Muhammad Bello ruled and it was agreed that the Kolmani River would be their boundary.

The Bauchi province remained until 1996 when Gombe became a state during the regime of General Sani Abacha.

He, however, warned that unless the will is strong, naysayers could push the incoming administration to halt the progress made so far.

"The next president can still frustrate things if he wishes. Whatever it is, President Buhari has delivered on this. Making Kolmani a reality will go down as one of his major achievements."

In a ruling on Yesday, Justice Ekwo held that it was the constitutional responsibility of INEC, to make adequate provisions for the exercise in accordance with Nigerian laws.

"The case of the plaintiffs succeeds on merit", the judge declared, directing that the CVR registration be continued until 90 days before the 2023 general elections.

vice president, Atiku Abubakar.

Besides seizure of drugs and confiscation of a bungalow used to store drugs, operatives destroyed several residential places used for the illicit business.

A detailed report signed by the Adamawa State Commander of NDLEA, Agboalu Femi Samson, stated that the cleanup raid was sequel to a security council meeting chaired by the state governor, Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri.

Samson said, "A combined team of personnel from the Nigerian Air force, the Nigerian police, the

Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, the vigilante and NDLEA was constituted. A team of 53 combatant officers and men combed all the black spots in the three senatorial zones.

"A total of 55 suspects were arrested amidst users who are victims of drug abuse."

"A total of 226 kilograms of cannabis sativa was an abandoned seizure belonging to one Sani Libalis (currently at large), was recovered from a 3-bedroom bungalow which stands forfeited to the federal government," he added.



Business & Economy

As Nigerians groan under flood-engineered inflation

The October inflation rate of 21.09 per cent did not come to many Nigerians as a surprise considering the flooding which affected many farming communities and disrupted economic activities in 30 states. This further drove up the prices of goods and services; JAMIN UMUTEME writes.

IN its consumer price index (CPI) report for the month of October released on Tuesday, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) stated that Headline inflation rose to 21.09 percent, an indication that inflation increased 32bp from 20.77% in September.

Since the beginning of 2022, Nigerians have been grappling with high costs of goods and services largely as a result of the surge in energy prices and persistent exchange rate devaluation in the country.

In the report published on its website Tuesday, the Bureau disclosed that in October 2022, on a year-on-year basis, the headline inflation rate was 21.09%. This was 5.09% points higher compared to the rate recorded in October 2021, which was 15.99%. According to the Bureau, it revealed that the general price level for the headline inflation rate increased in October 2022 when compared to the same month in the preceding year (i.e., October 2021) by 5.09%.

On a month-on-month basis, the Headline inflation rate for October 2022 was 1.24%, this was 0.11% lower than the rate recorded in September 2022 (1.36%). This means that in October 2022 the general price level for the headline inflation rate (month-on-month basis) declined by 0.11%.

The percentage change in the average CPI for the twelve months ending October 2022 over the average of the CPI for the previous twelve months period was 17.86%, showing a 0.91% increase compared to the 16.96% recorded in October 2021.

According to the NBS, likely factors are responsible for the decline in monthly inflation rate (Month-on-month basis).

Over the past three months, there has been a decline in headline inflation on a month-on-month basis due to a decline in the changes in the food index relative to the reference month index. This was due to disruption in the supply of food products, increase in cost of importation due to the persistent currency depreciation, and general increase in the cost of production e.g. increase in energy cost.

On a year-on-year basis, in October 2022, the urban inflation rate was 21.63%, this was 5.11% higher compared to the 16.52% recorded in October 2021. On a month-on-month basis, the urban inflation rate was 1.33% in October 2022, this was a 0.12% decline compared to September 2022 (1.46%). The corresponding twelve-month average for the urban inflation rate was 18.38% in October 2022. This was 0.85% higher compared to the 17.53% reported in October 2021.

The rural inflation rate in October 2022 was 20.57% on a year-on-year basis; this was 5.09% higher compared to the 15.48% recorded in October 2021. On a month-on-month basis, the rural inflation rate in October 2022 was 1.16%, which was down by 0.11% compared to September 2022 (1.27%). The corresponding twelve-month average for the rural inflation rate in



Women in the market

October 2022 was 17.38%. This was 0.98% higher compared to the 16.39% recorded in October 2021.

The food inflation rate in October 2022 was 23.72% on a year-on-year basis; which was 5.39% higher compared to the rate recorded in October 2021 (18.34%). The rise in food inflation was caused by increases in prices of Bread and cereals, Food products i.e. potatoes, yams and other tubers, oil and fat.

On a month-on-month basis, the food inflation rate in October was 1.23%, this was a 0.21% decline compared to the rate recorded in September 2022 (1.43%). This decline was attributed to the reduction in prices of some food items like Tubers, Palm oil, Maize, Beans, and Vegetables. The average annual rate of food inflation for the twelve months ending October 2022 was 19.83%, which was a 0.92% point decline from the average annual rate of change recorded in October 2021 (20.75%).

The All Items Less Farm Produce or Core inflation, which excludes the prices of volatile agricultural produce stood at 17.76% in October 2022 on a year-on-year basis; up by 4.52% when compared to 13.24% recorded in October 2021.

On a month-on-month basis, the core inflation rate was 0.93% in October 2022. It was 1.59% in September 2022.

The highest increases were recorded in prices of Gas, Liquid fuel, Passenger transport by Air, Solid fuel, and vehicles spare parts.

The average 12-month annual inflation rate was 15.31% for the twelve months ending October 2022; this was 2.59% points higher than

the 12.73% recorded in October 2021.

In analysing price movements under this section, it should be noted that CPI is weighted by consumption expenditure patterns which differ across states and locations. Accordingly, the weight assigned to a particular food or non-food item may differ from state to state making interstate comparisons of consumption baskets inadvisable and potentially misleading.

In October 2022, all items inflation rate on a year-on-year basis was highest in Kogi (25.15%), Bauchi (23.45%), Ondo (23.45%), while Plateau (19.02%), Borno (19.31%) and Nasarawa (19.39%) recorded the slowest rise in headline Year-on-Year inflation.

On a month-on-month basis, however, October 2022, recorded the highest increases in Abuja (3.18%), Kebbi (2.80%), Sokoto (2.57%), while Kwara (-0.14%), Kogi (0.06%) and Oyo (0.30%) recorded the slowest rise on month-on-month inflation.

In October 2022, food inflation on a year-on-year basis was highest in Kwara (30.79%), Kogi (28.74%) and Imo (28.64%), while Kaduna (19.96%), Plateau (20.17%) and Jigawa (20.42%) recorded the slowest rise in year-on-year food inflation.

On a month-on-month basis, however, October 2022 food inflation was highest in Sokoto (3.55%), Yobe (3.31%) and Kebi (3.16%), while Kwara (-0.76%), Kogi (-0.55%) and Akwa Ibom (-0.21%) recorded the slowest rise on month-on-month inflation.

For economist Gospel Obele, the

country's inflation may likely get worse in the coming months. He said the nation's economic situation calls for an emergency solution. He disclosed that the flooding in Nigeria, announcement of Naira re-design, forthcoming 2023 election are factors influencing the inflation figure.

"Supply will be further disrupted because farms, farmlands have been flooded in some parts of Nigeria, Christmas and elections are around the corner, Naira redesign will further reinforce inflation to perform worse into next quarter of 2023. There is the likelihood that there is going to be a further increase of the inflation rate.

"My concern is for the average Nigerian who is faced with an increased potential of a poverty trap and high cost of living crisis daily. I think Nigeria needs to act right now because we are in a state of emergency in terms of thinking through unstructured bases, not policy based solutions only. Policies will only pass the problem but won't deal with the problem. We should look for a more collective approach to fixing the problem," he said.

The latest inflation figures experts have said would plunge ordinary Nigerians and the average income earners into a poverty trap and economic misery.

The executive director, Nigerian Workforce Strategy and Enlightenment Centre (NIWSEC), Dr. David Ehindero, said the situation is getting worse by the day.

According to him, in this harvest season, commodities like beans and flour are supposed to naturally depreciate in the market because of

supply power by farmers, but the reverse is the case.

He said, "Have you seen the price of pepper, spaghetti, noodles and Garri (cassava flake)? Garri, which used to be regarded as poor man's food, is now gold; a crate of eggs costs almost N2, 000 and an average loaf of bread goes for about N500.

"One single bell pepper now sells for N200. Five litres of groundnut oil is now over N6000; as for palm oil, anything you see, you take it like that.

"But the most fantastic increase has come from frozen foods like chicken, turkey, fish and the like; these are classified as rich-man's foods now. A kilogram of chicken and turkey is now almost N2, 500; no matter how you cut it, you can never get up to 10 pieces."

Ehindero stressed that during the festive period, many families would not be able to have food on the table because of the skyrocketed inflation at 21.09 per cent.

Speaking with Blueprint Weekend via telephone, a psychologist, Christopher Orisemeke, said the rate of increase of goods and services was troubling.

According to him, the rate of increase of goods and services is making it very difficult for salary earners as their wages have not changed.

Christopher, who spoke from Oleh town in Delta state, said: "A bag of rice in Oleh is now N50, 000. And from the way it is going, the price might still increase before Christmas. Even garri that used to be cheap is now beyond the reach of many families. Only God will help us."

Source: Blueprint



Naira Redesign: ACCI seeks deadline extension

The Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) says it has appealed to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to extend the deadline for the discontinuation of the use of the current currency notes.

The President of ACCI, Dr Al-Mujtaba Abubakar, made the appeal in a statement he issued on Tuesday in Abuja in reaction to the recent announcement by the CBN on the redesigning of the country's currency.

According to him, there have been various reactions from experts on the policy and while some experts agree with the CBN's strategic objectives for the exercise, others differ.

Recall that the CBN had stated that the redesigned Naira notes would be released by Dec. 15 and that existing ones would cease to be regarded as legal tender by Jan. 31, 2023.

"As a chamber, we recognise the advantages of this policy to include improvement in the integrity of the currency, curbing inflation, the efficiency of its supply and strengthening the strategy to conduct monetary policy, among others.

"However, we are not unaware of the cons of this policy on the national economy, specifically to the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

"We would recommend to the apex bank to intensify public awareness campaign on the need for people and businesses to transit cash



Emefiele

outside the banking system to the banks," he said.

Abubakar explained that the sensitisation would allay the fears of Nigerians, deepen the buy-in of the citizenry and build national support for the implementation process.

According to him, at the same time, the CBN should extend the deadline for the non-continuation of the use of the old currency notes. "The chamber would also advise the CBN to provide financial and non-financial interventions (support) to cushion any likely negative impact this policy may have on businesses," he said.

The president also said that the CBN, working with other stakeholders in the financial services eco space, needed to sustain and aggressively pursue and expand financial inclusiveness to cover unbanked segments of the society.

"This can be achieved through new procedures that match the peculiarities of the informal economy. Abubakar added, "The banking establishments also have a duty to harmonise bank charges associated with cash deposits".

The World Bank report has revealed that Nigeria's petroleum, electricity, and foreign exchange resources have been consumed by inefficient and regressive subsidies.

This was contained in a statement on the bank's website announcing the launch of the new Nigeria Public Finance Review report.

The bank added that subsidies benefit only rich households and reduce government spending on poor Nigerians.

It added that the subsidies were far more than what was spent on education, health and social protection in 2021.

The statement read, "For years, a large share of Nigeria's resources have financed inefficient and regressive subsidies for petrol, electricity, and foreign exchange. Not all these subsidies are accounted for in the budget, which makes them difficult to track and scrutinize.

"However, available data suggest that these subsidies, which accounted for more than the amount spent on education, health, and social protection in 2021, benefit primarily wealthy households. They also distort incentives, discourage investment, and crowd-out spending on pro-poor programs, thereby hindering progress in Nigeria's social development." It further noted that Nigeria had one of the lowest public expenditure and revenue levels in the world, undermining the government's ability to improve service delivery.

The bank added that low tax rates and poor utilisation of tax bases, weaknesses in tax administration, and large deductions from oil revenues were limiting Nigeria's ability to generate enough revenues.

The World Bank Group

Subsidy: Petrol, electricity spent inefficiently – World Bank



Ngozi

President, David Malpass, was quoted as saying, "Nigeria's government urgently needs to strengthen fiscal management, create a unified, stable market-based exchange rate, phase out its costly, regressive fuel subsidy and rationalize preferential trade restrictions and tax exemptions.

These would lay the groundwork for the increases in public revenues and spending needed to improve development outcomes.

"Decisive moves would significantly improve the business enabling environment in Nigeria, attract foreign direct investment, and reduce inflation. The World Bank is ready to increase support to Nigeria as it designs and implements these critical reforms."

On his part, the bank's Nigeria Country Director, Shubham Chaudhuri, said, "Nigeria is at a critical historical juncture and has a choice to make. A child born in Nigeria today will be only 36

percent as productive when she grows up as she could be if she had access to effective public education and health services, and has a life expectancy of only 55 years.

These stark indicators illustrate the urgency for action by Nigeria's policymakers to improve the macroeconomic and fiscal framework, so as to sustainably enhance the quality of spending and public services at Federal and State levels."

At the launch in Abuja on Monday, there was a panel session, which featured the Director-General, Budget Office of the Federation, Ben Akabueze; the Chief Economic Adviser to the President, Dr Doyin Salami; and the Director-General of the Debt Management Office, Patience Oniha.

The DMO DG also said that Nigeria should not continue to depend on debts but needed to enhance revenue generation.

Each of the panelists stressed the need for the government to increase taxes and cover up compliance gaps.

FG kicks against IMF prediction

The Federal Government on Monday has advised Nigerians to stay calm and not be afraid of any form of food crises as predicted by the International Monetary Fund.

Kicking against the projections, FG stated that several measures had been put in place to forestall the scarcity of food in Nigeria, stressing that there was no need for panic among citizens across the country.

In an earlier report by Economic Confidential, IMF had predicted that Nigeria would face food crisis in 2023 and should brace up for higher food prices/risks due to recent floods and high fertilizer costs.

But the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development opposed the position of the global financial institution, as it provided a document detailing what the

FMARD had done and was doing to avert such a crisis.

"People shouldn't be afraid of any food crisis. The minister has explained this and so people should not express fear about their (IMF) projections," the Director, Information, FMARD, Joel Ouches, told our correspondent.

In the document on the Long/Short Term Measures to Ameliorate the Disruptions of Food Production and Supply in Nigeria, the ministry said it was implementing various interventions to mitigate the anticipated disruptions occasioned by the recent floods.

The FMARD said it had distributed "assorted food commodities from the Federal Government strategic food reserve to the vulnerable and flood victims through the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development."

It added, "Distribution of early maturing seeds (wheat, rice, maize, sorghum, cassava cuttings), fertilisers, agro-chemicals and agro-equipment to affected crop farmers across the country.

"Distribution of subsidised agricultural inputs (fertilisers, certified seeds and agro-chemicals) to affected wheat, rice and maize farmers for dry season farming under Agricultural Transformation Agenda Phase 1 and Public Based Operations across the 36 states and Abuja."

The ministry said brooded broilers for restocking of affected smallholder poultry farms had also been distributed nationwide, adding that the mass vaccination

of animals to prevent incidents of disease outbreaks that usually occurred after flood disasters was currently ongoing.

The FMARD further stated that it was collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Interior to improve security on farms through the deployment of agro-rangers across the country.

Senate, minister battle over 206 bn budget padding

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, and Social Development, Sadiya Farouq, has disclosed that the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, added N206bn to the humanitarian ministry's budget.

Farouq, who appeared before the Senate Committee on Special Duties on Monday to defend the 2023 budget, revealed that the ministry requested some projects for the North East Development Commission and the National Social Safety Net Project in the 2022 budget, which were not released, but was surprised to see an inflated

amount in the 2023 budget of the ministry.

The budget defense was soured when Senator Elisha Abbo (APC Adamawa North) asked the minister about the inflated N206bn in the budget.

The minister said, "Yes, we made mention of the projects for 2022 that were not released, and part of it was for the NEDC.

"The money was not released, and now that we have seen it recurring by almost 10-fold, we are also going to seek clarification from the Ministry of Finance to know why the increase occurred despite the fact that the previous year, the money requested wasn't released for the projects.

So, we will get the details and then send them to you."

Also on Thursday, the defence minister also told the senate that Ahmed inserted a total of 11bn into its 2023 budget; the minister of health also accused her of budget padding.

Abbo, who expressed shock at the minister's revelation, stated, "This is serious. We cannot continue to borrow money and plunge this country into debt for our children to come and pay without investing in what they will see."

The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Yusuf Yusuf, moved a motion to summon the finance minister to explain the N206bn inserted in the budget.



Lagarde



Towards adopting new technologies in telecom sector

It is gratifying when the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) ordered MTN and Airtel to immediately reverse the hike in their data tariff plan, which they had implemented on their respective networks recently. 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. ZEENAT SAMBO, writes.

FOLLOWING complaints by the telecom subscribers over the hike, NCC, in a statement signed by the Director, Public Affairs at NCC, Mr. Reuben Muoka ordered the mobile network operators to reverse the hike.

According to NCC, the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Ibrahim Pantami, had maintained that his priority was to protect the citizens and ensure justice to all stakeholders involved.

As such, anything that would bring more hardship at this critical time would not be accepted, they added.

Telecommunication plays a prominent role in the digital transformation of economies. Through various telecom technology, millions of people around the world can access information, communicate, and interact without any obstruction.

To be tech trendy means to evolve, to evolve means to innovate, and innovation backed by spontaneity and creativity is a unique advantage to achieve through telecom tech integration in the country.

Over time, the rapid growth and deployment of new technologies to upgrade telecommunications in Nigeria have repositioned the telecom sector as the wiring aid for digital communication across sectors of the economy.

Thus, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has relentlessly reaffirmed its commitment to promoting the deployment and adoption of emerging technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), the utilization of Big Data, Blockchain, Virtual Reality, Robotics, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), among others, to stimulate a larger economic impact for the sector.

While addressing stakeholders at a Cyberchain conference in Abuja, the Executive Vice Chairman/CEO of the NCC, Prof. Umar Danbatta noted that the telecom sector has been a key promoter of Nigerian economic activities, transforming the way people live and work as well as increasing efficiency in other sectors of the economy.

The rapid pace of technological advancement makes it imperative that network providers adopt digital solutions and platforms to deal with the telecommunications sector's major digital shift.

Interestingly, IoT technology and location-based sensors like GPS will enable the creation of personal security solutions with location-tracking capabilities. Compared to previous tracking methods, GPS will provide extremely accurate location information for mobile objects and people. With the advancement in GPS technology and its capability to inform existing users' location to the cloud platform for further processing, it will help evaluate data and translate it into easy-to-understand language-based



encoded information.

For instance, with the advancement in telecommunications technology, Nigeria's military communications in conflict zones will be able to detect enemies with relative ease. Communication and control methods that are network-based will enable the armed forces to be more efficient, support intelligence gathering and communication between allies, and sometimes come in handy for quelling or defeating adversaries.

Military neck microphones, handsets, headsets, speakers, combat network radios and accessories, high-frequency land/mobile radio tactical communications, and other gadgets used in warfare will be technologically upgraded to fight insecurity in the country. Telecom operators and users can also utilize GPS tracking technology to understand supply chains, track goods, locate workers, and improve business efficiency.

Today, many Nigerian businesses rely heavily on telecommunication networks to maintain effective and efficient contact between employees, workers, and clients/customers. By integrating network management, companies can better track and control existing telecom expenses and ensure an error-free network and improve performance which is intended to grow profit and reduce paper workloads.

Again, operations system support and business support (OSS-BSS) integration is expected to provide telecom operators with the opportunity for growth and increased profitability. As customer demands evolve, telecom operators need to integrate IT and network services to remain competitive. In the long

run, this will lead to cost reduction and allow them to invest in unique opportunities.

The deployment of fibre optic cables and other telecom equipment by mobile network operators (MNOs) across Nigeria is entirely aimed at expanding the network infrastructure across the country to provide consumers with more efficient services in one visible step to telecom growth.

Another landmark shift was the growth leap of 5G technology to support the delivery of ubiquitous broadband services and usher Nigeria into a more robust Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

The advancement in telecom technology also calls for an increase in bandwidth. Considering that the demand for bandwidth is at an all-time high, the evolution of the IoT, mobile applications, cloud-based applications, and other high-capacity activities will continue to drive the need for further bandwidth.

An upgraded telecommunications infrastructure can help workers work more efficiently by improving the flow of data and ensuring user privacy and data security.

Presently, many businesses thrive

on digital collaboration, from video conferences to cloud-based training. Thus, multimedia capabilities have become essential to connecting products and services to meet the needs of customers and employees.

Content creation has become a major source of income for many internet users. More and more subscribers/users are expected to create their content in the future. This is not to mention how digital giants spend billions of dollars on content creation to accelerate technological advances in their businesses.

As telecom technology advances, so do telecom sector operators. Nigerian telecom companies like MTN and Airtel have recently decided to expand their operations into the financial services sector to include the provision of different business models and distribution channels.

In granting Payment Service Bank (PSB) licenses to the two major telecommunications companies, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) noted that it is enhancing financial inclusion and developing the payment system through technology-driven environments that are secure and reliable.

Despite Nigeria's tech advancement,

glitches in telecommunication and internet services make it difficult for businesses and banks to respond quickly to emergencies.

While many telecom infrastructures have been vandalized over time, and the issue becomes worse when poor telecom services affect service delivery, the fight to ensure technological integration by many telecom service providers promises a brighter prospect of achieving top-notch services in the telecom sector.

Additionally, the majority of telecom customers have experienced problems downloading and uploading content, thus the need to integrate and adopt new technological solutions in the telecom sector is a wake-up call for all players in the ecosystem.

Awareness, support, and inclusion of all to ensure a more vibrant and robust telecom sector is imperative to achieve a thriving digital economy. As NCC, NITDA, telecom service providers, and stakeholders are geared toward the 4th industrial revolution, they need to ensure the development and integration of seamless telecommunication services to achieve a smart society.

Source: Economy confidential

The rapid pace of technological advancement makes it imperative that network providers adopt digital solutions and platforms to deal with the telecommunications sector's major digital shift. Interestingly, IoT technology and location-based sensors like GPS will enable the creation of personal security solutions with location-tracking capabilities. Compared to previous tracking methods, GPS will provide extremely accurate location information for mobile objects and people. With the advancement in GPS technology and its capability to inform existing users' location to the cloud platform for further processing, it will help evaluate data and translate it into easy-to-understand language-based encoded information. For instance, with the advancement in telecommunications technology, Nigeria's military communications in conflict zones will be able to detect enemies with relative ease. Communication and control methods that are network-based will enable the armed forces to be more efficient, support intelligence gathering and communication between allies, and sometimes come in handy for quelling or defeating adversaries.

Politics

Former SSG appointed campaign DG

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Former Secretary to the Bauchi State Government (SSG), Alhaji Muhammad Umar Nadada has been appointed as the campaign Director General (DG) to the APC governorship candidate, Ambassador Sadique Baba Abubakar ahead of the 2023 general elections.

The appointment of Alh. Muhammad Umar Nadada who holds the traditional title of Zannan Misau was contained in a letter dated 7th November, 2022. The letter which was personally signed by the governorship candidate of the party, noted that the appointment takes immediate effect.

According to the letter, "It is with gratitude to Allah (SWT) that I write to convey my endorsement of your appointment as the Director General of our campaign in the upcoming 2023 gubernatorial election in Bauchi State."

It explained that the decision to appoint the former SSG was informed by the gubernatorial candidate of party's conviction that he has the capacity to deliver after having consulted widely.

"Your pedigree, scholarship



Nadada

and character were highly attested to," the letter said.

The appointment letter added that Nadada has garnered experiences from his early and later sojourns in both public and private sectors.

The governorship candidate of the APC recalled that Muhammad Umar Nadada has held positions of high responsibilities.

"Also, in politics you have on many occasions been appointed as a Secretary to

the State Government", the letter added.

It said that the campaign DG was also a party stalwart and supporter of the gubernatorial flag bearer in Bauchi State.

"All these qualities and experiences must certainly tower above other additional requirements that may come with the job. You are no doubt more than fit to take the assignment head-on and we are expecting the best from you", the gubernatorial candidate said.

By **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

PLATEAU State PDP stakeholders under the aegis of Plateau For Atiku Movement, has raised alarm calling on former Governor Jonah David Jang to return home and explain to members the positions of Port Harcourt/Lagos group that has affected the state.

The leader of the group who is a former Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Istifanus Caleb Mwansat, made the call yesterday while addressing journalists in a press briefing held at the headquarters of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Jos, the Plateau State capital.

He said, "As critical stakeholders of the party in Plateau State, and as persons working for the victory of our presidential candidate and his running mate, we are deeply concerned by the involvement and participation of one of our leaders and former Governor, former Senator, member of the Board of Trustees and a founding member of PDP, His Excellency, Dr. Jonah David Jang with the Port Harcourt/Lagos Group.

"We are constrained to say that the agitation of the group to which he is a part, does not represent the thinking of the party and members in the state. As an important state in the North Central Zone, we also

Plateau for Atiku Movement indicts Jang



Jang

seek to know what we are going to get for giving up the National Chairmanship of the party which he supports.

"Therefore, we wish to request that he should return to his base in Plateau State and engage with his constituents to shed more light on how the positions taken by the Port Harcourt/Lagos Group is affecting us in the state. On the average, members of the PDP in Plateau State do not sufficiently understand the basis for his decision and action", he stated.

Mwansat, however, questioned that since the

chairmanship belonged to North Central zone which was denied them to contest for the presidency position, they saw it as a disservice to them and that they would continue to demand about the resignation of the Chairman without spelling out the terms.

The movement condemned in totality the prolongation of conditions that would hurt their party and candidates in any way and called on the G5 Governors and their supporters to embrace peace and work for the victory of the PDP in all elections as they pledge their total support and loyalty to the party.

Tribunal strikes out INEC's application on Adeleke

THE Osun State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal has struck out the application by Counsel to the Independent National Electoral Commission

(INEC) Prof. Paul Ananaba, SAN, filed to set aside the Subpoena issued to produce Ademola Adeleke's credentials used in the 2018 Governorship Election.

The ruling of the tribunal followed the application by INEC counsel to withdraw the application.

Addressing journalists after the sitting, Chief Akin Olujimi (SAN) the petitioner's counsel said the application was the only obstacle for the appearance of INEC official to produce Adeleke's credentials, saying the obstacle has been dealt with and the INEC Resident Electoral Commission would have to appear before the court with the documents requested for.

"What happened today is that the petitioners called their witness who gave oral evidence on the analysis he did on the results produced by INEC after the election. And the other witnesses who will testify will be coming in tomorrow and the court has adjourned to tomorrow," Olujimi said.

"As regards the Subpoena, we expect that the only obstacle as against it was the application filed on behalf of INEC against the Subpoena but they withdrew that application today which means the Subpoena could be obeyed by INEC and then the officer we Subpoened will appear in court by tomorrow with those documents", Olujimi added.

Meanwhile an expert witness, who is covered by Evidence Act 2011 to give Opinion Evidence, Isiaka Olanrewaju, told the Tribunal that he established that there were irregularities in the results used to declare the candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Ademola Adeleke, as the Governor-elect by INEC.

He said he came to that conclusion after analysing the

result forms for the election and comparing them with the Bimodal Voters Accreditation System (BVAS).

He made these revelations while giving evidence before the Justice Tertsea Kume-led tribunal at the resumed hearing in the petition filed by Governor Adegboyega Oyetola and the All Progressives Congress (APC) on Monday.

This is just as the tribunal struck out the application by Counsel for INEC, Prof. Paul Ananaba, SAN, filed to set aside the Subpoena issued on the INEC for the production of Adeleke's credentials used in the 2018 Governorship Election.

The witness who was led in evidence by the Petitioners' counsel, Chief Akin Olujimi (SAN), said he relied on forms EC8As, EC8B, EC8C, EC8D, EC8E and BVAS report released by INEC to arrive at his findings.

While being cross-examined by the INEC counsel, Ananaba, the witness said he analysed the results of the election in 749 units across 10 Local Governments as against 762 units being suggested to him by the counsel for the respondents.

While INEC counsel put it to him that the witness analysed results of 762 units, he responded: "That is your opinion, I worked on just 749 units. where you see 762, I don't know".

The witness was also cross-examined by counsel for Adeleke, Onyechi Ikpeazu (SAN), and counsel for the PDP, Alex Izinyon (SAN).

He told the tribunal that though he didn't operate the BVAS machine on the election day on July 16, 2022, he received the Certified True Copy (CTC) of the BVAS report on the 27th of July 2022 after the election.

2023: IGP charges officers on partisan politics



Baba

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THE Inspector General of police, Usman Alkali Baba has charged officers and men of the Police force to desist from Political participation, before, during and after the forthcoming general elections in the country.

The IGP handed down the warning on Monday while addressing officers and men of the Kogi police command at the state command headquarters, Lokoja.

Let me sound a note of warning to you all to be apolitical before, during and after the forthcoming election, you must not allow yourselves to be used because they will dump you after the elections".

According to him, "you have a duty and responsibility to

loyalty to constituted authority in return, saying, "Give us your loyalty, we will provide the leadership."

He called on senior officers to engage community police officers as well as other sister security outfits to assist them in carrying out their duties.

"You need their cooperation and that of other sister security outfits, consider yourself as their partners, you need to be in synergy with them, you need them just as they need you to be successful in your

Gyang mourns passage of mama Mutfwang

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

Senator I. D. Gyang has received with a heavy heart the news of the demise of the mother of Barrister Caleb Mutfwang (BCM), Governorship candidate of the PDP in Plateau state, Kaka Briskila Mutfwang who died at an advance old age.

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

The Senator said this in a statement issued to news men in Abuja Monday by his SA media, Precious K. Nyako.

According to the Senator "strength and comfort can be drawn from the impact of her life particularly the height which her children have attained in society being fruits of her motherly care, love and upbringing".

assignments.

If there are no security, we will be like animals farms where the strongest only survive police must see themselves as veritable instruments of change in the security architecture of the society.

As society grows, so are challenges. Added to the problem of robbery, are kidnaping, banditry, we must rise up to the occasion as they rear their ugly heads," the IG noted.



Gyang

Politics

PDP crisis: We stand on Port Harcourt accord - G5 governors

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) G5 governors led by the Rivers state governor, Nyesom Wike, say they are bent on the criteria set in Port Harcourt if the on-going reconciliation efforts in the Party will succeed.

Addressing the media after the group's meeting in Lagos, former governor of Plateau state, Jonah Jang who read the resolution of the group said the party has reviewed its stand and decided to stand on the decision the group took at the Port Harcourt meeting last week.

He said; "we decided on the decision we took at Port Harcourt that the window to reconcile with our great party is still open."

Briefing newsmen earlier before the closed door session, Oyo state Governor, Seyi Makinde who rechristened the G5 group as 'The Integrity Group' said the governors are the faces of the struggle, while the elders and leaders are solidly behind them.

Those present at the Lagos meeting include the Rivers State Governor, Nyesome Wike; Abia State Governor, Okezie Ikpeazu; Governor of Benue State, Samuel Ortom; Enugu State Governor; Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi; Senator Olaka Nwogu; Senator MAO Ohuanbuwa; Hon. Nnena Ukeje; Senator Nasir Suleiman; Senator Sandy Onor; Malam Mohammed Adoke; Olusegun Mimiko; Ayo Fayose; Donald Duke and



Ayu

former deputy national chairman (South) Chief Bode George.

Others were; Deputy National Chairman (South) of the PDP, Ambassador Taofeek Arapaja; National Vice Chairman (South - South), Dan Orbih and former PDP gubernatorial aspirant in Osun

State, Omoba Dotun Babayemi.

The main point of the group's demand is that the national chairman of the PDP, Iyorchia Ayu must step down for a Southern candidate, otherwise the group would not support its presidential candidate Atiku Abubakar.

THE United States government, through its embassy and consulate office in Nigeria, has said that its government does not in any way support any individual candidate or political party for the upcoming 2023 general election.

Rolf Olson, the Embassy Political Counselor, stated this during the Humphrey Alumni Association Annual Seminar 2022, held recently.

Olson, who spoke on behalf of Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard, stated clearly the position of the U.S. government ahead of the 2023 general election, noting that reports of endorsement of any candidate or political party by the United States government on social media a few weeks ago was not true.

He said, "The United States does not support any individual candidate or party in this election cycle or, for that matter, in any other upcoming election."

The government's interest is in ensuring that the processes leading up to the election and after the results are announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) are free, fair, and credible.

"Our interest is in supporting credible and transparent elections that reflect the will of Nigerian voters in a process that is conducted peacefully.

'We don't have preferred candidate, political party'

Full stop," he emphasized.

Read also: 2023 election is a fight to define Nigeria's soul, says Tinubu

As political activities heat up, Olson agreed that recent events in the country are tilting toward more political violence and unpatriotic use of language, both of which are capable of jeopardising the country's democratic future.

According to him, "We look to all Nigerians to reject the use of violence and inflammatory rhetoric before, during, and after election day. When we say "all" Nigerians, we mean all: politicians, candidates, students, leaders of religious, traditional, community, youth, and business organizations and entities—everyone has a role to play in this effort."

However, seeing the number of damages caused by mischief makers, he advised that everyone who has a stake in the coming general election should try "to eliminate the use of violence and inflammatory rhetoric."

He added further that in the past, the United States government had used visa

denial as a punishment for anyone found guilty of compromising the future of the country's democratic processes through the use of violence.

"Individuals seeking to undermine the democratic process, including through violence, may be found ineligible for visas to the United States," he said.

Olson further promised to apply this measure to anyone seen to have engaged in the use of violence to undermine the democratic process.

Perhaps knowing how politically charged the atmosphere is, he advised that it is essential that candidates and their parties, as well as all of their supporters seeking to help them win elections, refrain from brash assertions of victory that suggest defeat is only possible if there is fraud.

"There is no true democratic election in which the outcome is foretold," he noted, making reference to situations in the U.S. where certain candidates were confident of victory only to end up losing.

437,354 PVCs yet to be collected in Osun - INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Osun State says 437,354 Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) are yet to be collected in the state.

Muti Agboke, the State Resident Electoral

Commissioner (REC), in the state made this known on Sunday at Union Baptist Church, Osogbo saying that the uncollected PVCs are enough to elect a governor.

Agboke stated that the commission has decided to

take the sensitisation to all churches in the state urging the congregation to take seriously the forthcoming election.

He said, "It is your civic responsibility to obtain your Permanent Voters Card, cast

your vote on the election day and monitor INEC's declaration.

"Before you are eligible to vote, you need your PVC. In Osun State, at the moment, we have 437,354 PVCs uncollected. This number of PVCs is sufficient to make someone a governor."

The REC appealed to residents to visit the INEC offices across the 30 Local Government Areas to collect their PVCs.

The INEC boss however debunked the notion that INEC has included the names of underaged persons in its register.

He assured that on the final list which INEC would release, names of underaged and persons with multiple registrations would not be included making it not eligible to vote.

"Nobody will rig this coming election, INEC will only declare the person you have voted as the winner of the election.

"INEC has rededicated the

pattern of voting, our technology will guarantee the sacredness of your vote. Nobody can hijack your vote again with the use of BVAS," he assured.

Agboke promised to make available the election guideline, stressing that the electoral act will be strictly adhered to.

Calling on religious leaders to use their platforms to properly orientate their members, he charged Osun residents not to relent after the 2022 governorship election but get ready to vote during the presidential, national assembly and house of assembly elections in 2023.

In his response, the minister-in-charge of the church, Sunday Adeoye promised to cooperate with the new REC for better sensitisation of the members.

He noted that information is key hence the need for voters education, stating that all necessary details made available will be passed across to the congregation.

Vote for honest, credible leaders

- Catholic Bishop



Umoren

THE Auxiliary Bishop of Abuja Catholic Archdiocese, Rev. Dr. Anselem Umoren (MSP), has advised citizens to vote for credible and honest candidates in the 2023 general election.

Voting sincere leaders would bring dividends of democracy to the country, the clergy said.

Umoren gave the advice on Sunday during the celebration of 'Christ the King' and confirmation of faithfuls

at the St. Paul's Catholic Church in Gwagwalada, Abuja.

He stressed the need for Nigerians to do good at all times and vote credible and honest candidates into power, adding that they should not allow selfish interest determine their choice of candidates.

"As Christians, don't make choices for selfish interests, and your choice should be for the common good and

benefit of all.

"You cannot be a good Christian if you are not a good citizen and if you do that you would be deceiving yourself.

"Christians should be good citizens by making the right choices, Jesus Christ didn't die for himself to benefit from it, he died so that others will benefit and we should all learn from that," he admonished.

According to him, the solemnity of 'Christ the King' was a call to Christians, especially Catholics to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, who showed love, forgiveness and died for the sins of others.

"Those who have treated us badly we harbour bad feelings towards them and seek vengeance, forgetting the fact that God has forgiven us our sins and the Lord's prayers should remind us of that always," he said.

He explained further that confirmation was a Sacrament of maturity which enable the Catholic faithful to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and produce the fruits, adding that the fruits of the spirit is the criteria to judge

life.

"I want to encourage you; confirmation is not the end of learning, let Jesus affect your life, so that no one will confuse you tomorrow. So also that you can have an impact on the people around you, your environment and the world at large.

"Let Jesus take control of your lives, you must live well and follow the right values. We can't celebrate Jesus Christ as the King and we are dishonest," he stressed.

Earlier, Rev. Fr. Gabriel Ekpe, the Parish Priest of St. Paul's Catholic Church, disclosed that 216 faithfuls were conferred with Sacrament of Confirmation.

Ekpe added that the Bishop also laid foundation for the CWO skill acquisition centre.

He, therefore, encouraged Nigerians to embrace Jesus Christ, the King of Peace, so that peace can reign in the nation, especially in view of the upcoming election.

"The more we embrace Christ and enthrone him as king of peace, we can be sure of peace in our nation regardless of religion or ethnicity," he urged.



Yakubu

IMAGES

LALONG MEETS STAKEHOLDERS OF BOKKOS

The Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) on Monday at the Twin Theatre Hall, new Government House, Rayfield held a meeting with stakeholders of Bokkos LGA over the recent attacks



Governor Simon Bako Lalong (middle) presiding over the meeting



Cross section of stakeholders listening to the address by the Governor



Plateau State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong (middle), Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden (left) and Chairman, Bokkos LGC, Hon. Joseph Guluwa listening to remarks by DG, Peace Building Agency



Director General, Plateau Peace Building Agency, Joseph Lengmang delivering his remarks



Governor Lalong (left) exchanging greetings with some stakeholders at the meeting



Cross section of security and government officials at the stakeholders meeting



Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State (left) with Chief Samuel Mafuyai after the meeting



Governor Simon Bako Lalong (left) with the Miyetti Allah Cattles Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) Alhaji Muhammad Nura Abdullahi

Politics

2023 elections: Ensuring popular participation, voting

In a democracy, the electorate holds the ace in determining leadership in all the tiers of governance. In Nigeria, this include the Local Government comprising councillors and chairmen; the states comprising governors and house of assembly members; and the federal comprising the President, Vice President, Senators and House of representatives members, ISMAIL ABDULAZIZ writes.

DEMOCRACY is described as the government of the people for the people and by the people. It is a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

From all indication, the level of participation of legible electorate in various elections in Nigeria has not been encouraging as lesser number of votes than expected are recorded and most Nigerians of voting age do not register to vote at all.

For the upcoming 2023 general elections, the INEC has declared that 93.5 million Nigerians are eligible to vote in a population of over 211.4 million people with half of the population under 19 years of age.

All Nigerians of voting age are supposed to participate in the process of registration for voter cards and the actual voting during elections into all the executive and legislative arms of government in order to attain the dreams of a prosperous and united nation.

The price of bad leadership begins from the process of voting the right or wrong people. The barrage of challenges facing Nigeria and Nigerians that are stunting its growth and development can be addressed by the caliber of persons voted into political offices.

One of the major problems of Nigeria is that of corruption. This is a form of dishonesty or a criminal offence which is undertaken by a person or an organization which is entrusted in a position of authority, in order to acquire illicit benefits or abuse power for one's personal gain. Political corruption occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts with an official capacity for personal gain.

A popular aspect of political corruption is that of electoral



Yakubu

fraud or rigging. Ten ways identified in which politicians engage in election fraud are: 1. Militarise opponent's area, 2. Ensure late arrival of materials in rival's polling unit, 3. Threaten INEC officials, 4. Compromise INEC's logistic process, 5. Compromise INEC officials, 6. Snatching of ballot boxes/papers in rival's polling unit, 7. Electoral violence/thuggery, 8. Manipulating results at collation centres, 9. Vote buying and 10. Get your name announced by 'hook or crook' and let your opponent go to court.

The use of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is by no

means a viable way of drastically reducing fraud in our elections. Its use in the 2023 general elections is expected to be a game changer if the various shortcomings are quickly addressed by all stakeholders. The BVAS is an electronic device designed to read Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) and authenticate voters – using the voters' fingerprints – in order to prove that they are eligible to vote at a particular polling unit.

The 2023 general elections is another chance for Nigeria to move forward into a new horizon of democratic ethos in the continent and the world at large. This is the election that is always different in its characteristics because it the period when the incumbent is no longer contesting after serving a four-year or eight-year tenure.



Okoye

President Muhammadu Buhari will not contest in the 2023 and the field is better adjudged to produce a candidate that is not necessarily what is known as the incumbent's favourite. At least this is going by Buhari's "body language" and the fact that a lot of reforms have been witnessed in the electoral process that had led to the most unexpected results like that of Osun.

Electoral reforms are expected to contribute to better participation of the citizens in electoral practices, reduce corruption and strengthen democracy. According to the USAID: Critical development efforts cannot succeed without a legitimate and democratically elected government that is responsive and accountable to its citizens. Elections provide an important opportunity to advance democratization and encourage political liberalisation.

It added that for an election to be free and fair, certain civil liberties, such as the freedom of speech, association and assembly, are required. Elections can be a primary tool to foster political openings and expand political participation. Electoral processes offer political parties and civic groups an opportunity to mobilize and organize supporters and share alternative platforms with the public. Elections also serve to encourage political debate and public dialogue.

On the efficacy of the ballot, the Goodluck Jonathan Foundation puts it more succinctly: "The potency of the ballot depends on many variables; the credibility of the process and the outcomes of the elections: was the election peaceful, was it inclusive, was it free and fair, and devoid of manipulation? These are the posers that define the strength of the ballot. The manipulation of elections in many countries has recently led to the decline of democracy in Africa.

While elections provide an opportunity for citizens to engage in nation-building, they also trigger national unrest if the process is not well managed. This is why development partners and non-governmental organisations commit to civic mobilisation and stakeholder engagement during political seasons to ensure that the election serves its purpose of nation-building and democratic consolidation.

At the 2022 peace conference by the Goodluck Jonathan Foundation, former President Goodluck Jonathan warned politicians and their parties to eschew violence, in order to protect Africa's most populous nation from being destroyed.

The year 2023 provides yet another chance for Nigerians to fully participate in elections by voting in competent leaders at all levels that would ensure that the country moves to its place of pride in the comity of nations. Nigerian and Nigeria deserve a better deal now.

"All Nigerians of voting age are supposed to participate in the process of registration for voter cards and the actual voting during elections into all the executive and legislative arms of government in order to attain the dreams of a prosperous and united nation. The price of bad leadership begins from the process of voting the right or wrong people. The barrage of challenges facing Nigeria and Nigerians that are stunting its growth and development can be addressed by the caliber of persons voted into political offices. One of the major problems of Nigeria is that of corruption. This is a form of dishonesty or a criminal offence which is undertaken by a person or an organization which is entrusted in a position of authority, in order to acquire illicit benefits or abuse power for one's personal gain. Political corruption occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts with an official capacity for personal gain."

News

Ata Igala honours rector

From
AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

RECTOR of Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja, Dr. Salisu Usman Ogbo was on Friday conferred with a chieftaincy title of Omoajo Ata Igala by His Royal Majesty, the Ata Igala, Matthew Alaji Opaluwa Oguche Akpa.

The Rector while appreciating the honour bestowed on him by the Ata Igala, His Majesty Matthew Alaji Opaluwa Oguche, urged Nigerians to shun religious and tribal sentiment.

"Nigerians should endeavour to see themselves as brothers and sisters who should work for the unity and peace of the nation irrespective of religious, political and tribal differences".

Dr. Usman Ogbo gave the assurance that he will not relent in his effort to transform Kogi Polytechnic to the desired level in terms of academic and infrastructural growth.

He said the recognition given to him by the Traditional Council of Igala Kingdom was borne out of his commitment and effort in transforming Kogi State Polytechnic Lokoja as one of the best Polytechnic in the country.

"The award means a lot to me because it is an indication that some people somewhere



Ata Igala

are watching what we are doing at the polytechnic. We thank God that we are able to make impact in the lives of the people and made contributions to our land and the nation at large.

"The award is an indication that we are doing well and a technical notice that we should endeavour to do more for humanity," he said.

While urging the staff of the institution to be committed to their work and shun sentiments that can retard the progress and development of the polytechnic, the Rector assured that he would continue to prioritize welfare of the staff to enable them

discharge their duty creditably.

Meanwhile, the Kogi State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists on Friday felicitated with the Rector on the conferment of chieftaincy title of Omoajo Ata Igala on him by His Royal Majesty, the Ata Igala

In a statement issued by the chairman of the union, Adeiza Momohjimoh and Secretary, AdemuSeidu described the chieftaincy title as another well deserved feather on the cap of the workaholic Rector.

The statement said DrOgbo has since assumption of office as the Rector of the institution, demonstrated strong will and unwavering determination to reposition the institution.

VICE Chancellor, Federal University Lokoja (FUL) , Professor Olayemi Akinwumi has declared that appointment into positions in the institution would henceforth depend on presentation of inaugural lecture by professors of the university.

Professor Akinwumi stated this during the 8th inaugural lecture with the topic "If You Wish to Go far, Go Fairy: Reconnoitering an Emerging Computing Paradigm" presented by Prof. Francisca Onaolapo Oladipo at Adankolo campus of the university, Lokoja at the weekend.

The Vice Chancellor who lamented that many professors in FUL were yet to present their inaugural lectures which is one of the prominent university culture, said he would not relent in his effort to ensure that there is total compliance in order to uphold the culture in the university.

"Many universities in Nigeria are gradually losing most of their cultures. And one of the traditions is the inaugural lecture expected of any university academics bestowed with professorship to present immediately after such landmark achievement.

"Inaugural lecture is sacrosanct to university education and we must make sure that all

Appointments would depend on presentation of inaugural lecture- VC

From
AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

professors in our university deliver their inaugural lecture because of its significance.

"Elective and appointed positions in this university will henceforth be based on presentation of inaugural lecture. This I believe will encourage and motivate our professors to prepare and deliver the lecture" he stated.

The Vice Chancellor who described the 8th inaugural lecture as one of the best in the history of the institution, averred that the topic was a difficult area of studies, but the presenter, Prof. Oladipo simplified it for the understanding of the audience.

He commended Prof. Oladipo for a thorough researched job and charged other professors in the institution who are yet to present their inaugural lecture to do so without further delay.

The presenter of the lecture, Prof. Francisca Onaolapo, Oladipo, a computer scientist who is the current Vice Chancellor of Thomas Adewumi University, Oko in Kwara State, charged researchers in the country to develop passion and

tenacity before embarking on research work in order to achieve the desired goals.

She also admonished African researchers to always ensure that the data they collected during research work are made available for prospective researchers. And also advised that the data must be findable , accessible, interoperable and reusable.

Speaking on the FAIR Data management principles which is one of the core areas of the research, Prof. Oladipo said data collections and analysis can lead to a world of limitless possibilities.

She noted that data collected can be used in many ways to impact on everyone's lives positively through creation of personalized services by recommendations, drive strategies , assess impacts , ensure safety among others.

She charged the students of Federal University Lokoja to be focused and prioritize their studies in order to make their parents proud and as well be good ambassadors of the institution after graduating.

'Stop mass purchase of farm produce'

From
ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

AN Islamic cleric who is the Chief Imam of Jordan Jummu'at Mosque in Kofar Dumi Area of Bauchi metropolis.

Mallam Rabi'u Shehu, has appealed to the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency intervene over the massive purchase of farm produce by those he described as merchants of doom.

Mallam Rabi'u Shehu made the appeal during last Friday's sermon where he expressed concern at the mass purchase of foodstuff across the various market days in the state and beyond thereby hoarding the commodities while making their prices to skyrocket each and every day.

The cleric further described those merchants as unpatriotic and retrogressive elements saying that by hoarding the commodity, they were also making it very scarce in the market, thus pushing the common man into untold hardship in scrambling for foodstuffs.

Immam Shehu holds the view that instead of those merchants creating artificial scarcity of foodstuffs in the markets, they should in the name of God the merciful, kindly share the undisclosed substantial sums they caged in their house to the poor and needy in the society for bountiful rewards from the Creator.

"Instead of the merchants depriving the poor through

the massive purchase of foodstuffs from the markets only to turn back at a later time or period to sell at exorbitant prices, they should be humane enough to distribute the millions of naira notes they warehoused in their dens to the poor for God's benevolence", the cleric said.

Mallam Shehu therefore urged the EFCC and ICPC to spread their dragnets to markets days in all nooks and crannies of the country especially the North. It would enable them to apprehend such culprits for them to face the full wrath of the law.

He also urged patriotic citizens to expose those suspicious people by giving necessary information to security agents for their arrest and prosecution before the law courts.

It is worthy of note that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) recently announced its plan to redesign some of the country's currency that includes N200, N500 and N1000 naira notes in compliance with the monetary and banking policies of the country.

To this end, the apex bank ordered all banks across the country to work on Saturdays until January 31, 2023 to give every customer the opportunity to return their existing naira notes affected by the redesign.

The CBN explained that all the existing naira notes shall cease to be legal tender by January 31, 2023, and therefore directed the banks to accept cash deposits

above N500,000, as it also asked the banks not to charge customers for cash deposit and also operate on Saturdays to make it easier to customers.

CSO salutes BASG over budget allocation to health

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

A Bauchi based Civil Society Organization (CSO), Journalists for Public Health and Development Initiative (J4PD) has commended Bauchi State government for allocating 15.08 per cent of its 2023 proposed budget to

the health sector.

This was contained in a press statement signed and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Bauchi on Monday, by the Knowledge Management and Communication (KMC) Adviser of J4PD, Bashir

Hassan Abubakar.

The statement said that the 3 percent allocation to the health components of BASEPA, RUWASSA and agriculture (nutrition) will further complement and provide the much needed buffer especially in providing health care services at the primary level.

While further appreciating the state government for the giant strides, which is in line with the Abuja declaration on health, J4PD also appealed for timely releases of the allocated funds to carry out the purpose to which it was meant for, as soon as the budget is signed into law.

"For quite a while now Bauchi State has been consistent in allocating 15 percent in line with Abuja declaration and it is quite commendable. But our concern as CSO is that at the end of the year, the health budget performance leaves much to be desired

and this is due to inadequate releases of funds appropriated", said J4PD Coordinator, Elizabeth Nange Carr.

"We want to passionately appeal to the Bauchi State Government to improve on budget releases to enable relevant MDAs carry out programmes and activities designed to strengthen its health care systems.

"The recent political will demonstrated by the Bauchi State Government by keying into the health insurance drive is also commendable. This singular act will no doubt pave the way towards achieving universal health coverage that is being championed globally", said Carr.

J4PD further urged the state government not to relent in its efforts in addressing the manpower gaps in the health sector.



Bala

News

Da'a commends Lalong for reappointing Dawam as rector

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Executive Chairman of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, LGC, Hon Ernest Abner Da'a has commended Governor Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG, CON, for reappointing Bldr John Dawam as Rector of the Plateau State Polytechnic, BarkinLadi for the second time.

This came in a press statement signed by the Media Assistant to the Executive Chairman of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, Comrade Umar A. Dasheand made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the state capital Monday.

The Chairman described the reappointment of Builder Dawam, as an action based on merit following the track records of his service as the Rector in managing the institution. He said "His



Lalong

Excellency, Governor Simon Bako Lalong must have observed his capacity in building good managerial relationship as well as his competence in managing human and other critical resources at his disposal". He therefore, wished the

Rector a successful tenure and God's wisdom to consolidate on the Rescue Administration's mandate in the education sector, urging him to take the institution to greater heights by working towards improving on efficiency, quality service and capacity building.

Court to INEC: Resume voters registration immediately

THE Abuja Federal High Court has ordered the Independent National Electoral Commission to immediately resume the Continuous Voters Registration until 90 days before the 2023 general elections.

Justice InyangEkwo, in the judgment on Tuesday, also directed INEC to ensure that eligible Nigerians were not deprived the opportunity to

have their voter card for the forthcoming poll.

Justice Ekwo held that it was the constitutional responsibility of the electoral umpire to make adequate provision for the exercise in accordance with the Nigerian laws.

"The case of the plaintiffs succeeds on merit," the judge declared.

A report by the The News Agency of Nigeria stated that

AnajatSalmat and three others had sued INEC as sole defendant in a suit marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/1343/2022.

In the originating summons filed before the court, the plaintiffs argued that INEC cannot stop the CVR contrary to the stipulating provisions of the constitution.

They urged the court to order the electoral umpire to resume the exercise in accordance with the law of the country.

ITF to end dichotomy between general, technical education

THE Director-General of the Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph Ari has called for harmonization of certification in order to remove the dichotomy between general education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

He also called for the enforcement of monitoring and regulating of informal sectors that produce artisans to reduce quacks.

Ari stated this in a paper

he delivered at the National War College Monday in Abuja.

According to him, there is need to strengthen collaboration between technical institutions and industries, to meet up with labor market demand.

In addition, the ITF DG stated that the government needs to establish Teachers Industrial Work Experience Scheme (TIWES) as well as adopting state-of-the-art

measures that support human capacity development through engaging human expertise empowered by research.

He urged stakeholders in Technical Education and National development to develop operational policies that would drive human resource development, and called for the overhauling of the TVET system with policies that provides more funding for tools, equipment and facilities

With the institutionalization of the National Apprenticeship Training System (NATS), Ari said the ITF will enhance the capacity of artisans, craftsmen and technicians for employability and provide Nigerians with the relevant skills and competencies that will grow the economy.

He added, "The mandate of the ITF is very clear on the expectations of it. Therefore, the notion that the ITF should develop the entrepreneurship curriculum of tertiary institutions is entirely outside of its mandate and the responsibility of other Regulatory Agencies.



Learning the hard way

THERE are times when being a Nigerian and a good citizen is a difficult task. Patriotism seems like some form of punishment meted out to those who seek to work for the growth of the society. These negligible are neither encouraged nor assisted. They are rather seen as those who do not know what to do with their lives. Imagine riding against traffic and no one sees it as wrong?

When you drive against traffic or do anything that is wrong, you are considered smart and bold for having the guts to do or go against what is right and acceptable in sane climes. When you bulldoze your way and get what you want, Nigerians hail you for being smart even when you know you are wrong. Only recently, while on a trip to Benin, the Edo State capital, I learned some hard lessons. If you want to do things right, you will end up being the victim. Road rules are disregarded and no one bates an eye. If you say you want to do due process, you end up sleeping on a journey that would ordinarily take you 8 to ten hours.

Cutting corners is considered smart and doing the right thing is considered dumb. But what country succeeds when its laws are flouted and abused? Why do Nigerians think that laws in their own country do not deserve to be respected? Why must we always go against the grain? once we step out of this country, we follow the laws of whatever country we find ourselves in. But come to Nigeria you would think you are welcome to organized chaos.

This attitude has permeated throughout the whole fabric of the Nigerian society. Civil servants do not do their responsibilities without expecting to be bribed. This has led to the systematic decay that

the society is faced with and condemned to. 'Nothing goes for nothing' is the popular cliché leading to stagnation and lack of growth. We need to change gear and approach if we are to make any headway at all. We must be positive and patriotic in all we do. That way, we can hold to account those in position of leadership.

One scarcity too many Since the early part of September when flood waters started over running most of our states, fuel scarcity has become the order. First we were told that supplies were short due to the cutting off of the roads due to floods. But since the flood waters have ebbed, fuel scarcity has persisted. Even in

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Sadly, the present administration rode to power on the mantra of change. It had claimed that subsidy was a scam and if given the chance to govern, it would change the narrative. In the twilight of the administration, things have become worse off and the change promised seem to be only rhetorical. It is our expectations that before making a promise, those running for office must ensure that they do due diligence and ensure that whatever they say they can deliver on, not to bamboozle people with sweet nothings just to scurry their votes. Nigerians are annoyingly forgetful too. They are easily carried away by sentiments and forget to hold leaders who make promises to account.

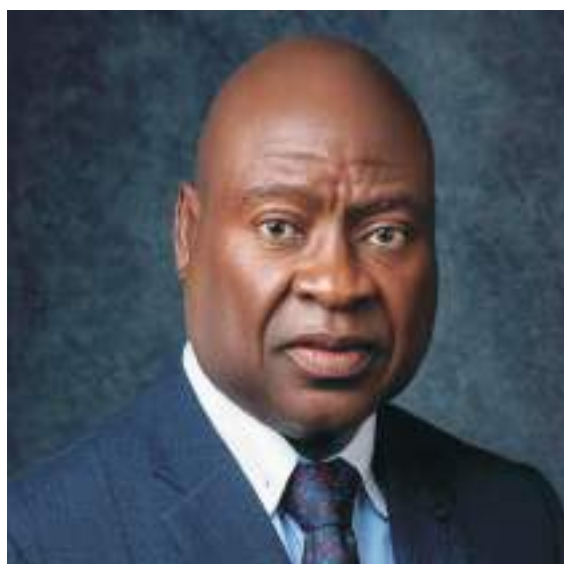
”

states that were not affected at all fuel still sells at an all time high, bringing untold hardship to the poor and further impoverishing them.

Sadly, the present administration rode to power on the mantra of change. It had claimed that subsidy was a scam and if given the chance to govern, it would change the narrative. In the twilight of the administration, things have become worse off and the change promised seem to be only rhetorical. It is our expectations that before making a promise, those running for office must ensure that they do due diligence and ensure that whatever they say they can deliver on, not to bamboozle people with sweet nothings just to scurry their votes. Nigerians are annoyingly forgetful too. They are easily carried away by sentiments and forget to hold leaders who make promises to account.

It is another season of campaign and promise making as the 2023 general elections etch closer. Nigerians therefore need to read in between the lines to sieve those with practicable and reliable manifestos not just anyone who can railroad them with big grammar. It is time we change the narratives and start doing that which is right and for the benefit of the generality of the people. We must endeavor to get it right this time.

Just like anyone else, our politicians must learn respect for those who put them into office. They must learn to live by their oaths of office. They must realise that it is only when the right thing is done that they would have served their employers. The situation where they service themselves and their families at the detriment of the larger society is unacceptable and should be discouraged.



Joe Ari

News

Lalong tasks new JUTH CMD on service delivery

By PALANG KASMI

NEW Chief Medical Director (MD) of the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) has been tasked to deliver quality health services to the people.

Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State threw the challenge to the CMD, Dr Pokop Yilwatda and his management team at Government House Jos during a visit.

He urged the CMD to work hard to sustain excellence in provision of quality healthcare services.

He again congratulated the new CMD on his recent appointment at the helm of leadership of the hospital which he said was well deserved because of his track record of service and diligence over the years.

Lalong assured JUTH management of the support of his administration towards ensuring that the hospital operates effectively and with the best capacity to handle tertiary health issues of not only Plateau State citizens but the North Central and other parts of the country.

The JUTH CMD in his remarks said, they were in the Governor's office to appreciate him for the support received towards his appointment as well as the goodwill the hospital has enjoyed from the Federal Government through the efforts of the Governor.



Bupwatda

He said approval of the National Orthopedic Hospital affiliated to the University of Jos, which is to be located in the Lalong Legacy Model Hospital Barkin Ladi is one of the many good things the Governor has done to improve the standard of the hospital.

The CMD also said the establishment of Centre for Cancer Research and Treatment at JUTH by the Federal Government has been made possible with the intervention of the Governor.

He further used the forum to assure the Governor that under his leadership, JUTH management will work with the staff and other stakeholders to ensure that all is done to make the hospital effective, efficient and productive.

...enjoins security forces on training, recruitment

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU State Governor, Simon Bako Lalong says meeting the training and retraining needs of personnel of the Nigeria Armed Forces would equip them to tackle the security challenges of the country.

The Governor stated this Monday at the New Government House, Jos, when he received

participants of Senior Course Forty Five of the Nigerian Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji, Kaduna State.

Lalong said, the Nigerian Security agencies have played a great role in addressing insecurity in the country but must be enhanced through training and retraining as well as more recruitment.

"The crimes we face

today are different from what we faced in the past and thus it requires that we adopt new strategies that are relevant to the current dynamics."

"This means our armed forces must be trained and retrained always in addition to an increase in their numbers. We need to respond to the challenges of today with the strategy of the day".

The Governor told the participants that his state, Plateau State has enjoyed the support of the Armed Forces in addressing insecurity which was a major setback to development of the state.

He assured them of his support in ensuring a successful completion of their study tour in the state.

Earlier in his remarks, Director of Joint Studies Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji, Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Bindul said the team is one of the 8 going round selected states to carry out studies on the theme "Youth Unemployment and Internal Security".

He said the 51 participants in the team comprise of various branches of the Armed Forces as well as others from Bangladesh, Malawi, Ghana, Congo Brazzaville



Lalong

KOGI State Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC has confirmed the death of five persons while four were severally injured when an articulated truck rammed into a commercial vehicle, at Oro junction, Okene.

The accident was said to have occurred due to failed brake on Monday evening at around 7.30 pm.

Eye witness account told our correspondent that, more people would have been killed or suffer severe injuries but for the car which served to break the speed of the approaching truck preventing it from getting to the people sitting down by the roadside leading to Ageva.

Steve Dawulong in response to our correspondent's inquiry said, "Sorry I just got to see your message now. I have on some days off but can tell you that a crash actually occurred about 730pm at Oro junction, Okene where a truck failed brake and rammed into a passenger car from the rear resulting to the death of four persons (3males 1female) with four

FRSC confirms 5 dead, 4 injured in crash

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja



Biu

others injured".

According to him, "The corpses were taken to Okengwe General Hospital Mortuary while the injured were taken by their respective families," he said in response to inquiry about the accident.

While sympathising with

victims and their families, Dawulong advised fleet operators to have viable maintenance policies which should be adhered to strictly as means of ensuring routine maintenance and vehicle roadworthiness before putting such vehicles on the road.

ASUU warns FG on 'no-work, no-pay'

From MOHAMMED ABDULLAHI, Keffi

on no-work, no-pay policy.

ASUU said failure to end the policy will force their members to skip the backlog of academic sessions halted by their seven months strike.

Speaking on Monday night, the Chairman of ASUU, University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Uzoma Chima, said, "Today's special congress and protest rally is to express our dissatisfaction with the recent attempt by the federal government of Nigeria to reduce university lecturers to daily pay casual workers."

"Because we know that there is nowhere in the world where university lecturers are treated as casual workers. So, today we invited parents, and students to let them know the state of things since after the suspension of our strike."

"Since we suspended the strike following the National Industrial Court order, we have come back to resume our duties and currently doing the backlogs of work we should have done during the strike. As a union of intellectuals, our job makes the no work, no pay policy not applicable to us."

"Because during the strike we were doing research. It was only teaching we were not doing. We were doing research and members engaged in community services. The teaching that was not done, we are doing already. We are clearing the backlog of work."

"So, today, we called parents and students to

carry the issue to the public. Let them not see it as a fight for only ASUU because we know and it is so clear now that the ruling class wants to decimate the public universities. And of course, as the eggheads of the nation, we will not allow that to happen."

"What we are going to do if the FG refuses to listen to us is so simple. If government continues to say they will not

pay us, we will abandon the work to do for those sessions and that will mean outright cancellation of those sessions."

"We will now wait for admission to be done for the 2022/2023 session so that we will continue from there. What that means is that the old students in the university will have to lose those sessions that is the implication."



Adamu



RIYOM LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, PLATEAU STATE

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tenders are invited from reputable and registered contractors with the Council for the execution of the following projects:

1. Renovation of Stadium and Landscaping at Riyom.
2. Grading/Construction of Trailer Park/Terminal at Sopp
3. Construction of Primary Health Care Clinic at Tahoss.
4. Grading and Construction of Bridge/Box Culverts at Bangai to Jebbu, Tahoss to Attakar
5. Electrification from Karlkum, Vom to Riyom LGA to General Hospital, Sambak.
6. Renovation of Directors Quarters at Riyom.
7. Construction of Bridge at Bum.
8. Renovation of Town Hall at Riyom.
9. Grading and Construction of 5km Road at Tse.
10. Construction of Box Culvert at Jol.
11. Renovation of Primary Health Care Clinic at Bachi
12. Grading and Construction of 9 number Culverts at Danto.
13. Renovation of Primary Health Care Clinic at Kwakwi and Nkun.
14. Renovation of Primary Health Care Clinic at Sopp - Tom Gangare.
15. Construction of Primary Health Care Clinic Wereng.
16. Construction of Primary School Block at Kwik.
17. Renovation of Chief Palace at Riyom.
18. Renovation of Secretariat Complex at Riyom.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- i. Evidence of Registration as Contractor with the LGC ;
- ii. Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission/Registration of Business name;
- iii. Evidence of Tax Clearance for the last three years;
- iv. Evidence of financial standing (copy of recent financial statement from the Bank your Company operates with);
- v. List of equipment and Technical Staff;
- vi. Evidence of similar projects executed by the company:

Eligible contractors or companies should forward their Bid documents to the Secretary, Riyom LGC Tender Board to reach her not later than two (2) weeks from the date of this publication 6th December, 2022 by 12.00 noon and bid opening by 2.00pm.

Note: The Council is not bound to award the contract to the highest or lowest Bidder. Credibility is our watchword.

Signed:
Galadima, Cecilia John
(Director Budget, Planning,
Research and Statistics/Secretary Tender Board, Riyom)
For: Executive Chairman,

Foreign News

Russia respects Turkey's concern in Syria

THE Kremlin has said Russia respects Turkey's "legitimate" security concerns over Syria but claimed all parties there should avoid steps that could worsen the situation.

On Sunday, Turkish forces launched cross-border air raids in northern Syria and Iraq on what they said were positions of Kurdish groups they blame for the November 13 bombing in central Istanbul, that killed six people.

On the same day, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Ankara may deploy ground forces.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday that while there were disagreements between Russia and Turkey in their approach to Syria, Moscow understood Turkey's security concerns.

"We understand and respect Turkey's concerns about ensuring its own security. We believe this is Turkey's legitimate right. At the same time, we call on all parties to refrain from steps that could lead to the destabilisation of the overall situation," he said.

Ankara blamed the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party



Presidents Erdogan and Putin enjoy a warm relationship

(PKK) and affiliated Syrian Kurdish groups for the Istanbul attack, which also saw more than 80 people wounded.

Kurdish fighters have denied any involvement.

The Turkish defence ministry said its so-called Claw Sword operation - which also included land-fired weapons - killed 184 fighters and destroyed 89 targets including shelters, bunkers, caves and tunnels.

Washington, like Moscow, called for de-escalation.

Russia supports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in

the country's 11-year war, while Ankara has backed rebels fighting to topple him.

The Kremlin's gentle call for restraint came as Ankara positions itself as a mediator between Moscow and Kyiv in the Ukraine war, which began on February 24 with Russia's invasion.

Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin have enjoyed a warm relationship throughout the conflict, with regular phone calls and meetings.

Turkey has good relations with Ukraine, too, as the supplier of drones and other weapons.

THE defense chiefs of the United States and China held talks on the sidelines of a regional meeting in Cambodia to discuss strained bilateral relations and regional and global security issues, U.S. and Chinese officials said.

It was the second face-to-face meeting in six months between U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin II and Gen. Wei Fenghe, China's minister of national defense. It came just over a week after a meeting in Indonesia between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping which was widely seen as an effort to ease tensions between the two superpowers over trade and China's claim to Taiwan.

Austin and Wei are in Siem Reap, Cambodia, attending a meeting of defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asia Nations and other major countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Already-tense relations between Washington and Beijing soured even more in August when U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, which is independently governed but claimed by China. The United States, Taiwan's most important ally, maintains a longstanding "one China" policy, which recognizes the government in Beijing but allows informal relations and defense ties with Taipei, and "strategic ambiguity" over whether the U.S. would respond militarily if the island

US , Chinese defense chiefs meet amid strained relations

were attacked.

Biden said after meeting Xi that when it comes to China, the U.S. will "compete vigorously, but I'm not looking for conflict."

Pentagon Press Secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said Austin assured Wei of Biden's commitment to the "one China" policy.

Austin "underscored his opposition to unilateral changes to the status quo" and called on China to refrain from destabilizing actions toward Taiwan, Ryder said in a statement.

He also urged continuing talks on "reducing strategic risk, improving crisis communications, and enhancing operational safety," noting concerns over "dangerous behavior" by Chinese military aircraft "that increases the risk of an accident."

In a news conference, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Senior Col. Tan Kefei described Tuesday's talks "as a concrete measure to implement the important consensus reached between Xi

and Biden."

He said the meeting was "of great significance" for bringing China-U.S. relations "back to the track of healthy and stable development."

But an official statement issued by China's Defense Ministry quoted Wei as saying, "The responsibility for the current situation facing China-U.S. relations is on the U.S. side, not on the Chinese side."

Wei said the issue of Taiwan was a "red line" over which China would brook no foreign interference. China's military "has the backbone, the determination, the confidence and the ability to resolutely safeguard the unity of the motherland," Wei said.

The Defense Ministry statement said the two sides also exchanged views over the South China Sea, Ukraine and the Korean Peninsula, without giving details. The U.S. statement said Austin discussed Russia's war against Ukraine and noted that both Washington and Beijing "oppose the use of nuclear weapons or threats to use them."



Xi

Iran boosts uranium enrichment

IRAN has increased its enrichment of uranium and use of advanced centrifuges at two nuclear sites in response to a censure resolution passed against it at the global nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

State media confirmed on Tuesday that Iran has boosted its uranium enrichment at the Fordow nuclear plant to 60 percent in reaction to the resolution passed by the IAEA's board of governors on Thursday.

Iran has also been feeding gas to centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear plant in Isfahan, which is part of the enrichment process, the reports said.

Iran had initially ramped up its uranium enrichment to 60 percent at Natanz in April 2021 after an attack on the facility that it blamed on Israel.

It has since deployed more advanced machines there,

which allow for quicker enrichment and easier switching between enrichment levels.

Enrichment was also already taking place at Fordow, but at lower levels.

The current enrichment level is still below the 90-plus percent purity required for a nuclear bomb, which Iran has pledged never to seek.

But it far exceeds the 3.67 percent level agreed as part of the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers that introduced caps on nuclear activity in exchange for the lifting of multilateral sanctions.

The United States unilaterally abandoned the deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018, imposing harsh sanctions that have only escalated since.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman, Nasser Kanani, announced on Monday that Tehran has taken measures

in response to the IAEA resolution, but did not divulge details.

He also condemned the censure as a "political move" that he claimed had no technical basis.

The resolution was the second passed in six months criticising Iran for insufficient cooperation with the nuclear watchdog regarding the case of man-made nuclear particles found in 2018 at several nuclear sites, and for restricting IAEA monitoring capabilities.

Both resolutions were introduced by the US and the E3 - France, Germany and the United Kingdom - and were approved by a majority of the 35-member board.

However, the latest censure used more serious language, in that it threatened to take the case to the United Nations Security Council if Tehran does not begin to cooperate.

Iran, which maintains it has sufficiently responded to the agency and says the probe is based on false information provided by its arch foe Israel, responded to the previous resolution in June by removing what remained of the IAEA's cameras that were installed as part of the JCPOA.

It remains unclear whether an IAEA delegation that was initially slated to visit Tehran for more talks later this month will be granted entry after Iran's nuclear chief, Mohammad Eslami, signalled last week that the trip may be pointless following the resolution.

Tehran has demanded that the IAEA probe be shut down before an agreement can be

reached on restoring the nuclear deal.

The JCPOA talks, however, have been in limbo for months due to disagreements, and the US has said the talks are not a top priority as protests that erupted across Iran in September persist.

Millions of lives under threat in Ukraine this winter

- WHO

HALF of Ukraine's energy infrastructure is either damaged or destroyed, and 10 million are currently without power, said Dr Hans Henri P Kluge, WHO regional director for Europe.

The WHO has documented 703 attacks on health infrastructure since Russia's invasion began.

Last week, Russia hit more energy installations and civilian buildings in one of its heaviest aerial bombardments of the war.

This has been a recent Russian tactic following setbacks on the battlefield, and its impact is starting to be felt more acutely as winter sets in.

"Put simply, this winter will be about survival," Dr Kluge told a news conference in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

Ukraine's health system is "facing its darkest days in the war so far", and the best solution is for the conflict to end, he added.

Dr Kluge said hundreds of hospitals and healthcare facilities were "no longer fully operational, lacking fuel, water and electricity to meet basic needs" as a result of attacks. The WHO defines an attack as involving violence as well as threatened violence against hospitals, ambulance and medical supplies.

Maternity wards need incubators, blood banks need refrigerators and intensive

care beds need ventilators, Dr Kluge said, adding that "all require energy".

Up to three million people could flee their homes in search of warmth and safety, the WHO says.

"Put simply, this winter will be about survival," Dr Kluge told a press conference in Kyiv.

Dr Kluge said he was "very concerned" for 17,000 HIV patients in Donetsk "who may soon run out of critical antiretroviral drugs that help keep them alive".

Much of Donetsk is under Russian control and Dr Kluge said he was "urgently calling for the creation of a humanitarian health corridor into all newly regained and occupied areas".

There are also concerns about Covid cases rising.

"With low basic vaccination rates - let alone boosters - millions of Ukrainians have waning or no immunity to Covid," Dr Kluge said.

The warnings come as snow has fallen across Ukraine and temperatures have dropped below freezing.

In Kyiv, snow covers walkways, empty playgrounds and park benches. Few people are on the streets.

Kyiv is covered in snow, and temperatures will drop further. Despite the snow, winter has not officially started and temperatures are likely to drop much further.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which used to produce more than 25% of Ukraine's electricity, no longer generates power. There was renewed shelling at the plant over the weekend.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, condemned the attacks, saying it was another "close call" at Europe's biggest nuclear power plant.

IAEA experts toured the site on Monday, and the agency said they found widespread damage, but that there were no immediate nuclear safety or security concerns.

Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of carrying out the attacks.

Elsewhere in the war, Ukrainian prosecutors have given details of what they have found in four alleged torture chambers in Kherson after Russian troops left the southern city.

They say people were "brutally tortured", and that batons, bullets and an electrocution device were discovered.

Last week, Ukraine said it had found the bodies of 63 civilians bearing signs of torture near Kherson. The BBC also spoke to two people who said they had been held for more than a month in "torture chambers".

Russia denies committing abuses during its invasion.



Rouhani

Feature

Fifty years of Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA)

GOSA was officially launched in Jos (Cultural Center) on the 25th November, 1972 amidst pomp and pageantry. The two-day event was pioneered by the then Governor of Benue Plateau State, Police Commissioner Joseph Dechi Gomwalk, a first set member and first head boy of the Boys' Secondary School Gindiri. The occasion had as special guest and chairman, Brigadier Abba Kyari, then Governor of North Central State.

DURING the launch, because GOSA had not yet been formed (it was to be launched that day), and GOBA did not have national leaders, the Jos Branch President of GOBA gave the Presidential Speech, the content of which understandably, basically made reference to just BSS.

Present at the launch, were people from all walks of life, race, religion, sex and academic backgrounds. It was a celebration that united all and it was on that foundation that GOSA came to build on and it reflects one of its objectives: Create a spirit of unity amongst all members irrespective of their states of origin, tribe, sex, religion, race, status, educational qualification or political affiliation. After the launch, GOSA began to coordinate their affairs and took a decision to elect their officials. Candidates nominated for President were: Ezekiel Akiga (Makurdi), Dr. A. S. Mshelbwala (Kaduna), Chief J. Y. Lot (Lagos) and Obed Ikwuegbu (Jos), but just before the election, J. D. Gomwalk overruled and Obed Ikwuegbu was appointed President of GOSA. That was how the phrase Interim President came about. The success of the launch provoked a high sense of consciousness and evoked interest among Gindiri products. Furthermore, in June 1975 (3 years after the official launch of GOSA), with some prodding from the Lagos Branch, the existing executive committee moved for the planning of the Silver Jubilee of BSS (GOSA/38, 1975). It was on the occasion of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Boys' Secondary School which held from 29th October – 2nd November, 1975 that the first conscious effort was made to fully bring in unison, the activities of the boys and girls. It was at this convention that the first set of elected officials emerged for GOSA, under the leadership of Capt. Paul Thahal and Jos was made the headquarters of the association. From then on, social activities began to receive more attention of GOSA even though some, in their correspondences, still made reference to GOBA instead of GOSA. Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA) was registered under the "Federal Republic of Nigeria Companies Act, 1968 – Non-profit Making Association Articles of Association" and a new constitution was registered.

The first major setback to GOSA after it kick started in earnest, was the failed February 13th, 1976 coup d'etat, and alleged involvement of and consequent death of many prominent GOSA members. This happened barely 31/2 months after the successful Silver Jubilee celebration of BSS and emergence of first set of elected officials for GOSA. Despair and uncertainty fell upon the association such that members could not meet because they were demoralized. This situation prevailed until the 2nd republic ushered in democratic governance in Nigeria in 1979. Rebirth of GOSA The return of Nigeria to the league of democratic nations and events that heralded the transition, served as the watershed for rebirth in the annals of GOSA history. First, in Plateau State, Mr. Solomon Daushep Lar, a product of Gindiri Teachers College



and sister institution emerged as the first democratically elected governor. Furthermore, in the cabinet of his administration, the office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Head of Civil Service (HOS) among others, had committed GOSA members (Mr. Samuel Shittu Gofwen and Mr. Jefferson Mamven respectively) as appointees. Similarly, Senator John Wash Pam of the National Assembly emerged as Deputy Speaker of Senate. The resultant consequence was that confidence was restored among G O S A m e m b e r s a n d activities/momentum picked up spontaneously. It was against this background that the first GOSA National Convention was planned and it held in Jos from 8th – 11th April 1982. It was after this that beyond Jos, the headquarters and Lagos Branch which were very active, branches came to be established across the nation. Since then, GOSA has continued to grow in size and strength nationally and internationally. Generally and all over the world, alma mater associations have developed using benefits and linkage opportunities it creates for its membership. Thus, they have come to play the role of key stake holders with a transformative capacity. Importantly, they are conscious entities, world outlook and impression managers of their erstwhile institutions matters. This prompts and motivates desire for interventions in diverse forms depending on capacity. Therefore, in this regard, the Gindiri schools have remained the fulcrum of thrust and concern of GOSA. Their academic standing evokes primary interest because it serves as a yard stick for measuring the expected standard to be maintained always. As such, the vision to always reposition the schools to meet challenges and needs of whatever magnitude has been a permanent feature on the

front burner. The role expected and performed today by GOSA in the development of the schools, was nurtured in a watershed predicated on the philosophy behind the establishment of the schools. As was succinctly captured by Rev Daniel Bitrus, then Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) General Secretary: The philosophy of Gindiri is to provide a sound education so that men and women are led so that they increase "in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52). Students are challenged with the claims of Christ who is the light of the world and the Truth that leads to righteous living as well as faithful service.

Amongst core values, aims and objectives, GOSA seeks, upholds and promotes high academic, spiritual and moral standards in our alma maters - BSS and GHS Gindiri. It seeks to establish good relationships between the old students and the schools, and to create a spirit of unity amongst all members irrespective of their states of origin, tribe, race, sex, religion, status, educational qualification or political affiliation. It also aims at fostering the spirit of community consciousness and the interest of members in national and international affairs. GOSA conducts educational and other researches and advise the schools accordingly. It participates in the activities of the schools and assists whenever the need arises. GOSA may also undertake any non-profitable ventures for and on behalf of the schools.

In every setting, there are social norms which simply serve as "standards and rules applying to expectations for human behaviour. Over time, GOSA as a body has evolved practices that enable it network into the cyber of the schools with an effective feedback mechanism. This enables the smooth monitoring of developments and a sustained key-in mission.

Since the celebration of the Silver

Jubilee of BSS, the culture of celebrating milestone jubilees (i.e., Silver, Golden, and Diamond) of the schools became enshrined. At these occasions, activities are organized in a manner that incorporates visits to the schools. Through this, resources are mobilized from individuals and sets for intervention at the schools. In most cases, certain areas of need are targeted in addition to renovation and rehabilitation of facilities within academic and hostel areas and the Ulster Church.

The culture of celebrating set anniversaries is something . Guided by the need for a purposeful and responsible conduct, celebrating milestone anniversaries by sets has evolved from being optional to statutory. The minimum number of years considered reasonable to celebrate is 10 (ten). At conventions, celebrating sets are given centre stage to address the convention and bring forth goodwill messages. Often times, set anniversary activities involve visits to the schools in which going empty handed is out of the question. In this way, interventions in diverse forms get mobilized for the schools and are guaranteed yearly. The sole purpose of forming GOSA is to continue the bond of friendship and fellowship that existed among those nurtured at the cradle of the schools, even after leaving Gindiri. Working towards the development and progress of the alma mater is also its concern. Through the years, GOSA has lived true to this call as it has remained a rallying point for all who went through Boys' Secondary School and Girls' High School Gindiri. GOSA activities make the old students' body to stand out. Establishing good relationship with the old students and the schools also extends to maintaining bonds of friendship formed with former teachers. One of the highlights of GOSA activities was in November, 1983 when the first Principal of BSS, Mr. O. D.

Wilmshurst and his wife Connie, and the second Principal, Mr. G. W. Dearsley came to Nigeria on a visit. Social as well as formal activities were organised in their honour, by GOSA. Some of the activities were held in Lagos and some, in Jos and Gindiri (GOSA/50, 1983). In the same spirit of establishing good relationship, Lagos Branch of GOSA alongside some well meaning members of the association, sponsored the travel expenses of a specified number of missionaries from the UK to Nigeria, for the golden jubilee celebration of Gindiri, in 1984 Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA) has not existed in isolation but has related with members, nonmembers, sister associations and the society at large. A well acknowledged fact about GOSA is that since its launch in 1972, it has strived and developed based on good relationships fostered on the objectives of the association as spelt out in its constitution and outlined in chapter two. The objectives of the association particularly no.2 has guided the cordial relationship that exists between members right from when they were in the schools. The norms and values upholding the unique relationship existing among members of the association found its roots in the socialization process they learnt as students, way back in Gindiri. Being a missionary school, the modeling and parental style of educational training of the students was anchored basically on the word of God. There is no gainsaying therefore that, love, care and mentoring family roles as found in an ideal family was inculcated and practiced while schooling in Gindiri. To love and care for your roommates was introduced immediately a new student arrived. The new students got to know their immediate surroundings through the guide of older students. Learning to take care of each other was seen in students' relationship during classes as well as while staying in the hostels. Junior students were catered for by the seniors, as is obtained in an ideal family situation where relationships are built around all the members of a family. It was the practice to find students in relationships with others, tagged as school mother and father, school uncles and aunts, school daughters and sons, school sisters and brothers etc. This is a sweet mentoring act which subtly replicates what exists in the real family setting between parents and their off springs. School parents (school fathers and mothers) who are usually the senior students encourage the younger ones to settle into the new environment seamlessly, through acts of love, like sharing and gifting all manner of things not limited to bought consumables usually purchased at the small market or provisions brought from home for those who had such. It was customary to find letters and greeting cards exchanged in such small community. Such were the evidence of social relationships existing among the students.

The write up is an excerpt from the book. "Legacy of Excellence: 50 years of GOSA experience."

EVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Parenting

Child rearing tips that make you feel fulfilled



RAISING kids is one of the toughest and most fulfilling jobs in the world — and the one for which you might feel the least prepared.

These rearing tips can help you feel more fulfilled as a parent.

Boost Your Child's Self-Esteem

Kids start developing their sense of self as babies when they see themselves through their parents' eyes. Your tone of voice, your body language, and your every expression are absorbed by your kids. Your words and actions as a parent affect their developing self-esteem more than anything else.

Praising accomplishments, however small, will make them feel proud; letting kids do things independently will make them feel capable and strong. By contrast, belittling comments or comparing a child unfavorably with another will make kids feel worthless.

Choose your words carefully and be compassionate. Let your kids know that everyone makes mistakes and that you still love them, even when you don't love their behavior.

Catch Kids Being Good

The more effective approach is to catch kids doing something right: "You made your bed without being asked — that's terrific!" or "I was watching you play with your sister and you were very patient." These statements will do more to encourage good behavior over the long run than repeated scoldings.

Set Limits and Be Consistent With Your Discipline

Discipline is necessary in every household. The goal of discipline is to help kids choose acceptable behaviors and learn self-control. They may test the limits you establish for them, but they need those limits to grow into responsible adults.

Establishing house rules helps kids understand your expectations and develop self-control. Some rules might include: no TV until homework is done, and no hitting, name-calling, or hurtful teasing allowed.

You might want to have a system in place: one warning, followed by consequences such as a "time out" or loss of privileges. A common mistake parents make is failure to follow through with the consequences.

Make Time for Your Kids

It's often hard for parents and kids to get together for a family meal, let alone spend quality time together. Kids who aren't getting the attention they want from their parents often act out or misbehave because they're sure to be noticed that way.

Many parents find it rewarding to schedule together time with their kids.

Teens seem to need less undivided attention from their parents than younger kids. Because there are fewer windows of opportunity for parents and teens to get together, parents should do their best to be available when their teen does express a desire to talk or participate in family activities.

Be a Good Role Model



Young kids learn a lot about how to act by watching their parents. The younger they are, the more cues they take from you.

Model the traits you wish to see in your kids: respect, friendliness, honesty, kindness, tolerance. Exhibit

unselfish behavior. Do things for other people without expecting a reward. Express thanks and offer compliments. Above all, treat your kids the way you expect other people to treat you.

Make Communication a Priority

You can't expect kids to do everything simply because you, as a parent, "say so." They want and deserve explanations as much as adults do. If we don't take time to explain, kids will begin to wonder about our values and motives and whether they have any basis. Parents who reason with their kids allow them to understand and learn in a nonjudgmental way.

Make your expectations clear. If there is a problem, describe it, express your feelings, and invite your child to work on a solution with you.

Be Flexible and Willing to

change behavior by changing the environment.

As your child changes, you'll gradually have to change your parenting style. Chances are, what works with your child now won't work as well in a year or two.

Teens tend to look less to their parents and more to their peers for role models. But continue to provide guidance, encouragement, and appropriate discipline while allowing your teen to earn more independence. And seize every available moment to make a connection!

Show That Your Love Is Unconditional

As a parent, you're responsible for correcting and guiding your kids. But how you express your corrective guidance makes all the difference in how a child receives it.

When you have to confront your

Adjust Your Parenting Style

If you often feel "let down" by your child's behavior, perhaps you have unrealistic expectations. Parents who think in "shoulds."

Kids' environments have an effect on their behavior, so you might be able to change that

child, avoid blaming, criticizing, or fault-finding, which hurt self-esteem and can lead to resentment. Instead, try to nurture and encourage, even when disciplining your kids. Make sure they know that although you want and expect better next time, your love is there no matter what.

Know Your Own Needs and Limitations as a Parent

Face it — you are an imperfect parent. You have strengths and weaknesses as a family leader. Recognize your abilities. Try to have realistic expectations for yourself, your partner, and your kids. You don't have to have all the answers — be forgiving of yourself.

And try to make parenting a manageable job. Focus on the areas that need the most attention rather than trying to address everything all at once. Admit it when you're burned out. Take time out from parenting to do things that will make you happy.



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Relationship

How apologies validate and create closeness

By **JOY RUBEN**

MARRIED couples inevitably face conflict. If you believe you haven't faced conflict in your marriage, you may not be seeing the truth. In fact, when you avoid conflict, you also avoid the opportunity to strengthen your marriage. Conflict is normal and natural. How we respond to it, however, can make or break a relationship.

Take a moment and consider the pattern you enter when there is conflict. We all have default patterns. We usually inherit them from our parents until we become more intentional about our responses. These responses are rooted in beliefs and values, but also in the nervous system which means they can be somewhat automatic as your body tries to keep you safe.

The better you see and accept your own patterns, the better you will be at stopping the automatic reaction and responding intentionally with the person you love.

Now, consider your usual reactions when you are feeling threatened or uncomfortable. Do you run, blame, deny, avoid, threaten, minimize, dwell, appease, distract, supplicate, victimize? As you consider this, neither judge nor justify your behavioral patterns.

Judging yourself will make you bitter and that will spill into your marriage. Justifying your behavior will make you inflexible and that, too, will impact your marriage. Simply be honest with yourself. Now, consider your partner's patterns. When you have a conflict, what is their typical reaction? Notice without judging or justifying.

Lastly, consider how your two reaction patterns interact.

Swallow your pride: The art of apology

When facing conflict in marriage, the art of apology can lend itself to



warm, even joyous, reconciliation. It does involve swallowing your pride and also being vulnerable with your true feelings. If you are not open to being vulnerable, your marriage will suffer.

If you value a sense of righteousness over a sense of togetherness, your marriage will suffer. Notice what an appeal for vulnerability and humility brings up in you.

Marital conflicts should have the goal of strengthening your marriage. If you and your partner frequently approach disagreements as adversaries, I encourage you to shift your perspective and approach them as team members sharing the same goal: to enrich your healthy connection.

Tips for effective apology in relationships

- If your partner has been

brave enough to tell you they feel hurt by something you did, taking sincere responsibility will ease and support the reconciliation. This act of taking responsibility by apologizing in a relationship does not mean you are a bad person, that your partner has more power than you, that you have no backbone, or that you meant to cause any harm. However, it will create healing between you.

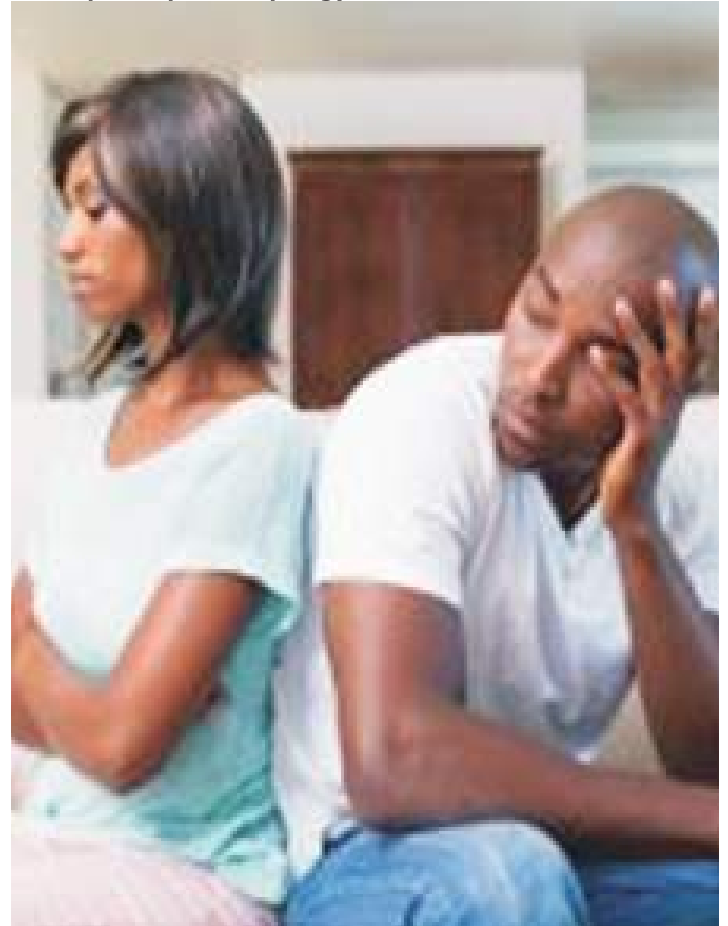
- Too often couples erupt an argument because there is a refusal to apologize or a distorted view of what a proper apology is. A good apology is a way of saying, "I hear you; I respect you, and I care about you."

- To convey that message, couples need to own their actions and the situation. Do not meet an honest expression of hurt with blame, denial,

defensiveness or minimization.

Perhaps. Could he be projecting onto you? Maybe. However, even if these things are true, responding with defensiveness, anger, aggression, or avoidance will never be helpful.

Examples of perfect apology



I must note here that your partner will not always express their hurt in a healthy way. When that happens, it will be even more challenging for you to avoid reverting to the old patterned response. If your partner assaults you with their feelings, it is good to remain compassionate but also express your healthy boundaries. See some examples below.

While apologizing is one art,

expressing sadness, hurt, or anger is another. When your partner expresses themselves ineffectively, remember that you can be committed to your own effective, assertive responses.

Jennifer: Why can't you ever do anything right? All I asked was for you to wash the dishes, and they look like garbage!

Scott Ineffective: Really? You look like garbage, and you act like garbage. I'm sick of you!

Scott Effective: That was a very mean thing to say. I was happy to help you with the dishes, and I really did my best. I really want to hear your ideas and how you feel, but I need you to be nice to me so we can work together.

See how the different responses significantly impact the alliance, trust, mood, and intimacy of the relationship? Apologies should validate and create closeness.

For this to happen, partners need to swallow their pride and also be honest and vulnerable. Be patient with yourself and remember the goal of being on the same team as your spouse. Skip the blame and

Skip the blame and



defensiveness to find the sweetness of a sincere apology.

Takeaway

The art of apology begins with a sincere and genuine 'I am sorry.' It is about the full acknowledgment of offense and reparations for the damage. With a sincere and meaningful apology, a person can go a long way in building and maintaining relationships.



Editorial

2023 and the leadership questions

THE 2023 elections are around the corner and the various political parties have unleashed on Nigeria and Nigerians the full arsenal of their campaigns. A day, therefore, scarcely passes by without one of the political parties launching its campaign in one of the states that make up the federation. At such campaigns, beautiful and well-crafted campaign promises, which never see the light of day are made just to attract the sympathy of unsuspecting and gullible members of the public.

ON getting elected and sworn in, these crop of political leaders hardly remember these promises they had earlier made but carry on as if they owe nobody anything. The present and past crop of leaders of Nigeria thus seem to have failed to provide quality leadership capable of addressing numerous challenges confronting the country. These leadership challenges are evidenced in political, social and economic instability and the prevalence of ethnic, communal and religious crises, which have bedeviled Nigeria's socio economic development. The reverberating effects of the failure of leadership, corruption and bad governance are visible and being felt across all sectors and segment of Nigerian society. Leadership and good governance are crucial and critical to realizing any giant stride taken in pursuit of development.

AS a result of this lack of leadership qualities, we have not been able to build institutions that would stand the test of time. Leaders view these institutions as instruments that are supposed to be at their beck and call rather than ensuring that they do what is right. It is this attitude that has stood in the way of the growth of the country and the resultant emasculation of the creative energy of the talented who are not often allowed to express themselves and add value to society thereby contributing to its growth.

AND because we lack integrity, the followership has not been able to speak truth to power allowing all manner of characters to do as they please without feeling that it is the society that employed them in the first place and that they owe their loyalty to it. The inability of the followership to hold to account these leaders has contributed in no small part to taking us to the crossroads where everything seems lost and hopeless.

TO restore hope and fashion a new path, therefore, Nigerians need to do away with those sentiments that have held us back. We need to shed tribe, religion, region and all those other draw backs that have served no purpose in enhancing the growth and development of our country. We must insist as they approach us again to seek for our votes that they must put in place certain basic minimums and show that they mean it before we invest our trust in them.

FINALLY, too, we must insist that political offices are made unattractive and service-oriented. This is to allow those with creative capacities to access them instead of allowing money bags to continue to lord it over the rest of the people. If those who run for political offices know that there is no free money to dip their hands into, there is the likelihood that people of ideas would be given the space to flourish.

LET me use this medium of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** to draw attention to the trend of cybercrime which is a crime that involves a computer or a computer network. The computer may have been used in committing the crime or it may be the target.

Indeed, cybercrime is one of the top crimes perpetrated by graduates, undergraduates and also students of secondary schools. However, some of the major factors contributing to the high crime rate in Nigeria are peer group influence, unemployment and poverty in the sense that most youth have extreme quest for ill-gotten wealth.

All that matters to them is to get rich either by "hook or by crook". Cybercriminals who are into such dubious act do entice their fellow friends with their flamboyant and extravagant lifestyle on social media and also when ground them thereby succumbing to such act. Youths are proverbially referred to as leaders of tomorrow but how can they be true leaders when they indulge themselves in such criminal behaviours.

However, social media exposure on teenagers and youths contributes immensely to the rate of cybercrime in the society and the nation at large in the sense that, nowadays everybody has access to the internet and social media which later exposes them to various celebrity lifestyles and would want to imitate them by wearing designer clothes, shoes, bags etc.

Take for instance, 'Roman Abbas' popularly known as Hushpuppi, well known a worldwide and was later arrested by the FBI, Most youths do envy his extravagant lifestyle and hope to be like him someday, Religious leaders also have a responsibility of preaching to members and youths of religious institutions and the society on the need to shun cybercrime and have the fear of God in their heart.

I suggest that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) public relations organization have a vital role in enlightening the masses by organizing programmes, conferences seminars and workshops in schools including tertiary institutions; secondary schools etc. on the repercussions of cybercrime amongst individual speaking from my perspective therefore, admonish Non-Governmental Organizations and the government itself to provide self employed jobs as white collar jobs are hard to come by, self employed jobs including tailoring, bag and shoe making, catering, barbing, hair dressing etc.

Effects of cybercrime on organizations, the society and the country at large include waste of production time and damage to the image of the country. Some of the



Youth and cyber crime

ways of combating such crimes include taking reasonable steps to protect ones property by ensuring those firms such as print media, broadcast stations, and other media organization to protect their IT infrastructures from Anti-virus, securing strong passwords from cyber criminals.

I therefore suggest that cyber security studies should be introduced as a general course in secondary and tertiary institutions

to educate the masses and that everybody is a potential victim of cybercrime.

In conclusion, I therefore admonish youths to shun all forms of cybercrimes for our destiny lies in our hands. As it is ones said "ninety nin days for the thief and one day for the owner" cybercrime and the ill-gotten wealth last only for a while, thereby destroying our future.

Jonathan Rabo Dammo writes from Jos, South LGA.

Social media and political campaigns

NIGERIAN is now in a countdown to the next general election come 2023. It is a period where another set of new leaders will be elected to run the affairs of the country for another four year term.

However, there is a lot of anticipation by political enthusiast on the upcoming even. Therefore, people are now using the social media as all important tool to promote their activities through platforms such as face books YouTube, twitter, Instagram along with other models of communication and technology. Interestingly, the use of social media is diverse because groups are able to engage in intellectual discourse conduct commerce brainstorm on issues.

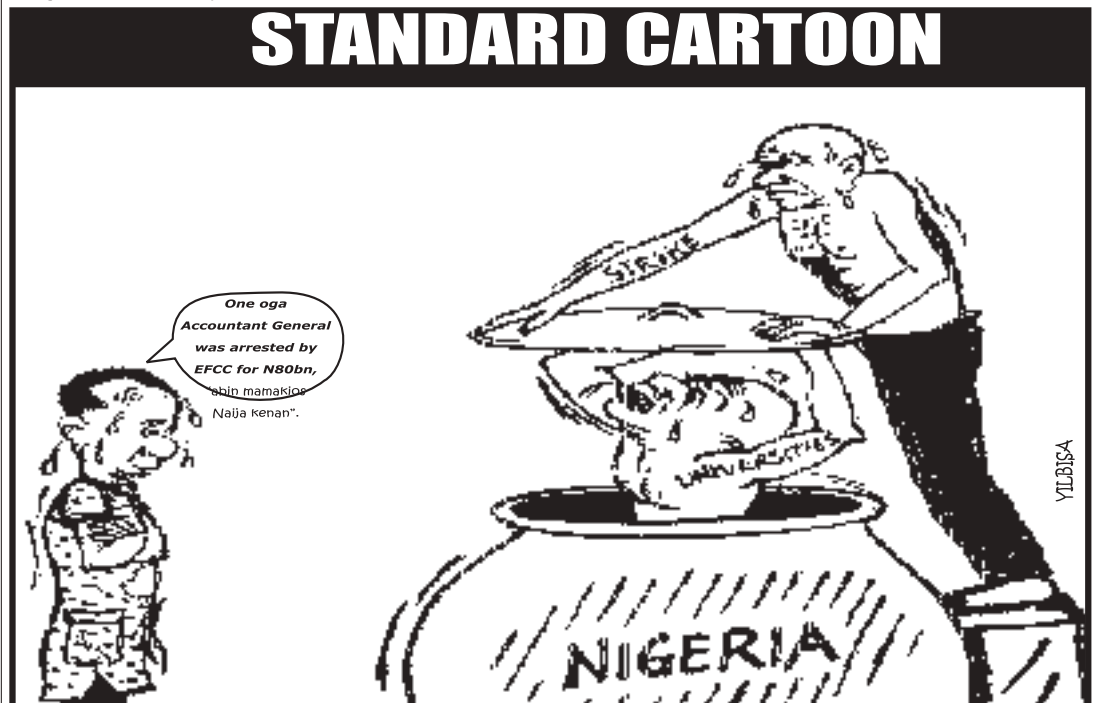
It is also an avenue for social interaction a source of sharing personal information which can be of all to information which can be of all to many.

It is a clear fact that the social media is a vibrant tool for campaigns by many candidates and their supporters because it stimulates citizens engagement in political activities.

Apart from being a medium that provides unlimited access of communication, promoting business, social educational and other forms of relationship, the social media and ICT generally cut across national and international boundaries.

But instead of using the social media to promote negative issue the social media can be a verifiable platform for important engagement with the general public especially I selling their manifestoes, policies and programmes in order to convenience the electorate in the democracy dividends to expect when elected.

Abdul Azeez Abubakar is an IT student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi



Opinion

By KENNETH AMAESHI

Good leaders are usually wise!

SOCIETIES do not exist in bits and pieces. They are complete systems. Following many years of looking at societal leadership in different contexts and circumstances, I have come to the view that successful societies usually have leaders and followers who are WISE (Wholesome, Innovative, Selfless, and Entrepreneurial) in approach and outlook. And here are my reasons.

First, wholesome leadership from a societal perspective entails the ability of a leader to see and appreciate a society as an entity made up of many complementary parts. It is an inclusive form of leadership and requires system thinking capability to be effectively actualised. The opposite is a leader who sees and treats a part as something bigger than the whole. The preponderance of ethnic and religious cleavages and propensities in our leaders and leadership, for example, is a clear manifestation of the lack of wholesome leadership, which has produced a lot of anomalies in our society. To overcome these entrenched dichotomies and their attendant anomalies requires a significant dose of innovation.

As such, wise leaders are equally innovative. Innovation here entails the ability to drive change in both tried and untried ways. Innovative leaders do not necessarily and completely rely on the status quo. The status quo is assessed on its merit. If it is still relevant, fine. Otherwise, it must change to fit with the new direction of travel. Although change is the only constant, this is where many leaders struggle. The weight of the status quo – i.e., entrenched interests – can

either make or mar any leader. So, it requires a lot of wisdom and innovation to navigate.

For instance, many Nigerians always complain about the mono-product economy, which is heavily dependent on oil and gas. However, different successive governments have been unable to deal with the issue of diversifying the economy away from oil. The other issue, which has continued to plague the country, is the inefficient power sector. Each government throws huge sums of money at it but with very inconsequential results. Both examples are believed to be the engine room of corruption in Nigeria, which will take a lot of institutional innovation as well as selflessness to maneuver.

It is particularly difficult to resist corruption in the face of weak institutions if one is not selfless. A wise leader applies his/her entire self in the act and is consumed by the act. Through this process, the self is emptied in the service of others. This is exactly what it means to be selfless. Selflessness does not prioritise self-interest. It is not about what I gain from society, but what I gain through the gains of others. Selfless leaders succeed when those they serve succeed. In that sense, selflessness is the ability to assist others to be even better than we are.

In some traditions and cultures, many parents exhibit this sense of selfless leadership in relation to their children. The opposite is where leaders simply go for self-interests. It is either they win, or nobody wins. Imagine a situation where a

governor or president interferes in a commercial contract bidding process because he/she does not want a member of his/her society to get the job for fear of empowering the wrong person, even if this person has the best solution at hand.

As banal as this might sound, it looks like a regular occurrence and often manifests when there are economic gains to be exploited. Selfless leadership is not scared of such if the people served are willing to reciprocate the goodwill. In many successful societies, the reciprocal goodwill is institutionalized through the denigration and curtailing of the influence of money in politics. Instead, ideas, ideologies, and the ability to positively influence others are favoured through the process and apparatus of democracy. This ability to positively influence is an act of entrepreneurship.

Leadership in successful societies requires a lot of entrepreneurial efforts to remain effective. Beyond the ability to positively influence others, it is the role of societal leadership to create enabling environments for the entrepreneurial potentials of societies to be unleashed. The notion of "the entrepreneurial state" captures this elegantly. It is a recognition that governance and leadership are not exclusive to the government. They can be both collaborative and inclusive with other non-State actors such as the private sector and the civil society. That is why private sector development, has become an integral part of many

successful societies.

In this case, the private sector is not merely seen as an inferior part of society, but a credible and legitimate development partner. The opposite of this approach is a situation where the private sector is often hounded with all sorts of aggressive and non-conductive policies. To avoid this ugly and anti-development scenario, positive entrepreneurship is a capability anyone aspiring to lead a society should have. It is not an optional competence.

As Nigerians prepare for the polls, it is important to bear these characteristics of leaders and leadership in mind. The tough question is who amongst the major contestants is closest to these ideals or is the ideal president still a far-fetched expectation? This is a question we cannot escape from. Therefore, let us think through and rethink our options carefully. And when we make our choices, we should learn to ensure we do everything possible to hold our chosen leaders to account. Without accountability and transparency, good governance will remain elusive.

The best presidential aspirant should be WISE. It is always easy to fall into the trap of doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting change. If we do not change this approach, our disappointments shall have no end, irrespective of how genuine our expectations are. To be forewarned, is to be forearmed, as they say. And the rest is usually history!

By
TOPE SUNDAY

Mixed feelings as harmattan season approaches

THE rains are letting up and expectation is the harmattan season will set in soon. Though the season has its up sides many people have mixed feelings as it approaches.

In Nigeria, the harmattan season is the last season in the year and the first in the succeeding year. The season, which occurs between November and March, comes with noticeable dry and dusty weather with bursts of cold air in the mornings and nights, however, the temperature is unexpectedly high during the day. Wikipedia defines the season harmattan, from Twi word haramata, originated from the dry and dusty harmattan trade winds which blow from the Sahara desert over West Africa.

For weather and climate.com, the climate of Nigeria is tropical; however, there are wide climatic variations in different regions of the country.

Near the coast, temperatures rarely exceed 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit), but humidity is very high and nights are very hot. Inland there are two different seasons.

The wet season is from April to October, with lower monthly temperatures and the wettest month being June.

Also, the dry season is from November to March, with midday temperatures that rise above 38° Celsius (100° Fahrenheit) but

relatively cool nights, dropping as low as 12° Celsius (54° Fahrenheit).

The site added that an average rainfall along the coast varies from about 180 cm (70 in) in the west to about 430 cm (170 inch) in certain parts of the east. Inland, it decreases to around 130 cm (50 inch) over most of central Nigeria and only 50 cm (20 inch) in the extreme North.

Mixed feelings over harmattan The season, according to findings by Blueprint Weekend, brings mixed feelings. While some Nigerians believe that it is a blessing as it herald the end of the rainy season especially with havoc caused in some parts of the country, others see it as harsh and unfriendly to the skin and respiratory tract.

Speaking with this medium, an Abuja resident, Mr. Benjamin Christopher, said he liked the season because it allowed him the opportunity to appreciate nature. He said it gives room for improved power supply and increases affection among lovers.

Christopher said despite the goodness and usefulness of the season, people tend to engage in some destructive acts like bush burning.

He cited his experience 2015 when he lost an hectare of cassava farm to bush burning.

According to him, "I Like harmattan season because during the period I will not sweat a lot. It

helps me to understand nature, unlike the dry season.

During harmattan there is always steady power supply, however, one of its disadvantages is that people, especially farmers, tend to engage in bush burning. This destroys farm lands, and at times other private property are also destroyed.

"In 2015, my hectare of cassava farm was destroyed by those who were burnt bushes. I lost an hectare of cassava farm to the incident.

"Also, during the period, you have to take the extra care of your children because the weather is too cold and might be unfriendly to them. No parent would be happy to treat their children for pneumonia.

"However, despite all these during the season many women get pregnant because of the cold weather at night that binds couples."

For Mr. Stephen Johnson, a painter, who plies his trade in Abuja, the season is the best for his work because it dries off his painting works quickly, adding that harmattan period makes him and his colleagues to work faster, and with a lot of ease.

He said: "As a painter, this is the best season for my work because it dries off painting on time." During this period, both internal and external paintings quickly get

dried off. So, for me and my colleagues, this is the best time for us."

On his part, Okesoto Samuel, another resident of the city, said he preferred the season to the dry and the rainy seasons because the harmattan season makes him to sleep comfortably at night.

"Harmattan is the best season for me because it makes me sleep at night comfortably because during the season there is nothing like heat, and misquotes usually disappear. The weather allows me to sleep very well at night," he told our Reporter.

Speaking on the issue, Akeem Musa, said there is nothing special about the harmattan season having grown up in the North.

He said: "I grew up in the North, so for me there is nothing special about the harmattan season. When we were growing up in the North, we thought that the weather was the same. It is only the raining season that is special because of the rains. So, for me there is nothing special about the harmattan season."

However, another resident, Christie Timothy, told our reporter that she detested the season because of its dryness.

Christy decried the fact that she often experienced cold and catarrh during the period, which makes her uncomfortable.

"During the harmattan season, I

usually experience cold and catarrh. And in most cases, my throat is dehydrated.

"Also, my looks during the period is not usually good because my skin will be dried, while my body will be dirty because of the dust caused by the weather. The season is not too friendly to me.

"Also, the weather could be too harsh and dry during the daytime and too cold in the evening. I makes me not too uncomfortable, she said.

Corroborating her views Abdullahi Obaje told this medium that the only good thing about the season was that it reminded him of the end of the year.

He said aside from that, it was not too friendly, just as he added that the season was synonymous with disasters like bush burning and accidents.

"Anytime harmattan starts, it reminds one that the year is gradually coming to an end. This makes us happy.

"However, on the other side, the season is not friendly to me, and some other people I know. It is synonymous to disaster and accidents. Like we have had in the past, a lot of burning activities during the season had resulted in a wanton loss of property, and lives in some cases.

"Also, accidents occur more during the period because of the cloudy early morning weather," he said.

Change of Name

ISMAIL	KENNEDY	YUNANA	ZITTA	ABDULLAHI	SAMAILA
I, formerly known as ISMAIL SIRAJO , now wish to be known and addressed as ISMAIL SIRAJO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as KENNEDY USIGBE , now wish to be known and addressed as KENNEDY EROMOSELE USIGBE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as YUNANA HAJARA NANCY , now wish to be known and addressed as YUNANA HAJARA DANIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ZITTA LOHCIT NUHU , now wish to be known and addressed as ZITTA NANCHANG LOHCIT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR ABDULLAHI USMAN , now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULLAHI ABUBAKAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SAMUEL ZAKKA ANIYA now wish to be known and addressed as SAMAILA ZAKKA ANIYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
NANKO	ASHIRU	FEDRICK	DUNGUM	MARIAM	OMEJE
I, formerly known as BLESSING NANYAK , now wish to be known and addressed as NANKO PETER KAMVEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JAMILU HASHIRU , now wish to be known and addressed as, ASHIRU JAMILU AMINU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as FEDRICK DAJIC NYAM , now wish to be known and addressed as FEDRICK MICHEAL NYAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DUNGUM NANFA , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNGUM JOSHUA NANFA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as MARIAM TALATU ABDULLAHI , now wish to be known and addressed as MARIAM TALATU ETUK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as CALISTER O G O C H U K W U and OGOCHUKWU CALISTER , now wish to be known and addressed as OMEJE OGOCHUKWU CALISTER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
MAMUDA	YAKUBU	BALA	DANLADI	DUNG	POGWAN
I, formerly known as MAMUDA HALIMAT , now wish to be known and addressed as MAMUDA HALIMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AGYEM FATIMA AJICK now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU FATIMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as SALISU BARAU SHUAIBU , now wish to be known and addressed as BALA SALISU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as DANLADI RIFKATU UCHAM , now wish to be known and addressed as DANLADI UCHAM YOHOPP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as LUKA DUNG PWAJOK , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG LUKA PWAYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as JICOLIA POGWAN now wish to be known and addressed as POGWAN JICOLIA JWAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
LONGJI	NWABUEZE	LOHVEN	YUSUF	LONGJI	ZAKARIYYA
I, formerly known as LONGJI LONGDIYEL SHEFWON , now wish to be known and addressed as LONGJI LONGS SHEFON . Correct date of birth is 17/08/1998 not 12/06/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as NWABUEZE EKWUTOSI SUNDAY , now wish to be known and addressed NWABUEZE EKWUTOSI SUNDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as LOHVEN JWAMKUR LOHVEN , now wish to be known and addressed as LOHVEN JWAMKUR DENNIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as YUSUF LABARAN , now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF ABUBAKAR LIMAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM SHUAIBU LONGJI , now wish to be known and addressed as LONGJI IBRAHIM SHUAIBU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ZAKARIYYA IBRAHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKARIYYA IBRAHIM ABDULLAHI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
IBRAHIM	BASHIR	AKOPIN	ADEGYA	ASHANG	JOSHUA
I, formerly known as IBRAHIM NAYOU ALIYU , now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM UMAR ALIYU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BASHIRU ABUBAKAR , now wish to be known and addressed as BASHIR ABUBAKAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AKOPIN ANDREW PRAISE , now wish to be known and addressed as AKOPIN ANDREW TEPUT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AYHU ADINIYA , now wish to be known and addressed as ADEGYA SUNDAY ADINIYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ALICE ASHANG UMOTIMAYE , now wish to be known and addressed as ASHANG, ALICE UMOTIMAYE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AREMU OMOTAYO MULIKA , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSHUA FELICIA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
JOSEPHINE	DAKUP	FAITH	BAWA	MUSA	EZRA
I, formerly known as JOSEPHINE TOUGGBIS , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPHINE DANIEL TONGBIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAKUP BENJAMIN , now wish to be known and addressed as DAKUP BENJAMIN CHINAMENA'AN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as FAITH ONECHOJO YUSUFU , now wish to be known and addressed as FAITH ONECHOJO ETUH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as BAWA MAIKA , now wish to be known and addressed as BAWA MICAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MUSA SIDI ISMAIL , now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA SAMAILA SIDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as UZAIRU ISAAC MUHAMMED , now wish to be known and addressed as EZRA UZAIRU MUHAMMAD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
MARY	DAMI	BRUCE	JOHN	TITUS	SULAIMAN
I, formerly known as MARY EZEKIEL NYAM now wish to be known and addressed as MARY STEPHEN YOKON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as TONGSHAK NANDI MAURICE , now wish to be known and addressed as DAMI NANDI MAURICE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ASHOM CHRISTIANA AKUMBO , now wish to be known and addressed as BRUCE CHRISTIANA AKUMBO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as RUTH MOPKI JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN RUTH LARABA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAVID TONGDYEN DALA , now wish to be known and addressed as TITUS TONGDYEN DALA DAVID . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SULEIMAN ABDULGANIYU ALASINRIN , now wish to be known and addressed as SULAIMAN ABDULGANIYU ALASINRIN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ESTHER	ALMAROOF	SUNDAY	ABDULWAHAB	AMINU	MRS. MARY
I, formerly known as ESTHER CHRISTOPHER , now wish to be known and addressed as ESTHER YOHANNA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as OTTA FAVOUR ENE , now wish to be known and addressed ALMAROOF FAVOUR ENE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GEORGE YILYOK KOPYELLA , now wish to be known and addressed SUNDAY YILYOK KOPYELLA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as ABDULWAHAB YUSUF , now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULWAHAB YUSUF USMAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as AMINU QASIM USMAN , now wish to be known and addressed as AMINU TAHIR USMAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as MARY RENARD MANGSE , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MARY VICTOR OBED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
DORCAS	GODENAAN	SALE FOR SALE	SALE FOR SALE	PUBLIC NOTICE	
I, formerly known as DORCAS JOHN DANBOYI , now wish to be known and addressed as DORCAS LONGJI DANAT . Correct date of birth is 28/03/1996 not 28/03/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as GODENAAN DAMEN NDEDUK , now wish to be known and addressed as DAMEN CALEB GODENAAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.			LOSS OF DOCUMENT This is to informed the general public of the lost of original R of O PL 31975, located at No. TW 65A Tudun Wada Jos, bearing the name AFAM GUEST HOUSE and belonging to MR. PETER ENYI AZUBUIKE . All efforts made to traced the missing document proved abortive. If found, please contact the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning Jos or the nearest Police Station. SIGNED: ADAKU AZUBUIKE	
SALE FOR SALE	SALE FOR SALE	SALE FOR SALE	SALE FOR SALE		

News

Taraba varsity lecturers threaten strike over entitlements

From
VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

MEMBERS of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Taraba State University (TSU) branch, had on Tuesday staged a protest demanding for their entitlements following the suspension of the recent ASUU nationwide strike.

In a resolution after a meeting in Jalingo, the Chairman of the union, Dr. Samuel Shikaa, demanded for their earned allowances.

The union also lamented over the victimization of her members by the Taraba State government for participating in the recent nationwide ASUU strike and threatened to embark on an indefinite strike if the situation was not addressed.

The union denied the insinuation by the government that it participated on the strike on "sympathy grounds," stressing that the union actually had genuine reasons to join the strike.

According to the union, none of the agreements reached between it and the state government had been met, contrary to what the governor said was reason for not paying them.

"We wish to bring to public notice, the unfortunate victimization of our members by the Taraba State government for participating in the just concluded nationwide ASUU strike.

"The Executive Governor of Taraba State, the Visitor to TSU, governor Darius Ishaku has maintained categorically, the "no work, no pay stands as a punitive measure against the union for participating in the nationwide strike.



Adamu

"The Governor has claimed that he has solved all local issues in the branch, hence the participation of ASUU-TSU in the strike was purely on "sympathy" grounds, on the basis of which he decided to withhold the salaries of our members to serve as a deterrent in the future.

"The union wishes to make two things very clear about this misunderstanding as follows: (1) Our participation in the nationwide strike was not on sympathy grounds. The issues that necessitated the strike such as the renegotiation of the 2009 ASUU-FGN agreement pertaining to the salary structure and welfare of our members, revitalization funds for all public universities, deployment of UTAS against the obnoxious IPPIS to ensure university autonomy among other issues affected us too,

hence, the need for us to join in the struggle.

Payment of promotion arrears and parameter fencing of the university to improve the security of staff and students.

"It is based on these issues that the 2021 MoA between the branch and the state government was reached. Sadly, none of the issues has been addressed at the moment and yet, the governor considers it honourable enough to misinform Tarabans that he has addressed all the local issues affecting ASUU-TSU branch.

"It is disheartening to note that salary in TSU has become a big privilege. It is either never paid at all or paid in fractions, a trend that has continued in the University for years now.

GOVERNOR Aminu Masari of Katsina State yesterday wept while presenting before the state's House of Assembly, a budget of over N288 billion for the 2023 fiscal year.

Masari while presenting the budget became emotional because that will be his last budget.

According to him, "The budget tagged, 'Budget of Transition' will focus more on the state's restoration agenda sectors.

"The total budget for the 2023 fiscal year is in the sum of N288,633,257,963.00 with 63.77% Capital Expenditure and 36.23% Recurrent Expenditure.

"In aggregate terms, the 2023 budget is lower than that of the 2022 revised budget by N34,662,962,998.00.

"The 2023 Budget is structured with a total recurrent expenditure of N104,580,485,996.28 which is equivalent to 36.23 per cent of the total budget and capital expenditure of N184,052,771,966.72 which is 63.77 per cent of the total budget."

He further explained that the total amount projected to finance the budget is the sum of N184,052,771,966.72 which comprises of N62,592,051,331.00 as IGR from the state's board of internal revenue and other MDAs.

The governor added that the revenue receivable through the Federation Account is estimated at the sum of N119,021,024,430.89 with an opening balance of N12,062,370,089.11.

"It is important to note that the 2023 recurrent revenue has increased by 7.33% over that of the 2022 revised budget, and the capital expenditure in the 2023 budget has decreased by 20.92% due to a drop in capital

Masari weeps as he presents 2023 budget

From
SHEHU DANJUMA Katsina

receipts.

"The restoration plan of the present administration comprises programmes, projects and policies implemented under education, health, water resources, agriculture, environment, works, housing and transport sectors of the state government.

"As a result therefore, the 2023 budget has provided adequate allocation of funds to the priority sectors of the state government (capital) as follows:

"Environment N31,748,186,500.00, water resources N29,207,394,335.00, health N23,974,614,962.00, works N20,995,858,882.00, education N18,632,987,897.00,

while agriculture N13,604,292,049.00.

"Subtotal N138,163,334,625.00, other MDAs N45,889,437,341.72, as the total is N184,052,771,966.72", the governor said.

He assured the people of the state that his administration has done well within the available resources to uplift the living standard of the people.

"I am sure posterity will judge our government on the meaningful projects, programmes and policies implemented during its tenure as government of Katsina," he said

Alhaji Maigari, Speaker Katsina State House of Assembly in a response, assured the governor that the lawmakers would do everything possible to see to the speedy passage of the budget.



Masari

Gindiri compound is a divine plan of God

THE coming of missionaries to Gindiri land of Mangu Local Government of Plateau State,

has been likened to Mount Camel and God's divine plan to breed young Nigerians to the glory of God and to the service of humanity.

The President, Church of Christ In Nations (COCIN), Rev. Dr. Amos M. Mohzo, disclosed this while playing host to the national body of Gindiri Old Students' Association (GOSA), who paid him a courtesy visit to intimate him on its activities marking its 50th anniversary at the COCIN Headquarters in Jos, the Plateau State capital yesterday.

The President who is also the Proprietor of all COCIN schools in Gindiri, was represented by the COCIN General Secretary, Rev. Asst. Prof. Benjamin J. Poko. Welcoming them, he said

"We are proud of you for the passion and for remembering the schools you passed through and giving back to schools in full

- COCIN President

in the areas of infrastructure and remodeling.

"Gindiri is like Mount Camel because of the caliber of students and God messengers it has groomed and brought up in different fields. We thank God Almighty for his grace for you to have witnessed this year of the Gindiri Old Students' Association (GOSA) at 50.

"We are grateful to GOSA for being more of a proprietor to the schools in Gindiri and we urge you to keep the tempo of love and remember the "For Light and Truth" which is the basis of our training and teaching to the world", he enthused.

Earlier, the National President of GOSA, Engr. Sunday C. Hyat, said they were in the headquarters to intimate him of the line up of their activities marking their 50th anniversary. They had kick-started with road walk and sanitation Monday. It would climax with re-union service at the Ulster Church in Gindiri next Sunday.

He appealed to the President to set aside or rather, reserve next Sunday specially for the reunion service so the he would be able to attend because they were in dire need of seeing him in person to celebrate with them.

There were goodwill messages from Deputy General Secretary, Rev. Dauda Diga Jimra and the first GOSA President, Obed Ogbefor respectively.

Bwacha assures supporters of victory in 2023

From
VICTOR GAI, Jalingo



Ishaku

THE governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress APC in Taraba State, Senator Emmanuel Bwacha has assured his supporters that the numerous court cases will soon be over and he will emerge the governor of the state at the 2023 general elections.

Bwacha, while addressing journalists in Jalingo, encouraged his supporters to keep faith alive as the cases against him have since been appealed and he would emerge

victorious at the end.

"I wish to encourage all our supporters to remain united and unshakable. We have appealed all cases against me and I want to assure them that i will come out victorious at the end of the process and they would soon rejoice.

"We are law abiding citizens so, we are respecting the court order but I want to assure all our supporters that we will win and they will rejoice.

Bwacha however, blamed the People's Democratic Party

(PDP) in the state for the challenges his party is facing. He also accused his opponents within the APC as offering themselves as willing tools for the PDP to destabilize his governorship ambition.

He disclosed that he would not be detracted by persons who are bent at frustrating his ambition to liberate the state from the stranglehold of the PDP.

"We are aware that the local PDP here in Taraba is behind my colleagues who have refused to come to the dialogue table for the interest of APC in Taraba State. When a ship is sinking, by

mere contact with the ship, you will also begin to sink. And that is what is happening to some of my party men who are romancing with the local PDP in Taraba against me.

"Tarabans are tired of operating with the PDP and its failure in the last couple of years. They want to establish an APC government that would bring progressive policies of governance.

"I want to assure all our supporters that the PDP target for the state to remain in this mess would not be possible. We would by God grace come out victorious at the upper court, win at the general election and liberate Tarabans from the shadow of agony," he assured.



At the APC convention

Feature

By
ALABI MARY MOJISOLA

Unique tradition of Tiv people

TIV are tivoid ethnic group. They constitute 2.4% of Nigeria in total population. Oral tradition of Tiv originated those people came to their current location (Benue River in Nigeria) from the south east.

Official history recorded that the Tiv tribe had the first contact with European in 1907. It was the contact with southern Nigeria.

Tiv people made use of their geographical location to produce their objects on:

- (i) Wood
- (ii) Copper objects

Tiv's arts cut across all cycles of life. Traditionally the Tiv had no chiefs, decisions were made by lineage elders before the British administration. The Tiv's logo is zebra colour and the most cultural attire is made up of black and white which denotes black that they Tiv comes from Africans, and white denotes peace and love, and represent wild nature from zebra animal. Though other cultural clothes are Ivvartyo, Godo, Tugudu, Gbagir, etc.

Ten children are the direct descendants of the Tiv people, according to the history. Tiv settled in Swern but due to overpopulation, they spread from the hills of the south eastern Tiv land to the middle belt region. There is unique in the cultural aesthetics in Tiv indigenous/traditional performances of arts; which include a critical perspective, variety grace, unity, precision, emphasis, balancing and proportion hence it embraces or encompass of philosophy of arts. So also as the cultural objects is based on; rituals, fertility (marriage), initiation and burials. Tiv religion is hinged on three basic concepts: Aondo, Tsav, Akombo.

Origin

It is claimed that the Tiv wandered through southern south central and west central Africa before arriving at the savannah lands of West Africa Sudan via the River Congo and Cameroon mountains and settled at Sirenuaragbe the region adjoining Cameroon and Nigeria in the beginning of 1500c. Tiv is an ethno-linguistic group in West Africa. Takuruku Anyamazenga is the father of the Tiv, married Aliwe, the mother of Tiv with two sons Tive and Uke.

The tribe has a story of their ancestor; a man known as Takuruka father of Tiv married to Aliwe, the mother of Tiv with two children - Ipusu and Khongoa. Ichongo gave birth tokyura, Gondo, Nongo, Mak, Iha and Turan. Ipusu gave birth to Kum, Kpar, Shihre. Ibweres, Traces the origin of Tiv to Bantu people, lived in Shoba, of Democratic Republic of Congo which show an evidence of 67 Tiv words of Bantu Nyaba. Oral tradition of Tiv history conform of theory of their migration from the southeast, migration occurred about eleven generations ago. Tiv lives in environment having calcium deficient soils and, are one of the none milk drinking tribe.

Geographical location of Tiv

Tiv are located between latitude 6° 3' and 8°10' north and longitude. East position and longitude 8° and 10' east.

This position is restricted and confirms the Tiv and those who are sand witched within each other ethnic cities. They are boarded in the North by Chamba and Jukun of Taraba State in the north east and with the Igede of Benue.

Occupation of Tiv

The Tiv are subsistence farmers whose main crops are yams, millet, cassava, sweet potatoes, and sorghum, all of which are eaten as porridge by combining it with sauces and stews. Domestic animals like chickens, goats, plentiful, few cattle are kept because of tse-tse fly. They are also lovers of pounded yam. Three types are (i) Ruan kumen (ii) Ryam Nahaan and (iii) Akpu. They also produced some soya beans, rice, cotton.

What tiv people are known for?

The Tivs are known for their artists dance, prowess, and storytelling. The traditional title for Tiv that is full title of the Tor Tiv is His Royal Majesty, Begha II Tiv. Tiv food and dressing is a prominent feature of their unique culture like in any other. Tiv cuisine and attire can astonish you with its ability to combine simple ingredients or patterns with delicious taste and gorgeous look.

Where Tiv people migrated from? (migration of tiv)

When the Tiv, a Bante language



speaking group migrated into the Benue valley of Nigeria from south western Cameroon over five hundred years ago, they faced hostilities from different groups in the valley.

Chain of emergence of Tiv

The Tiv socio-cultural environment and entrepreneurship emergence because of the new and emerging realities in the Nigeria. Socio-cultural values of ethnic groups including that of Tiv are changing. The Tiv emerged into their present location from the south east coming down; they met Fulani with whom they still recognize a joking relationship. The earliest documentation of European contact was 1852. British occupying entered Tiv land from the east in 1906 when they were called in to protect Hausa and Jukun enslave that Tiv had attacked. In 1952, they defeated the British force. The southern area was penetrated from the south, what southern Tiv called the eruption of the British. In the early administration as it happened in the east, Tiv under the influence (but not the hegemony) of Jukun and Hausa kingdom.

Social organisation

It is known that Tiv society was completely egalitarian without any central authority. It might sound surprising but they did not have kings. The compounds were administrated by the oldest man. The colonists established a new administration, Gboko, was chosen as headquarter of a new leader.

Administration

Tiv are stateless society characterized by the absence of a central authority supported by administrative and judiciary machinery. Their political system is characteristics by law and order maintained by elders meeting at different departments and levels.

Culture and traditions of tiv

Culture is generally refers to the way of life of the people and traditions is an act of passing norms, values, aspirations to generation to generations. The people of Tiv have some of the most unique cultures in Nigeria. The Tiv traditions are in four ways:-

- Marriage
- Dressing
- Dance
- Food

Marriage: Marriage in Tiv land is rooted in the rich culture of the Tiv and they are in four ways of marriages:

- (i) Marriage by exchange (Yamshe)
- (ii) Marriage by capture (Kwase ngoho) inter-clan wars marriage.
- (iii) Marriage by purchase (girls are captured by slaves and married off system)
- (iv) Marriage by bride price (through European cultural difficulty alcuturativa)

Music & Dance: Music & dance both communicate, and promote the use of various traditional indigenous musical instruments such as kakaki ilyu, indyer (during yam festival), abade, adigwe (violent).

Tiv Dressing Code

Since the time of immemorial, the Tiv people have perfected the art of wearing a craft passed from generation to generation due to cultural identity it command: (i) anger - traditional wearing of white and black strips (ii)

burial attire - ivvalyo. Hence, Tiv cultural aesthetic in traditional performance gives way for principles of (i) openness (ii) frankness (iii) honesty (iv) transparency and cleanness.

Tiv Tribal Arts

Arts is an expression of man's idea in a tangible form, signal of human activities, civilization, conceptualization of man's idea in form of tangible heritage which spells much about life experiences and life style.



Tiv arts are made of material types of wood and copper metals figurines, their copper figurines are very unique in nature. Tiv arts comprises the life cycle of man activities and its environment in the various categories: fertility both on land and human, occupation, religion, ritual till death, even shrines figures were not left out. Tiv arts produced a large variety of art objects; identifiable examples are rare in the market.

Tiv figure are/statuses are of two types:

1. Naturalist type
2. Ihambe - some of which formed the top of posts of reception boxes, a seated characteristics, and assorted with marriage.

Tiv arts embraces guardian/protection figure, oceans object.

Naturalist type takes the form of female representation.

Ihambe is characteristic as a seated figure with fertility features surrounding it.

Tiv are well known for their colourful puppets masks and costumes used during or annual Kwagh-Nra festival. Tiv blacksmiths have achieved prosperity for their prestige in art work in which it ends in handle of a stylized human head with a blade sprouting from it, they are used during festivals and important meetings. Also, their coppers metal output art include copper figures which will splayed legs and rounded heads. Facial masks / Gkari - the mark is traced beside the eyes, just before the cheeks where tears normally flows, cutting deep incision alter heads, it beadily them. During migrations, Tivs had undergone many stylistic influences through their contacts with other ethnic groups and their body of arts is composed of statues and everyday life.

Tivs religion arts / belief

Tiv like other states practices three religions: their (Tiv) traditional religion is based on the manipulation of forces (Gkombo) entrusted to human by a creator (god), remains strong. The Gkombo are manifested in certain symbolism emblems and in diseases that may create.

The Tiv recognize otiose god called Aondo (sky) who created the universe,

Tsau, and Akombo. Aondo who they acknowledged ancestral spirits and make offerings to them but do not pray to them regard them as either evil or good. Most of their art is produced to protect against evil spirit, diseases, protection and ensure fertility, procreation of wealth, most are personal.

Aondo controls all customs elements. Akinbo family protective fetishes are kept in an individual huts or home. It is during birth, hunting and agration rituals that

with gaping orbits mounted on a ringed neck. The arms along the body fit into the vertically of the room, parallel to the legs, the ribs cage is the bulky part of room with its forward projection. The three joint is stylized. Another skeletal sculpture with deep orbits of steep seeds forming each other as a crest is presumed to belong to the categories of Gkumbo; built on a circular pedestal with arms spread out from the burst. It is frozen in a threatening attitude.

Female ancestral Tiv figure (amy as naegele)

Features: The figures with shiny and textured painting. Has a stylized facial features or characteristics, made up of rich brown wood, with one sided hair style, with a slender back and protruding for so further indicate of wellbeing of this personate and her associated powers, as a fertility in marriage and prosperity.

Toma bakrogul mask (bush spirit)

Toma bakrogul represent the spirit of the bush and other divination purposes. Toma bakrogul is a carved wooden heavy mask with two horns, (the bakrogui). It has only three reduced openings for vision. It has a face carved bas-relief bordered by a collar reminiscent of the mark of the neighbouring lawyer Cote divore. It has a braided cord under lines to enhanced look for kaolmi under a band notched with diamond.

IHAMBE (Fertility figure)

Ihambe is a seated characteristic figure. Ihambe is a rare female ancestor figure. There are two stylistic trends (i) coarsely carved sculpture on it (ii) the

their roles come into play. However, religious of Tiv beliefs in ethno conceptions, which concerns about nature and man, sickness, ritual, nutrition and reproduction.

Key elements of tiv religion

1. Substance which grows on the heart (witchcraft - potential Tsav).
2. Mbatsav (a society of thick who have grows in heart that is men of ability).
3. Sacred objects and means of controlling the actions of the Mbatsav.
4. Material on Akombo (magical emblem, magical forces which affects individuals while the great Akombo is the matter of social groups.
5. Rituals - rituals in all areas of life cycle of a man - reproduction, death - burial.

Tsav is both the sign of source of special talent or ability whether music, artistic, follows the nine daughters of zeus, or ability to life to old age. The Mbatsav (people with Tsav) perform the rituals to repair the land. All embraces organization of elders who have the ability to manipulate these forces and its manifestation. When Tiv become ill they assume that "an Akombo" is the cause, the great Akombo attack them, Tiv is concerned with health and with death the manifestation of poor health, with fertility of crops, animals and themselves and with social harmony.

Tribal fetish ritual figure skeleton - tribal figure

Tribal fetish skeleton figure is an unusual assemblage of skeleton figures, skills and a pangolin motif (pangolin are nocturnal animals, which diet are mainly arts and termites) which they capture using their long tongues, it has significant in symbolism, mythology and rituals.

Pangolin symbol of hope that even the unhappiness of not being able to have children may be overcome because everything about them is unique (scales meat - have skeleton scales). They are inquisitive intelligent personality. The sculpture illustrate a certain burial statutory of the Tiv people which is poorly documented.

Description

The sender figure scalps has a skull

status of the Tiv have an underlying magical meaning. These unusual sculptures are not representatives of ancestors.

Conservation of the cultural values both tangible and intangible in tiv land

The ancient tribe continuous to preserve its traditions even in the modern world. The language of Tiv tribe has no dialects that is why the people can understand each other in any region of their settlement. This fact helps the ethnic groups to save their culture and identity over the years. The culture of the tribe has retained its uniqueness, customs, folks, crafts, and arts. This can be deduced in various aspects of their lives, clothes, tradition of marriage, music, dance and food. The use of swem pot made the society to be peaceful and live more, though the missionary/Christianity has erased 30 percent of the culture of stem pot.

Conclusion

Every society has yardsticks for measuring standards and censoring all aspect of life. This is the major concern of aesthetics in all expressive arts. Within the cultural sphere, this philosophy is domesticated in that the question of appreciation and judgement is hinged on cultural values; that is to say what that culture conceives as values is brought to bear on the judgment. Particularly, when one considers that what obtains in one culture might not be in another, it then becomes clear that the standards for what is acceptable art will also differ markedly. This paper explores the cultural peculiarities that encapsulate Tiv performances. It is an attempt to answer that the question about what standards that inform the basis for judging Tiv performances, and how creative artists can even be guided in their endeavours. Basically analytical, the paper offers insight into a wholistic understanding of Tiv performances, why there are designed the way they are, what significance they portend, what patterns are offensive, and a several other issues.



By VICTOR ALI

NIGERIA is indeed a very funny country. Blessed naturally with the Black Gold (crude oil), the country supposedly should be in the league of developed nations. Amidst the joy of discovering this natural resource before the country gained its independence, Nigerians and the world felt the country was good to go in terms of monumental strides in its development. Today, over five decades after independence, it is still debatable whether the God-given crude oil is a blessing or a curse.

With the abundance of the crude beneath the Nigerian earth, the expectation was that

in no time, the Nigeria state will be an Eldorado, surprisingly; this has visibly become a dashed hope. Fuel scarcity, persistent hike in the product, thriving black marketing, official corruption known as Fuel Subsidy and other illicit activities have become the nation's greatest undoing. Added to this are the nefarious and very satanic activities of vandals of oil pipelines.

As the major earner of the country's income, any volatility in that industry affects the economic plan of the government and the welfare of its citizenry. It can be said with all gusto that, oil price dictates virtually everything that happens to or in the economy. Therefore, the efficient and effective management of that resource goes a long way in determining the well-being of the country's economy and the people.

Recently, the National Operations Controller of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Mike Osatuyi said that, petrol pump price may rise astronomically as Nigeria's could buy fuel at N700 per litre. Osatuyi said, the current of N170 price can more than double if the oil marketers are unable to obtain foreign exchange (Forex) at the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) official rate.

The IPMAN boss explained that, Forex scarcity at the official market might force oil markets to approach the black market for Forex and this will compel them to increase petrol price. Hear him: "If CBN failed to avail marketers of Fore after deregulation, importers



Nigeria and the Petroleum debacle

will have no choice than to turn to the black market for forex which will push up the pump price of petrol to between 650 naira to 700 naira per litre".

He further averred that, "total deregulation remains the best solution to ending fuel scarcity. The deregulation of the downstream sector remains the only potent and lasting solution to scarcity. But the cost implication of the policy will make the petrol price too expensive for Nigerians, as deregulation will shift the burden from the government to users of the product" adding that, "the Fuel Subsidy needs to go due to its impact on budget deficit and raising debt profile on the government ". According to him, Fuel subsidies deprive the government of huge revenue and do not allow competition in the oil industry, where the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited acts

as a monopoly.

"Subsidy regime" according to him, "does not allow competition, while monopoly is the language of Petrol business as the Nigerian National Petroleum company (NNPC) Ltd is the sole importer, manager and distributor of Petrol. Subsidy kills efficiency in the procurement and supply chain of petrol business operations and deprive government of huge revenue. Nigeria's debt servicing of N6.3 trillion per year is not healthy for the country with mere capital expenditure of N5.35 trillion".

All said and done, the big question remains: should petrol price increase as explained by the IPMAN boss, what is the fate of the ordinary Nigerian? Certainly, the cost of living would be monumental and the concomitant effect would be disastrous. It is unfortunate that Nigeria has found itself in this messy quandary. Leadership

failure has been at the behest of this regretable situation. There is no gainsaying the fact that Nigerians are battling for survival. Cost of feeding, housing, transportation, not to talk of education, medicare and other basic necessities of life have become the exclusive preserve of some few elites.

In a country of about 200 million people, this sure portends danger. Imminent implosion can occur after all, the old adage that a hungry man is an angry man remains immortal because at the end, something must give. And what is to be done? It behooves on government to strategise and bring out workable solutions towards ameliorating the already precarious living conditions of Nigerians. It is evil that with all the petrol dollars Nigerians are wallowing in abject poverty, wants and penury.



By KENNETH DARENG

THE recent parley held between Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu, the Presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress [APC], and the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria [CAN], actually caught my attention.

What a contradiction watching the news clip where Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, who had on one hand explained to his audience that the reason for picking former Governor Shettima as his vice presidential running mate had nothing to do with any plan to Islamize Nigeria, but settled for someone that will assist him in running the country if he eventually wins the presidency in next year's election.

He also on that occasion

Vice President deserves specific constitutional role

allayed the fears of the Nigerian Christian community that, having not Islamize his family, what more of the entire country, because the bug will always stop at his desk as the President. Then he quipped..."After all, what is the Vice President?" meaning, his VP would be at his beck and call.

That also suggest that the office of the vice president does not and may not have any specific role to play constitutionally speaking even in the next dispensation considering the fact that since the advent of democratic rule and even during the military regimes, the holders of vice or deputy positions at all levels of governance are always relegated to the background.

The late Nkema Odumeagwu Ojukwu once said, "Anything deputy is just like a tea boy, who is told who to serve and when to serve." Similarly, other people likened the position of a deputy to a "spare Tire" that can only be used when the main one unexpectedly has a problem. Some also view such a position as that of a glorified messenger always representing his principal at odd functions like condolences, birthdays, or courtesy visits etc.

Some people have even

wondered, why is the position so irrelevant and yet necessary. Like in the case of the Vice President or Deputy Governor, the person may just on a daily basis, have as a prayer point for the principal to become incapacitated or even drop dead otherwise, it may just be the same sing song with no clear cut out constitutional responsibility, just like the case of a bat that is neither a bird nor a bat.

According to the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended to 2018, section [1] states;" Subject to the provision of this constitution, the executive powers of the Federation shall; [a] be vested in the President and may, subject as foresaid and to the provision of the law made by the National Assembly, be exercised by him either directly or through the vice president and ministers of Government of the Federation or officers of the civil service..."

However, it is also important to know that in the case of the present Muhammadu Buhari administration, the vice president Yomi Osinbajo, is involved in carrying out functions or exercising powers that are only delegated to him by the

President. This could be anything from representing him at executive meetings or giving him power to spearhead projects that the President could normally head. The VP is also a member of the National Security Council which handles the country's internal and external security affairs yet, with just an advisory role to play.

Although the vice president chairs the National Economic council which was established by President Buhari on 29, June, 2015, to guide the president on economic issues and providing solutions to rectify them, again their seem to be little or no mention on specific duties for the office of the vice president.

Like other past Nigerian administrations, the present government has maintained the role of the VP to that of delegation of functions with no specifics perhaps due to the constitutional provisions. But ideally the present crop of political class, particularly the National Assembly who ought to have at least amended the 1999 Constitution to accommodate some specific functions for the VP, Deputy Governor and Vice Chairmen of the 774 local government councils of the Federation.

And as the nation head to

the polls in a matter of months, It would have been wise for even the Presidential candidates themselves to initiate the move for constitutional amendment and to push for specific roles for their VPs rather than just waiting to play the same old game.

It is reasonable to note that since it is a joint ticket, one also expected the proponents of the 1999 Constitution as amended, to have given the office of the Vice President some level of specific roles that could deepen the democratic process instead of leaving the office at the mercy of the chief executive were instances bound where if there is any rift or difference in opinion the principal can withdraw almost all functions from the vice.

This negative trend is common in the nation's political journey. We saw how it played out between President Olusegun Obasanjo and his vice, Atiku Abubakar, we are also living witnesses to stage managed impeachments of Deputy Governors by their principals and same with the third tier of government.

The nation's political leaders at this juncture are expected to create value-added offices and functions for all its personnel and not for personal glorification but for the purpose of good governance.

EZEKIEL DONTINNA

IT was amazingly one of its kind in recent time to have such mammoth crowd at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos, Plateau State. What appeared to be the usual political party' campaign flag off like any other, slowly held the state to a stand still for almost four days with people trooping from the thirty-six states of the federation.

For good five days in Jos, the capital city of Plateau State, no single hotel accommodation was left unoccupied because of the influx of Tinubu/Shettima supporters ahead of the November 15 presidential flag off at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium.

Major streets and wall of buildings were littered with posters and billboards of APC Presidential candidate, Gubernatorial candidates of different States, National Assembly Candidates and State Houses of Assembly candidates respectively, advertising how credible their candidatures are to party faithfuls.

The most interesting part of it all was how peaceful the process went without report of any political violence. You need to see how people trooped in even when it was not held at weekend. Although, the Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, who happened to be the Director General of Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Organisation declared a work free day in the state, but the turn out was quite large.

Three days ahead of the flag off, the security personnel were already stationed at strategic places and the venue as preparations continued. On the eve of the flag off, the State Executive Council, led by Governor Simon Bako Lalong took an inspection tour to the stadium to see how colourful the venue was set for the smooth take off of the flag off.

Supporters were at the venue as early as 7am struggling for space to see the arrival of President Buhari and Tinubu campaign team. Major streets starting from Yakubu Gowon International Airport Hiepang to the JD Gomwalk road was jam packed causing heavy traffic at both lanes in the Tin city of Jos.

Motorists passing through Jos to other states did not find it easy to pass, but had struggle for alternative routes because the entire city was locked up. Apart from those who came purposely for the flag off with their cars, citizens of Plateau State were seen trekking down to the venue because the traffic was too much have a taxi.

While at the Rwang Pam Stadium, it was cumbersome for the security men as they controlled the crowd who wanted to enter the stadium. Even when the stadium was already filled to the brim, people scampered to find themselves in and it was a huge task for the security to check the hoodlums among the crowd whose intentions were to carry out their bidings.

The climax part of this flag off was the presence of President

Muhammadu Buhari, and twenty-two (22) APC led Governors of Nigeria with that of Plateau State as the captain of the flag off last week.

Speaking at the flag off, the National Chairman of the All Progressive Congress (APC), Senator Abdullahi Adamu, said the choice of Jos, Plateau State was deliberate because of how strategic it is for the party ahead

be the President and be in at Aso Rock come 2023 because APC would get massive votes during the Presidential, National Assembly, Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections.

The Presidential Candidate of APC, Senator Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, (aka Jagaban) said, with a blessed state with huge mineral potentials in the country



APC Presidential flag off: Ray of hope?



of the 2023 presidential election.

He added that, politics believes in hard work and not noise making and the incumbent administration would not want to lose, but win through hard work saying, "no government or administration in twenty-three (23) years of democracy has done what President Muhammadu Buhari has done in the area of infrastructure".

On his part, the Director General of Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Organisation and Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, CON, said, it was in Jos that many historic campaigns were flagged off producing Presidential candidate's that won elections, people like Chief MKO Abiola, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and President Muhammadu Buhari respectively.

He assured the presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, that he should get prepared to



like Plateau State, he would change the face of things in Nigeria when elected as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria within a short period.

He promised to make sure that no child in Nigeria will go to bed with an empty stomach or stay at home uneducated saying, "I will not be happy seeing

Nigerian children not having food to eat, but I will be happy to see them have food on their tables and are in schools".

Governor Nasiru El-Rufai described the 2023 presidential election as a vote between sweetness and bitterness, hence the need for people not to go back to the old days of PDP where there was no justice, no

development and sincerity, hence the need for Nigerians to vote for justice, development and transparency.

Earlier, the Plateau State Coordinator of Tinubu/Shettima Campaign and APC Gubernatorial Candidate of Plateau State, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, said that APC did not make mistake in choosing Plateau State for the flag off saying, "the election is as good as won and will not disappoint you if elected".

However, we really commend the campaign organisation for ensuring that there was perfect security arrangement. Both military and paramilitary were stationed at strategic positions across the capital city. Surveillance helicopter was going round the state to ensure a smooth and peaceful flag off. It is our prayers that all the intending parties who would like to flag off campaign on the Plateau should assure Plateau citizens of security.

IMAGES

LALONG RECEIVES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE PARTICIPANTS

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong on Monday received Armed Forces Command and Staff Course Participants, Jaji, Kaduna State on courtesy call at the new Government House, Rayfield, Jos



Governor Lalong welcoming the Director of Joint Studies of the College Brigadier General Ibrahim Bindul



Director of the College, Bri-Gen. Ibrahim Bindul (right) presenting plaque to Governor Simon Bako Lalong (CON)



Cross section Senior Executive Course 45 of the College during the courtesy visit at Government House, Jos



Security Adviser to Governor Lalong, Gen. Augustine Agundu (left) flanked by State Government appointees



Governor Lalong and his Deputy, Prof. Tyoden listening at the occasion



Another section of SEC 45 participants during visit



SGS, Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, (left) with the CoS, Hon. Noel Dongjur



Governor Lalong (middle) participants and Government Officials in a group photograph after the courtesy call

Odd World

Luxurious party mansion left for 30 years

A mysterious mansion perched high on a hill above a small town in Tennessee was abandoned for many years following multiple scandals involving homeowner Billy Hull.

The opulent property in Chattanooga took many years to build and was finally completed in 1972, with adult entertainment tycoon Billy Hull moving in to continue his life of luxury.

Mr Hunt had a clear vision for his home, choosing architect Ed Ball to design the interior which boasted luxury marble bathrooms, mirrored lounges and a huge swimming pool alongside three large bedrooms.

The 5,600 square foot property took 14 months to build, and Mr Hunt celebrated its completion in style with an extravagant house party.

During a period of 12 months, the entertainment business owner held many soirées at his home. But sadly, there are no images of the home in its heyday.

Following multiple gatherings throughout the year, the impressive mansion was soon abandoned by its owner following a scandal that shocked the southern town.

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Following multiple gatherings throughout the year, the impressive mansion was soon abandoned by its owner following a scandal that shocked the southern town.

Despite this, the decadent marble-topped bar still remains, but it's now scratched and covered in rubbish.

After the mansion was abandoned, letters from the past were found, with one baring a glimpse at the lives of two friends of Mr Hunt who frequently attended his house parties.

The note reads: "Tootie, may your magic never end. So glad you're home and feeling better. I miss you, Rocky."

The playboy pool, which made a public appearance in an electrical trade publication in 1972, particularly stood out in Mr Kent's images.

The huge, 20-by-40-foot pool features undulating sides, a faux rock waterfall and a diving board.

Now, its glory days are over as it is covered in graffiti from intruding guests, following the home's abandonment. It has a broken sofa placed on the floor of the unfilled pool, transforming it into a hollow shell.

The iconic Playboy emblem on the floor of the pool has undeniably stood the test of time and stands proud amongst the debris.

The wood-paneled room in which the pool lies features a chandelier holding on by a thread, with a bar covered in graffiti that matches the walls of the former swimming pool.

The master bedroom of the home, which was once shared by Mr Hull and his wife Gloria, looks out onto the pool.

The room was decorated with pastel pink paint and mirrored cabinets that have since strayed from the art deco vibe, due to vandals smashing the mirrors and graffitiing on the walls.

All of the bedrooms in the home featured CCTV monitors with feeds from the pool room.

Presumably, this was so Mr Hunt could keep an eye on his guests inside his home.

Despite its luxury interior, the master bedroom also hides a dark secret.

A year after the property's completion, a man named Roland Hargis was shot and killed as he left the Tradewinds Night Club in Chattanooga.

It is understood that the man in question was having an illicit affair with Mr Hunt's wife.

Source: The Mirror



Qatar glistening, Nigeria on sidelines again

AS 32 countries gather to battle it out in Qatar for the intriguing 2022 FIFA World Cup finals, it is no longer news that Nigeria, one of the football power houses in Africa will visibly not be there. What this equally means is that the Green and White flag of our dear nation will be remarkably absent throughout the duration of the tournament.

It is a big shame that Nigeria which won the most entertaining team of the tournament in USA 1994 is presently lost in the crowd. It is quite a pity that despite the many brilliant players we are blessed with as a nation, we have been left back home licking our wounds and wondering where we all got it wrong in the first place. As we watch these intriguing matches on the sidelines, it is hopeful that after about 64 games, an eventual winner will emerge to be capped champions of the competition.

After excruciating fruitless qualifiers, the most populous black nation on earth was eventually knocked out of the global soccer extravaganza by our traditional arch-rival, Ghana. Due to careless mistakes, Nigeria's hope to be physically present in Qatar for this epic soccer extravaganza was dashed against the wall causing great anxiety for teeming supporters of the round leather game.

Reminiscent, that very nostalgic encounter with Ghana will forever remain one of the worse nightmares to have engulfed our football in the annals of our nation's history. Even after significant assurances by the Super Eagles technical crew that our nation would eventually qualify for this ongoing tournament, we had to watch most of these qualifiers with our hearts in our mouths.

When it finally dawn on us that we have missed an ample opportunity to be amongst the global best footballing nations again, the blame game started. While most of us blamed football administrators over their administrative ingenuity, our visionless stakeholders in an unproductive efforts to cover their shame opined that the former Super Eagles Coach Rohr should be blamed for this huge embarrassing failure. At the end of the entire brouhaha, all those calling for the head of the tactician had their way, the coach was sacked. For some months now, the new tactician of our national football team, Coach Peseiro is clearly yet to make our team recover from the tragedy of this unexpected ouster.

Another detestable experience was recorded a few days ago during an international friendly with Portugal. Though yours sincerely was unable to watch the match due to power cut, I was the following day informed that our Super Chickens, oops Super Eagles escaped with four goals defeat from the hands of the Portuguese. But for God, the situation would have been worse. Our God is always a miracle working God indeed, I had to conclude.

As some of us glued to the television when satellite pictures stated telecasting the opening ceremony of the event, one cannot but thank Qatar for organizing such a showpiece. That the nation expended over 250 billion dollars to prepare for this historical soccer fiesta to a great length indicated the country's appreciable degree of commitment to sports development. Since the approvals and released of the monies allotted for planning, there have been no reported cases of acts of personal

aggrandizement by soccer authorities shouldered with the responsibility of ensuring adequate preparation for the event. Interestingly, the attractive facilities at display have justified the huge investment.

On the flip-side, should the Federal Government of Nigeria dole out 250 billion dollars for the staging of any sporting event as such, be pretty convinced that our nation will be turned upside down. Undoubtedly, me think that the day such humongous amount of money will be released, sleep will automatically seize from both the eyes of our president and the common man.

Anyway, most soccer pundits are of the strong opinion that Nigeria at the moment lacks a credible team to represent this nation in any international engagements. Moreover, the last friendly against Portugal has seriously exposed the inherent inefficiencies in the team.

On the whole however, it seems Nigeria's problems is not just about the World Cup miss but other burning issues bedeviling the nation at the moment. Last week, the National Bureau of Statistics in a multidimensional Poverty Index, (MPI) disclosed that 133 million people in Africa's biggest economy are poor in health, education including other dimensions. It further revealed that of the total 133 million affected persons, 86 million live in the north while 47 million people presently live in the southern part of the country.

In other words, research indicates that the average deprivation score among the poor which shows the intensity of poverty is 40.9 percent, Nigeria's national MPI is 0.257, showing that poor people experience just over one quarter of all possible deprivations.

The release of this most recent statistics by the NBS has clearly jettisoned the much earlier the Federal Government's claims that it had lifted about one hundred million people from abject poverty. It has also contradicted the various economic empowerment programmes intended to tackle headlong, the disheartening calamity necessitated by government's inability to empower vulnerable citizens of this nation.

If the truth must be told, the citizens of this country are really suffering due to the present harsh economic realities of our time. More than half of the population in this nation cannot afford three square meals a day, the education and health sectors are epileptic while security challenges are becoming overwhelmingly unbearable. This sad turn-out of events is as a result of precarious degree of inflation which has continued to make things very difficult for the common man.

This troublesome issue aside, authorities concerned are yet to deal decisively with many public officers who have been found neck-deep in acts of personal aggrandizement and or other deliberate acts of sophisticated criminality. While in some states, farmers are yet to regain confidence and return to their farmlands for fear of the unknown, a few communities reportedly still pay humongous amounts as taxes to sustain their partial freedom from bandits.

This is the nasty situation we have found ourselves in even as our political leadership has continued to playing tricks with us. Some of us had thought that getting a ticket for the World Cup will grant us great relief; this was however not to be. It's indeed a big shame Nigeria is not participating at the ongoing fifa World Cup in Qatar.

View Point

BPA's consistent prayers, community health promotion in Ayahland

By **BULUS GAMBO**

THE benefits of community health promotion for better sustainable living cannot overemphasized in our contemporary society today. Knowing quite well that health is wealth, any community, state and or nation that leaves its health sector in total shambles and or in an unpalatable depreciating jeopardy is definitely without mincing words doing so at its peril. Regrettably today, most health facilities in our rural areas are not in a very good shape when it comes to our pragmatic anticipations of favorably competing with other developing nations of the world. As it is; the present unending predicaments bedeviling the nation's health sector particularly at the rural areas have consequently left much to be desired. Most facilities are not facilitated in accordance with best practices around the globe.

For more than two decades now, the humongous problematic disposition of the health fabric of our rural areas have continued to have its toll on the venerable communities of these poverty stricken areas in the nooks and crannies of the nation. Many of such facilities have become an eye sore. This negative and sad development is not a palatable experience one will wish to pray for in any of our communities in this modern day Nigeria.

Though concerted efforts have been made to reinvigorate what is left of our dilapidated infrastructural amenities, much is still left to be done towards restoring the lost glory of our rural health status in the country. In some cases, both the public and private sector collaborations have been able to galvanize more pragmatic support which is desired to effect a great change in the sector.

In other communities, citizens and or natives of these areas always take it upon themselves to ensure that their vulnerable members are not left aloft to continue to suffer in silence. Interestingly, such efforts have paid-off well by restoring hope to



BPA President Chief Philimon Kichime, Rev. Iko monde and Rev. Hakuri Gaya at the event

hopeless, giving strength to the weak and strengthening our prospects for a better tomorrow.

In the past few years, the national body of the Boi Progressive Association in Bogoro Local Government Area of Bauchi State has continued to employ more effective and efficient strategies towards ensuring that their community experience good healthy living. Indeed, this synergy with medical personnel from the area has continued to domesticate their unflinching quest towards changing the narrative.

No doubt, the coming on board of the incumbent National President of Boi Progressive Association, Chief Philimon Kichime has seen the consolidation of more proficient mechanism intended to sensitize his community on tenets of healthy living. Beyond this, he has also achieved a lot in the quest of informing Ayah sons and daughters to understand and key into the lucrative ideologue of supporting such laudable projects for the benefit of the indigenous population.

Thus, various mind-blowing

and lucrative programmes have also been held so as to better the lot of Ayah people. As is annually held, the association equally prepared well for the hosting of its prayer summit.

Each year, the prayer session is intended to seek the face of Almighty God towards redefining and enhancing the rising profile of Ayah nation. Though the popular adage encourages us not to put our eggs in one basket, when it comes to the issue of sustaining our relationship with God, this distinctive ethnic nationality has learnt to put all eggs in one basket. Perhaps, this has been the basic reason why many significant positive changes have been recorded by the community in most recent years.

To the glory of God, many sons and daughters of the area are today being celebrated in all facades of human endeavors. These young enterprising teenagers of the area have today taken the world by storm and are practically doing well and representing the ethnic group thus far very well too.

A few days ago, the national

leadership of BPA in collaboration with its indigenous medical personnel after proficient deliberations arrived at a concrete consensus on the need to provide free medical care to all vulnerable Ayah native population back home. Despite the huge financial implications involved, appeals were made to spirited individuals including all and sundry to contribute their widows might towards the successfully hosting of this all important event. In spite the harsh economic realities in the country, many generosity contributed and the programme was a huge success in each and every ramifications as anticipated.

Speaking during the event, the National President of Boi Progressive Association, (BPA) Chief Kichime explained that Ayah nation will not also take the existence of other tribes on the land for granted.

The president revealed that the National Prayer Convention was initiated in 1966 led by the late Catechist Simon Hakuri as the leader at that time with the sole aim uniting all for the development of the entire Ayah and.

He expressed gratitude and appreciation to the representatives of the Za'ar, Ngas and Igbo communities for participating in this year's convention urging them to get involved in the development of the area.

He also assured them that their existence in Boi would not be taken for granted and appealed to them to avoid all forms of tribalism and other social vices capable of undermining peaceful coexistence.

"God has done are great things for the people .We gathered here to thank God for giving us life and sparing our lives throughout the year. It is a thing of joy for everyone alive today to go through difficulties of all kinds,

That's why every November; we as people of Boi come together to give thanks to God". He added.

According to him, "The national prayer convention comes with two day free medical outreach to assist our people who cannot afford to pay for medical bills. Our brother is a medical Consultant, Dr. Vinishe Sabo who contributed drugs towards the success of the medical outreach. Our appreciation goes to Rev. Hakuri T. Gaya for donating 170 books written by him to be distributed to everyone for free."

The national president disclosed that seven people will undergo surgical operations while hundreds will receive treatments from various kind of illness. He thanked all those who attended the prayer programme and enjoyed all to continue to pray for peace in the country.

In a sermon, Rev. Iko Monde titled 'What Can You See', reiterated that God is capable of changing our situation whatever it may be for the better adding that 'it is time to begin to see the future with focus. Let us shift our attention from what we can see physically and move on to seeing the future spiritually. And I pray God to touch us today.'

Rev. Monde prayed God to continue to bless Boi village with both human and natural resources for the development of the people and the land. All said and done, it is today no record that the Ayah people are doing everything possible to transform themselves and become self-reliant. The efforts so far displayed by their sons and daughters in diaspora have also consolidated in the national body's quest for fruitful collaboration with them for greater prospects. Certainly, in the coming years, more of such intervention programmes if successfully held will help integrate the entire community with other already established communities across the nation.



Dr Vinishe Sabo with other Healthcare providers



Lalong welcomes Jaji participants, Bokkos stakeholders

AFTER hosting the APC Presidential Campaign Flag off last week in his state, and touring some stakes to campaign for his party as head of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council, a team of course participants from the Nigerian Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji, Kaduna State were guests of the Plateau Governor this week.

Governor Simon Bako Lalong expressed happiness while receiving them at the Government House, Jos on Monday.

He urged the participants to enjoy the temperate weather and peaceful disposition and hospitality of the Plateau people.

He however said in tacking the insecurity affecting the country, the highly revered institution should be more committed to meeting the training and retraining needs of personnel of the Nigeria Armed Forces to equip them in modern and effective trends of combating security challenges confronting the nation.

He expressed delight that the timeliness of their theme of study which touches on youths will go a long way in addressing challenges of unemployment and youth restiveness.

The Governor commended Armed forces for doing their best in securing the internal security of the nation and pointed out that as the Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum, he is at the forefront of championing the course of security strategies that will stem the tide of the challenge especially in the North.

The Nigerian Armed Forces Command and Staff College is a joint service institution established to train operational-level military officers of the highest professional standard with the aim of adding value to leadership skills of the Armed Forces

The Study Group that came for the visit were 51 Participants of the Senior Course 45 of the institution comprising both Nigerian and Foreign Students from Tanzania, Bangladesh, Congo Brazzaville, Malawi and Ghana.

Their course work to Plateau State enables them to explore their theme of study which is "Youth Unemployment and International Security".

Team Leader of the Study Tour who is also the Director of Joint Studies of the College, Brigadier General Ibrahim Ponsah Bindul during the visit told Governor Lalong that the study aims to highlight the causes and challenges of unemployment amongst the youth which can also be a trigger to criminality among the young people, with a view to charting a way forward.

The Governor also in a bid to address the lingering security breaches that resulted to killings and destruction of properties in Bokkos Local Government Area of his state, after receiving the Jaji delegation, equally hosted stakeholders of the local government to a meeting.

This is because of recent, some communities in the local government including Kwatas, Butura with the latest happening in Maikatako have faced attacks resulting to loss of lives, homes and properties.

In his approach to tackling the challenge, Lalong met with the stakeholders from the Ron and Fulani ethnic groups made up of religious, traditional, tribal, youth, community, and other leaders to interact one-on-one on ways to find solutions to the problem and put an end to such barbaric acts.

"I called this meeting to hear from all sides on how to address the spate of violence in your area that is a cause of concern to people and the government".

"The submissions you give today will assist the government and security agencies to carry out thorough investigations".

As the meeting went into a closed door session, the Governor however urged all the stakeholders to speak freely and frankly to him about the problem especially the cause of the problem.

This is not the first time the Governor is using this approach. He had employed a similar approach last year to tackle the Irigwe/Fulani conflicts which eventually led to the signing of a peace agreement by the warring factions, and the peace and stability that has returned to the area.

The peace processes have been spearheaded by Plateau Peace Building Agency which creates the opportunity for forgiveness, reconciliation and re- building of confidence, trust, and rehabilitation of communities affected by conflicts.



News

Centre trains stakeholders on women in peace, security

THE Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) from Ghana, on Monday commenced the training of executive officers of NGOs and state institutions on the involvement of women in peace and security in Africa. The Deputy Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research, Dr Emma Birikorang in her remark said there had been a lot of progress in developing the agenda of women in peace and security. The five-day training on 'Women in Peace and Security Leadership and Mentoring course was organised by the Women, Peace and Security Institute (WPSI) of the KAIPTC. It was with support by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark under the project, "Promoting Peace and Security in Africa". "The training is aimed at enhancing the capacity of operational-level leaders working in the areas of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) within the ECOWAS sub-region. "It is also to provide leadership and mentorship skills aimed at promoting the implementation of the

WPS Agenda in Africa. "The WPS Leadership and Mentoring Course forms part of the KAIPTC's efforts at providing targeted training for leaders working in Africa's peace and security environment. "It is an offshoot of the year-long Inspiring African Women Leaders in Peace and Security Programme developed by WPSI in 2019. "However, this session provides a shorter training path, but without doubt, offers participants a unique opportunity to enhance their skills in leadership and mentoring," Birikorang said. She explained that in recent years, there had been a call to go beyond the numbers in promoting female participation in peace processes and create opportunities that ensure the meaningful participation of women. "We hope that through this training, participants will be able to enhance their skills, leverage their power, networks and alliances, and influence decision-making in the peace and security environment". According to her, the training is expected to filter down to the grassroots, so that the capacity of women at that

level can also be built." Similarly, Head of WPSI of KAIPTC, Joana Osei-Tutu said that the world had began to realise that it was not the issue of having women on the table. "But it is important that there is a holistic negotiations to happen when it comes to peace and security. "We have two gender; male and female, and we are going to have a conversation on peace and security, which affects everyone, both male and female. "And note that when it comes to issues of conflicts, the victims are women and children, and we are going to discuss on resolving the problem and have the people affected involved at the table. "Having women at the table, shows the necessity of both gender at the table and having a holistic conversation of those who have gone through the process and those to resolve it is a necessity," Osei-Tutu Speaking in same vein, the Senior Researcher, Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research, KAIPTC, Dr Fijifi Edu-Afful said the conversation on gender security could not be done by women only. According to him, there is need to create the space for the

The Albino Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organisation, on Monday urged persons with disabilities to make the most of political participation as the 2023 general elections approach. Mr Jake Epelle, CEO/Founder, The Albino Foundation, made the call at a voter education campaign sponsored by the European Union, tagged, "Able 2 Vote (Southwest)". The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the campaign was organised to reduce voter apathy to the barest minimum and promote the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities in electoral process. According to Epelle, the time has come for persons with disabilities to fully take part in elections as a civic responsibility. "The day has come and that day is now that all of us will rise up, take the bull by the horn and make the most of political participation of persons with disabilities. "I charge you and I challenge you today. If this country is looking for a President, governor or a house of representative member, look no further because you're the one. "We have a wonderful opportunity before us. This is the fact that for the first time in the history of the electoral process in this country that persons with disabilities will constitute adequate percentage of the entire electorate. "There has never been any time

Albino Foundation makes case for persons with disabilities

better than now that this community is coming together. We are not just ready to vote, we are ready to be voted for," he said. Dr Uche Edimafo, Guest Speaker at the event, said It was not the size that determined champions but physicality and a positive mindset. He further charged the people to look beyond their present condition and aim to achieve all that they dream for in life. According to Edimafo, there is ability in disability and the people should not give up or be intimidated until people with

disability are properly recognised in the electoral process. Also speaking, the Programme Manager, The Albino Foundation, Mrs Ndifreke Ferdinand, said there was need to address issues of voters' identity and chances to increase the presence of the physically challenged in the coming general elections. "I urge you all, especially those that believe their votes do not count to go and collect their voter cards so as to kill the spirit of voter apathy in the society," she said. (NAN)



Ehanire

Sports

World Cup 2022: What makes a Golden Boot winner?

By PHIL DAWKES

THE World Cup Golden Boot - it is the individual prize that goalscorers seek above all others. The chance to carve your name into football immortality.

The list of winners includes some true greats, such as Eusebio, Gerd Muller and the Brazilian Ronaldo, and others who seized their moment for greatness, among them Just Fontaine, Salvatore Schillaci and Oleg Salenko.

BBC Sport has analysed each of them to see what makes a Golden Boot winner in football's biggest tournament and whether those qualities enable us to make a prediction of who might win it in Qatar.

From 1930 to 1978, there was no official title for being the top scorer at a World Cup. That changed for the tournament in Spain in 1982, when it was branded, somewhat incongruously, as the golden shoe. It wasn't until 2010 that they gave the award a more fitting football-themed rebrand.

From Argentine Guillermo Stabile in Uruguay in 1930 to England's Harry Kane four years ago in Russia, 27 players have won the award across 21 tournaments...

Nobody has matched the goals haul of France's Just Fontaine at a single World Cup, and it is unlikely anyone ever will.

Fontaine scored 13 times in Sweden in 1958. This came from just six games and included a hat-trick in an opening 7-3 win over Paraguay and four in the 6-3 third-place play-off victory over West Germany. Yes, despite his monumental effort that summer, France didn't even make the final.

The fewest goals required to win the Golden Boot is four, which saw six players share the award in 1962 - the first of only two



Thomas Muller (left) in 2010, James Rodriguez (centre) in 2014 and Harry Kane (right) in 2018 are the last three winners of the Golden Boot

occasions in which the honour has officially gone to more than one player at a single tournament along with the one split between Russia's Salenko and Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov at USA 1994.

In 2010, four players - Thomas Muller (Germany), David Villa (Spain), Wesley Sneijder (the Netherlands) and Diego Forlan (Uruguay) - all scored five, but the boot went to the German forward courtesy of his three assists.

This was in line with a rule brought in after the 1994 World Cup, stipulating that players tied

for most goals will be separated by who scored the fewest number of penalties, then the player with the most assists and finally, if required, who played the fewest minutes.

Winning Golden Boots is not an old man's game. Only one player over 30 when the tournament in which they top-scored began has ever claimed the prize, that being the brilliant Davor Suker of Croatia, who was only five months past his 30th birthday when he netted six times at France '98.

The youngest Golden Boot winner

had the most with 37. As you'd expect, most Golden Boot winners were in form for their club leading into a World Cup. Only three players from 1966 onwards have scored less than double figures for their clubs in the season leading up to the tournament - and among those, Paolo Rossi in 1982 was banned for two years and Ronaldo in 2002 was heavily impacted by injury.

The most goals in a league season before a World Cup is the 38 scored by Bayern Munich and West Germany in the 1969-70 Bundesliga campaign.

In addition, only two Golden Boot winners have played for clubs that finished outside the top four of their respective league in the season before the World Cup.

It's not rocket science that the further a nation goes in the tournament, the more opportunities a player will have to score.

Only one Golden Boot winner failed to get out of the group stage with his team - Salenko with Russia in 1994. He is an anomaly in that five of his six goals in the USA came in one game.

So, does all of this information enable us to put forward a prediction for who will take the Golden Boot in Qatar this winter? Using the data, we are looking for a forward who plays for a team likely to make it to the quarter-finals, so we've narrowed it to those from the top eight favourites to win the tournament.

They have to be 30 years of age or younger, ideally around 24-25, and will likely be based in Europe at a club in the top four of their respective league.

They should have at least 22 caps and 11 goals for their country going in to the tournament and be in decent goalscoring form for their club.

On average, though, Golden Boot winners have netted 11 times for their country. Hungary's Sandor Kocsis (1954) and Ronaldo (2002)

had the most with 37.

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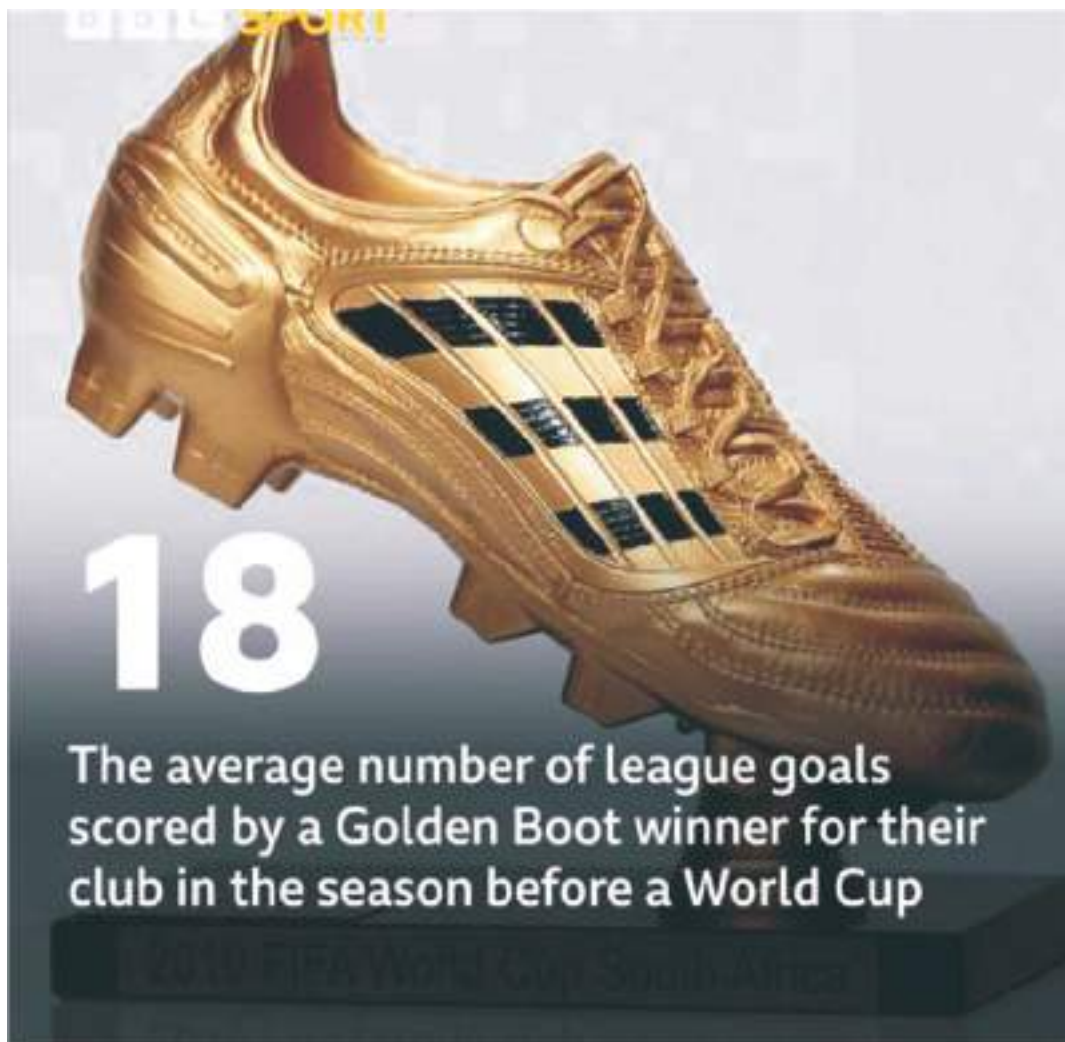
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Sports



The 1994 African champions took the world by storm at their first-ever appearance at football's biggest festival

Finidi, third highest-rated 1994 World Cup star

NIGERIA and Ajax legend George Finidi was the third highest-rated player at the 1994 FIFA World Cup hosted by the United States.

Despite arriving in the States as the reigning African champions, not many predicted the impact Nigeria made at the country's debut appearance at the Mundial.

The Super Eagles, however, showed quality and composure to top a tough-looking group with Argentina, Bulgaria, and Greece.

Finidi was crucial to Nigeria's excellent displays,

with the right winger an ever-present in the Super Eagles lineup.

The winger provided the assist for Nigeria's first-ever goal at the World Cup, scored by the late Rashidi Yekini.

He also grabbed his first and only goal at the Mundial in the 2-0 triumph over Greece, as Nigeria reached the knockout rounds in their first attempt.

And according to renowned data companies, Sofascore and Opta, Finidi's exploits earned him a rating of 7.88 – the third-best at the tournament.

Only Romanian great Gheorghe Hagi (8.00) and Swedish icon Kennet Andersson (7.89) were rated higher than Finidi at USA '94.

French ace Florin Raducioiu (7.88) and legendary Brazilian captain Dunga (7.84) completed the top five.

It would be recalled that Brazil, boasting twin attacking terrors Romario and Bebeto, won the 1994 FIFA World Cup, beating a Roberto Baggio-inspired Italy on penalties.

Djokovic beats Ruud to equal Federer's record



Djokovic equalled Roger Federer's record six ATP Finals titles

FORMER world number one Novak Djokovic beat Casper Ruud for a record-equalling sixth ATP Finals title.

BBC SPORT said that, the 35-year-old Serbian overcame his Norwegian opponent 7-5 6-3 in Turin on Sunday.

Victory for Djokovic in the season-ending event caps a year in which he was forced to miss two majors because of his reluctance to take a Covid-19 vaccination.

He last won an ATP Finals title in 2015 and has matched Roger Federer's mark.

Djokovic took the biggest pay cheque in tennis, worth \$4,740,300 (£3.985m), for going through the

tournament unbeaten.

Having sealed the success with one of nine aces in the match, he said the seven-year wait for the title made the triumph "even sweeter".

"It feels deeply satisfying and, at the same time, a huge relief because of the circumstances that I have been through this year, situations earlier this year, of course, with Australia," added Djokovic.

"That had an effect obviously on my start of the year. For the first several months, I was trying to find that balance game-wise but also mentally in order to be able to come back to the court and find that level that I need.

"I don't know what the future holds but I know that what I hold in my mind is a huge hunger still to win trophies."

Ruud, 23, made two poor errors to hand the 21-time major winner the break in the first set.

Having won the opener, Djokovic then took control and broke his opponent's serve in the fourth game of the second set.

Ruud continued to battle and forced the veteran into a 36-shot penultimate rally, but Djokovic was stronger and closed out the match with a powerful ace.

It marked another final defeat for the Norwegian who was runner-up at both the French Open and US

IRELAND'S Leona Maguire finished two shots behind winner Lydia Ko at the LPGA Tour Championship in Florida.

BBC SPORT said that, New Zealand's Ko carded two birdies in the final three holes to finish on 17 under and claim the \$2 million prize.

Maguire, 27, could not repeat her superb third round of 63 and had to settle for second after carding a level-par 72 in the final round.

England's Georgia Hall hit 67 in her fourth round to finish tied for fourth, five shots behind Ko.

"It was an incredible week, a really great way to finish off the season," said Maguire.

"If you had offered me second at the start of the week, I would have grabbed it with both hands.

"It would have been nice to play a little bit better today, but the wind was strong and it was cold. The pins were tricky.

"I didn't play the way I played yesterday, but grafted really well. I had

Maguire falls short as Ko claims title

some really key up-and-downs to keep me in it and keep a little pressure on Lydia, but she played really solid all day and she's a deserving winner."

Maguire was tied with Ko overnight after her stunning nine-under 63 on Saturday, but blustery conditions made low scoring difficult for the final round.

Ko bogeyed the first to put Maguire in the lead, but the New Zealander hit back with

two birdies at the third and eighth to hold a one-shot advantage heading onto the back nine, as Maguire's sole birdie on the fourth was immediately cancelled out by a bogey.

Both challengers bogeyed the 14th, but Ko picked up back-to-back shots on the 16th and 17th - which Maguire also birdied - and the 25-year-old held on to clinch the biggest first prize in women's golf.



Lydia Ko mastered the blustery conditions to win by two shots

McIlroy ends year as European number one

RORY McIlroy ended the year as European number one despite Spain's Jon Rahm claiming a third DP World Tour Championship title in Dubai on Sunday.

BBC SPORT revealed that, Rahm hit a five-under 67 on

Open.

But Ruud said: "Overall, if you gave me the offer to end the year at number three, play the finals that I've played, on 1st January this year, I would probably sign the contract right away. No doubt about it."

It was also a successful day for Britain as Joe Salisbury won the men's doubles event with American partner Rajeev Ram.

The US Open men's doubles champions beat Croatian pair Nikola Mektic and Mate Pavic 7-6 (7-4) 6-

the final day to finish on 20 under, two ahead of England's Tyrrell Hatton and Alex Noren of Sweden.

World number one McIlroy was a shot back in fourth after a four-under 68.

"It feels like a long time since I lifted that trophy," McIlroy told Sky Sports.

"It's been seven years and it feels just as good as I can remember."

The Northern Irishman, who started the final round on 12 under after carding a seven-under 65 on Saturday, lifted the Harry Vardon Trophy for the fourth time in his career.

England's Matt Fitzpatrick, McIlroy's only rival for the top spot in the DP World Tour rankings, was on 14 under heading into Sunday but hit a double bogey and three bogeys to end his chances of finishing the season as Europe's number one.

To top the ranking, June's US Open champion Fitzpatrick would have

needed to win and McIlroy to finish second, or if Fitzpatrick had finished as runner-up, he would have required McIlroy to be outside the top seven.

McIlroy also becomes just the second player to win the FedEx Cup and Race to Dubai titles in the same season after Henrik Stenson in 2013 having clinched the PGA Tour's top prize in August.

McIlroy congratulated Rahm, who won his ninth title on the DP World Tour and became the first player to win the tournament three times at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

"It would have been nice to get one win in there at the end of the year but Jon played an incredible tournament and fully deserved it," McIlroy said.

"I would like to say I am right up there in the best players in the world - but he is right up there with me."



It is the fourth time McIlroy has finished the year as European number one and the first time since 2015

Sports



All the Iran players stood in silence as their national anthem played at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha

Iran players decline to sing national anthem

Iran declined to sing their national anthem before their World Cup match with England in an apparent expression of support for anti-government protests in their home country. BBC SPORT said that, some fans shouted and jeered during the anthem and others held up signs saying "Woman, Life, Freedom".

Iran state TV cut its coverage of the anthem and switched to a previously shown wide shot of the stadium.

Mass protests have been met with a fierce crackdown in recent months.

They have been sparked by the death in custody in September of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who was detained by morality police for allegedly breaking the strict rules around head coverings.

Human rights activists have said more than 400 protesters have been killed and 16,800 others arrested in a crackdown by Iran's security forces.

Iran's leaders say the protests are "riots" orchestrated by the country's foreign enemies.

Iranian fans could also be heard chanting "Ali Karimi" in the first-half in reference to the former footballer who is one of the most outspoken critics of the Islamic Republic and one of the most popular faces of the protest movement.

The fans could also be heard chanting "Be-Sharaf", which means dishonourable in Persian. This is an adjective that protesters have used against security forces in Iran.

Many opponents of the Islamic Republic have criticised the football team for not openly supporting the protests and for meeting with President Ebrahim Raisi last week.

Speaking before the game, Iran captain Ehsan Hajsafi said the players "support" those who have died.

Manager Carlos Queiroz has said his players were "free to protest" over women's rights in their home country as long as it "conforms with the World Cup regulations and is in the spirit of the game".

Iran's players also covered up their national team badge when they played two warm-up internationals in September.

After Monday's 6-2 defeat in

Group B, Queiroz said the political unrest at home had taken a toll on his squad.

"To those who come to disturb the team with the issues that are not only about the football opinions, they're not welcome because our boys, they're just simple football boys," the Portuguese said.

"Let the kids play the game. Because this is what they're looking for. They wanted to represent the country, to represent the people, as any other national team that are here. And all the national teams, there are issues at home."

The former Manchester United assistant added: "It is not right to come to this World Cup and ask them to do things that are not their responsibility. They want to bring pride and joy for the people."

"You don't even imagine behind the scenes what these kids have been living in the last few days, just because they want to express themselves as footballers."

Speaking about the incident at half-time, BBC Match of the Day presenter Gary Lineker said: "It was a powerful and very, very significant gesture."

"Football is trying to use its

power for good."

It was impossible to escape the symbolic gestures in the game. All of Iran's players refused to sing the national anthem as it sounded across the Khalifa International Stadium.

A fan I spoke to was in tears as he heard it in the stands. "For my people..." he told me, his voice breaking. "They're killing my people."

Cheers for the Iranian side were loud and relentless. "Iran. Iran" sounded with the beat of a drum, adorned with the colours, the name and map of the country painted on it.

Bale had 'no doubts' about historic goal

GARETH Bale said he had "no doubts" about taking the penalty which brought Wales' first World Cup goal since 1958 in their 1-1 draw with the USA.

BBC SPORT revealed that, Timothy Weah's calm finish looked set to give the US victory until Bale was fouled by Walker Zimmerman and stepped up to score the 82nd-minute penalty.

Manager Rob Page said "once again it's all about Bale" after the Los Angeles FC forward's 41st international goal.

When asked whether Bale was always going to take the penalty, he told ITV: "A million percent. He's never let us down."

Bale added to BBC Sport: "Of course you feel the pressure but it's my responsibility, my job to step up and take penalties as the penalty

Edouard Mendy's two errors proved costly as Senegal lost their opening World Cup game 2-0 to the Netherlands on Monday.

Goal said that, Mendy had failed to deal with a cross in the box, allowing Cody Gakpo to score the first goal for the Netherlands. Then he later spilt Memphis Depay's shot, with Davy Klaassen firing in to make it 2-0 deep into added time.

However, that was after Watford winger Ismaila Sarr had been a thorn in the flesh of the Dutch defence.

Sarr started from the off as he danced past Denzel Dumfries in the first minute before teeing up striker Boulaye Dia whose shot was tame.

He nearly scored later in the first half when he beat Dumfries again before finding space on the edge of the box but his powerful shot was headed out by Virgil van Dijk and he got on the wrong side of Matthijs de Ligt a few minutes later, put in a good pass in behind the Netherlands defence but there was no one to capitalise.

He also created Senegal's best chance in the second half when he set up Idrissa Gueye on the edge of the box but the Everton man sent in a powerful shot directly at the keeper.

Senegal had been seen as underdogs before kickoff but they gave a good account of themselves before the late setback.

Mendy disappoints, Sarr impresses as Netherlands edge Senegal



Edouard Mendy's two errors proved costly as Senegal lost their opening World Cup game 2-0 to the Netherlands on Monday.

Aliou Cisse started with an experienced side that had Kalidou Koulibaly marshalling the defence while his midfielder Gueye, Cheikhou Kouyate and Nampalys Mendy.

Sarr, preferred on the left side of Senegal's attack in the absence of the injured Sadio Mane, was the standout player while Dia and Krepin Diatta had little impact on the game in attack before they were replaced later in the second half.

The game also proved more costly for Senegal as they lost experienced midfielder Sarr.

Kouyate and left-back Abdou Diallo to injury, the former stretched off while the latter

limped off the pitch, a big worry for Cisse, whose side will need better results against Qatar and Ecuador to advance from Group A.

Deployed on the left wing to replace Mane, Watford winger Sarr was a constant threat in the game with everything positive from the Teranga Lions going forward coming from him.

While Senegal were solid in midfield and defence, they badly missed Mane as Dia and Diatta rarely troubled the Netherlands' defence and also failed to capitalise on the numerous chances created by

Sarr. Senegal will hope to get their first win of the tournament against hosts Qatar on Friday.



Captain Bale

made a big difference."

Bale said: "It was not a good first half. They played really well and we

played poorly. Bale said: "Our second-half performance was fantastic. It gave us a lot of confidence. Now it's all about recovering and let's get going again."

Despite another important goal for his country, former Wales captain Ashley Williams said Bale was actually having a "flat evening" until his late equaliser.

"He looked like he was lacking a bit of energy," Williams said on BBC Sport's World Cup highlights show. "He had a bit of a flat evening, but he is the leader and he was kept on the pitch for a moment like that."

Williams added that "everyone connected with Wales" would be happy with the point after a poor first-half display.

Wales right-back Neco Williams dedicated the point to his grandfather Kelvin Jones, who died on Sunday.

The 21-year-old Nottingham Forest player played the first 79 minutes of Wales' draw before being replaced by club team-mate Brennan Johnson.

Williams tweeted afterwards: "Yesterday was the toughest news I've ever had to face and that was listening to my mum tell me my granddad passed away last night."

"To go from crying all day to start in a World Cup game was extremely tough but I got through it from the support of my team-mates and family."

England win opener emphatically

England win opener emphatically

England's Fifa World Cup campaign opened in thoroughly convincing fashion as they outclassed Iran in an incident-packed match in Doha.

Jude Bellingham got England off the mark in this World Cup with a soaring header from Luke Shaw's cross 10 minutes before the break and the game was wrapped up before half-time thanks to Bukayo Saka's fine strike and Raheem Sterling's classy volley with the outside of his foot from Harry Kane's cross.

Saka got his second before Iran's supporters were given a moment of real delight when Mehdi Taremi scored a fine goal after 65 minutes - but England substitute Marcus Rashford then netted another smooth, composed strike with his first involvement.

To put the gloss on an incredibly dominant display, Jack Grealish slotted home from close range after a good run and pull back by Callum Wilson.

Iran did pull another back in injury time when Taremi slotted in a penalty after a John Stones foul.

The game was played out

against the backdrop of more off-field controversy here in Qatar after England were forced to ditch plans to wear the OneLove armband promoting diversity and inclusivity under threat from Fifa of players being cautioned should they carry out the gesture of support.

It is almost impossible to deliver any firm judgement on England's World Cup prospects given the paucity of Iran's opposition but this

could hardly have gone better for Southgate as his one major selection decision reaped a rich dividend and the result was almost perfect.

Bellingham is being touted as one of the big emerging names at this World Cup, the 19-year-old Borussia Dortmund star already a target for a host of the game's elite names.

And, even in the context of this game, Bellingham showed exactly why as he joined Saka as the





Quest



writer

JOSIAH MUTIHIR

FRAGMENT

From the antecedents, decent Nigerians will not accept this type of appointment knowing the obvious outcome (inglorious exit) as this time around, it is not likely to be different. An ungrateful service to a nation and the people! It is a lone war against the hydra-headed monster called corruption. In fact, no one prays for the worst prize to pay for fighting corruption, but assassination cannot be ruled out. So, for me as an individual, I prefer their inglorious exit than paying the supreme prize. I am not sure whether these types of outfits exist in the developed parts of the world, with minimal levels of corruption, but I foresee that they have an in-built system that checks corruption rather than crafting a commission to checkmate this monster. The motive is quite genuine, but the modus operandi is suspect.

PROF. JOSIAH MUTIHIR

EFCC: Inglorious exit of past chairmen

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was formed by the Obasanjo lead government in 2003 and supported by an establishment Act in 2004. The mission statement is to rid Nigeria of economic and financial crimes and to effectively coordinate the domestic effort of the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, while the vision statement is that of an agency operating to the best international standards and leading the fight against economic and financial crimes in Nigeria - both being tall orders.

The commission is headed by an Executive Chairman, and empowered to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and penalize economic and financial crimes. It is also charged with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of other laws and regulations relating to economic and financial crimes, as well as fight terrorism.

Fighting terrorism today I am sure requires a separate agency in view of its complex and capital-intensive nature in addition to the involvement of the armed forces and other security agencies.

EFCC has a 23-member board of directors, membership of which is drawn from many law-enforcement and security organizations; whose duties are limited to giving policy direction to the management; and not involved in the day to day running of the agency. The Commission had run its affairs without a board of directors since the Buhari administration in 2015. The board had been earlier confirmed by the Senate in October 2021 and inaugurated officially January 13th, 2022.

In the less than 20 years of its existence, the commission has had 7 Chairmen, three in acting capacities and 4 confirmed.

The first chairman was **Nuhu Ribadu** (2003-2007-5 years inclusive). Aged 43 years at appointment, a Police officer. He was removed from office for 'wrong approach in fighting corruption' which was said to be selective. Why should this attract demotion or dismissal from the police force?

Ibrahim Lamorde - (in Acting capacity 2008) - appointed at 46 years of age.

Farida Mzamber Waziri (2008-2011 - about 4 years): A Police Officer and lawyer and appointed at 51 years of age. She was dismissed from office for selective investigations and falling



Bawa

out with the attorney general of the federation. Waziri herself said she was removed from office because she refused to back down on some oil racketeers!

Ibrahim Lamorde - (23rd November 2011-2015 confirmed after 1 year in acting capacity). Appointed at age of 49 years and removed after about 4 years. He was fired from office by President Buhari (Proshare). Presidential spokesman told Premium Times that 'Lamorde was not sacked but proceeding on terminal leave (at the age of 53 years) ahead of the expiration of his tenure in February 2016. That more details would be provided later'. He was not given a second tenure, and before long, another boss was appointed to succeed him. To be fair, only Lamorde himself and President Buhari know why he was removed from office.

Ibrahim Magu (Acting capacity 9/2/2015-7/2/2020, denied confirmation by National Assembly) appointed at 53 years and removed after about 5 years. He was suspended from office for allegations of 'corruption and misconduct', gross insubordination, and abuse of office, though to date, no clear allegation has been charged against him in court and the prosecution outcome made known to the public. Mr. Ibrahim Magu's failure of confirmation by

Senate may not be unconnected with his vicious prosecution of their peers in the past while an investigative officer of the EFCC. Examples include the role of former Kwara State Governor and then serving Senator, Bukola Saraki, in the collapse of Societe Generals Bank of Nigeria; James Obori, former Governor of Delta State, who was convicted for money laundering in the United Kingdom, and many others. It would have been suicidal for the political elite to confirm him for obvious reasons.

Mohammed Umar Abba (Acting capacity 2020-2021) and removed after about 3 years. He was denied confirmation after

acting for 2 years. He was 55 years at time of appointment. Again, the reason for why he was not confirmed, or why he was removed is uncertain, and only he and the powers that be know why.

Currently, we have **Abdulrasheed Bawa** (24th February 2021 to date). He was 41 years (youngest) at time of appointment. He is a Police Detective. Hope the young Chairman will boldly face the older, richer money bags and politicians and not be intimidated. We await a glorious exit for him when the time comes, for a change!

The fight against corruption is itself an inglorious one. The former director of the Kenya anticorruption commission, Dr. Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba, a lawyer, can testify to this malady. He fought corruption with all within his capacity but failed to bring it into submission. He remains an international warrior against corruption particularly in Africa.

How can the bosses of EFCC not have inglorious exit? Corruption is a dangerous, silent, and systemic evil that eats up the society as a malignant cancer and is self-destructive. All ramifications of corruption have been given a coloration that looks innocuous but certainly deadly.

Corruption itself fights back viciously against anti-corruption crusaders. The corrupt persons have the resources within their ambit to fight back. Thus, it is already a suicidal venture right from the beginning when one has to fight against governors, senators, ministers, presidents, etc; who have the money and in addition the powers to fight the anti-corruption crusader. Of

course, it is a lost battle even before it has started. As corruption tends to implicate all and sundry including the principal of the government of any country. Thus, one will be foolhardy to pursue a corruption scandal linked to the highest office in the land. The days appear to be counted already and the dice cast concerning the inglorious exit.

Reasons for removal from office advanced for the various Chairmen have been speculative while the public awaits confirmation of the reasons. For sure, none of these past officers was pulled out of service or duly celebrated for their achievements. All of them could not have been found wanting on all counts. If so, then there is something fundamentally faulty somewhere somehow with this esteemed office, probably non-existent specified terms of reference.

From the antecedents, decent Nigerians will not accept this type of appointment knowing the obvious outcome (inglorious exit) as this time around, it is not likely to be different. An ungrateful service to a nation and the people! It is a lone war against the hydra-headed monster called corruption. In fact, no one prays for the worst prize to pay for fighting corruption, but assassination cannot be ruled out. So, for me as an individual, I prefer their inglorious exit than paying the supreme prize.

I am not sure whether these types of outfits exist in the developed parts of the world, with minimal levels of corruption, but I foresee that they have an in-built system that checks corruption rather than crafting a commission to checkmate this monster. The motive is quite genuine, but the modus operandi is suspect.

At the beginning of their tenure, lots of successes and achievements are recorded, or at least seen across the pages of the newspapers, the social media or the television screens, but sooner or later, things begin to change. The recorded successes and achievements begin to wane, fizzle out and lastly, everyone turns against them including those that appointed them. The reason is obvious. It is a lone fight.

Mutihir is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Jos.

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