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# THE Nigeria Standard



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## 'Why ASUU may not get full salary'



Gbajabiamila

**Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila has stated the Federal Government may not fully pay lecturers for the eight months the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) was on strike.**

Gbajabiamila, in a

statement on Monday, said the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari for the proposal of "partial" payment was being awaited.

A 'Statement by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Femi Gbajabiamila on the

resolution of outstanding issues between the Academic Staff Union of Universities and the Federal Government of Nigeria,' the statement reads: "When the Academic Staff Union of Universities called off their industrial action three

weeks ago, it meant that academic activities could resume in our nation's public universities, and students could return to their academic pursuits after the prolonged interruption. This decision was rightly heralded nationwide as the correct

decision. "Since then, the Executive and the House of Representatives have worked to address the issues that led to the strike. We are currently working on the 2023 Appropriations Bill, which includes the sum of N170,000,000,000 to provide a level of increment in the welfare package of university lecturers. The bill also includes additional N300,000,000,000 in revitalisation funds to improve the infrastructure and operations of federal universities.

"Furthermore, the House of Representatives has convened the Accountant **Continued on page 2**



**Lalong (sitting) recently inaugurated the Local Organising Committee for the APC Presidential Campaign flag off in Jos.**

The National President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Chris Isiguzo has urged journalists in Nigeria to consider the issues of peace and the deepening of democracy as cardinal goals in the coverage of the 2023 elections.

He gave the charge on Monday in Port Harcourt at the opening of a Two-Day

## Isiguzo urges journalists to pursue peace

Capacity Building for Journalists and Civil Society Organisations on the 2023 general elections in South-South geopolitical zone.

Giving the keynote address on the theme: "Conflict-Sensitive Reporting, 2023 General Election & Countering Fake

News", the NUJ President noted that it was necessary for journalists to take the issue of peace as a cardinal point and take into consideration the need to be careful so that areas that are already fragile do not explode or implode.

"Peace is a basic requirement in a

democracy. No democracy can flourish in the absence of peace. While we concede that it is inevitable to eliminate crises and conflicts from our society, however, it is important if deliberate efforts are made toward conflict resolution and peacebuilding," he stated.

He demanded to know how journalists while examining the ethical issues involved in reporting elections and conflicts, can still play constructive roles in conflict and post-conflict scenarios.

Isiguzo said; "As Journalists, we are expected to develop a

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

He stressed that a proper foundation established by **Continued on page 2**



## News

**'Why ASUU may not get full salary'***Continued from page 1*

General of the Federation, the Academic Staff Union of Universities and other stakeholders to facilitate the adoption of elements of the University Transparency and Accountability Solution into the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System. This effort is being supervised by the Chairman of the House Committee on Tertiary Education, Rep. Aminu Suleiman.

"The Executive position that it is not obligated to pay salaries to lecturers for the time spent on strike is premised on the law and the government's

legitimate interest in preventing moral hazard and discouraging disruptive industrial actions. Nonetheless, interventions have been made to explore the possibility of partial payments to the lecturers. We look forward to a favourable consideration by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, who has manifested his desire to what is prudent and necessary to resolve all outstanding issues.

"Implementing meaningful change takes time, especially when

appropriations and modifications to systems such as IPPIS are required. Therefore, I urge all parties to be patient and grant each other the presumption of goodwill to the extent necessary to achieve our shared objectives. This is not a time for political brinkmanship. There is no more pressing objective than to preclude the possibility of further disruptions to the academic calendar of the universities. We must prevent this possibility by all means, as these disruptions risk the promise and potential of our nation's youth."

**Isiguzo urges journalists to pursue peace***Continued from page 1*

journalists would provide citizens with the opportunities they require to make informed judgments about issues involved and perhaps help the government in taking meaningful decisions.

"It is our hope that participants will avail themselves of this training opportunity to ensure that a level playing field is provided for all political actors and ensure that peoples' votes will count through highly professional management of news by journalists who are equipped with international best practices.

"This is the only way we as professionals can advance the course of peace and ensure a credible and peaceful transition."

In his goodwill message the new Resident Electoral Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission

(INEC) in Rivers State, Jonson Alalibo charged the media to continuously give Nigerians credible voter education devoid of fake news.

Alalibo who resumed officially a few hours before the event said; "We need the entire INEC processes and procedures for elections to be disseminated to the people in a manner that is beneficial to all so that we can have credible elections.

"People should not be given the opportunity to feed on fake news, that's going to be dangerous for the electoral process."

He added that journalists should be able to equip themselves with the electoral processes in Nigeria, the new electoral act, how it is going to deepen the use of technology in our elections.

"So journalists should be able to report the processes of election for

the 2023 general elections."

He gave assurances that the remaining permanent voters cards PVCs would be made available to their owners before the end of November.

"By November ending we are going to have all the PVCs," Alalibo assured.

Part of the capacity-building programme was the demonstration of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and assurances by INEC officials that the use of the BVAS and other forms of technology introduced by the 2022 electoral act would to a large extent improve the electoral system in 2023.

The training was organised by the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ in conjunction with the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC and the Centre for Democracy & Development (CDD).

**Gates pledges \$1.4b to fight climate change**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation echoed African leaders' calls for countries to rapidly scale-up finance for climate adaptation and pledged to invest \$1.4 billion to help smallholder farmers address the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change.

CEO Gates Foundation Mark Suzman announced this at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27).

"The effects of climate change have already been devastating, and every moment the world delays action, more people suffer, and the solutions become more complex and costly," said Suzman.

"Our commitment will help smallholder farmers adapt today and build resilience for the future. It

is essential for this climate summit to produce bold commitments that address immediate and long-term needs. Leaders must listen to the voices of African farmers and governments to understand their priorities and respond with urgency."

The foundation's commitment will fund immediate action and long-term initiatives over four years to help smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia build resilience and food security. Funding will focus on spurring African-led innovation to build a pipeline of climate-smart agriculture projects, new applications of digital technologies, climate-smart innovations for smallholder livestock

farming, and support for women smallholder farmers to capitalize on their untapped potential.

"Women in rural Africa are the backbone of their food systems, but they have never had equal access to the resources they need to reach their full potential or build resilience to looming climate threats," said Melinda French Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"As the climate crisis accelerates, women's vital role in their economies is too important to overlook. With the right financing and marketing support, women smallholder farmers could earn more in a day than they currently earn in a month, ultimately transforming these

**NDLEA uncovers plans to introduce synthetic opioids, fentanyl**

The NDLEA has uncovered plans by some unscrupulous elements to introduce lethal synthetic opioid, Fentanyl 'which is 100 times stronger than Tramadol' into the Nigerian market.

A statement by the Director, Media and Advocacy of the NDLEA, Femi Babafemi on yesterday, warned that the illicitly manufactured drug is capable of causing mass casualty among the youth population being targeted by the cartels.

The agency said every step must be taken to ensure that the drug, which is currently responsible for over 70% of overdose deaths as well as a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the US is not allowed to circulate in Nigeria because of its lethality and the current drug abuse prevalence of 14.4% in the country.

The spokesman said, "We are not unaware of desperate efforts by some drug cartels to introduce to the Nigerian market, Fentanyl, which according to the CDC, is 80 times as potent as morphine and 100 times more potent than heroin. This, they plan to do either in liquid or powder form and/or with misleading labels to target our youth population.

"This, they may also mix with other prescription drugs. The illegally manufactured fentanyl in its liquid form can come in nasal sprays, eye drops, or small candies.

"As a result, parents and other stakeholders are advised to be vigilant, alert and warn their young ones against attempting to

experiment with this illicit substance. Symptoms for fentanyl exposure and/or overdose include pinpoint pupils, falling asleep or losing consciousness, slow and shallow breathing, choking or gurgling sounds, limp body, and pale, blue, or cold skin," the

NDLEA stated.

The agency then, assured the public that all necessary assets have been deployed to monitor the cartels involved in this latest threat to public health with a view to frustrating their criminal plot and making them face the wrath of the law.



Marwa

**US donates \$1m humanitarian aid for flood victims**

The United States Government has promised to provide \$1 million in immediate humanitarian aid for the people affected by unprecedented flooding in Nigeria.

In a statement, US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mary Beth Leonard, expressed concerns over the situation, as the flood has led to the loss of lives, livelihoods and homes.

She said the \$1 million in new USAID support will allow local partners on ground to provide emergency shelter assistance, relief commodities, and hygiene kits to promote safe and healthy practices for people impacted by the devastating floods.

"I have been following the ongoing devastating flooding closely in many states in Nigeria and I am glad to announce that the

United States is providing a \$1 million to help meet the immediate needs of the people affected", Leonard said.

The floods, which have affected 34 out of the 36 states in the country, have displaced 1.3 million people. Over 600 people have lost their lives and over 200,000 houses have either been partially or fully damaged.

"We are filled with grief for the flood victims, we have lost so much, and livelihood, homes and believing loved ones.

"Millions are displaced and face the risk of colour and other water born diseases. The road to rebuilding is not going to be easy but the United States will be there alongside you, the people of Nigeria at their difficult time", she added.

**Court bars PDP from Zamfara guber poll**

The Federal High Court sitting in Gusau, Zamfara State capital, yesterday, nullified the governorship

primary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) that produced Dauda Lawal-Dare, as the governorship candidate

of the party in the state.

Justice Aminu Bappa also ruled that the PDP will not field any candidate for the 2023 governorship election in the state.

This is the second time that the court will nullify the PDP governorship primary in Zamfara.

In September, the court nullified the previous primary that elected Lawal-Dare, following a suit filed by Ibrahim Shehu and two other aspirants, challenging the credibility of the primary.

The court ordered a re-run, but Lawal-Dare emerged winner at the re-run also in September.



Ariwoola





# Business & Economy

## Curbing export rejects through improved standards

International trade is vital to the growth of any economy. Nigeria's economy has been largely serviced by foreign exchange earned from crude oil sales. **AFONNE EMMANUEL** writes.

THE present administration, on various occasions, has vowed to continue to move the country away from monolithic economy to one in which foreign exchange is earned from diverse sources.

Speaking at the 27th Annual National Conference of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, has said there is a need to sustain the diversification of the economy already achieved by this administration.

Represented at the event by the Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba, said that a national development plan has been generated to respond to the challenges of a mono-economy.

He said the two broad objectives of the plan is leveraging on various growth sectors, strengthening linkages and enhancing value chain.

One of the sectors expected to drive this agenda is agriculture and the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Dr Ernest Umakhihe says emphasis is being placed on adding value to agro products before exporting them.

He spoke at the 45th Regular Meeting of the National Council on Agriculture and Rural Development (NCARD) in Jos, Plateau State.

Experts say this target faces one major challenge—the rejection of produce from Nigeria by the international market.

Some of the reasons cited for the rejections are food safety, technical barriers, non-adherence to best practices and disregard for basic requirements.

Nigeria being faced with a lot of economic challenges as experienced globally by other nations cannot just relax and allow this other way of earning foreign exchange from its products at the global markets to slip it by, without ensuring that critical measures are taken to harness this advantage.

The Executive Director, Nigerian Export Promotion Council, NEPC, Dr Ezra Yakusak has acknowledged this shortcoming, saying that the



**Adebayo**

Council was poised to address it holistically.

"Packaging and labelling is also a key factor that determines the sustainability of products in the foreign market.

"The problem of quality, standard, certification and appropriate packaging for Made-in-Nigeria products destined for export has been an issue due to lack of awareness.

"In fact the international market in its competitive nature will only welcome products of high quality with relevant certifications and quality packaging that is environmentally friendly", the media recently quoted him as saying.

According to him, the international market is so competitive that any little detail that is not fixed can cause the exporting country several billions of dollars and discourage exporters from patronising products from that country in the future.

"In most cases, packaging has often

been approached from the view point of providing safety for the product thereby neglecting the other qualities such as the aesthetics and design nature of the packaging itself.

"The market world has changed systematically giving more preference to products with good packaging system/certifications and edging out producers without certification," he said.

Similarly Prof. Mojisola Adeyeye, Director-General of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), said, over 76 per cent of Nigeria's exported agricultural commodities are rejected in Europe for not meeting required standards.

Adeyeye, while speaking on measures taken to improve the country's agricultural product exports, said the agency got the feedback through its rapid alert systems.

"We've got to work hard to show that we love this country to the extent that we will not bring disgrace to the country from outside.

"When somebody saves money, gets loans or whatever, exports an agricultural product and that product is rejected, it breaks my heart," she said.

Mrs Adeyeye said it is important for exporters to respect regulatory procedures of NAFDAC and Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Services (NAQS) when processing their export farm produce for export.

"So the people that are exporting are either taking shortcuts or they're being deceived that their products are okay, just ship it, we will take care of it," she said in a recent media report.

She, therefore, appealed to commodity exporters to work closely with relevant authorities such as NAFDAC and NEPC to ensure that the chance of their products being rejected abroad was drastically minimised.

"I am pleading with all exporters, and MSMEs who want to export to please come to NAFDAC to make sure their products meet international market standards," she said.

In adding, the Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire, said the Federal Government was doing everything possible to ensure that products being exported from Nigeria were not rejected abroad for not meeting health safety standards.

Ehanire, spoke in Lagos State during the opening of a six-day training for members of the National Codex Committee on Food Safety Risk Analysis and the revised NCC procedural manual organised in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

He said the Federal Government had taken steps "to ensure protection of food safe also to ensure fair practice in international food trade".

"We have been hearing of rejection of our products; it is because there's no adherence to standards, and this is not giving the country a good image.

"It's affecting us economically; tourism wise and in every other aspect", he said.

Malam Farouk Salim, Director-General, Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), said the Organisation has raised the standards to check the rejection faced by Nigeria's agricultural commodities in global markets.

The move according to the standards body is apt and timely to make Nigeria agro commodities competitive at the international markets, especially with the introduction of African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)

According Salim, Nigerian goods are rejected, because they fail standard procedure locally before being exported.

"Exporters do not check the standards of the country they are exporting to.

"So as long as our exporters ignore our standards they will have their products rejected. If they follow due procedures; we are here to partner and assist them to make sure that their products are accepted globally."

"If the exporters come through us and they follow the standards of our country and they follow the standards of the country they are exporting to, they will have no problem of rejection" he said.

Dr Vincent Isegbe, Director-General, NAQS, urged exporters to take advantage of experts in his agency to reduce the losses they incur due to the rejection of their products abroad.

"Commodities leaving Nigeria must be signed and certified by the Service to get the Phytosanitary Certificate.

"As custodians of rules and regulations concerning plants and products, we have power to exercise our obligations towards all those international protocols", he said.

As exporters seek to leverage on the international market to project Nigeria's products and maximise profit, it will benefit them to key into Federal Government's policies to ensure their products is of top quality. (NANFeafutures)

## Change of Name

RIMVYOK	KATAIKO	TIJJANI	ANITA	DUNG	DANKAT
I, formerly known as <b>RIMVYOK BINDOM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RIMVYOK BINDOM RIMKOM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AREN MONICA ATTAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KATAIKO MONICA DALYOP</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TIJJANI SHEHU TILDE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TIJJANI SHEHU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ANITA KATYEN DAIKA, ANITA KATYEN GEORGE DAIKA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANITA DAIKA-TAIBA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>PEACE DUNG DANIEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DUNG PEACE RWANG</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>GUKAS DANKAT ASAPH PETER</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANKAT, DANKAT PETER</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
EPMEN	AYANTOYE	JOSEPH	MIRET	DAYIL	IDACHABA
I, formerly known as <b>MANLONG BENEDICTA TALLEN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EPMEN BENEDICTA TALLEN</b> . Correct date of birth is 05/03/1998 not 02/09/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to	I, formerly known as <b>AYANTOYE LOVETY OPEYEMI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as, <b>AYANTOYE OPEYEMI LOVETH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TUPYON ALEX JOSEPH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOSEPH ALEXANDER</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NIMIRET ISHAYA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MIRET ISHAYA CALEB</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DAYIL TOKNOEPIA RAMSEY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAYIL TOKNOEPIA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>HANNAH FUNMILAYO ADEYEMI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IDACHABA HANNAH EKE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
NANJI					
I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY BLESSING</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANJI SIMON FADOK</b> . Correct date of birth is 05/05/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>	<b>SPACE FOR SALE</b>





# Business & Economy

## PLSG proposes N139.3bn budget

By PALANG KASMI

Plateau Government has sent a proposed budget of N139.3bn Naira for 2023.

Announcing the budget to newsmen at Government House Jos, after an emergency meeting of the State Executive Council (SEC), Commissioner for Information and Communications, Hon. Dan Manjang described the budget as "realistic and not too bogus".

Manjang said "Exco deliberated on the state budget for 2023 which has been approved for onward delivery to the House of Assembly."

He disclosed that the 2023 budget has an increase of 37 percent which amounts to N32.6bn billion Naira compared to last years budget which was N106.7bn Naira.

He said the budget proposal for 2023 is going to be made up of capital expenditure of N61.7 billion Naira and recurrent expenditure of N77.6bn Naira.

According to Manjang, the 2023 budget size is in line with the rescue administrations pursuit of global best practices in governance, and the budget draft estimate has been carefully proposed using the States Fiscal Transparency Accountability And Sustainability guidelines (SIFTAS).

"It is also in line with the International Public Accounting Standards (IPAS), a standard every state is expected to comply with".

Manjang disclosed that the Compendium Committee set up by government to package comprehensive activities of the Lalong led administration



Lalong

has come up with a report and the project is ongoing.

Giving an insight into the reason for the budget increase, Commissioner for Budget and Planning, Hon. Dan Philip Hircop said the focus of the 2023 budget is on accomplishment of critical infrastructures, completion of legacy projects, and preparing for handing over to the next administration.

He said preparatory to the handing over, many things need to be put in place adding that the budget was increased with N32bn naira because of some aids and grants which the government will access in 2023, particularly in the education sector under a new project the state is benefiting from tagged Adolescent Girls Initiative For Learning (AGILE), including some water and

sanitation and nutrition projects, must be met.

The Commissioner said some ongoing projects like the British American Junction Flyover will be rolled over to be completed next year, including ring roads, while the vehicular needs of the legislative arm and executive arms will have to be inaugurated.

He also pointed out that recruitments and replacements done by the present administration also has to be captured in the new budget which has raised the budget from the previous N106bn to N139bn.

Other areas the budget will cover include provisions for settlement of liabilities, debt servicing, and other obligations of the government, reports **The NIGERIA STANDARD**.

LORRAINE Chiponda, Facilitator, 'Dont Gas Africa', a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) has called on Nigeria and other African countries to stop oil production and focus on renewable energy.

Chiponda disclosed this to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday in Sharm El-Sheikh at the sidelines of the 27th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27).

The climate activist said Africa should be focusing its expertise on building robust renewable energy infrastructure rather than expanding oil exploration.

"We are faced with a life threatening crisis, that is the climate crisis, which is caused by global warming, which is caused by burning of fossil fuels.

"So we should be closing down fossil fuel pipelines rather than allow African people to continue to die because of climate disasters.

"Renewable energy is the way to go, it has become cheaper in terms of investment and it's going to create more cleaner jobs," Chiponda said.

She also stressed the need for the multinational oil companies (mainly from Europe, U.S) to be held accountable for the damage caused to the environment in Africa.

The activist maintained that these oil companies continue to exploit Africa for business profits while going

## Shut oil production for renewables

-CSOs to Nigeria, others



Kyari

green in their home countries. "Oil companies need to transition themselves, they need to be accountable for the climate impacts that they have caused.

"They have devastated the environment, they need to be held accountable and rehabilitate the environment that they have damaged," she said.

Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy, Climate Action Network also highlighted the need for developed countries to address the issue of climate "loss and damage" in Africa. NAN reports that world

leaders and representatives from 198 countries and more than 30, 000 delegates are attending the COP27.

COP27 begins near the end of a year that has seen devastating floods and unprecedented heat waves, severe droughts and formidable storms, all unequivocal signs of the unfolding climate emergency.

At the same time, millions of people throughout the world are confronting the impacts of simultaneous crises in energy, food, water and cost of living, aggravated by severe geopolitical conflicts and tensions.

In this adverse context, some countries have begun to stall or reverse climate policies and doubled down on fossil fuel use.

COP27 is also taking place against the backdrop of inadequate ambition to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, CO2 emissions need to be cut 45 per cent by 2030, compared to 2010 levels to meet the central Paris Agreement goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of this century.

This, the UN said, is crucial to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe droughts, heatwaves and rainfall.

A report published by UN Climate Change ahead of COP27 shows that whilst countries are bending the curve of global greenhouse gas emissions downward, efforts remain insufficient to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

Since COP26 in Glasgow, only 29 out of 194 countries came forward with tightened national plans.

The summit which started on Sunday will end on Nov. 18. (NAN)

## Flood, climate change spark food crisis fears

AS Nigeria goes into 2023 with focus on the general elections, stakeholders have advised the Federal Government to mitigate the impact of floods and climate change on food security.

They include financial experts, farmers, local and international organisations, and humanitarian groups.

There are food crisis fears due to the flooding in 2022 which caused havoc in many States and communities in all

regions.

More than 600 people have died, and properties worth billions of naira destroyed in rural and urban areas.

Equally worrisome is the destruction of thousands of hectares of farmlands in Nigeria and within its neighbours.

In October, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) told West Africa's powerhouse to prepare for the consequences of climate change.

"The supply of agricultural production is going to drop which will put further pressure on prices", African Department official, Mai Farid said.

On Sunday, former Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Deputy Governor, Kingsley Moghalu called attention to the threat of climate change.

Moghalu noted that the "massive floods and herder/farmers conflict...partly fueled by climate change pressures" were clues of the implications.

A stakeholder, Mrs. Funmilayo Oluwole told DAILY POST that those in the agriculture sector were worried about the coming year.

The Lagos-based farmer listed garri, plantain, cassava, rice and beans as some of the most affected farm produce.

"We don't know what to expect from now into 2023 but we are hoping that the federal and State governments will help us.

"Even if you have insurance, how much of the damages and losses will the companies cover?", she quipped.

Oluwole urged the authorities to encourage entrepreneurship and ensure more investment in infrastructure and storages.

"The government should finance crop production, food

processing and empower youths in agriculture, to reduce poverty and unemployment", she added.

United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, Matthias Schmale expressed concern that the floods and climate change are affecting millions.

The official said vulnerable people in Nigeria, as elsewhere in the Sahel, are on the frontline of the crisis. "The flooding has affected more than 3 million people. Over 600 people have lost their lives and another 1.5 million forced to flee their homes.

"The floods have damaged houses, farms, and basic infrastructure and decimated people's livelihoods...34 States are affected", Schmale noted.

The senior official stressed that the torrents are increasing humanitarian needs in the north-east zone. The UN estimates that over 3.2 million people are displaced around the Lake Chad; more than 2.5 million are Nigerians.

Citizens are grappling with hunger and malnutrition driven by conflict, displacement, and high food prices, according to Schmale.

The coordinator announced that the



Abubakar





## Naira redesign: Nigeria and its black economy problem

At a time when Nigeria is grappling with huge fiscal deficits, the free fall of the naira, soaring inflation rates, multiple forex rates, rising borrowing costs, grave uncertainty, a fragile economy and on the eve of the 2023 general election, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele, at a press briefing held on October 26, 2022, announced the decision of the apex bank to redesign the naira with new notes scheduled for circulation on December 15, 2022. **AUSTYN OGANNAH** writes.

EMEFIELE'S bold move is jarring, with the naira taking a severe battering against other currencies in the Black Market, with unemployment at record levels and the tumultuous money market witnessing lending rates squeezing out the productive sectors and the small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs). Yet, Emefiele knows these firsthand from his position as CBN governor and asserts that they are some of the problems he intends to solve with this move.

In the announcement of the decision to redesign the N200, N500 and N1,000 denominations, the regulator intends to primarily tackle what is perceived as the hoarding of naira outside the formal financial system, the scarcity of clean naira notes, the increased risk to counterfeiting of the naira, as well as security considerations bordering on the exchange of ransom monies.

To present the stark situation of the problems the CBN is attempting to handle with the move, Emefiele remarked that an average of 83.8 per cent of currency notes in circulation was alarmingly outside the banking system, such that by the end of September 2022, the currency in circulation stood at N3.23 trillion, compared to N1.46 trillion in December 2015. The implication is that a staggering N2.73 trillion was outside the formal banking system. This is a very alarming, disturbing and uncomfortable development.

The currency redesign move is an attempt by the CBN to address a myriad of problems, using a single intervention. In line with the bank's statutory responsibility to manage the national currency, ensure its integrity, its efficient circulation and its efficacy in overall monetary policy, as enshrined in Section 2 (b) of the CBN Act 2007, the regulator reached a decision to reverse the anomaly of having so much money outside the system with the attendant inflationary impact and the hassle it makes for managing inflation.

There was also CBN's need to check the increasing ease and risk of currency counterfeiting evidenced by several security reports that point to recent development in photographic technology and advancements in printing devices, which all made counterfeiting relatively easier.

The redesign is also aimed at forcing politicians, who have hoarded large sums of money for the intention of buying votes at the 2023 general election, to bring their stashed monies into the banking system and the timing points to this. It is typical of the economy to often witness an inflationary spike during election campaigns and polls giving monetary authorities a major headache.

Another issue the redesign was aimed at tackling is terrorism financing, a growing security and financial concern that requires financial regulatory intervention to make it difficult for kidnappers to seek ransom from victims, monies which ultimately create challenges



**Emefiele**

for monetary authorities.

Although the global best practice is for the CBN to redesign, produce and circulate new local legal tender every five to eight years, the naira has not been redesigned in the last 20 years. Since 1973, when the Federal Government changed from the British Pounds to naira and kobo, there have been currency introductions and changes in 1977, 1979, 1984, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2010 and the centenary N100 note in 2014. Therefore, it was more than overdue for a change.

With the goal of the regular to monitor the return of monies into the banks in part a ploy to apprehend questionable funds, it was obvious that those who could not account for large sums of money in their possession would seek alternatives to going into banking halls to change their hoarded monies.

Banks had been requested to put structures in place that would notice these large sums of questionable monies and inform the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) or the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). As predicted by analysts, who criticised the CBN for the move, most of those with illicitly acquired funds immediately panicked and went to the parallel forex market to exchange the naira for the dollar, which put further downward pressure on the value of the naira.

The effect was predictable. On Tuesday, November 1, at the official market, the exchange rate closed at N446/\$1, but at the black market, the exchange rate was averaging N810/\$1. By the afternoon of Friday, November 4, the naira had dropped to about N900/\$1 and there were no indicators as to how badly the value will go.

The impact that the activities of those acting to avoid falling into the traps that the apex bank has machined into the redesign move have had on the value of the currency and necessitated quick action by the regulatory bodies and financial watchdogs points to the power of Nigeria's Black Economy, that segment of a country's economic activity that is derived from sources that fall outside of the country's rules and regulations regarding commerce, fuelled by activities that can be either legal or illegal depending on what goods and/or services are involved. Although every country has its active Black Economy, operating alongside the taxable and legal economic processes, there are several countries where the balance tilts on the side of the untaxed and unregulated, like Nigeria.

When, in Nigeria, for instance, this informal economy is associated with illegality and illicit activities, such as Internet scams, black markets, crime, the production and smuggling of illegal drugs and money laundering that is pushed into real estate powered by selfishly acquired public funds, it presents a major source of worry for the financial authorities and money regulators.

It is this impact that is throttling the depreciation of the value of the naira. The power of the Black Economy is so strong that the action of those who thrive in the ambience of the "dark" operating environment, where there is an ever decreasing level of market regulation, weak policy frameworks and socio-demographic drivers, such as population growth, urbanisation, rise in unemployment, widening inequality between the rich and poor, low-level education, including the harrowing effects of poverty, can have such on the country as a whole.

These individuals operating in the Black Economy do so with confidence and gusto because they are certain that they can buy their way out of any legal problems that may arise, with some of them ready to even go to jail because before long, they will have paid their way out.

They have been rattled by the CBN's move and have reacted swiftly to shore up their illicitly acquired wealth by exchanging it for the dollar/pound/Euro to the point of severely damaging the value of the naira. I am strongly of the view that this must not be allowed to persist.

The Black Economy is not peculiar to Nigeria. Europe, Asia, Middle-East and even the United States of America, with its first world status and resurgent economy, is, like all other economies, afflicted with its own manner of dark business operated by individuals who operate outside the tax and regulatory systems to ensure that their questionable sources of wealth are neither taxed nor put under the radar of legal processes.

What is different is that whilst these pockets of counterfeiters, casino players, forgers and trunk-of-the-car salespersons do not have the economic wherewithal to make

a detrimental impact on the American economy, the Nigerian Black Economy actually fuels the country's economy with illicit funds whose presence or absence in the economy makes a telling difference. No sane country with aspirations for greatness can allow this to continue to be the case.

As a remedy, I believe there is a two-pronged path to follow: strong leadership and even stronger laws and institutions. The chance is before us as Nigerians go to the polls next year to pick a President that is forthright and has the vision of the type of country that the largest black nation in the world intends to be within the continent and globally.

This manner of leader is one who can create an environment where the economy can thrive, where businesses can blossom, where free enterprise can grow with the enabling infrastructure that will bring all of these to reality and the power generation and distribution to sustain them.

This will naturally engender the rise of creativity and industry of Nigerians who will evolve businesses that will grow the economy and be rewarded for their creativity, industry and hard work, which will in turn grow the country's GDP. This will be inimical to the Black Economy and it will considerably shrink enough to be rendered insignificant as a thriving economy is the antidote to the large footprint of the Black Economy.

The CBN is doing its part now and it is an incentive for others to be as formidable in making things right. Yet, the regulator needs to do a lot to regain the confidence of the public by addressing its inability to fully ensure the blockage of illicit financial flows while checkmating the use of financial systems to fund terrorism and the commercialisation of ransom by strengthening oversight of commercial banks used as conduits for corruption.

It also needs to intensify collaborations with relevant anti-corruption agencies to check dubious charges by some commercial banks, who keep shortchanging poor Nigerians whose reducing disposable income is further worsened by growing inflation costs and unemployment, all of which play into the hands of the Black Economy as is presently the case. The fact is that the CBN cannot fix the country's financial crisis by itself alone. The fiscal, which has been largely irresponsible and docile to its responsibilities must urgently plug the leakages in the system and revamp the country's crude oil production to, at least, 2mbpd so that the badly needed petrodollars can shore up the value of the naira. The country is estimated to lose around 800, 000bpd to organised theft and production shut-ins.

**Source: BusinessDay.**



## Politics

# Why APC will retain power in Plateau – Party stalwart

Chief John Dafaan, the All Progressives Congress (APC) House of Representatives candidate for Shendam/Mikang/Qua'an Pan Federal Constituency, says that the party will retain power in Plateau because of its outstanding performance across the state. Dafaan, who is the immediate past Chief of Staff, Government House, Jos, expressed this optimism on Monday in Jos while interacting with newsmen. The House of Reps candidate said, in spite of security challenges which are not peculiar to Plateau, the APC-led government performed tremendously well in many facets.

He said that infrastructure was provided in areas that the people least expected. Dafaan pointed the network of roads around the Low cost houses, Rantiya up to Miango Junction as well as other parts of the state as some of the achievements. "Plateau is now among the few states that have two federal universities with the establishment of the Federal University of Education, Pankshin. "The state now has Federal Polytechnic in Shendam, an Orthopaedic Hospital in Wase and a Federal Medical Central in addition to the Jos University Teaching Hospital. "We have a Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Training School in Shendam. "Those are in addition to a Mobile Police Squadron that was established in the state



Dafaan

to consolidate on gains made in the area of security," he listed. The former chief of staff said that for the 16 years that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) held sway, none of such facilities came to Plateau. The APC Reps candidate further said that apart from the services that such institutions would be rendering to the people of Plateau, they came along with a series of economic benefits. He added that many Plateau citizens were directly and indirectly employed by the institutions. Dafaan further said with concerted efforts, the security challenges have

been mitigated and the platform for peaceful co-existence has been created. "Who would want to go back to the days of old? "I don't think our people would want to go back to Egypt where they left," he said

## APC Presidential candidate promises Kogi fair deal

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

people will get what is due to them if elected President of Nigeria.

Tinubu while appreciating the tumultuous crowd that trooped into Lokoja, from all over Kogi State to demonstrate support and solidarity to him and the presidential running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima, he promised that the voice and demands of Kogi people would be heard loud and clear, not only in the Campaign Council but also in the incoming APC administration.

The APC presidential flagbearer spoke recently, in Lokoja, in a speech delivered on his behalf by Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State.

He pledged that, building on the successes of the President

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, has promised Kogi People a fair deal if elected. The Presidential hopeful also gave an assurance that Kogi

many other tertiary institutions were brought to Plateau state during the APC administration, and that is what we are hoping to consolidate when we are elected because education is key to every development," he maintained.

Speaking on the alleged slow campaigns by most APC contenders in the state; Dafaan noted that "we are not using public funds to carry out campaigns to people, as the former administration did, our posters may not be visible, we prefer that our posters be pasted on the minds of the electorates, that is what matters most to us."

Commenting on the choice of Jos as the venue for the official campaign flag-off of the APC presidential candidate Bola Tinubu; Dafaan, who is a member of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) said it is a good decision.

He said: "Former President Olusegun Obasanjo was made candidate of the PDP here in Jos, and he became President of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari was GOC here in Jos at Rukuba Barracks, I can say he had his political baptism here on the Plateau; therefore, people of good will believe that anything blessed from Plateau state, succeeds. Who knows if the same will accompany Tinubu, so launching the APC campaign here (Jos), could go similar way."

## Wike trusted, dependable ally, I can't abandon him – Ortom



Wike

GOVERNOR Samuel Ortom of Benue has said he cannot abandon Gov. Nyesom Wike of Rivers because he has proved to be a trusted and dependable ally.

Ortom disclosed this at a banquet in honour of governors Wike, Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, Okezie Ikpeazu and Seyi Makinde in Makurdi.

He disclosed that when bandits (suspected to be Fulani herdsmen) attacked him, Wike was the first person to condemn it with emphasis that if they kill him they have killed Nigeria. He did not keep quiet. He spoke without any fear.

"When Benue was under siege, he donated N250 million and he subsequently spent over N700 million to support the state to tackle the humanitarian crisis occasioned by the unwarranted attacks.

"He did not stop at that. He convinced Gov. Emmanuel Udom of Akwa Ibom to also assist the state and he donated N200 million to us," Ortom said.

He also disclosed that when two markets in the state were burnt, Wike donated N200 million each.

"Is he not a worthy friend? He is a worthy friend and we are working together to liberate the country," he stated.

He said that he would not support the Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, stressing that any of Atiku's supporter is his enemy.

"I am not going to support any Fulani man to continue to do injustice to my people unless my people tell me to do otherwise," he said.

Responding on behalf of the visiting governors, Wike appreciated Ortom for the

honour he had given to them. The Rivers governor stated that nobody could separate them no matter the blackmail, emphasizing that they are bonded.

"People want to break us but they cannot, we are bonded therefore, we cannot be separated," Wike said.

He further advised the leadership of the PDP at the centre to always respect agreements for peace to reign.

## 'I will lobby for better farm inputs'

THE House of Representatives candidate for Mikang, Shendam, Qua'anpan Federal Constituency of Plateau State, Chief John Dafaan, who is contesting on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has said if voted into power, he will prioritize food security and general well-being of the electorates, particularly the less privileged.

"If I become the representative of my people as, legislator and Member House of Representatives for Mikang, Shendam, Qua'anpan Federal Constituency, I will lobby for better farm inputs, because the entire constituency is an agro area for agriculture production.

I know if the less privileged are given the desired attention, there will be massive development. This is because my mission is service to humanity, by extension service to God," he stated.

Dafaan, a former chief of staff to Governor Simon Lalong, during his first tenure, made the pledge in an interview with journalists at his residence in Jos, on Monday.

The APC candidate for the House of Representatives said he has better chance to represent his constituents at the National Assembly due to his past experience in governance, and knowing the needs of the people as a politician.

"I have served the entire 17

local government areas of Plateau state as Director of Protocol at Government House for six years, I was Chief of Staff to Governor Simon Bako Lalong for four years, before then, I had contested as gubernatorial running mate candidate to Arc Pam Dung Gyang, on the platform of ACN, therefore, I know the needs of our people better than anyone contesting against me (Dafaan), my opponent was a local government chairman of just one of the three LGA's, which make up the constituency, we made him LGA chairman," he stated.

He said the APC administration has governed Plateau State well, therefore, it should be given another opportunity to govern everywhere in the state for continuity of development.

"Everyone can attest to the fact that it's during the APC administration that we have relative peace, before now anyone traveling from Jos to any part of the southern zone kept praying that he or she should not meet rioters on the way, especially between Barkin Ladi and Mangu, but today the scenario has changed for good.

"The APC administration in the state also witnessed massive development in the educational sector, the Federal University of Education located at Dengi, the Federal Polytechnic at Shendam and



Tinubu

Muhammadu Buhari administration, his incoming administration would work assiduously to confront security, revamp the economy, target double-digit GDP, increase megawatts of electricity to power industries, businesses and homes, and empower the people through creation of jobs, affordable loans and mortgages, among others.

"Let me assure you that Kogi State will occupy a right of place in our administration. You are the Confluence State. You are important to us in the APC and the country.

"Apart from the presence of your Governor, Yahaya Bello, in the Presidential Campaign Council, one of your sons, Rt. Hon. James Abiodun Faleke, is also the Secretary of our Campaign Council.

So you are ably and adequately represented.

"Your voice, your demands will be heard loud and clear not

only in the Campaign Council but also in the proposed administration when we are elected by the Special Grace of God.

"Let me assure you that one of the very first things we will tackle is the perennial flooding in Kogi State. Flooding is a big problem in Kogi perhaps because of its strategic location as the confluence between Rivers Niger and Benue.

"This state has particularly been ravaged this year by flooding. You have lost precious lives, you have lost properties. You have lost farmlands. Part of the reasons we have put together this special walk for Tinubu/Shettima is to draw attention to this flooding problem.

"With improved and increased megawatts of electricity, we will generally work towards the industrialisation of the country.

In the area of agriculture and infrastructure delivery, particularly railways and road networks, we will continue the successes recorded by the President Muhammadu Buhari administration and also move to improve on them.

"We will do even more. The details of our agenda are contained in our Action Plan. I make bold to restate that we will tap and develop the abundant resources available in Kogi State in conjunction with the Kogi State Government for the benefit of the people of Kogi and Nigeria.

"I thank you all for your presence in large numbers for this historic walk. The Tinubu/Shettima presidency will not forget you. We will always remember this day!

The crowd, led by Governor Bello, closed the solidarity walk at the Kogi State APC Campaign Secretariat.



## Politics

### APC Presidential campaign Lalong inaugurates Committee

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU State Governor Simon Bako Lalong and Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council has inaugurated a 40-man Local Organising Committee (LOC) to make proper arrangements for the successful hosting of the APC Presidential flag off.

The flag off is billed to take place in Jos, Plateau State on the 15th November 2022 and it has the Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase as Chairman.

While inaugurating the Committee at Government House Jos, Lalong said Plateau State is not new to hosting this kind of epoch making events that has ushered in new Presidents.

"Indeed our state has a very excellent record of hosting Presidential campaigns and party primaries that have produced Presidents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other eminent leaders", he said.

He pointed out that because this is the first time that the APC is hosting such an event in the state, the Committee is expected to put in place everything possible to make the event successful and historic.

"This flag off of the APC Presidential Campaign is holding under my watch as the Director General of the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Council. It is a great privilege and a golden opportunity for us to demonstrate that Plateau is a dominant force in APC and will set the pace towards the victory of our Presidential Candidate and others".

"You have therefore been drafted into this Local Organising Committee to ensure that the groundwork is laid for the successful hosting of this very important event. Your selection is based on your capacity, loyalty, track record of service to the party and commitment to the success of the Rescue Administration", he tasked the Committee.

Governor Lalong said he had no doubt that with the calibre of persons in the committee, they are going to put in their best to ensure that the state shows the APC that the choice of Plateau State as the flag-off venue and the appointment of the Governor as DG of the Presidential Campaign Council is not a mistake.

He therefore tasked them saying: "I charge you to do everything possible to ensure that we have a very colourful, safe, secure, and memorable flag off".

"We are expecting high calibre guests starting from PCC Chairman His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR; our National Chairman Sen. Abdullahi Adamu; Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu his running mate Senator Kashim Shettima; all APC Governors; National Assembly members as well as other distinguished leaders of our party from all over the country" he said.

He also tasked them to ensure that supporters are mobilised from all the 17 Local Governments to welcome guests with the highest form of hospitality, culture and other attractions and demonstrate to the Presidential Candidate that APC is rooted in Plateau State and his victory is guaranteed as well as well as that of gubernatorial candidates and



Wase

other contestants. Responding on behalf of the Committee members, Chairman and Deputy Speaker House of Representatives Idris Wase said they will hit the ground running to ensure that the assignment is carried out effectively.

He said Plateau is the home of APC and this will be demonstrated during the flag off, assuring that the committee will not disappoint the Governor, the party and people of the State.

APC Chairman Plateau State Hon. Rufus Bature charged the members to put in their best and make sure the flag off becomes the pace setter for the party's success at all levels of the elections.

Deputy Governor of Plateau State Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden is the Co-Chairman while Secretary to the Government of the State Prof. Danladi Atu is the Secretary of the Committee.

Other prominent members of

the Local Organising Committee are the gubernatorial candidate of the APC in Plateau state, Dr Nentawe Yilwatda, who is the Presidential Campaign Council Coordinator in Plateau State is to serve as Deputy Chairman of the LOC, Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt Hon. Yakubu Sanda and APC Chairman Hon. Rufus Bature.

Others are Hon. Yusufu Gagdi Member Representing Pankshin/ Kanam/Kanke and Alohonsus Longap Komsol, Member Representing Shendam/Qua'an Pan/Mikang, Chief of Staff, some Honourable Commissioners, Special Advisers and some members of the State Working Committee of the APC Plateau State Chapter.

The 40-man Committee also has three Elders from the three Senatorial Districts of the state, Local Government Chairmen and representative of the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, among others.

### FCT Minister tasks APC members on delivering candidates

From AMEDU JOSEPH,  
Lokoja

THE Minister of state for Federal Capital Territory, Dr. Ramatu Aliyu has tasked members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and supporters in Kogi on aggressive mobilization for overwhelming victory of the party's presidential hopeful, Ahmed Bola Tinubu and other candidates at the polls.

The minister gave the charge while inaugurating the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign Council in Kogi state.

Addressing party stalwarts, members, candidates, supporters and women groups at the event held in Lokoja, Aliyu noted that the task before the campaign council is to ensure a convincing and total victory for the All Progressives Congress (APC) Party candidate in the coming presidential, national and state assembly elections in the state.

She reminded members of the council in the state that the main task ahead of them is to deliver APC presidential candidate, Ahmed Bola Tinubu and his running mate, Senator Kashim Shettima and all the candidates contesting on the platform of the party in Kogi state.

"You are inaugurated today with the simple task of delivering the party's victory

in the forthcoming election. "Your inauguration is also to complement the existing campaign structures of the party."

You should see yourselves as team players towards

MEMBERS of staff of the Taraba State House of Assembly, had on Monday locked up the gate of the Taraba State House of Assembly in protest over seven years unpaid outfit allowances.

The members of staff acting under the auspices of Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN), have asked their members to stay away from work from Monday over government's inability to pay seven years outfit allowances to staff of the Assembly.

The association had earlier released a letter on 4th November, 2022 to that effect.

In the letter signed by Chairman of the union, Comrade Ibrahim Bala Yusuf and Secretary, Comrade Abdullahi U. Abubakar, stated thus: "Sequel to the expiration of the 7 day ultimatum issued to the leadership of this Assembly on issues that border on the outfit allowance of the staff of this Assembly, the leadership of this union has no any option than to direct that:

1. Members of this union should stay away from work with effect from Monday the 7th day of November, 2022.  
2. The leadership of this union are to see to it that no staff is allowed into the premises".

The Nigeria Standard was at the premises of the Assembly and only a few officials were on ground to ensure compliance even as the premises was deserted and the main gate under lock and key.

### Budget presentation stalled as assembly staff shut premises

From, VICTOR GAI,  
Jalingo

The Chairman of PASAN, while speaking with The Nigeria Standard, disclosed that outfit allowance was part of every year's budget which had been signed and assented to by the governor and that staff members had made sacrifices to protect the image of the House.

"If we must continue to promote the image of the House of Assembly, then we must appear corporate, neat and presentable. Because we have so much honoured this House, my people have gone out of their way to use their hard earned salaries to sew outfit that would make them presentable," he disclosed.

He added that Taraba State House of Assembly was the "most neglected" in the north-east in terms of welfare of staff.

Meanwhile, The Nigeria Standard learnt from official sources that the governor was scheduled to present the 2023 budget to the Assembly today Monday.

The Speaker of the House, Joseph Albasu Kunini, didn't pick his call when The Nigeria Standard called.

But Clerk of the House, Melah Orngu, while commenting on the development said "I am not aware of that".

"I went to office and I couldn't have access to my office. My worry is that they can't force honourable members to go on strike because we should have access to our workplace," he stated.



Ishaku

Council, charged members on the need to work hard by delivering APC candidates with wide margin in the forthcoming elections.

Dignitaries present at the event, include; the state APC

Chairman, Alhaji Abdullahi Bello aka Dollar, former APC State Chairman, Alhaji Haddy Ametuo, APC national and house of assembly candidates, party faithfuls and women groups, among others.

### Lalong to traditional rulers: Shun partisan politics

By PALANG KASMI

AHEAD of 2023, Plateau Governor Simon Bako Lalong has tasked traditional rulers to shun partisan politics and concentrate on uniting the people and sustaining peace in their domain.

The governor has also expressed disappointment that efforts to fill some vacant stools in the state are being frustrated by lingering litigations among the royal class.

The Governor stated this recently, during the installation and presentation of first class staff of office to Da John Putmang Hirse as the new Mishkaham Mwagavul, in Mangu Local Government.

He advised traditional rulers to be very careful in the present political dispensation and shun politicians who will want to use them to create division, acrimony and violence in their domain for their selfish political interests.

The installation which took place at the Mangu mini stadium had in attendance dignitaries from all over the country including the All

Progressives Congress (APC) Vice Presidential running mate Senator Kashim Shettima, Yobe State Governor Maimala Buni, APC Deputy National Chairman Sen. Abubakar Kyari and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase, among others.

Lalong while congratulating the Mishkaham Mwagavul for ascending the throne of his forefathers, said the new traditional ruler has a very enviable record of service within his community, Plateau State and Nigeria which gives anticipation that he will excel in the onerous assignment.

He said, "Let me advise His Royal Highness and all other traditional rulers to be careful of their conduct and utterances during the political season. You must remain apolitical and demonstrate that you are fathers to all. Resist every attempt by politicians to drag you into their

scheming, maneuvering and desperation to get power using ethnicity, religion and other sentiments".

"You should rather pray for them and admonish them to convince the people and play by the rules of the game. Anyone who chooses to leave his duty and dabble into politics will have himself to blame".

The Governor assured that while his administration has no intention of imposing any traditional ruler on the people, "It is worthy to say that the Government is disappointed that the efforts to fill some vacant stools in the State are being frustrated due to lingering litigations among the Royal Class".

He however assured that despite the challenges, he will continue to do his best to ensure that where vacant stools exist, necessary steps are taken to resolve the issues.

"I must remind you that although I have no part in the emergence of any traditional ruler, I have a duty and powers to remove anyone found to be working against the interest of the people or the State. Those

who are privileged to occupy these positions must carry out their assignments based on trust and transparency. No traditional ruler should be a tyrant to his people to take sides with those who are working against the welfare and well-being of the people" he said.

The Mishkaham Mwagavul Mwagavul Da John Putmang Hirse in his acceptance speech said he was privileged and honoured to be enthroned as the ruler of his people who are known for hardwork, unity and peaceful coexistence.

He thanked the Governor for allowing the process of his emergence to be free and fair and for making sure the will of the king makers prevailed.

In a goodwill message, APC Vice Presidential running mate Senator Kashim Shettima congratulated the Mishkaham Mwagavul and said the Kanuri people share historical ties with the Mwagavul people which is well documented and cherished.

He wished him well and assured him of the support and prayers of the people of Borno and Yobe States.



# IMAGES

## LALONG PRESENTS STAFF OF OFFICE

Plateau State Governor, Rt Hon Simon Bako Lalong (CON) on Saturday presented the Staff of Office to the first class Paramount ruler of Mwaghavul people, Da John Putmang Hirse mni, witnessed by APC Vice Presidential candidate, Sen. Kashim Shettima, Governor Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State and other very important personalities at the Mangu Mini Stadium



Governor Lalong presenting the certificate to HRH Miskhaghm Mwaghavul, Da John Putmang Hirse mni



From left are, Sen. Kashim Shettima, Governor Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State, first lady, Plateau State, Mrs. Regina Lalong and Governor Simon Bako Lalong



Sen. Kashim Shettima, Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni flanked by Senators and Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives delivering his good will message



Former Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed flanked by Speaker, House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda and Plateau State Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden



Former Military Governor of Plateau State, Rear Admiral Samuel Bitrus Atukum, Former Governors of Plateau State, Sir Fidelis Tapgun and that of Bauchi, Alhaji Ahmadu Adamu Muazu at the ceremony



Former COCIN President, Rev. Prof. Pandang Yamsat (right) exchanging greetings with former Governor of Bauchi State, Alhaji Ahmadu Adamu Muazu (left) and the representative of COCIN President, Rev. Dr. Timothy Mwan



Front row are, HRH Miskoom Martin Shaldas, Long Gamai, the representative of the Shehu of Borno, Prof. Andrew Haruna, second row are Royal fathers from Nasarawa State



Former Governor of Plateau State, Sen. Joshua Chibi Dariye (right) with the APC State Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature

Photos: DANLADI DUK



## Politics

# Ethnicity, religion driving electioneering for APC, LP, PDP

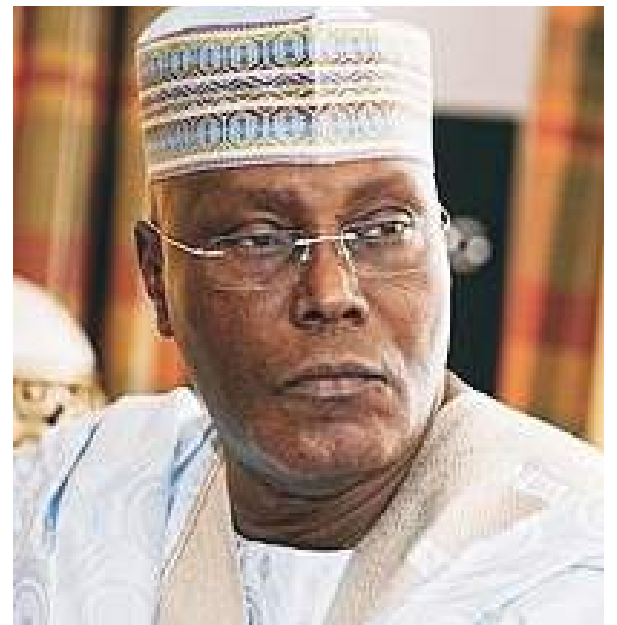
**Politicians in Nigeria are always told to discuss issues during electioneering, but they often choose to do so in their own way, which raises the question of context. When Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Presidential flagbearer of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) played the ethnic card for high stakes before the June 7, 2022 presidential convention of his party in Abuja, the ethnic import did not quite jell because it was a party affair (one among 18 political parties) meant for its delegates. AMOS ESELE writes.**



Tinubu



Obi



Atiku

SOME of the prominent social and political groups in the country, such as Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Afenifere, PANDEF and Middle-Belt Leaders Forum (MBLF), then pitched in. Arguing that power must shift to the South-East for equity, they endorsed Peter Obi, presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP).

They also argued that the South-East, among the three major ethnic groups in the country, namely Yoruba, Hausa-Fulani and Igbo, was yet to ascend the presidency.

Then in late October, 2022, the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Atiku Abubakar, was reported to have said at an Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) event that the Hausa-Fulani should vote for him and not an Igbo or Yoruba candidate.

Atiku's party and minders have since held that he was quoted out of context and that he said he was the best among the front-running presidential candidates with national links to serve the interests of the North. But the public view still prevails such that his media men are still facing the question at interviews.

However, as public reactions to that matter was yet to settle, Tinubu gave a new twist to the story when he sought and got the endorsement of some members of Afenifere during a visit to the group's former leader, Pa Reuben Fasoranti, in Akure, Ondo State on Sunday, October 30, 2022.

Apart from the raging controversy over the leadership of the Yoruba social-political group, which Tinubu's endorsement has generated, following Obi's earlier endorsement by Afenifere's Acting leader, Pa Ayo Adebajo, alongside Ohanaeze, PANDEF and MDLF, the APC candidate's backing, like others before him, has resuscitated the ogre of ethnicity and religion in the 2023 general elections.

As for religion, recall that the Muslim-Muslim ticket of the APC has not only polarised it as many 'Christian' politicians within the party have kicked against it and either defected or vowed to work against it, besides the organisational protest posed by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

Seyi Makinde, Governor of Oyo State put this emerging religion and ethnicity trend in bold relief on

Saturday, October 29, 2022 during a private radio programme monitored in Ibadan, the Oyo state capital.

Asked by the anchor if he was not threatening his re-election bid by his alliance with PDP's foe, Governor Nyesom Wike of Rivers State, he answered: "The North is preparing to vote for Atiku as president because he is their son, while they would vote for senatorial and House of Representative members on the platform of other parties."

Then on the next day, a Sunday, his deputy, Bayo Lawal, represented him at the Akure, Ondo State, event where Pa Fasoranti endorsed Tinubu. Lawal, at the event, spoke in his master's voice. Oyo, he said, would support the Yoruba's position on the presidency.

Reacting to the development, Pa Adebajo, who insisted that he is the leader of Afenifere because Pa Fasoranti conferred that power on him in a letter still in his possession, told THEWILL on Friday that, "Nigeria and Nigerians should leave ethnicity out of electioneering and judge the candidates on the basis of their character and competence as well as equity. That is what we did by our endorsement of Peter Obi. We did it on the basis of ideology, but they are now dragging ethnicity into it. That is dangerous."

When Pa Adebajo endorsed Obi alongside other groups, a few comments were heard. Tinubu's endorsement, however, has let all hell loose. The ensuing controversy the backing is still generating in the southwest has a direct political implication for the 2023 polls in the southwest. Many of those who witnessed the Akure endorsement are known supporters of the APC candidate, with links to power brokers and stakeholders in the South-West geo-political zone.

In the roll-call were representatives of the Southwest states, with Yoruba natives of Kogi and Kwara States, duly represented. Governor Abiodun Oyebanji (Ekiti) was present and the governors of Ondo, Oyo sent their deputies, namely Orimisan Aiyedatiwa and Bayo Lawal, respectively. From Osun, Dr Charles Akinola, the Chief of Staff, represented Governor Gboyega Oyetola. Segun Adesegun, former deputy Governor of Ogun State, represented his former boss, Chief Olusegun Osoba, the former

Governor and old Afenifere chieftain.

Others in attendance were Archbishop Ayo Ladigbolu from Oyo; Lt General Ipoola Alani Akinrinade; Governor Cornelious Adebayo, ex-Governor of old Kwara State; Chief Bisi Akande, former governor Osun State and first National Chairman of APC; Chief Pius Akinyelure; retired Major-General Olu Bajowa; Oba Mafimisebi, the former Olugbo of Igbo, Ondo State; Chief Solomon Ayo Oladunni, former deputy managing director of Mobil Oil and Dr Kunle Olajide, former General Secretary of the Yoruba Council of Elders (YCE).

Also on the list were considered pillars of Afenifere: Kabiyesi Olu Falae, Bashorun Deinde Arogbofa, ex-Ogun state governor, Gbenga Daniel, Abagun Kole Omololu, Chief Demola Folarin. Others were Prince Dayo Adeyeye, Bayo Onanuga and Tunde Rahman, points men in the Tinubu campaign team.

Reacting to the perceived ethnic colouration of the event, General Secretary of the YCE, Dr Olajide, who was present at the occasion, said there was nothing markedly surprising about the gathering.

He said, "There is no Nigerian who does not have an ethnic origin. You cannot wish that away. What we are preaching, anyway, is that we have to decide where we are going, even though our main thrust is for somebody with competence and productivity."

According to him, the positions taken by either Pa Adebajo or Pa Fasoranti were political. "That is politics playing out. Adebajo is a leader, Pa Fasoranti is a leader. What we have said is that we are in support of Tinubu and the Yoruba should stand together, that is all. There is nothing wrong with that," he said.

He thinks the same fate ticket that has polarised the governing party and raised eyebrows in the discerning public would fizzle out with time before the polls and ought not to draw the kind of attention in the public but for the media.

He said, rather dismissively, "I even think that it was courageous for Asiwaju Tinubu to embrace the Muslim-Muslim ticket. For how long will we as a people continue along this dimension and division. It is time to convince Nigerians that the three tests of capacity, character and competence should inform their choices of candidates."

Explaining the political influence behind Tinubu's decision, which was long in coming, a dependable party source who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the presidential candidate of the opposition PDP pushed his APC rival to seek "home support," because Atiku has been successfully eroding the influence of the ruling party in its northern stronghold, playing the ethnic card there in reaction to the same-faith ticket of the governing APC.

Considered a major weapon of political mobilisation in the North, religion often gives big political leverage during electioneering, he maintained.

Disputing this claim, one of the PDP presidential campaign committee spokespersons, Kola Ologbodiyan, told THEWILL, in reaction, that it was the APC candidate that started the introduction of ethnicity and religion to campaign even before the kick-off of campaigns.

He said, "How else would you interpret the Emilokan philosophy? That is how he ignited ethnicity in the current dispensation. That is how he has dominated the politics of Southwest and used it to feather his ambition. The truth is that he has been striving to fill the leadership vacancy in the Southwest since the death of the late sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. His eyeglasses are suggestive of the quest for that tall ambition."

On Atiku's Arewa's Forum "vote for me and not Igbo or Yoruba," appeal, Ologbodiyan explained that Atiku, whom he described as a nationalist because, "he has built and sustained a pan-Nigerian network of friends across geo-political zones," was purposely coloured by political rivals to demonise him.

Professor George Obiozo, President General of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, which threw up factors of power shift, equity and competence as determinants of its endorsement of Obi, was said to be in a meeting when THEWILL called to get his reaction on Friday as he did not answer the call at the appointed time earlier fixed by an aide.

Geo-political voting power, THEWILL has learnt, is also one of the undercurrents driving religious and ethnic cards. In regional terms, the North has the highest numbers than the South, according to data released by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC. Geo-politically,

the Northwest has the highest voting population at: 22.67 million, followed by the South-West at 18.3 million, the South-South at 15.2 million, North-Central at 14.1 million North-East at 12.8 million and South-East: 11.49 million.

Desperate to grab votes in an emerging democracy with a multi-ethnic, diverse population fixated on ethnic, religious affiliations, politicians of the major parties still reeling from self-inflicted crises are desperate to break every rule in the book to pursue their goals.

Adebajo thinks ideological stand on issues of equity, competence and character in choosing candidates at all levels of election is the way out of the "issues of ethnicity and religion that have always been exploited to divide the country."

He said, "That was why we made it clear in making our choice of Peter Obi we said we were not speaking for Yoruba. Why should I abandon a principled stand and support somebody because he is from my area? We should take each candidate on the basis of issues they stand for and not on ethnicity or religion, which is not good for the development of Nigeria."

Chief Olajide agrees with Adebajo, but differs with him on emphasis on issues and values as the basis for determining choices. He said, "It depends on what you mean? When we say the Yoruba are standing together for Tinubu, we are also saying that he has the competence and productivity. That is very clear to most Nigerians from the Atlantic to the Sahara."

PDP presidential spokesperson, Ologbodiyan, who insisted that his principal, Atiku, is the best presidential candidate when it comes to talking about discussing issues rather than trading insults, held that as a fragile polity fractured by the prevailing widespread insecurity, inequities and popular discontent, issues that unite and integrate should be pursued by all candidates.

"That was the symbolic message of the Peace Accord signed by the parties recently. The media, the watching public and security agencies should help in enforcing the spirit of the accord," Ologbodiyan maintained.

**Culled from THEWILL**



NEWS

**UNICEF condemns abduction of school children**

From **DORCAS PANKYES** and **WILLIE ATTAH**

UNITED Nations Children's Fund has condemned the recent abduction of 21 children in Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State saying that the report was worrisome.

The UNICEF Representative in Nigeria, Cristian Munduate, stated this in a media statement made available to journalists in Bauchi recent by.

She described it as a "reprehensible" abduction of children whether at home, at school or anywhere.

She expressed worry that the children are victims of attacks by people who should be protecting them.

Munduate called on the government to immediately rescue them unhurt so they can be reunited with their families.

"UNICEF is concerned about the report of the abduction of the 21 children at a farm in Mairuwa community, Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State, north-west Nigeria.



**Yahaya**

"Confirmed reports indicate the 21 children – 17 girls and 4 boys – aged between 15 and 18, were abducted last Sunday at about 12:30 p.m by 'bandits.'

"Abduction of children whether at home, at school, on the farm, or anywhere else, is reprehensible.

"Children should never be the target of violence, especially by anyone who should be protecting them.

"We call on the

authorities to take necessary action to rescue the abducted children and reunite them with their families unhurt, and without delay.

"UNICEF also calls on the authorities to rescue other persons reported to have been kidnapped on the farm at the same time the children were abducted," she said.

The UNICEF Country Chief concluded that the "tragic" incident is yet an indication of the danger children face by acts perpetrated by people who should protect them.

From **AMEDU JOSEPH** Lokoja

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Candidate, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu has promised to tackle flooding menace in Nigeria if given the mandate.

He also sympathized with flood victims in Kogi state and made a donation of N100 million to cushion the effect of devastation.

He described the loss of lives and properties as unfortunate.

Tinubu's address which was delivered on his behalf by Governor Yahaya Bello stated "Let me assure you that one of the very first things we will tackle is the perennial flooding in Kogi State. Flooding is a big problem in Kogi perhaps because of its strategic location as the confluence between Rivers Niger and Benue.

Gov. Bello, who had mobilized over 20,000 Kogites to receive the APC presidential candidate at Mohammad Buhari Square, noted that efforts to bring a lasting solution to the perennial flooding will be carried out if he becomes the President.

While appreciating the tumultuous crowd that trooped into Lokoja, from all over Kogi State to demonstrate support and solidarity for him and the

**Tinubu promises to tackle flooding**

presidential running-mate, Senator Kashim Shettima, Tinubu promised that the voice and demands of Kogi people would be heard, not only in the Campaign Council but also in the incoming APC administration.

He promised to work assiduously to confront security, revamp the economy, target double-digit GDP, increase megawatts of electricity to power the industries, businesses and homes, and empower the people through the creation of jobs, affordable loans and mortgages respectively. "Let me assure you that Kogi State will occupy a right of place in our administration. As a Confluence State, You are important to us in the APC

and the country."

"Apart from the presence of your Governor, Yahaya Bello, in the Presidential Campaign Council, one of your sons, Rt. Hon. James Abiodun Faleke is also the Secretary of our Campaign Council. So you are ably and adequately represented. "I want to tell you today that flooding will be a thing of the past when we get to office. We will work with the Kogi State Government to devise a permanent solution to this problem. The blessings of God exemplified in torrential rain should not be a curse on us."

The crowd, led by Governor Bello, closed the solidarity walk at the Kogi State APC Campaign Secretariat.



**Tinubu**

who want verification on the forthcoming Census.

**2023 census: NPC opens recruitment portal**

THE National Population Commission, NPC, in Kogi State has released the official website link for the recruitment of adhoc Staff for the 2023 National Population Census

The Federal Commissioner in charge of Kogi State, Professor Jimoh Habibat Isah disclosed this on Friday in Lokoja. Professor Isah said prospective applicants as adhoc staff for the census can log into the website and diligently and faithfully fill out the online form and requirements genuinely

According to him, the recruitment exercise will be done transparently with international best practices devoid of political and human

From **AMEDU JOSEPH**, Lokoja

manipulations towards achieving a hitch-free exercise.

He disclosed that successful applicants would be deployed to their local Government areas, stressing it will enhance thorough coverage as they are already conversant with their localities. The Federal Commissioner appealed for maximum cooperation from the people in view of the high priority importance being accorded to the exercise by the government at all levels.

He warned prospective applicants to be mindful of the information they supply as the system is capable of identifying wrong information imputed.

On the issue of security for its personnel as well as having access to some places due to the terrain of the areas, the Federal Commissioner said all variables have been taken into consideration and addressed to achieve set goals as the commission is partnering with security agencies and all relevant stakeholders to that end.

Earlier in his opening remark, the State Director of the commission, Mr Abiodun Titus Ojo said the NPC is putting in all available resources to make the exercise a success.

Mr Ojo called for partnership with the media to succeed saying all staff of the Commission are available to assist prospective applicants as adhoc Staff as well as those

**Environment Minister Optimistic over Nigeria's expectations**

NIGERIA'S Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi, has expressed optimism that the expectations of Nigeria at the "Africa at COP 27" would be achieved by galvanizing action plan for Africa on issues of great concern which were already in the front burner of agenda for discussions.

This came in statement signed by a correspondent from Egypt, Dare Akogun, and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital Monday shortly after Africa at COP 27 Conference held in Egypt.

The Minister who is also head of Nigeria's delegation to the conference tagged; "Africa and action COP", stated that Nigeria's expectations were high and that Nigeria would amongst other issues push for the implementation of the loss and damage issues of environment. He stated that "We are focused on ensuring that we bring the issue of loss and damage to the fore and we

BY **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

are already making progress in this regard.

"During the Pre-Cop engagement, the COP 27 President, Sameh Shoukry, highlighted flood related issues with particular reference to Nigeria and Pakistan and other nations as one of the key issues on the agenda for discussion. Already the issues of flood is linked to loss and damage and that is of priority to us as a nation", he stated.

Abdullahi disclosed that the Nigerian delegation would focus on the African carbon market initiative as it tried to kick-start the framework for carbon trading and that, similar attention would be given to the debt for climate swap.

According to him, "this is aimed at calling the attention of developed countries on the impact of their industrialisation on the developing countries and the need for them to mitigate the impact on the continent of Africa and Nigeria in particular.

"In addition, Nigeria as the leader of the PAN African Agency for the Great Green Wall will focus on climate finance to support its activities in the Sahel Region particularly in the most endemic Northern states described as the front line states where there is fast approaching desert encroachment and of course wetland drying up.

"These and others are huge issues that we will be focusing on. On the unfulfilled promises made to the developing countries by the developed countries during past COPs, Nigeria will not take a know it all approach but will align its position with the African agenda that was agreed at Dakar meeting", the minister highlighted.

He added that part of what they would do was to galvanise the action plan for Africa to push for a positive climate funding action from the developed countries because African countries and developing countries understood that funding was important in whatever position COP 27 would take.

The leader of Nigeria's delegation and representative of President Muhammadu Buhari to COP 27, disclosed that they planned to interface and engage private sector and investors that could support the energy transmission plan of Nigeria. He said that, "a number of bilateral meetings and engagements have been arranged to discuss funding from development partners and the private sector.

The Federal Government of Nigeria through the Minister, assured Nigerians that it would alongside team of negotiators return to the country with a strong, dependable and bankable commitment from the development partner.

**NEMA delivers relief materials in Bauchi**

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has received relief materials worth millions of naira for distribution to victims of flood disaster and vulnerable groups in the state.

The items which are food and non food items were presented to Governor Mohammed by the representative of the Director General of the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu.

Adamu commended the governor for his prompt response to the flood disaster

From **ABBAS GUNGURA**, Bauchi

in the state, saying the relief materials would complement the efforts of the state to ameliorate the sufferings of the victims.

The NEMA DG appealed to the state government to ensure judicious distribution of the relief materials to the flood victims and vulnerable groups in the state as directed by the Federal government.

Responding, Governor Mohammed, who was

represented by the Secretary to the state government, Barrister Ibrahim Kashim, thanked the federal government for the gesture and assured that each community affected will get its share of the items accordingly.

The governor however called on this federal government and donor agencies to bring more support for the people of the state in view of the magnitude and devastation by the recent flood in the state.



**Bello**



News

Salem Varsity mobilises 36 graduands for Law School

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SALEM University, Lokoja on Friday mobilised 36 graduands for the mandatory one year Law School before their National Youths Service. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof Alewo Johnson-Akubo made the disclosure in a statement issued by the Registrar, Dr Emmanuel Adejoh in Lokoja.

Johnson-Akubo said that the 36 graduands were the first set of the institution's Law College that have passed out successfully and were qualified to move to the last lap of their studies to become competent and qualified lawyers.

"We have confidence in this first set of change agents from our College of Law to go to the last lap of their studies at the Law School to become qualified and competent lawyers, fit to be called to the Bar.

"Salem University is glad that this day has come to reality and the management is so happy for this remarkable feat.

"The joy of it all is that by the grace of God Almighty, great and powerful lawyers and impartial and impeccable judges will come from this very set to correct the ills in the Nigerian society and the



Bello

world at large," he said.

The VC urged the graduands to be committed, determined and focused to ensure that they graduate from the Law School in flying colours to make the institution proud.

He said that as change agents, they should be resolute with their faith in God, never to allow any temptation or challenge pull them off the path of truth and righteousness that Salem University typifies in order to enjoy the favour of God in their

lives.

According to him, Salem University would strive to continue to remain a citadel of learning to the teeming youths both within and outside Nigeria to help them discover and fulfill their divine destinies for the good of humanity.

Johnson-Akubo said, "Education is the bedrock of any well meaning nation and should be pursued with all vigour and sense of seriousness towards stimulating growth and development."

Forest encroachment: Kogi govt to prosecute Trespassers

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

The Operationoperation Manager of Kogi State State Town Planning Development Board, TPL, Daniel Sani at Egume community has vowed to prosecuteProsecute all perpetrators of encroachment into the reserved Egbe Forestforest in Egume in Dekina Local Government Area of the state. Daniel Sani, a town planner, described the people in the community as peace-loving beings who remain calm in the face of conflicts waiting for government intervention.

He commended the union's national body for the literate exhibition in obtaining the "master plan" of the community and even followed due process to ensure permanent boundary demarcation and retrieval of the royal cemetery.

Sani warned aggrieved owners of all illegal structures, farmlands, beacons and houses marked for demolition and revocation to forward their grievances to the state headquarters within 21 days.

He, however, pointed out

that the Board would not hesitate to drag purported owners of such illegal property to court for the destruction of government-reserved Egbe Forestforest if they failed to report at the state headquarters within the stipulated days.

"I will like to advise youth in the area not to take the law into their hands as the government would do everything humanly possible to correct the wrongs at the royal cemetery as nobody is above the law."

He urged the Union to rise to the challenges of ensuring proper demarcation and survey of the forest towards obtaining the Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) of the land.

In his address, the chairman of the four traditional ruling houses of Egume, Prince Isah Musa Ike who spoke on behalf of the Onu Egume and the District Headhead of Okura, HRH, Alhaji Etila Ajeka eulogized the national body of Egume Ome Descendants' Union (EODU) for the bold steps taken to cover our royal fathers stripped naked by trespassers.

Prince Musa also

appreciated the Town Planning Development Board planning development board and other agencies for their quick response to the request and outcry of the people which according to him shows the level of respect the government has for the traditional rulers.

The Nationalnational President of Egume Ome Descendants' Union (EODU), Alhaji Mohammed Lawal Ibrahim who was represented by the national P.R.O of the union, Mr Noah Ocheni assured the team of their unalloyed cooperation to ensure the speedy execution of the government's plan to retrieve the royal cemetery.

"The Union discovered that the deforestation and encroachment into Egbe Forestforest is a gross abuse, disregard and disrespect for our cultural heritage."

The president, however, warned all Egbe Forestforest farmers, those claiming ownership of economic trees, structures and lands to be ready for the forfeiture of the property in the aftermath of the visit and execution of the government plan for the community.



Killing education

IN the past eight months of this year 2022, public universities have been under lock and key. There were a lot of back and forth between the lecturers and government yet no concrete agreement was reached between the two. Some ray of possibility was, however, gleaned when the House of Representatives intervened by bringing together the two parties in the dispute promising to work out a political solution to the intractable problem. But as soon as the situation seemed to be calming down and returning to normal some people who are not interested in settling the dispute put a spanner in the works.

Salary payment which was a pre-condition for the reopening of these public institutions was flatly disregarded and that turned the whole agreement on its head. Lecturers in some institutions were selected, some paid their salaries while in some institutions only seventeen days -worth of salaries were paid them. Reason for this was that one Minister for Labour had written and instructed that the Ministry of Finance only pay the lecturers, who are ASUU members, for seventeen days. On the other hand, members of CONUA, a newly registered university union were paid their full salaries.

This unfortunate event turned every hope of getting the institutions back working on its head. It forced university unions to respond to the action by putting on hold teaching of the students thereby prolonging the nightmares of not only the students but those of their parents who on daily basis have been praying for the amicable resolution of the protracted and unnecessary problem.

This action of the Minister of Labour is typical of the posture of some members of the cabinet of the present administration. First, was the attempt by the administration to cause bad blood and a split within the major Labour Centres, the NLC and the TUC. Unfortunately, this fell flat on its head when the two Labour Centres realised that they were being led to the path of perdition by those who did not mean well for

them. Then it was the turn of the NBA. Everything was done to ensure a split but that too was dead on arrival. One wonders what it is that the administration wants to achieve by whittling down the powers of collective bargaining, when there is more than enough for it to chew.

One would not be far off the mark if one posits that there is a mission to destroy education by some who do not mean well for education in this country. It is no wonder then that there is the granting of a lot of new operational licenses for private owned universities. I think it is more noble to find better means of dealing with the situation than this crude and uncivilized way the so-called minister, who is the undertaker in this instance is doing. It is even sadder to think that the political party in power would sit by and watch whatever gains it has achieved being destroyed by someone who is supposed to help the party win elections.

The arrogance and nonchalance with which the minister attends to labour issues is sad. What is even more intriguing is the fact that those who are doing all to kill public university education are

**This action of the Minister of Labour is typical of the posture of some members of the cabinet of the present administration. First, was the attempt by the administration to cause bad blood and a split within the major Labour Centres, the NLC and the TUC. Unfortunately, this fell flat on its head when the two Labour Centres realised that they were being led to the path of perdition by those who did not mean well for them.**

those who benefitted from it. Yes, even if government alone cannot afford to fund education, is there no way it can systematically introduce gradual changes without rocking the boat? Are there no models we could copy to smoothly introduce change rather than this primitive and insensitive manner? The Minister for Labour has adopted a tout like posture in dealing with the ASUU issue. But he must be called to order by sane and more calculative people. He cannot destroy the platform on which he rode to power with no one calling his bluff.

This is election year and he should be aware that most of these students who he has helped in prolonging their stay at home are watching. The last voter registration exercise should be lessons enough for any sane politician. The number of young people who came out to do the registration should send signals to saner people.

Indeed, the action of this undertaker only confirms and remind us of the Okija saga which almost turned democracy on its head. The sordid event that played out at the time is a sad reminder that such a character should not be trusted with such an important and sensitive position. As a matter of fact, the Okija episode left a sour taste in the mouth of all right-thinking people giving the character the unenviable status of being the only sitting governor that was kidnapped. The Presidency must intervene by doing the needful. It should support the House of Representatives to ensure that it wins back those that have been wounded by the unfortunate act of one who is supposed to promote its cause. From every indication Ngige is on a mission. Having lost the presidential primaries of the APC, he has sought and found a way of destroying the party he claims to belong to. And, now that ASUU has gone back on indefinite strike, one hopes that APC's eyes would have been open to see the destruction that their Minister is doing to them.



# News

## COAS donates block of classrooms

From AMEDU JOSEPH,  
Lokoja

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Farouk Yahaya, has constructed a block of four classrooms with toilets and donated it to College of Arabic and Islamic Studies (CAISO) Idoji, in Okene Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The COAS also built the principal's office as well as renovation of a block of Assembly Hall and staff rooms.

Speaking at the projects' commissioning at the weekend in Okene, the COAS said the gesture was part of the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Intervention projects executed by the Nigerian Army across the count

The COAS, who was represented by the Commander, Headquarters Command Army Records (CAR), Maj. Gen. Sunday Igbinomwanhia, said Nigerian.

Army had enjoyed high level of cooperation and goodwill from host communities and Nigerian citizens. According to him, the Nigerian Army has over the years taken deliberate steps towards ensuring that it gives back to the society the cooperation it enjoys from them by observing some corporate social responsibilities.

He said it was very much in line with his vision of "a professional Nigerian Army, ready to accomplish assigned missions within a joint environment in defence of Nigeria."

"The project being commissioned today is one of the several Civil-Military Cooperation related activities and quick impact projects executed in various parts of the country by the Nigerian Army towards contributing to national development."

"Thus, I believe this project will serve the collective needs of the members of this community and its immediate environs."

"I therefore want to appeal to you to see this project as a symbol of friendship between the Nigerian Army and your community."

"Let it foster the desired peace, progress and indeed bring prosperity to the community as well," Yahaya said.

The COAS thanked President Muhammadu Buhari for his continuous support to the Nigerian Army and for providing a conducive environment necessary to carry out their constitutional mandate.

He further thanked the Minister of Defence, Maj. Gen. Salihi Magashi (rtd) and Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Lucky Irabor for providing direction and support to the Nigerian Army always.

He commended Governor Yahaya Bello, the traditional fathers and all the good people of the community for their unrelenting support particularly to the Nigerian Army.

He urged the people to



Farouk

continue to live in peace and harmony and be tolerant of one another, stressing that the Exercise Enduring Peace II, recently launched in the state was to ensure peace.

Speaking in his own capacity, Igbinomwanhia appreciated the COAS for sponsoring several of those projects in Kogi under his area of responsibility.

On his part, Maj. Gen. Sanusi Dahiru, Director of Administration and Logistics, Defence Research and Development Bureau, who executed the projects, thanked the COAS for his passion for education and financial commitment to the reality of the projects.

Dahiru said the project was a way of reaching out to his community, noting that his father had so much passion for the school during his

lifetime.

In his remarks, the Ohinoyi of Epira land, HRM Alh. Ado Ibrahim, thanked the COAS for the gesture towards his people, and for ensuring adequate security in the state.

Ohinoyi, who was represented by the Asema Ezuka, HRH Dr. Muhammed Isah, said the projects would go a long way in helping the community and the students for effective learning.

The School Principal, Mr. Zakari Ahmad, said he was overwhelmed by the projects, and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the COAS as well as Maj. Gen. Dahiru.

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of souvenirs to dignitaries at the occasion as well as COAS who was the Special Guest of Honour.

## Emir's wife bags PhD in peace engineering

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Her Majesty, the wife of the Emir of Gembu Mambilla, Princess Patience Munchang Baku has been conferred with the Doctorate Degree of Philosophy (PhD) by Sekyen Open University, an affiliate of the Maryam Abacha University Niger, for her outstanding performance in both academics and character.

This took place last Saturday on the occasion marking the University's Convocation held at the temporary site of the university in Lamingo, Jos, the Plateau State capital. Others in different disciplines who came from other states were also conferred amidst celebration.

Speaking shortly after the convocation, her majesty thanked God for seeing her through the study period to achieve this great feat. She said, "I feel so fulfilled and excited as I display what I have learned from this institution to the society. I intend to book for another programme, God's willing."

"This is one of the most organized systems of education and it is wonderful. My target is to personally have my private school such as this

to contribute to the educational development of Nigeria because there are so many out there who are looking for admission, but cannot get it and it is affecting our society negatively.

"I want to call on my colleagues and school mates to ensure that they do not waste what they have acquired from Sekyen Open University, but rather put it to use for the benefit of our society and generation to come. Seriously, I am really honoured by this award", she stated.

On his part, Rev. Dr. Godwin Som, thanked the management of Sekyen Open University for the privilege given to him to acquire knowledge and promised to serve as catalysts to encourage others to enroll into the Sekyen Open University because it is one of the most organized institutions.

Congratulating the graduands, the Acting Vice Chancellor of Seken Open University Nigeria, Prof. Ishaku Muhammed Dajagahas, said he felt fulfilled and happy to have great

As part of efforts to curtail the high security challenges in Niger State, the state government has earmarked N478,956,614.44, out of the N238,924,457,782.47 estimated 2023 budget to strengthen the state internal security.

Hon. Commissioner/Deputy Chairman, Niger State Planning Commission, Malam Zakari Abubakar made the disclosure at a press briefing held at Government House, Minna Niger State recently, saying security is paramount.

Hon. Zakari explained that the money was meant to purchase security gadgets for vigilante corps, installation of CCTV surveillance system around Minna, mitigation and response in 25 LGAs and other security activities across the state.

The 2023 proposed budget is aimed at consolidating the achievements of this administration in the past seven years and laying a solid foundation for the next administration.

The Hon. Commissioner while breaking down the 2023 proposed budget of consolidation and transition said the budget is estimated at N238,924,457,782.47, which according to him comprises N91,044,745,351.31 (38.11%) and N147,879,712,431.16 (61.89%) recurrent and capital estimates respectively.

"The budget is aimed at completion of projects that are at advanced stages of completion. It focuses on: Security, agriculture, infrastructural development, education, health, water, sanitation and people with special needs", he explained.

On revenue, Zakari said the year 2023 proposed budget is underpinned by the Medium Term Fiscal Framework (MTEF); Economic Fiscal Update and Fiscal Strategy Paper (EFU-FSP) 2023-25 which is the three year plan that normally provides for annual plans/budgets.

The total estimated revenue of N238,924,457,782.47 according to him, was derived from the following revenue

## NGSG earmarks N478m to end insecurity

From MATTHEW JWANTU, Minna



Bello

sources: Statutory Allocation (SA), Value Added Tax (VAT), Internally Generated Revenue, Capital Receipt (CR).

"Other revenue include refunds- N61,094,737,097.00 (25.57%) estimated as Statutory Allocation (SA) was arrived at using the following indices: Inflation 17.16%, GDP - 3.75%, Oil Production Benchmark (MBPD) 1.60, NGN: USD exchange rate 435.57".

The Hon. Commissioner put the breakdown of other revenue estimates as follows: VAT = N35,616,260,802.00 (14.91%), IGR = N22,519,483 (9.43%), Capital Receipt = N115,436,249.753.47 (48.31%). Others include refunds N4,257,726,144.00 (1.78%).

As part of efforts to curtail the high security challenges in Niger State, the state government has earmarked N478,956,614.44, out of the N238,924,457,782.47 estimated 2023 budget to strengthen the state internal security.

Hon. Commissioner/Deputy Chairman, Niger State Planning Commission, Malam Zakari

Abubakar made the disclosure at a press briefing held at Government House, Minna Niger State recently, saying security is paramount.

Hon. Zakari explained that the money was meant to purchase security gadgets for vigilante corps, installation of CCTV surveillance system around Minna, mitigation and response in 25 LGAs and other security activities across the state.

The 2023 proposed budget is aimed at consolidating the achievements of this administration in the past seven years and laying a solid foundation for the next administration.

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personalities pass through this institution. According to him, "we graduated over seventy (70) Diploma, Degree, Master Degree and Doctorate Degree of Philosophy (PhD) students in different disciplines."

There were words of commendation from some of



Princess Patience



Feature

By BEATRICE OKOH and BENEDICTA OKHEMUKHOKHO OMOA

# Understanding public service rules



It shall be the duty of every officer to acquaint himself with the Public Service Rules, other regulations and extant circulars.

This Public Service Rules apply to all officers except where they conflict with specific terms approved by the Federal Government and written into the contract of employment or letter of appointment.

The specific and general definitions of various words and terms employed in the Public Service Rules are contained in this chapter. A few examples are indicated below:

To be eligible for appointment to the Federal Public Service, every applicant must: not be less than 18 years and not more than 50 years of age; Possess such minimum qualifications as are specified from time to time; be certified by an authorized Health Care Provider as medically fit for Government Service; and

possess a testimonial of good conduct from his last employer, or if not previously employed, from the last School or College attended.

**Rules for Appointment on Contract.**

PSR 020401 – A contract appointment is a temporary appointment (which does not provide for the payment of a pension) to a post of the level to which appointment is made by the Federal Civil Service Commission for a specific period as opposed to appointment and temporary employment. The contract appointment must be recorded in a formal document of agreement.

The conditions of service of a contract officer are those provided for in his/her contract only. Nigerians may be appointed on contract if they are pensioners, 50 years of age or over, possess specialized competencies, and such is in the best interest of the service.

Retired officers may only be re-employed (on contract) into career posts on grade levels immediately below that on which they retired.

Spouses married to Nigerians should remain on contract until granted Nigerian citizenship.

**Leaving the Service**

This section contains provisions for the termination and relinquishment of appointment during probationary period, resignation and leaving the service on grounds of failing an examination or abolition of office or re-organization.

An officer who resigns will be liable to forfeit all claims to vacation leave and refund to the Government in full any sum of money which he/she may be owing to Government.

By virtue of the provisions of regulation 15 of the Pension Reform Act 2004, all previous pensionable service is forfeited on resignation.

Officers who fail promotion examinations on three (3) consecutive attempts on the same grade and whose on-the-job performance has been assessed to be below average shall be required to leave the service.

Officers whose services are no longer required in the event of abolition of office, re-organization of the office or redundancy shall be required to leave the service. A female staff that is pregnant is entitled to 16 weeks Maternity Leave at a stretch with full pay.

A medical certificate showing the expected date of confinement must be presented not less than two months before the date.

The annual leave of that year will, however, be regarded as part of the maternity leave. When the annual leave has already been enjoyed before the grant of maternity leave that part of the maternity leave equivalent to the annual leave will be without pay.

It shall be the duty of every officer to acquaint himself/herself with the disciplinary rules and any other regulations in force.

General inefficiency consist of a series of omissions or incompetence the cumulative effect of which shows that the officer is not capable of discharging efficiently the duties of the office he/she holds.

It shall be the duty of every superior officer to draw attention to shortcomings in the work of an officer subordinate to him/her, while an officer must have been warned on three occasions in writing before proceedings for the removal of an officer for general inefficiency may be commenced.

An improper behaviour which is inimical to the image of the Service and which can be investigated and proved, can lead to termination and retirement. It includes:

- (a) Scandalous conduct such as:

- i. immoral behaviour
  - ii. unruly behaviour
  - iii. drunkenness
  - iv. foul language
  - v. assault and
  - vi. battery
  - (b) Refusal to proceed on transfer or to accept posting;
  - (c) Habitual lateness to work;
  - (d) Deliberate delay in treating official document;
  - (e) Failure to keep records;
  - Misconduct
  - (f) Unauthorized removal of public records;
  - (g) Dishonesty;
  - (h) Negligence;
  - (i) Membership of Cults;
  - (j) Sleeping on Duty;
  - (k) Improper dressing while on duty;
  - (l) Hawking merchandise within office premises;
  - (m) Refusal to take/carry out lawful instruction from superior officers;
  - (n) Malingering;
  - (o) Insubordination;
  - (p) Discourteous behaviour to the public.
- Serious Misconduct – PSR 030402**  
Serious Misconduct is defined as a specific act of very serious wrong doing and improper behaviour which is inimical to the image of the Service, can be investigated and if proven, may lead to dismissal. Serious acts of misconduct include:
- (a) Falsification of records
  - (b) Suppression of records;
  - (c) Withholding of files;
  - (d) Conviction on a criminal charge (other than a minor traffic or sanitary offence or the like);
  - (e) Absence from duty without leave;
  - (f) False claims against Government;
  - (g) Engaging in partisan political activities;
  - (h) Bankruptcy/serious financial embarrassment;
  - (i) Unauthorized disclosure of official information;
  - (j) Bribery;
  - (k) Corruption;
  - (l) Embezzlement;
  - (m) Misappropriation;
  - (n) Violation of Oath of Secrecy;
  - (o) Action prejudicial to the security of the State;
  - (p) Advance Fee Fraud (Criminal Code 419);
  - (q) Holding more than one full-time paid job;
  - (r) Nepotism or any other form of preferential treatment
- Serious Misconduct**  
Divided Loyalty;  
Sabotage;  
Willful damage to Public property;  
Sexual Harassment; and  
Any other act unbecoming of a Public Officer.

When a serious case that may lead to dismissal has been instituted against an officer, the Permanent Secretary/Head of Extra-Ministerial Office may interdict him/her on not more than half pay pending the determination of the case.

When an officer is interdicted, he/she shall cease to report for duty.

Suspension shall apply where prima facie case, the nature of which is serious, has been established against an officer and it is considered necessary in the public interest that he/she should forthwith be prohibited

from carrying out his/her duties. An officer on suspension is precluded from the enjoyment of his/her emolument.

The ultimate penalty for serious misconduct is dismissal. An officer who is dismissed forfeits all claims to retiring benefits, leave or transport grant etc., subject to the provisions of the Pension Reform Act 2004

Except in pursuance of his/her official duties, no officer shall without the express permission of his/her Permanent Secretary/Head of Extra-Ministerial Office, engage in any publication or make public utterances and allow himself/herself to be interviewed, or express any opinion for publication on any question: political, administrative nature, on matters affecting the Administration, Public Policy, Defence, Military resources of the Federation or any other country.

Every officer who has any representations of a public or private nature to make to the Government should address them to:

The Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission, in respect of matters relating to appointments (including acting appointments), promotion, transfer and discipline; or

(b) The Head of Civil Service of the Federation on matters relating to other Conditions of Service, e.g. Leave, passages, allowances, pensions, gratuities, etc.

Any officer in the Federal Public Service may address the Head of Government, in which case he/she must transmit such communication, unsealed and in triplicate to any of the channels mentioned in the preceding rule requesting that the petition be forwarded in due course to the Head of Government.

Every letter of document which may be received by the Head of Government otherwise than through the proper channel will be returned to the writer. The rule requiring transmission of communications to the Head of Government through appropriate channel is based

On the strongest grounds of public convenience, in order that all communications may be duly verified as well as reported on before they reach the Head of Government, it extends therefore to communications relating to public affairs as well as to the concerns of the writer.

(i) For the purpose of this section a "petition" is a formal appeal to ultimate authority that is to the Head of Government for special consideration on a matter affecting an officer personally. It must be distinguished from a letter of representation addressed to an appropriate senior officer of Government in the normal way.

Without prejudice to their constitutional rights, officers should as much as possible exhaust all avenues provided in the Public Service Rules and Circulars for redress before proceeding to courts;

Petitions by an officer (or by an ex-officer on matters relating to his/her conditions of employment as an officer or his/her condition as a pensioner of Government) must be submitted in accordance with, the rules, set out in this section.

A petition must be submitted through the proper departmental channels, namely through the petitioner's immediate superior

officer and the Permanent Secretary/Head of Extra-Ministerial Office, who will forward the petition with his/her comments and recommendations to the Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission or the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation in accordance with administrative instructions in force at the time. It is in the petitioner's interest that the above-mentioned rule concerning the routing of a petition should be strictly observed in order that the petition will be duly verified and reported before it reached the final destination.

A petition must bear the full name, staff number, signature and address of the petitioner. When written by a person other than the petitioner, the signature and address of the writer must be included.

- (a) A petition which:
- (b) does not comply with Rule 090201;
- (i) deals with a case in which legal action is pending in a Court of Law;
- (ii) is illegible or meaningless;
- (iii) is worded in abusive, improper or foul language; or

Merely repeats the substance of a previous petition without introducing new relevant matter, will not be entertained.

A petition submitted more than six months after the decision complained of has been given, will also not be entertained, unless such delay is supported by valid reasons.

A petition should be concluded by stating concisely the nature of the redress sought, and a petition which exceeds in length of two pages of foolscap must also include a summary of the reasons adduced in support of the redress sought.

It is granted to an officer in accordance with his grade:

GL.07 and above -	30 calendar days
GL.04 – 6	- 21 calendar days
GL.03 and below -	14 calendar days

It is the absence of an officer from duty for a short period not exceeding an aggregate of five working days with a leave year as may be authorized by superior officer.

Government has approved 16 weeks Maternity Leave entitlement with full pay to female Public Servants at a stretch, beginning not later than 4 weeks from the expected date of delivery. A Medical Certificate, indicating the Expected Date of Delivery (EDD) must be presented not less than two months before that date.

The annual leave for that year will, however, be regarded as part of the maternity leave. Where this annual leave has already been enjoyed before the grant of maternity leave, part of the maternity leave that is equivalent to annual leave will be without pay.

Sick leave is the absence of an officer from duty on account of ill-health as authorized by a healthcare provider.

- (a) In-Service training
- (b) Study leave with pay
- (c) Study leave without pay
- (a) Examination leave
- (b) Sabbatical leave
- (c) Leave on compassionate ground – 2 weeks
- (d) Pre-retirement leave
- (e) Leave on ground of urgent private affairs
- (f) Leave to take part in cultural union activities
- (h) Leave of Absence without pay on ground

**of Public Policy**

It is paid to officers proceeding on retirement from service at uniform rates of 5% of annual basic salary.

**Duty Tour Allowance**

- Officers on GL.16 – 17 - N37,500
- Officers on GL 14 – 15 - N25,000
- Officers on GL 12-13 -N20,000
- Officers on GL.07 – 10 -N17,500
- Officers on GL 05-06 -N15,000
- Officers on GL. 01-04 -N10,000

NOTE: Reviewed DTA for – HOS, Ministers/HCSF/SGF, Permanent Secretaries, has not yet been made known, however, the previous DTA still applies for these categories of officers.

All officers are entitled to air fare depending on the exigencies of duty and with the approval of the Accounting Officer.

Transport Allowance shall be paid to all officers when travelling to towns and cities where air transport services do not exist at the rate of N50.00 per Kilometre.

For local running, officers shall be entitled to 30% of Duty Tour Allowance (DTA) in addition to airport and taxi fare at the prevailing rates.

**Estacode Allowance**

- Ministers/SGF/HCSF - USD 900
- Permanent Secretaries - USD 600
- Officers on SGL.15 – 17 - USD 425
- Officers on SGL.07 – 14 - USD 381
- Officers on GL.06 and below- USD 206

Where the donor of technical assistance training provides to foreign country on duty or on approved course of instruction will be eligible for warm clothing is entitled to \$720

It shall be paid to officers on GL.14 and below

Payment of overtime shall be made for time worked in excess of the normal working hours (8.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.)

A Parastatal is Government-owned organization established by statute to render specified service(s) to the public. It is structured and operates according to the instrument establishing it and also comes under the policy directives of Government.

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**160102 : Parastatals** shall be classified into four (4) categories as follows:

- (i) Regulatory Agencies;
- (ii) General Services;
- (iii) Infrastructure/Utility Agencies;
- (iv) Security Agencies.

Parastatals are to retain and improve existing rules, procedure and practices in their establishments and ensure that there are no deviations from the general principles contained in the Public Service Rules. For example variations in probationary periods and maturity periods' for promotion only reflect organizational peculiarities and not inconsistencies with the Public Service Rules.

However, in the absence of internal rules and regulations on any matter, the relevant provisions of the Public Service Rules shall apply.

(a) Statutory Boards/Councils shall set operational and administrative policies in accordance with Government policy directives and supervises the implementation of such policies. The administrative policies may include those relating to appointment, promotion and discipline of staff.

(b) A Board shall not be involved directly in the day to day management of a Parastatal.

(c) A Minister exercise control of Parastatals at policy level through the Board of the Parastatal only.

Accommodation shall not be provided to any Part-time member of a Board on a permanent basis. No part time member of the Board shall be allowed to retain official vehicle for the use on a permanent basis and regulations on any matter, the relevant provisions of the Public Service Rules shall apply.

All appointments to public offices, both senior and junior, in Federal Government Parastatals shall be made on the authority of the Boards/Councils within the approved manning levels.

**CONCLUSION**

It shall be the duty of every officer to acquaint himself with the Public Service Rules, other regulations and extant circulars.

**The duo are of the National Museum and monuments.**



## Foreign News

# Biden congratulates Israel's Netanyahu

US President Joe Biden has congratulated Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu on his election victory as the incoming Israeli prime minister gears up to form one of the most right-wing governments in the country's history.

The White House said on Monday that Biden called Netanyahu to commend "Israel's free and fair elections".

"The president reaffirmed the strength of the bilateral partnership and underscored his unwavering support for Israeli security," White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters.

The call comes less than 24 hours before the crucial US midterm elections that will test Biden's popularity and decide the makeup of Congress.

Netanyahu and his allies, including far-right parties and politicians accused of open racism against Palestinians and Arabs, won their own election last week, paving the way for the former prime minister to return to power.

Netanyahu had announced the call with Biden earlier in the day, saying that he told the US president that they can secure more normalisation agreements and "deal with the threat of Iranian aggression".

Rights advocates had called on the Biden administration to review its ties with Israel after the election results. J Street, a liberal Jewish-American group that described itself as pro-Israel and pro-peace, urged reassessing the US position of unconditional support for any Israeli government.

Last week, US state department spokesperson Ned Price said the US hoped that "all Israeli government officials will continue to share the values of an open, democratic society, including tolerance and respect for all in civil society, particularly for minority groups".

On Monday, the White House's Jean-Pierre said the US administration will "continue to closely monitor the government formation process" in Israel.

Biden, a self-described Zionist who has pledged to put human rights at the heart of US foreign policy, has often stressed that the US's commitment to Israel is "ironclad".

The US administration has refrained from criticising Israeli policies against Palestinians, including frequent deadly military raids and continued settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank.

When Biden started his White House tenure early in 2021, it took him nearly a month to phone Netanyahu, who was in power in Israel at that time, raising questions about the relationship



Netanyahu

Netanyahu enjoys close ties with former Republican

President Donald Trump. Still, Biden often expresses personal admiration for Netanyahu despite their

## US hosts talks between Armenia, Azerbaijan

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has hosted talks between the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, praising the rival nations that have repeatedly clashed over the Nagorno-Karabakh region for taking "courageous steps" towards a durable peace.

Blinken met Armenian foreign minister Ararat Mirzoyan and his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov at Blair House, a state guest house in Washington, DC, just weeks after the worst fighting between the two countries since a 2020 war.

The top US diplomat said the talks would build on earlier discussions at the United Nations General Assembly in New York and other conversations between officials from Armenia, Azerbaijan and the US.

The rest of the meeting was being held behind closed doors.

A US official, who spoke to the AFP news agency on

condition of anonymity, said the meeting was less about peace negotiations in the full sense of the term, and more about providing an opportunity for the rival parties to meet and talk.

A week ago, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev "agreed not to use force" to resolve their dispute over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh during a summit in Russia hosted by President Vladimir Putin.

However, in the early hours of Monday, Azerbaijani forces opened fire on Armenian positions in the eastern sector of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, the defence ministry in Yerevan said in a statement, adding there had been no casualties. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's defence ministry accused Armenian forces of shooting at the positions of Azerbaijani troops stationed at several locations on the frontier.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called on both parties to "refrain from the actions and steps that could lead to an escalation of tensions".

THE final polls of the midterm elections are out and can help give us an answer to the question on everyone's mind - who will win? Democrats or Republicans?

Indications are that the Republican Party is on the verge of taking back control of the US House of Representatives for the first time in four years.

The upper chamber of Congress, the Senate, remains too close to call.

Understanding how it could unfold in both chambers is just a question of maths.

In the House, Republicans need to flip only five seats out of the 435 in the chamber to have a majority.

According to the Cook Political Report, which analyses races, Republicans are favoured in 212 seats and would just have to win six of the 35 races listed as toss-ups to control a majority.

In the 100-seat Senate, only 35 seats are up for election this year, and there are only a handful of closely contested races. A net change of one seat toward the Republicans would give them control.

It appears likely that

## US midterms polls: Who will win control ?



Joe Biden's Democrats face a tough battle to keep control of Congress

Republicans will control at least one chamber of Congress once the dust settles on these midterm elections.

After two years of unified Democratic control in Washington, the power dynamic in the nation's capital is poised to shift. Here are four very real implications for American politics for the next two years.

In their two years in office, Joe Biden and the Democrats were able to enact a fairly substantive agenda, which included massive spending on the environment, healthcare and other social programmes.

That would all end with a Republican victory on Tuesday.

There's the chance of some co-operation - for instance, Republicans and Democrats did join together to pass gun control and technology investment this year and infrastructure spending last year. However, big-ticket liberal priorities on abortion, education and voting rights will be dead in the water.

Republicans have their own agenda, focused on border security, law enforcement spending, budget cuts and fossil fuel extraction. But even if the Republicans take both chambers of Congress, Democrats will be able to block passage in the Senate using the filibuster rule, or in the White House using Mr Biden's veto power.

For the next two years, legislative gridlock will be the name of the game.

For two years, Democrats have been calling the shots - that's meant an expansive investigation into the 6 January, 2021, attack on the US Capitol, and hearings on subjects including abortion, healthcare and voting rights.

If Republicans take control of congressional committees, the priorities will rapidly shift.

House conservatives have already promised a hearing into Joe Biden's son Hunter's business ties to China. They also want to look into the Biden administration's immigration policies, the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and the origins of the coronavirus pandemic in China.

The Senate Judiciary Committee handles review of presidential nominations to the federal courts. For the past two years, Democrats have set a modern record for the number of new judges seated to lifetime appointments.

If Republicans also take control of the US Senate, expect

the process for confirming Mr Biden's nominees to come to a standstill. And if a Supreme Court vacancy opens up, there's a good chance it could remain unfilled until the next presidential election.

With Democratic control of Congress, the US had a two-year reprieve from the game of chicken that have led to government shutdowns and near default on the national debt. That's about to end.

Some Republicans, including Congressman Kevin McCarthy who is poised to become House speaker if Republicans take the chamber, are already threatening to force Democrats to agree to sweeping budget cuts.

The US has never defaulted on its debt. However partial government shutdowns due to the inability of Congress to approve annual spending legislation have become more common. It happened twice during the Trump administration and once under President Barack Obama.

If Republicans and Democrats can't agree on a basic framework for government spending, another government shutdown by the end of next year seems highly probable.

Republican control of Congress would be a bitter pill for Mr Biden to swallow. He campaigned as someone who could unite Americans after a turbulent four years with Mr Trump as president.

Instead he will face a nation as divided as ever, a hostile Congress, and the possibility that Mr Trump himself will seek to win back the White House.

Most presidents suffer through electoral setbacks halfway through their first term in office. Although some have bounced back to win re-election, losing Congress will be seen as a sign of Mr Biden's continued political weakness. It could renew calls for him to step aside for another Democrat when the 2024 presidential campaign season begins.

The president and his advisers all insist he will seek re-election. The White House has already announced Mr Biden will give a public speech addressing the election results on Wednesday.

How he handles that speech, and how he deals with the adversity that is coming in the months ahead, will go a long way toward determining how much support he will have in his own party for another four years in office.



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken (top left) told the Armenian and Azerbaijan delegations that direct dialogue was the best way to a 'truly durable peace'



Feature

# Prospects of Antiquities Protection Officers

SECURITY all over the world is so important that no organization no matter how reserved can do without it. Its operation and provision may defer from organization to another. However, the role of antiquities Protection Officers in the National Commission of Museums and Monument (NCMM) which was established under Decree 77 of 1979 remains the custodian and protector of the Nigerian Cultural and Natural Heritage and within the template of the law working of the Antiquity Protection Officers is provided with the necessary support that will enhance the performances of the Antiquities Protection Officers.

Therefore, in its effort to ensure the protection of Nigeria's Natural Heritage, the management of National Commission for Museums and Monuments the security unit was designated in 2014 as Antiquities Protection Unit (APU) that will play the roles of protecting lives and properties of the commission. Fire outbreak, prevention of theft, vigilant to visitors and staff, advising management on security matters and ensuring the safety of Nigerian National Heritage by vigilant to the Galleries and stores.

However, the Antiquity Protection Unit (APU) needs to be strengthened to achieve its objectives, measures, by introducing the various forms of crime techniques which include the traditional mechanical devise technique, electronic device technique, punitive crime prevention technique and human physical presence,



these should apply to all security beats in the museum premises throughout the country in additional to various types of patrol to be implemented and practice fully without exception i.e. the foot patrol should fully be enforced on a beat like the Galleries, stores. Officers on duty are expected to use sense of sight, smell, and touch during foot patrol to be done by two (2) officers on duty moving at opposite directions that will make a human presence at all times.

In addition to the foot patrol,

in a large museum such as Lagos, Jos, Umuahia and Osogbo etc vehicle patrol is to be introduced which will enable a wider coverage that cannot do in a small period of times. The vehicle patrol is more effective if electronic gadgets of communications are made for effective communication with the appropriate authorities in case of emergency for the effective protection of Nigeria's priceless artifacts. The needs for border patrol to be taken into considerations by a combined team of uniform personnel is to

countries. The introduction of Dog patrol for Antiquity Protection Officers in places such as Airports, Seaports, Railway stations and parks will aid in detecting illegal trafficking of Artifacts in addition to the aforementioned patrols, search which is another form of security checking can also be utilized and can play a vital role in the role to be played by Antiquity Protections Officers, this will help in detecting weapons of destruction into the offices and control of theft. For the practical performance of the Antiquity Protection Officers the following security tools are to be made available: metal detector, electronic, mechanical and frisking to be backed by training and retraining to be up to date in modern techniques of tackling crime.

To achieve a very sensitive protective measure an Antiquity Protection Officers needs some essential information management to enhance a greater performance through quality information technique on security management; such as proficiency in report writing, good interpretation skill and attending social events.

Antiquity Protection Officers in the museum have a big role to play in crime prevention against valuable collections kept for present and future generations its protection is a paramount responsibility of all staff in the museum right from the Director General to the least staff of the National Commission for Museum and Monument.





# EYE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

## Living

# Let go of what no longer serves you



WHEN your emotional pain prevents you from healing, it signals that you may have been too attached. And when you attach yourself to something, you suffer when it goes away refusing to let go and holding on to any sliver of the past. Letting go means that you have the courage though scared to let your situation or relationship go even though letting go is killing you inside. However, most people cannot let go and remain attached to their past even when it was hurtful and long after the situation or relationship has ended. According to the Dalai Lama, "Attachment is the origin, the root of suffering." Being too attached is the basis of all your struggles becoming frustrated, angry, sad, worried, or grief-stricken. You want it your way. Let it go!

"Insanity is holding onto things you cannot change. Let it go!"

What are the specific attachments that you must let go of? Some examples are below.

• **Toxic or unsatisfying relationships.**

• **Habit that no longer serves you well or is detrimental (smoking, overeating, alcohol).**

• **Job or business that creates stress.**

• **A dream you had for your future that is not achievable in this moment.**

• **Old way of thinking about yourself or the world.**

• **Guilt of non-achievement.**

Letting go is not easy. According to Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Psychiatrist, there are five stages of letting go. They are

denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. You must get through to the last stage of acceptance and learn to accept a) whatever might happen when you give your best; b) that people are beautiful flawed human beings; and c) uncomfortable action is required when doing something that matters.

**"Whatever you are attached to is not yours."**

Understand that your attachment is only a story, narrative, or dream that you can reframe. You become bigger than your story when connecting with others demonstrating compassion as you pray/meditate/wish for your story of suffering to end along with the suffering of others and a desire for all to be happy. You realize your suffering is the same and you are not in it alone but interdependent. Your attachment to your own story becomes less important through your connection and compassion. Again, accept it as it is. It does not have to be ideal, but you know it will be all right. One of my favorite scriptures is "ALL things work together for my good." Not some but all things. I repeat it when I notice attachment to having it my way. This expands your mind when focused on the

story you keep telling yourself and you look for the bigger picture in your story.

My friend, Nailah Beraki, authored a book called "Fear is a Good Thing." To let go, you must understand and reframe your fears and your relationship with the past that is causing your fear.

**You must let go and:**

- Stop losing yourself to your past.
- **Allow your emotions.**
- Create physical distance as needed.
- **Ensure authentic and trustworthy relationships.**
- Take risks.
- Learn from failure.
- Live in the moment.
- Forgive and trust yourself.
- Forgive and trust others but verify.
- Focus on what you can control – you.
- Do not let your problems or others define you.
- **Get help as you need it.**

When you acknowledge and accept the trials and tribulations that come your way, notice you are too attached, and it is causing you pain. Set an intention to take the steps mentioned and required to let it go. It will result in your contentment with your present situation, better and greater relationships, less procrastination and distractions, and a more

fulfilling and productive life. Do not cheat your life and the life of those around you by getting bogged down with past experiences that hurt you. Do not allow yourself to live on autopilot in fear and worry driving your existence while destroying your happiness, health, and well-being. Have a better life by living your life with purpose, meaning, and direction. Your life should be based on your own beliefs and convictions. Leverage your personal talents and skills to live up to your potential. Manage your life situations well ensuring positive relationships. Accept yourself. It is your choice and decision to let go or not!





# EVERY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Relationship

# Teach your children affirmations

IT must be a great disappointment to God when we choose a low-level thought process when we address our children. We must never settle for a lower level of intelligence when dealing with our kids, their minds have the capacity to hold and ability to renew itself with the information we present to them.

One of my mentors, Barrister Taiwo Akinlami would always say this and I have adopted this phrase "They are young but they are not stupid". When we have this mentality when dealing with our children, the relationship dynamics will be different and you will see them flourish in many areas of their lives.

This might not be a popular opinion with a lot of people, some feel affirmations are just words we use to pump our kids to boost their confidence. I believe affirmations are a beautiful tool (bridge or pathway) that helps you travel into the future so you can see new versions of yourself.

For every time we use these words of affirmations with this understanding, we help jumpstart a mind renewal process in our children and they see a version of themselves they have never seen before and the endless possibilities of becoming what they speak every time they constantly engage with these words of affirmations.

This spirit of communication helps to unlock unspoken fears and burdens in the heart of the child. We should see affirmations as divergent thinking, or guided creative words that help our children eliminate thoughts of impossibilities.

Affirmations help children to explore, these words take them out of their minds and help them travel to the future of higher intelligence or thinking, so when creating affirmations for them you have to be very present, intentional and



affirmative words in my mind that was destructive to my human spirit which affected me greatly. Our words can set the world on fire for good or evil whether it is written or spoken. Words create an energy that travels as fast as the speed of light, so when crafting affirmation, remember you are speaking from a depth of love to beauty, possibilities, hope and life of the child.

We can also say that affirmations are like wings that give our children the strength to fly. As African or Nigerian parents, we are fond of speaking in a manner which is influenced by culture and it is not always healthy for children. So it is important to take into cognizance the way we communicate these affirmations. Words carry a fiery energy that is infused into the heart of the hearer and it is ignited immediately it is received.

Let the thoughts of your heart and the words of affirmations you craft be in tandem with each other for the right impact you want to create, or else it will be completely useless. Your thoughts cannot be thinking my child is not bright while your affirmations are saying you are smart, there would be a force of collision in the future of that child. Earl Nightingale once said "you become what you think" and, in this case, your child will become your thoughts that your pen could not write.

activate your highest form of speaking to them are intelligence as a parent releasing futuristic pills that because these words you are will activate a unique pattern

of thinking in their lifetime.

As parents, you are activating all the gifts God put inside them because one day they will become that reality you are creating and they will live in the future they once imagined. We have to constantly update their minds' software with these words.

Words are a very powerful tool; it is like a psychological tool that shifts the perceptive in the minds of people. So the words of affirmations you craft for your children should be birthed from a depth of intimacy you share with your child, as you are communicating life or death with these words.

Affirmations have helped me shift from a lower form of self to a place where I am super confident and that is because I was intentional with crafting the right words for myself. Words that were spoken to me by friends or family that were not true became constant





## Editorial

### Why we need presidential debates

ALL over the world, presidential debates are considered as an essential source of assessing candidates of political parties that are vying to lead the government of their country. This to many is a way of making sure that right candidates are given the public mandate of leading that country.

IN the case of Nigeria this widespread views of the public especially in the source media seem to agree that it is necessary to assess the candidates and help citizens make informed decision in the 2023 presidential elections. The debates which sometimes is also organized at the state level allow those seeking position of political leadership woe voters that are still contemplating who to vote for.

The first televised live presidential debates since the returning to democracy in 1999 was organized by Nigeria Election Debates Group (NEDG) and the Broadcasting Organization of Nigeria in 2019 gave Nigerians the opportunity to make a choice among the candidates through their presentation. Though not all of them responded to the call which they are expected to showcase to Nigerians, what they have in stock for them if given the mandates to rule.

NONETHELESS, with the history of the major contenders not showing up during any organized presidential debates like when it started in 2019 and the recent ones, it is essentials to ask if presidential debates are an essential means to assess presidential candidates? Can the debates influence election outcome and should it be mandatory for the candidates?

FROM past presidential debates, it has been observed that the debates have little influence on voters decision and electoral outcomes over the years. However, in the run up to the 2023 general election, there has been increase in citizen demand for debates amongst candidates. Organizing debates for candidates would go a long way in enlightening and assisting the electorate to make informed decisions on who to choose as the next president who will determine our future for the next four years.

AS a result of the challenges Nigeria is passing through now in its history as a nation and as we count down to the 2023 polls, it is critical like never before to education Nigerian towards making decisions that will change their fortunes' as a nation that is blessed with what it takes to make it great. And that is what we are expecting to hear from all the candidates during the debates.

THE recent debates that was televised by Arise TV for which the major two political parties sent in their Wase vice presidential candidates to represent them is not a welcome development as the position of Vice President in Nigeria's constitution is ceremonial which means he cannot take a decision on behalf of the government until he is given the go ahead by the president.

IT is important that the 8 presidential candidates show up for the debate to tell Nigerians what they have to offer and to convince Nigerians on how their intend to go about doing it.

WE consider it is an insult for somebody that want, to run the affairs of the country not to participate in an organized debate intended policies help Nigerians understand the policies they intend to pursue to better the lot of people.

ALSO, we have observed that the debates especially the last one organized by Arise Television was marred by unpalatable statement against opponents. What we are calling for is issue base debate not attack on personalities that do not add up to our development as a nation.

IT is important for all candidates that want to run the affairs of this country to have a complete knowledge of the country and how to turn the deplorable state of our infrastructural development around. Though past presidential debates had maximal impact on who won the elections, but it helped influenced undecided voters who had not made up their minds. The debates are therefore an opportunities for them to sell themselves again. We call on Nigerians to listen or watch the debate of all those contesting for political office as that will give them room to take informed decisions when voting.

AS Christmas is around the corner, this is the season where families gather to celebrate the occasion. This festive period is widely celebrated commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ incorporating various Christian worldwide with pre-Christian and secular customs, it do take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> December yearly.

I therefore admonish Christian families students, not to be extravagant before and after the festive period, considering the hardship as a result of the economic downturn exasperated by high inflation across the country.

Every individual should be expected to have a deep thought on how life will go on few weeks after the festive period.

Take for instance next year as January begins the sales of Jamb forms registration of newly admitted students into secondary schools will commence as first term

### Barracks road bridges need urgent attention

BARRACKS road Bridges need urgent attention

RECENTLY, the two bridges linking the Police Barracks road from West of Mines up to the one along St. Theresa's Church are fast becoming death traps with holes taking over.

Permit me therefore to appeal to the Plateau State Ministry of Works to urgently carry out repair works on the two bridges which are fast giving way to pot holes and now on the verge of collapse.

However, these bridges which are within the city centre constitute an embarrassment to the state which prides itself as Home of Peace and Tourism.

These bridges, apart from linking other major roads within the metropolis serve as alternative routes for motorists who try to avoid the usual hustle and bustle at the busy Ahmadu Bello Way.

Therefore, by repairing the road and the bridges, it could add to the beauty of the city centre as well as reduce traffic congestion that is associated with the Terminus area of the

begin, parents whose the wards fall into the above mentioned should be very considerate in their spending this Christmas.

It is a known fact that during such festive periods, Christians across the nation spend large sums of money either as loans from co-operate societies or from other sources in order to take care of their Christmas

## Cut your coat according to your clothe

shopping, government itself in impressing their love ones and also buying the necessary items required for the festive period. Individuals should be vigilant and security



cautious of the environment they find themselves celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and are also to report every suspicious movements of persons to the security

### Need for govt to checkmate teenage pregnancy

TEENAGE pregnancy is when pregnancy occurs when a girl below the age of 16 conceives at a very tender age this may happen to a girl that has not completed her education and completely dependent upon her parents and may not be able to

provide for the unborn child.

Teenage pregnancy is now rampant in the country considering the number of rape cases and other factors such as easy access to contraceptives and lack of sex education including the high rate of sexual activities.

agents.

I wish you a merry Christmas celebration in advance and a happy new year.

**JONATHAN RABO DAMMO**  
Plateau State Polytechnic, Jos.

metropolis.

The risk of allowing these bridges to collapse would mean causing more hardship for those plying the West of Mines area to Ahmadu Bello Way therefore causing a

major blow to an already congested metropolis.

Prevention they say is better and cheaper than cure.

**Abdulazeez Abubkar is an IT student from Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi.**

Teenage pregnancy has negative effect on society which normally put the parents or guardians of the girl under severe pressure at the same time add to the number of children in the society that may be depending on care giver in the society.

In view of this challenges I wish to appeal to the Plateau State Government to enforce the laws that would mitigate such in the state through advocacy and public enlightenment and campaigns in a all schools across the state.

**Muazu Adam Hudu is and IT student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.**

### Response to distress calls is paramount

IT is obvious that the most unfortunate stories that Nigerians often go to sleep and wake up with on daily basis is the unprovoked attacks that ar being unleashed on innocent Nigerians without any reason as far as these attacks are concern.

These heinous and senseless attacks often meted on our people are always observed as a well calculated plan before carrying out the attacks.

More offending than not, it always leads to loss of lives and destructions of property.

Infact, what sometimes baffles some of us is the issue of non arrest of the perpetrators by our security outfits. Indeed, some of the

things that always give some of us concern is the fact that the assailants cannot disappear into the air.

This, however, has clearly shown that Nigeria's security are suppose to be trained more on tracking offenders for effective arrest of any gang or terrorist attack.

Again, why the arrest of those criminals who have become heartless in their human thinking is sometimes difficult can be attributed to the security's delay in prompt response to any distress call connected to attacks.

It is also unfortunate that our security sometimes end up arresting people who know nothing about the attack,

especially those within some of the attacked communities.

It doesn't make any sense to someone who has suffered destruction of property during an attack be arrested?

When the real perpetrators are not always arrested so as to make them face the full wrath of the law of the land to serve as deterrents to others, the cases of criminality instead of reducing would be increasing in number. It is a minus for everyone if they attack and go back freely into their respective homes. When we don't call a spate a spates we shall never get it right.

**JIDAUNA DARING,**  
Rukuba Road.

## STANDARD CARTOON

**Kidnappers and delegates are the jobs that pays more than Central Bank and NNPC in Nigeria.**  
**"Cash flow no network problem"**  
**True or False?**  
**Government must answer this question.**





## Opinion

## Enforcing compulsory health insurance in Nigeria

By  
VICTOR OKEKE

SECTION 3 (b) of the National Health Insurance Authority Act (NHIA Act) under the functions of the Authority, provides for the NHIA to ensure mandatory health insurance for every Nigerian and the country's legal residents. No doubt, a basic feature of compulsory health insurance is that the rights of each individual (or each family member insured through them) are exercised by registering for insurance and paying the corresponding contribution or premium.

However, the implementation of a mandatory insurance scheme depends on several factors and among them are regulation, management, and program design which are very crucial. Sometimes a well-designed insurance scheme cannot attract an adequate number of people toward the scheme. Therefore, for the National Health Insurance Authority Act to be effectively implemented, the operational guidelines should be quickly developed. The guideline should provide key directives on mandatory enrollment and coverage of all citizens under any of the prepaid health schemes. The possession of a health insurance identity card or certificate by citizens should be considered as necessary

requirements to derive certain benefits from the government. Health facilities should be properly equipped and they should be manned by trained medical personnel who would respect the rights of patients. The equipping of facilities with professional treatments of citizens would serve as an incentive for Nigerians to key into the scheme.

All countries that are recognized to have made substantial progress toward Universal Health Coverage— where the entire population is able to use publicly guaranteed services with high degrees of financial protection — rely predominantly on compulsory funding sources. It has been observed in many countries that where the government spends more on health, people have less need to pay out-of-pocket at the time of use. It is also well known that high levels of out-of-pocket payment are associated with higher risk of catastrophic and impoverishing health payments, and that the need to pay at the point of use exacerbates inequalities in service use.

Similarly, relatively few countries rely on voluntary prepayment to provide significant resources for their health systems. Among high-income countries other than the USA, voluntary health insurance plays a negligible role with the exceptions being where it provides an explicitly complementary function (covering patient cost sharing in the statutory system, as in France and Slovenia) or where it offers supplemental benefits beyond those in the main compulsory system (such as covering private "amenity beds" in hospitals in Ireland and Germany).

The minimal role for voluntary prepayment is not an accident; it reflects both theory and experience with regard to the shortcomings of voluntary approaches. All forms of voluntary health insurance suffer from adverse selection. Individuals who know they have worse health status are more likely to enroll, and so over time this makes health insurance more expensive than the average actuarial cost of a premium across the entire population. Insurers respond by raising premiums, driving more people out of the market.

Ultimately, those who need the coverage most are least able to afford it. This runs counter to the objective of pooling, which is to maximize the redistributive capacity of prepaid funds from the healthy to the sick.

Writing in the aftermath of the failed effort in the USA to pass legislation to create universal insurance coverage in the mid-1990s, Victor Fuchs wrote that: "No nation achieves universal coverage without subsidization and compulsion. Both elements are essential. Subsidies without compulsion will not work; indeed, they could make matters worse since the healthy flee from the subsidized common pool, only to return when they expect to use a great deal of care. Compulsion without subsidies would be a cruel hoax for the millions of poor and sick who cannot afford health insurance."

This phenomenon has been observed around the world, independent of a country's level of income, or whether the ownership of the insurance is commercial, not-for-profit, "community," government, or where, for example, people outside of formal employment are allowed to voluntarily prepay into a national social health

insurance (SHI) scheme. It is simply the nature of a voluntary health insurance market.

The lesson is both simple and clear: moving toward compulsion and subsidization in health financing is a guiding principle for health policy oriented toward universal health coverage in Nigeria. It is also the fundamental reason why many fiscally constrained low and middle income countries face such difficulties in making progress.

The current fiscal challenges, however, should not lead the country or analysts to believe in magic, however, such as expecting that because a voluntary health insurance programme is owned by a not-for-profit entity such as a local community, it will achieve high rates of coverage. Both theory and evidence are consistent with this reality. Thus, moving towards universal health coverage in Nigeria must include strategies to increase the share of total health spending coming from compulsory (i.e., taxes, whether direct or indirect) sources.

Okeke writes from Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), Abuja, Nigeria.

## Climate, gender equities: Important issues of our time

By  
FEMI ISAAC

AFRICA exists as a paradox. On the climate front, the continent contributes little to the world's changing climate but pays the highest price globally. On the gender equity end, climate change is another variable intensifying gender inequality and the challenges to women's leadership on the continent.

But if a different story can be told about the continent and the transformative solutions it offers the world, Africa Soft Power (ASP) and African Women on Board (AWB) are already shaping it.

In September, both Africa-led organisations hosted an array of Africa's and the diaspora's brightest minds and influential leaders to a series of purposeful conversations alongside the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 2022, in New York, USA.

Rajakumari Jandhyala, CEO/MP, YAATRA Ventures and former deputy assistant administrator for Africa, USAID, was passionate about Africa becoming the leading producer of human capital going forward. "Our mindset should be about being the producers of the next-generation wealth and if we would achieve this, it would be driven from the continent. The producer of the next human capital, the next carbon credit market or even source materials required for international supply chains, can all come from Africa if we embrace an inclusive approach," Rajakumari said.

For Raymond Gilpin, chief economist and head of strategy, analysis and research, regional bureau for Africa, UNDP, inclusion is the focus of climate action on the continent. "We are not going to take Africa into the future if we don't have energy solutions that reach all demographics. And while there's a sense of urgency about this, we have a significant opportunity to redefine development for all on the continent," Raymond said.

The position that opportunities lay within the continent was also supported by Njack Kane, CEO, Intervalle Geneve SA & board

member, John A. Kufuor Foundation, who acknowledged that, "Climate change is a reality and the crisis around it is a wake-up call. We have to start a journey — one of creating value on the continent. And at the same time, we have to ensure our food security and we have to create innovative ways of managing our resources."

However, harnessing these opportunities requires collaborative effort and mainstreaming African thought leadership — concerns that ASP and AWB have since recognized. Since its inception, ASP has focused on incorporating vital and often still unseen African perspectives into the global conversation.

In May, 2022, ASP convened an all-star cast of industry leaders in Africa's creative, cultural, and knowledge industries in Kigali, Rwanda, for three days of impactful conversations — laying the ground for strategic partnerships and alliances between stakeholders while announcing May as Africa Month, going forward.

For its part, African Women on Board (AWB) works at the intersection of the private sector and civil society; consistently pushing to ensure that the narratives of African women and girls inform development models on the continent and beyond.

ASP and AWB recently partnered to launch the 'Road to 100 Million Climate Soldiers in Africa' project. Nkiru Balonwu who leads both organisations said, "We have specifically designed Our climate change literacy and advocacy project to educate our own people on the dangers of the changes to our everyday lives that are coming. But even more than that, we know that Africa represents a massive, young, and passionate community, and we want to mobilise that energy so that the continent can become the biggest advocate for climate solutions on the planet!"

Semhar Araia, head of diaspora policy — Africa, Middle East & Turkey, Public Policy, Meta, agreed with this position during the event's session on African women's leadership. "Time and time again, Black women are usually, in more cases than not, the ones coming with the solutions to serve everyone," she said.

Only a day before the event, Csaba Körösi, president of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, while calling for inclusive governance in the newly created UNGA Platform of Women Leaders, had told a group of women heads of state and government about the transformative nature of women's leadership. Csaba submitted that integrating the views of diverse women, especially at the highest levels, could help governments effectively tailor and target solutions to those most in need.

Concerns over inadequate resources and opportunities for African women remain an important part of international discourse. Despite these challenges, Susan Chapman-Hughes, Independent Director, Toast Inc. & Fmr. EVP, Amex, maintained that African women have been exceptional, considering the resources available to them. "The person who gets the least amount of resources is (usually) the person who can solve the problem the fastest," she said.

Sharing similar sentiments, Akunna Cook, former deputy assistant secretary of State for African Affairs, acknowledged the gain from increased connections between Black women in the diaspora and Africa. "Africa is the future. I think we all recognize that we are living in an African century and its African women who really drive that future. So, focusing on those women, focusing on the issues that will create opportunities for them is the way to ensure that we have a bright and prosperous future for everybody on this planet. I am really excited about the possibilities for growing the connections

between Black women across the diaspora — whether that is in the space of music, television, film or finance, housing, climate change," she said.

"The aim is to put together the right structures to invest in black women and their brilliant and creative ideas. A simple why is because they know what's up," said Norma Jean-Straw, Senior Program Officer, Gender Equality, Mass Media Partnerships at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "We tell our clients — 'When investing in Black women, you need to listen first because they know where these investments should be best placed and then invest,'" added Katie Harrison, co-founder/partner, WRTHY.

In the evening's only fireside chat — focused on investing in Africa — Chinelo Anohu, who leads the Africa Investment Forum, spoke about the shift from mere conversations to decisive action: "We are distilling the conversations into projects, which will enable us to channel funds to where they are actually needed. Unless we come together to scale, we are not going to get the development necessary for projects."

ASP isn't done yet though. Taking the opportunity, Dr. Balonwu announced that the second in-person edition of the Africa Month Summit would return to Kigali on May 23rd to May 27th, 2023 "with visionaries, thought leaders, influencers and pioneers convening around Africa's rich history, culture, and dynamic contemporary industries within wider global conversations" setting the stage for the organization's global vision and plans for African thought leadership. She also shared that the women's leadership session — a popular component of last year's summit — would be expanded into a full-day event.

Isaac, a strategic communications consultant with passion for telling unique African stories of growth and innovation, writes from Lagos



## Change of Name

<b>EUNICE</b>	<b>ONYEMUCHE</b>	<b>DABANG</b>	<b>BAKZAK</b>	<b>PATIENCE</b>	<b>ABDULGAFA</b>
I, formerly known as <b>GYANG EUNICE DUNG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EUNICE SUNDAY ONWOSI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>CHARITY CHARLES</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ONYEMUCHE CHARITY CHARLES</b> . Correct date of birth is 28/08/1975 not 13/08/1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DABANGI DANIEL DARBAL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DABANG DANIEL DARBAL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ILIYA KAUNA YOHANNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BAKZAK KAUNA YOHANNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>PATIENCE SAMUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PATIENCE NYAM JANG (MRS.)</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ADESHINA MONSURAT OMOWUNMI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABDULGAFA MONSURAT OMOWUNMI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>DANLADI</b>	<b>LYDIA</b>	<b>MUJAHEED</b>	<b>LADI</b>	<b>GARZALI</b>	<b>SULAIMAN</b>
I, formerly known as <b>DANLADI SAMAILA DASAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANLADI SAMUEL DASAH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>LYDIA A. SARKI, ISAAC LYDIA ADAR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as, <b>LYDIA ISAAC AZI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SAEED MUJAHEED IDRIS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUJAHEED SAEED IDRIS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>LADI NANTIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LADI VELLE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ZIZALI ISAH GAWUNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GARZALI MUHAMMAD SALIHU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SULAIMAN MAIANGUWA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SULAIMAN ABUBAKAR USMAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>EKWUEME</b>	<b>SOLOMON</b>	<b>ISA</b>	<b>SULE</b>	<b>SALE</b>
I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY PAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SUNDAY NYAM PAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JAMES MILLICENT IFEOMA, ODO MILLICENT IFEOMA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EKWUEME MILLICENT IFEOMA</b> . Correct date of birth is 21/09/1996 not 21/09/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SULEIMAN TAKI GIDADO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SOLOMON TAKI GIDADO</b> . Correct date of birth is 25/12/1999 not 25/12/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ISA ADAMU ISA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISA ADAM ISA</b> . Correct date of birth is 22/08/1993 not 25/08/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SULAI VICTORIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SULE VICTORIA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>HAMMAJO MARTHA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SALE MARTHA KWASINI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
<b>ISREAL</b>	<b>YAKSUN</b>	<b>ELIJAH</b>	<b>IZANG</b>	<b>BENJAMIN</b>	<b>AJIK</b>
I, formerly known as <b>JACOB STEPHANIE BERJALA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISREAL STEPHANIE ARJALA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YAKSUN DAVID DADU'UT</b> now wish to be known and addressed <b>YAKSUN LONGMAN DADU'UT</b> . Correct date of birth is 14/11/2003 not 23/11/2002. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>YOUNKUM ELIJAH ISA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ELIJAH YOUNKUM ISA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ATANG IZANG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IZANG AZI ZIGAM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BENJAMIN AKILA MANGDIK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BENJAMIN AKILA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>KAZE NUHU YUSUF</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AJIK NUHU YUSUF</b> . All former documents remain valid. FCMB and the general public to please take note.
<b>TALI</b>	<b>WAPDIYEL</b>	<b>TIMNAN</b>	<b>ANDREW</b>	<b>EGBE</b>	<b>ADAM</b>
I, formerly known as <b>NANBOL NANBYET</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TALI NANBYET</b> . Correct date of birth is 08/10/2003 not 08/10/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>EPHRAIM KATMI DAGWA &amp; WAPDIYEL KATMI EPHRAIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>WAPDIYEL KATMI KEFAS</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TIMNAN DAMDAM WUYEP</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TIMNAN DANDAM</b> . Correct date of birth is 01/04/1970 not 01/04/1969. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NIMMAK NANPYAL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANDREW NANPYAL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>THOMAS ONYINYECHI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EGBE ONYINYECHI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ADAM ZARADEEN GARBA</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAM ZAHARADDEEN GARBA</b> . Correct date of birth is 07/04/1993 NOT 21/11/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>TINA</b>	<b>SIMEON</b>	<b>ADAM</b>	<b>DAKUP</b>	<b>ADAMU</b>	<b>KWANTAK</b>
I, formerly known as <b>KOSSHAK TINA SANI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TINA THOMAS YAKUBU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SAMSON SENIOR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SIMEON SAMSON TANGA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ADAM IBRAHIM ADAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAM IBRAHIM IBRAHIM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>FOTDORMWA HAPPINESS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAKUP FOTDORMWA TONGSHAR</b> . Correct date of birth is 05/04/2000 not 05/04/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMAD ADAM SAMAILA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAMU SAMAILA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>NPENL MUDIMKA KWANTAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KWANTAK MUDIMKA GONZUK</b> . Correct date of birth is 23/03/2003 not 23/03/2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>MOHAMMED</b>	<b>PAUL</b>	<b>OMIAWELE</b>	<b>MUSA</b>	<b>ABDULLAHI</b>	<b>QASIM</b>
I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMED TIJJANI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MOHAMMED TIJJANI TIJJANI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>DUAKDAT DAGRUM PAUL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PAUL DAUKDAT DAGURU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>OSEBOR MARIA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OMIAWELE MERIT PETER</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MUSA HASSANA YANBIU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUSA HASSANA MUHAMMED</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ABDULLAHI ALIYU HARUNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABDULLAHI ALIYU SHEHU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMAD SANI IBRAHIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>QASIM DAYYABU QASIM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>FELICIA</b>	<b>SHAI DU</b>	<b>SALISU</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>SULEIMAN</b>	<b>SAMUEL</b>
I, formerly known as <b>FELICIA KEREKMAAN RAPLONG</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>FELICIA ISHAKU GOSHIT</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SHAI DU ANUFUNAAAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>SHAI DU ANFUNAAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>HAMISU RASHEDATU SALISU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>SALISU RASHIDA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MARK JEMIMAH HAPPY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARK JEMIMAH REKWI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ASABE SULEIMAN EKPA</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SULEIMAN, ASABE LERE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>SAMUEL FRANK BANFA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SAMUEL FRANK BAMFA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>OKAMA</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>TIKKO</b>	<b>BUKAR</b>	<b>MRS. AYAKA</b>	<b>HWRE,</b>
I, formerly known as <b>OKAMA MARY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OKAMA MARY OCHANYA</b> . Correct date of birth is 14/05/2003 not 14/05/2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>KOSU VICTORIA SUNDAY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>SUNDAY VICTORIA AZUMI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>TIKKO FRANCIS WUTDEAMABA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>TIKKO B A T Y E M A I W U D D E A M A</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>BUKAR APAGU EMMANUEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>BUKAR APAGU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MISS. GYANG MARY SILA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>MRS. AYAKA VOU MARY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>ISHAKU YOHANNA MADAKI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>HWRE, ISHAKU YOHANNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>DAHVOL</b>	<b>MAGIT</b>	<b>JACOB</b>	<b>ADEGYA</b>	<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b>	
I, formerly known as <b>DANBOYI PAM YAKUBU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAHVOL PAM YAKUBU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>MAGIT PALANG DANIEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MAGIT BLESSING DANIEL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>JACOB JOB PANKISS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JACOB PANKYES DAVWED</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as <b>AYHU ADINIYA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed <b>ADEGYE SUNDAY ALIBIDIA</b> . And phone no from 07011258979 to 09015497914. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTICE OF DEATH</b></p> <p>This is to inform the public of the death of <b>BABAGANA ZANA</b> which occurred on the 17th January, 2020, at Gulak Adamawa State.</p> <p>All concerned authority and the general public to take note.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>SIGNED: SANI MUSA</b> NEXT OF KIN</p>	



News

# NPC commence recruitment in Sokoto

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

THE Sokoto State National Population Commission headed by His Excellency Alhaji Chiso Abdullahi Dattijo has formally launched the 2023 Population and Housing Census in the state.

In a press conferences, Dattijo said the launching of the online recruit portal meant Portal for the 2023 census marks the beginning of the online recruitment process.

That it will serve as avenue for all Nigerians from all demography and gender to hook on to the website that will be provided by the Commission to fill and get themselves registered to be recruited.

He used the opportunity to assure Nigerians that the bulk of personnel for the 2023 census will be drawn from the communities where they are resident as it will remove huge logistics of moving personnel across the country, Nigeria.

Dattijo also expressed their the state profound appreciation to Sokoto State governor and the Sultan of Sokoto for their unprecedented support for the preparatory activities of the Commission towards the successful conduct of the 2023 Population and Housing Census.

He explained that the Commission will through the



Tambuwal

online recruitment process request applications from seven categories of field staff that will be needed to prosecute the next census which includes facilitators, monitoring and evaluations officers and enumerators, etc.

He stated that to ensure a fair, efficient and transparent recruitment selection process, the federal government Recruitment Selection Process, Federal Government will in addition to the existing team at the state level, constitute a LG Area Recruitment Team which will comprise of 3 persons: is. Comptrollers, NPC staff and local government officials.

His Excellency, Alhaji Chiso Abdullahi Dattijo also revealed that the team from its headquarters in conjunction with that of the state will train the Local Government Area Recruitment Team and monitor the exercise in the local government areas.

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong has promised to return missionary schools back to their founders.

But this he assured will be done as soon as the committee set up to address the matter submits its report.

The governor gave the assurance when the Association of Papal Knights and Medalists in Nigeria paid him a courtesy visit at the Government House, Rayfield, Jos.

Speaking during the visit, National President, Dame Esther Uduehi praised the Governor for his commitment to service and for doing his best to change the narrative in Plateau State since his assumption into office, which has made the state safe and attractive once again.

Uduehi said his government has done a lot to improve the lives of the people through projects and programmes that are visible. She charged him to sustain this tempo in the coming months so as to leave an enduring legacy for the people.

She said they were in Plateau State for their 14th National Conference and appreciated Lalong's devotion to the Catholic Church including his constant involvement in activities that relate to the propagation of the gospel.

# Lalong promises to return missionary schools to founders

By PALANG KASMI

Governor Lalong while thanking the Papal Knights and Medalists for their visit said it was heartwarming for Plateau State to host the association which has done a lot to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and raise leaders who have made impact in different fields.

He said his Catholic faith remains his guiding principle

that ensures he acts in ways that please God and uplift humanity.

"I promise to return missionary schools to their founders as soon as the committee set up to look into the matter submits its report", he assured.

Special prayers were offered for the Governor during the visit.



Lalong

# Builders' association inaugurate N-power trainees

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

Batch 'C' in Sokoto State has been inaugurated in Sokoto by the council of Registered Builders registered builders of Nigeria CORBON. Inaugurating the training in Sokoto recently, Mr Samson Opeluwah, the council Chairman, said the programme is aimed at assisting the nation's economy as well as ensure breeding of professionals in building sector.

He explained that the present batch would be trained for nine months with effect from March this year 2022 to ensure that it evaluates and monitor building projects to ensure that it complies with agreed specifications and avoid putting lives in danger.

Opelewah said that they are agents of turning around Nigeria for good, as building collapse is not a good news for our country and that the essence of the inauguration became very necessary to help curb incessant cases of building collapse and other related challenges in Nigeria. He Opelewah noted that the N-Power programme as initiated by the Federal government has positively changed many lives.

According to him, the training which is of nine months duration had so far engaged no fewer than 10,000 beneficiaries of N-Power Build project for Batch A, B and C in Sokoto State within three

years. "The training drive was aimed at strengthening focus on trainees to learn, achieve proficiency, expertise and required bardic knowledge with certification by CORBON against building collapse

"N-Power programme is a well thought-out initiative, hence the vision of assisting our youths to acquire skills capable of making them self-reliant, as having skilled youths is pivotal to national development which informed the large turnout of trainees as seen here as a testament that the N-Power has helped unemployed youths to acquire skills capable of making them self-reliant.

"Moreover, this goes to explain that the programme has changed the lives of many unemployed youths," he added. Malam Shehu Ahmad, the state Implementation Committee Chairman of CORBON, noted that the training of young men and women was a good omen that would launch the unemployed to the next level of self development.

Responding on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr Aliyu Binji, appreciated CORBON for the opportunity and assured that the beneficiaries would practice the knowledge and experience acquired.

Binji appreciate the federal government for the opportunity given to them in actualizing their dream of serving humanity.

# Agriculture is a prerequisite development

From MATHEW JWANTU, Minna

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress APC, Ahmed Bola Tinubu has promised to revamp the agricultural sector for optimal performance if elected president in next year's general elections.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu disclosed this during a town hall meeting with farmers and the Northern Agro Commodity Groups held at Idris Legbo Kutigi

Conference Hall Minna, while assuring farmers across the country of adequate protection for their produce and to make it accepted internationally.

Tinubu who said this is achievable through the provision of modern farm implements as subsidized rates, stated that the Bank of Agriculture will be rebuilt and restructured to attend to farmers on a priority basis while pledging to ensure

the effect of climate change is mitigated, "Be assured that you will have the necessary protection in the market and farms. That is why we promise you that commodity exchange will start immediately if you elect me as President of Nigeria. Be assured farmers that the protection is here and the help has arrived. The future is assured. We promise that the resources to protect your farming produce will be made available for you without you asking for it."

He noted that agriculture is the hope and prosperity of farmers and Nigerian economy hence the need to prioritize the sector for easy access to agric facilities and improve the country's Gross Domestic Product GDP.

"We will stop destroying our export potential to create value. We will work to give you the exportable items that will help you produce in a manner that other people will want to buy your produce and not reject your produce. We promise you that nothing you produce will be destroyed again, because

we will mitigate the effect of climate change and flood. I sympathize with all of you affected by flood throughout the country."

Tinubu also announced the setting up of the Agricultural and Commodities Directorate in the APC Presidential Campaign Council which would be chaired by Alhaji Abubakar Atiku Bagudu saying that the directorate would be focused on orientating the rural Nigeria farmers, agro processors, food/feed industries on the agricultural transformation programme of the Asiwaju/Shetimma Presidency and to convince farmers nationwide that agriculture is a veritable tool for national development.

He sympathized with the flood victims in the country, adding that it's a natural calamity that needed to be proactive to reduce its impact on the citizens

Speaking earlier, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello of Niger State stated that over the years of his government in Niger State has continued to support the development of agriculture in crop, livestock and fisheries production.



Tinubu



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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Lura Kano Daniel late of Plateau State died on the 3rd October 2022 at Jos Plateau State.	Lura Dinnigwah Zion & Lura Gode of Mopol 8 PMF Barrack Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	SGT Ahmed Abdullahi late of Plateau State died on the 2nd February 2017 at Ajegunle Lagos State.	Usman Amina Ahmed & Abdullahi Farida Ahmed. All of Daffo Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.	Rose Rauta Rwang late of USA died on the 7th December 2018 at Boston Medical Care Massachusetts USA.	Obiakeme John Jnr and Obiakeme Jessica of No. 211 Cressent 2nd Avenue Gwarinpa Abuja. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
Taksing Jonah late of Plateau State died on the 12th October 2021 at Talgwang Langtang South LGA Plateau State.	Nansak Jonah of Talgwang Langtang South LGA of Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Simon Iliya late of Plateau State died on the 18th August 2022 at Langtang North LGA Plateau State.	Nantip Sylvester Simon of COCIN LCC Keller Pilgani Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Samuel Gwom Shikaham late of Plateau State died on the 31st October 2021 at Kerang Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Shikaham Samuel Shikaham Holy Ghost Devoters Church Kerang Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Mathew Philip Mandong late of Plateau State died on the 20th May 2022 at Jos Plateau State.	Jummai Mathew Mandong of ECWA Bishara 1 Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.	Isah Yahaya Wase late of Plateau State died on the 19th October 2022 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Mahmood Yahaya Isa of No.2 Dogon Karfe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Joseph Hwere late of Plateau State died on the 17th July 2022 at Kabong Jos North LGA Plateau State.	Emmanuel Fam Joseph of No. 3 Pam Kai Street Kabong Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Kantoma Beyit late of Plateau State died on the 27th January 2022 at Kumbul, Kadung Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Shedrack Beyit C/o Barr. Bawa Dakup of Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Bata Garba Wakawa late of Borno State died on the 24th May 2022 at Shinduffu Tudun Wada Layout Maiduguri, Borno State.	Suleiman Bata Wakawa & Samaila Bata Wakawa of Plot 75 Tudun Wada Layout Maiduguri, Borno State. Lawful sons of the said	Gompil Deborah late of Plateau State died on the 23rd February 2019 at Amper Kanke LGA Plateau State.	Dakup Dunggak Absalom of New Layout Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful nephew of the said deceased.
Oloniyo Clement late of Plateau State died on the 1st April 2013 at Jos, Plateau State.	Oloniyo Boluwaji Grace of No. 37 Ifesowapo, Odopetu Quarters Ilekun, Akure, Ondo State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Adamu Jamilu Saleh late of Plateau State died on the 23rd August 2022 at Barkin Ladi LGA Plateau State.	Jamila Sela Musa of Sabon Layi Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Gopar Goma late of Plateau State died on the 18th August 2021 at Kabwir, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	Monday Gopar of Apata Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Nicholas Chukwunyerere late of Plateau State died on the 29th March 2022 at JUTH Plateau State.	Francisca Chukwu of Rukuba Road Aginging Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Habila Abigail Danjuma also known as Habila Abigail Jane late of Plateau State died on the 2nd February 2020 at Fomas Hospital Jos South LGA, Plateau 'state.	Habila Mary Danjuma of Gold and Base Rayfield Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful mother of the said deceased.	Sunday Usaini late of Plateau State died on the 10th February 2022 at Langtang North LGA Plateau State.	Nansak Sunday & Nanpon Sunday Tali. All of COCIN Church Dengre Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
Ibrahim Monday Ibrahim late of Plateau State died on the 2nd Marach 2012 at Abattoir Giring Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Jang John Andrew & Danjuma Mashat Audu of Ministry of Women Affairs Jos, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	Goewam Regina Tongveng late of Plateau State Died on the 19th March, 2022. At Gwash-Epi specialist Hosp. Jos Plateau State.	Bishnang Maksen of Rock Haven Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	Hosea Sati late of Plateau Stateee. Died on the 23rd Sept, 2022. At Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Tongshinen Sati & Geoffrey Sati GRA Pankshin, LGA Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
Isaiah Audu also known as Audu Akpai Isaiah late of Plateau State died on the 27th July, 2019 at Kwall Bassa LGA, Plateau State.	Audu Isaiah Rubwo of Angele Kwall Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Son of the said deceased.	Haruna Daniel Daniel late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th Sept, 2022. At Langtang, South LGA Plateau	Nanyak Daniel of Sabon Gida Behind COCIN II Langtang South LGA, Plateau State Lawful son of the said deceased.	Dakup Deshi late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th April, 2022. AT Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	Fotdormwa Tongshar Dakup & Katpe Dakup Tongshar of COCIN Church Total Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.
Yohanna Chumang Datiri late of Plateau State. Died on the 21st May 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Mary Ikok Datiri of Behind ECWA Staff School Farin Gada, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said decease.	Ibrahim Garba late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th Sept, 2022. At Jos, Plateau State.	Daniel Ibrahim of Behind Soyac Hotel Rukuba Road Jos, North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Nanchang Kapchak late of Plateau State. Died on 24th Feb. 2019. At Gen. Hosp. Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	Nanpak kapchak & Many Kapchak of Nasarawa Langtang North LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow/son of the said deceased.
Amechi Christian Okafor late of Adamawa State. Died on the 27th Aug, 2022. At Nasarawa.	Isaiah Amechi Okafor & Ada Dalong Blessing of St. Joseph Catholic Church Doemak Quaanpan LGA, Plateau State, lawful sister/son of the said deceased.			Davuk Tamar Patrick late of Plateau State died on the 2nd October 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Davuk Bammun Patrick of COCIN Church Lahir Mangu LGA Plateau State. Lawful sister of the said deceased.

(ANDRAWUS MAIKAI)  
Ag. **PROBATE REGISTRAR**  
**PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA**  
**JOS**



# Marwa, the leadership we need



By CELESTINE ATTSAR

“LEADERSHIP is not just a position, it consists of action and transparency and a setting of high level of integrity, honesty and strive to achieve a goal” (anonymous).

When in January 2021 Brig. General Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd) was appointed Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), it was received with applause as many who knew him as a strict disciplinarian knew quite well that the country was a new phase of illicit drug crisis. Also at that time, the increase in drug abuse was almost at an alarming rate.

The Retired General who before the appointment was known for his no nonsense attitude towards any public assignment given to him rolled up his sleeves and moved like a wounded lion to salvage the country from the menace of

illicit drugs. His holistic approach to the fight against illicit drugs has within a short period of his stewardship added a record that is worth praising.

Within the period of his leadership, a lot of arrests were made; even those untouchables in the illicit drug business were arrested and handed various jail terms. Marwa received commendations on his approach to rid Nigeria of the activities of illicit drugs barons. The agency in its existence had many who led it who also had their fair share of leadership and contribution toward making it a strong institution. To remember a few of them, General Musa Bamaiyi, Fulani Kwajafa, Iliya Lokadang, Farida Mohammed all did their possible best to achieve the goals establishing NDLEA. Of course, having identified the consumers, Marwa collaborated with the Nigerian film industry on how to win the drug war which has affected millions of young people watching Nigerian movies even as they admire star actors will be easily sensitized on the dangers of drug abuse through their moves. The approach has helped lot of youths to see the danger of abusing drugs in society.

In June this year when the drug Czar was featured on Channels Television programme 'Hard Copy' says his officers have arrested some politicians in possession of illicit drugs which he described as disappointing. According to

him, the agency had suggested drugs test for all those vying for political office to undergo drug test. He added that “as you know the cartels are also active participants in political activities; they actually fund candidates into the various levels so that they can enact laws that can favour them”. The recommendation is 9 very goal approach to rid our political class of those that will use drug money to sponsor candidate and to have them trade or consumption of illicit drugs not given attention to by those in power.

Recently, in what appeared to be the biggest singular cocaine seizure in the history of the agency, operatives of the agency had busted a major warehouse in a secluded estate in Ikorodu area of Lagos where 1.8 tonnes. (1.55kilogrammes) of the illicit drug worth more than 194 billion naira in street value were seized and the kingpin in the business was arrested including foreigners. In what the agency described as a well coordinated and intelligence led operation that lasted for two days across different locations in Lagos State.

The Lagos operation which is said to be one of the biggest and successful operations of the agency received commendation from the Presidency. In a telephone call to the Chairman of the anti-narcotics agency from New York where he was attending the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77),



President Buhari said that the news of the recovery gladdens his heart. “I deeply appreciate the good work that you have put into the eradication of the drug menace. It gladdens my heart as I continue to follow the success achieved under your leadership.”

The president added that “you have demonstrated over and over again that choosing you to lead this fight against wicked merchants of death who sole aim is to endanger and truncate the future of our youth is a good choice. Please keep the good work.”

It was also reported that the president still amazed with the achievement of the agency especially in the recent Lagos seizure, told the Nigerian

delegation at a meeting in New York that, “Buba Marwa is doing well. Two tones of cocaine, that is a haul.”

This exceptional commendation by the President to one of his appointees for doing well in his area of assignment is very rare looking at the poor performance of most of our institutions in the country. People like the NDLEA boss should be encouraged through both executive and legislative powers so that the goal of which they are established can add value to our society.

It is high time other heads of agencies that are saddle with the responsibilities of making Nigeria great emulate the NDLEA and its leadership.

**“you have demonstrated over and over again that choosing you to lead this fight against wicked merchants of death who sole aim is to endanger and truncate the future of our youth is a good choice. Please keep the good work.”**



By HOSEA NYAMLONG

IN Nigeria today, a day cannot pass by without recording one crime or another, that has to do with quick money making.

Indeed, get quick rich syndrome has become one of the trending fashion among the present day

# Road to wealth has no shortcut

Nigerian youth.

Unfortunately, many citizens don't care about having a good name or image for themselves, rather they prefer to get involved in different crimes such as kidnapping, drug peddling, armed robbery, prostitution, cyber fraud, killing for rituals among others, all in a bid to get rich quick.

It is worrisome that today, the deteriorating nature of core moral values, societal norms, culture, tradition and beliefs is a cause for concern in the lives of citizens.

The way in which many youths idolized wealthy people and celebrities have contributed in fueling more crime in recent times in the country. Youths only want to be seen driving exotic cars, wearing designers clothes, gold necklace and living an expensive lifestyle, without any proof of legitimate work or source that earned them such.

In time past, the case of ritual killing was not rampant and it was not accepted in the society, because human life was very important to be wasted in an evil venture.

Sadly enough, under aged children are now involved in ritual killings for the purpose of making quick money, not minding the gravity of their actions to humanity. The fact is, life is sacred.

Recently, a 17-year-old teenager killed his girlfriend together with his friend for rituals and they were later arrested in the process of cooking her head in a clay pot.

Another case is that of a 14 year teenage boy in Lagos state who tried to escape with his employer's 2 year old son, with the intention of selling him to ritualists, before he was later arrested in the process of the negotiation.

Early this year, the Plateau state Police Command, paraded a 20-year-old, Moses Okoh, the suspected killer of Miss Jennifer Anthony, his girlfriend and a 300-level student of the University of Jos (UNIJOS).

In Abeokuta this year, a Magistrate's court remanded four boys who allegedly beheaded a 20-year-old, Sofiat Okeowo, in Ogun State for ritual purpose.

In September a girl named, Maryam Salisu, was found killed in Babale community on the outskirts of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State for suspected ritual purposes. The body of the deceased according to residents of the community was found in a trench. The relatives of the deceased said that Maryam's corpse was found in

a trench with her throat, tongue, her breasts and eyes cut off.

Another issue to be considered is greed, as in the case of a 5 year old girl, Hanifa Abubakar who was kidnapped and killed by her school teacher, who said that he was depressed and he needed money to pay for his kids school fees.

However, the get rich quick syndrome is slowly killing Nigerian youths who indulge in desperate pursuits to become rich at all cost, even at the expense of other people.

These societal ills have affected every citizen, directly or indirectly as this ugly trend seems to have taken the order of the day.

This is because some parents in some ways have encouraged their children negatively to make quick money, as in the case of a young man who was told to sacrifice his younger brother by his mother.

Notwithstanding, in the past, hard work was seen as the pride of every person both male and female, old and young which was a mark of dignity and respect in the society, but today, is no longer considered as a legitimate means of earning a good living.

Many youths today would want to have their own way to get quick money at all cost in order to show to the world that they have arrived or they belong to the millionaires club, by way of displaying of wealth.

Also, some would want to oppress others. In this same vein, many youths have lost their moral values by engaging in things

that are not legitimate.

There are millions of jobs in Nigeria. The issue of passing through shortcuts to success has overshadowed most minds of the youths not knowing that today, wealth is knitted in dirty jobs that seems to be rejected by many, because they don't want to be seen dirty by their peers, rather being neater and rich in ill ways.

To this end, things have gone wrong. And the question in the minds of every responsible Nigerian is how to curtail this evil menace in our society?

Who is to be blame, parents, peer groups, or the society in general. The suggestion is that parents, guidance and care givers should endeavour to bring up their children in a Godly way that they would inculcate good moral virtues in them.

It is very important, that the mind of materialism, be checked, especially among youths to see that wealth can be earned legitimately through hard work, determination, dedication and patience in life

Government as a matter of urgency should engage the youths meaningfully to enable them have a positive life so that they can add value to the society. Nigeria can be rebuilt on the foundations of integrity, transparency, truth, and justice.

On the part of the Nigerian youths, they are encouraged to embrace hard work, honesty, integrity as the hallmark to a sustainable wealth and peace of mind. The road to success has no short cut.

**“The way in which many youths idolized wealthy people and celebrities have contributed in fueling more crime in recent times in the country. Youths only want to be seen driving exotic cars, wearing designers clothes, gold necklace and living an expensive lifestyle, without any proof of legitimate work or source that earned them such.”**



By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

IT was out of their desire to enhance the provision of modern and available healthcare facility for their people that the Bawas of Kwande District of Kwo Chieftdom, thought it wise to bring close home a state of the art hospital.

What seemed at first like a mustard seed planted had grown to produce many fruits in Kwo Chieftdom, has put smiles on the faces of not only the people of Kwande, but the entire people in the Southern Senatorial Zone of Plateau State.

There is no denying the fact that, a private health care hospital of that magnitude is one of its kind in the state, not to talk of having it in such locality. Truly, this gigantic project to say but the least would have been sited in the capital city of Jos or Abuja if it were for money making, but the Bawas thought of doing that in memory of their late parents- Peter and Anna Bawa.

They built and donated a 50 bed capacity hospital that is well equipped with facilities, a facility ambulance and mortuary. All this was not to only support their people healthwise, but out of their love for the community which demonstrates that they are part and parcel of the Kwo Chieftdom.

However, history have it that the their father, late Peter Bawa, was an astute administrator and was the first Northerner to rise to the office of the Chief Federal Labour Officer, Federal Ministry of Labour. Their mother, late Mrs. Anna Peter Bawa, was a grassroot politician and was a one time councillor and later Board Member of Jos Metrological Development Board (JMDB) respectively.

Considering the rare contributions of their parents to humanity and society, the Bawa family decided to do something spectacular in memory of their parents and in service to their motherland. It is certainly true that when one cares to know and understands the heartbeat of his people and move to bring succour to them by putting in place what can cushion their hardship, it is a prove to the fact that home is home and the happiness of his people is what matters much to him.

While commissioning the project the Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, CON, represented by the Commissioner for Local Government Chieftaincy Affairs, Hon. Sylvanus Tapgun, rated the family of Miskoom Peter and Nnah Anna Bawa high for their great sacrifice to construct a state of the art hospital in Kwo Chieftdom in Qua'an-Pan Local Government Area to help cushion the health situation of the people.

He said, "I am here not to commission this gigantic edifice, but to share with you the goodness of this day. This is one clear example of how our people's level is being raised. I

want to thank this family for the blessing that has been bestowed on them and also wish to pass it to their father land to show that they are part and parcel of this land.

"I want to also thank you wholeheartedly, on behalf of the government and people of Plateau state for contributing to the solutionpf health challenges of the state, because this is another blessing that has come

His Royal Highness, Miskoom Fidelis Longtoe Attahiru1, the Long Kwo of Kwo Chieftdom, who could not hide his joy charged sons and daughters of the Kwo Chieftdom to emulate such gesture saying, "under my watch, I promise the Shitgurum family that, I will do everything possible to maintain and sustain this great gesture".

Meanwhile, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the



## Bawa Foundation's milk of kindness for kwande



to Kwo Chieftdom and plateau state", Lalong said.

The Executive Chairman, Qua'an-Pan LGC, Hon. Ernest Da'a, said, "as a Christian, we know that the Bible says that on the last day, God will ask whether we had visited him in the hospital or clothe him when he needed to be clothed or whether you gave him food when he was hungry. But in your own case, you did not only visit the sick, but you brought the hospital to our home and it is quite dear".

Also, former member, House of Representatives from Nasarawa State, Hon. Ahmed Wadada Aliyu, said, "We bless God for the Bawas! It is one thing for you to have the wherewithal and it is completely a different ball game for you to be blessed by God to want to use the wherewithal to put such edifice particularly, to address health need. For me, I pray for them, commend them and I am challenged because I am a leader".

Bawa Foundation and the donor, Miskoom Dr. Godfrey Peter Bawa Shitgurum, MON, "I feel great, I feel honoured and satisfied that after we serve God, we will serve humanity. We have given the hospital. It is now left for them to sit down with the Long Kwo who is in charge of the hospital and know what to do.

It was a joyous moment when the Bawa family

commissioned and donated the hospital to their community under the watch of His Royal Highness, Miskoom Fidelis Attahiru 1, the Long Kwo of Kwo Chieftdom. This, they did to mark the 65th birthday of Dr. Godfrey Peter Bawa Shitgurum, the Chairman, Duncan Maritime Ventures the Bawa Foundation.

Both young and old trooped to the venue of the commissioning to celebrate the

great gesture freely done to them. Children were not left out of this celebration as they were colourfully dressed in the Goemai attires singing praises with adults chanting Goemai heroic slogans when the Chairman, Peter&Anna Bawa Foundation, Dr. Godfrey Peter Bawa Shitgurum arrived the hospital.

There were display of traditional dances by the Goemai masquerades such Bakwa Riga, Tong-beres, Munashi, Lukwo among others as the Plateau State Cultural Troop and Idoma dancers entertained dignitaries added colour to the occasion.

The occasion climaxed with dinner at the Crispin Events and Suits Jos. The wife of the celebrant, Bishop Bawa described her husband as an exceptional hardworking manwhose kindness knows no bound Within the mood of event the celebrant's birthday, was marked with a Golf tournament organized by the celebrant at the lamingo Golf Course Jos.





# IMAGES

## LALONG INAUGURATES APC LOC

The DG, APC Presidential Campaign Council and Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, (CON) on Sunday inaugurated Local Organising Committee for the preparation of the APC Presidential Campaign flag off coming up in Jos on the 15th November, 2022.



Governor Lalong ( with mic) inaugurating the LOC Chairman and members



Cross section of members of the LOC being inaugurated by the Governor.



Cross section of members of the Local Organising Committee listening to the inauguration speech



Cross section of Commissioners and members of the APC at the State level



Chief of Staff, Government House, Hon. Noel Dongjur (middle) with the APC Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang (left) and a member of the Executive Committee of the Party



Hon. Alphonso Komsol Longgap of the House of Representatives, Hon. Naanlong Daniel, member, PLHA with others at the LOC inauguration



APC publicity secretarey, Hon. Sylvanus Namang with The General Manager FRCN, Highland FM, Jos, Patience Jatau



Another cross section of LOC at inauguration

Photos: DANLADI DUK



## Odd World

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Even though some parents may question

the choice, the mum insists going without shoes is better for her kids.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Culled from The Mirror



## An eclipse of a nation christened Nigeria

Nigerians always like pretending even when obvious situations are rocking the boat and the center cannot hold in the country. It has become so glaring today that the citizens of this country are becoming so over religious to think that the nation is sitting on the edge and an accident waiting to happen.

Critically, regional and ethnic dogmatization have overwhelmingly brainwashed many of our citizens and refrained them from understanding the complex circumstances this country has found itself in today. It is also traumatizing that many citizens have become so used to suffering and outrageous hardship necessitated by the administrative ingenuity successive governments have been offering us.

After several bitter years of military tyranny of the highest order which witnessed many of us profusely shading uncontrollable tears, we unanimously opted for a transition to democracy at a high cost. For these despots to eventually give way, many citizens of this country had to pay the Supreme price. Many had to go on exile when the military held sway as their tornado became so ferocious on rebelling citizens.

For those who care to know, Nigeria has over the years after securing independence from oppression, deliberate subjugation and colonial imperialism been on a roller-coaster heading to only God knows where. This ugly unprecedented degradation of internal affairs has become so traumatic to a point that more than half of our population do not believe that any possible remedy is at hand.

Some months back, yours sincerely stumbled on a report released by Chatham House acknowledging that about 582 billion dollars has been stolen from MN Nigeria since the country secured independence in 1960. Available findings also indicate that more than 11 trillion has been ploughed into our national grid without anything tangible to show for it. Despite this huge investments in the power sector, 95 percentage of our communities and rural residents have continuously been left behind wallowing in total darkness. Many parts of our urbanized communities are practicably suffering similar fate.

The devastating consequences of electricity disruptions has continued to have its toll on the production sector. Sad enough, most neighboring nations which benefit from our nation's benevolence still have steady power supply.

But again, the British International Corruption Unit recently noted that it has confiscated about 76 million pounds which is about 117 million dollars from the citizens of this country since 2006. If one can be permitted to single out the misadventure of Ramon Olorunwa Abass aka Hushpuppi alone, it was alleged that about 16 billion naira was recovered in cash during a raid on apartments of Nigerians living in Dubai at a point. The raid touted by Emirati authorities in their fight against cybercrimes also confiscated luxury cars estimated to be worth over 2.6 billion naira. Before 1982, no one knew of Ramon Abass as he was given birth that same year. Until his arrest in 2020 and subsequent extradition to the United States of America for eventual prosecution, though he was openly living a spontaneous and mind blowing lifestyle, no one ever imagined that he was worth more than 35.5 million dollars. These were ill-gotten wealth which

eventually led to his prison sentence after conviction just recently. A few years ago, the former Executive Governor of Delta State, James Ibori served about 13 years' incarceration in the United Kingdom for laundering over 50 million pounds.

One cannot also easily forget the former Governor of Bayelsa State, Diepreye Alamiesigha who was convicted by the London Metropolitan Police for criminal activities related to this same money laundering issue in 1999.

From influential politicians, administrators and even military officers, the race to scavenge what is left of our nation's treasury is definitely unbelievable and inappropriate. Even clerks and massagers including the clergy are not left out of this clandestine act of irresponsibility.

The consequences of their unpatriotic antecedents have unfortunately left us in the middle of where we have ourselves today. It is really emotionally embarrassing that Nigeria, regarded as the giant of Africa cannot feed its citizens. This is as a result of available statistics which indicates that the Human Development Index highlighting the overwhelming degree of abject Poverty bedeviling this country does not speak well of the dreams of our founding fathers.

Just recently, the President of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina perhaps out of concern over the depreciating standard of living noted that there was no reasons for Nigerians to go hungry. His submission is hinged on the fact that with its vast agricultural resources, the citizens of our country have no business being hungry. But in addition, the president was quick to note that Africa has massive agricultural potential with 65 percent of uncultivated arable land left to feed the over 9 billion people by 2050 being in world and what Africa does with agriculture will determine the future of food in the world.

While yours sincerely prays for the actualization of this tall but achievable dreams, we must as a developing system ask ourselves some key fundamental questions. One of these questions would be whether our leaders and stakeholders are ready to support farmers to redirect their thoughts towards contemporary means of agricultural production.

Sad though, for more than two months now, authorities in the country have been unable to overcome ravaging flood disasters which is gradually taking over more vulnerable states. Already, the International Monetary Fund, (IMF) has warned that the recent proliferating flood disaster if not properly handled could worsen the issue of food insecurity leading to further increase across the country. As it is, this flood disaster has deeply eaten into states in the likes of Benue, Kogi, Bayelsa, Jigawa, leaving little hurts in Plateau and Nasarara States. Despite the fact that most of these disasters have been out-rightly due to the climate change factor, it is obvious that any struggling nation which cannot remedy some of these natural disasters is still far from attaining food security for its people. Aside this, the predicaments of banditry and kidnappings have indeed added to the problematic disposition and systemic predicaments of farmers in this nation. Yet, these looters and other unpatriotic elements are still adding to our woes. All these are happening in a nation christened Nigeria.



View Point

# Plateau FRSC: For accident free ember months

By **BULUS GAMBO**

THE entire world is always gripped with unpalatable anxiety each time Ember months herald closing the chapter of a year. Though these concluding months are regarded as the most joyous jiffies of the year, several people throw caution to the wind while celebrating these festivities. If for nothing else, the rush hours and or periods usually witnessed while preparing for Christmas holidays keep many people on the edge. Though the present harsh economic realities is affecting many households negativity, some still find it quite necessary to hit the road to keep both the soul and body together, find the whereabouts of long time no see friends. For others, after many months and or years of not seeing their loved ones, friends and well-wishers, it would certainly be out of place if they don't travel to see them during these holidays.

Therefore, such periods do come with great hazards particularly as many people travel from one destination to another hurrying to meet up with skintight lined-up schedules. In most cases, while trying to catch up with some of these overwhelming tight schedules, mistakes are bound to happen while driving which can end up in road crashes.

Here in Nigeria, the obvious statistics of road traffic accidents has continued to raise fundamental concerns and become a source of great worry and grief for both the officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission, (FRSC) and other stakeholders in the country. In most cases, these avoidable accidents are basically as a result of human errors which includes carelessness, overloading and



**Akaagerger**

drugs abuse or drunkenness. For instance, many Nigerians have continuously lost their lives as a result of obvious carelessness and acts of drug abuse and drunkenness. According to the statistics released by the National Bureau for Statistics, no fewer than 6,205 persons died in road accidents in 2021. It further reveals that on a quarter basis, road accidents killed a total of 1,668 in the first quarterly, 1,453 persons in the second quarter, 1,432 persons in the third quarter and 1,652 persons in the fourth quarter.

"In each of the quarters per review, serious cases of road crashes stood top, compared to

fatal and minor cases observed, this calls for strengthening of our road safety agencies and medical response team."

By zonal distributions, the North Central recorded the highest cases of road accidents during the year at 4, 056 followed by the South West region at 3,451. Joining its other colleagues across the country in sensitizing the citizens of Plateau State on the menace of road traffic accidents, the FRSC in the state was compelled to organize an enlightenment programme. With the theme, "Avoid Speeding, Overloading and Unsafe Tyres to Arrive Alive", the event witnessed several stakeholders who turned out in

their number for the programme. It turned out to be one of the best events to be appreciated in most recent history.

Speaking during the Ember months Flag-off campaign held at the Mararaba Jama'a Motor Park, the Sector Commander RS41 Plateau State, Corps Commander Alphonsus Haliru Godwin explained that the FRSC has been and is still doing its very best to achieve its goal of accomplishing 15 percent reduction in road traffic crash fatality, enhance road safety partnership for innovative intervention and consolidation on the road traffic data system for improved road safety policy formulation through intense public enlightenment programmes of churches, mosques, motor parks and eve markets.

According to him, "the periods of Ember months are known for intense vehicular movements even as people rush to meet up with family and other demands while drivers see the period as a season to maximize profits thereby stretching themselves to unreasonable limits. This season has therefore always been associated with road traffic crashes leading to loss of lives and properties."

"RSA 14Bukuru Unit Command covers three local government areas within our operational jurisdiction namely, Jos South, Barkin Ladi and Bokkos. It also has Zebra 11 Mararaba Jama'a for prompt rescue services to the community and Nigeria at large. It has driver's license center for capturing drivers' licenses." He added.

Said he, "I call on everyone present here today to take responsibility in our various

corners. You may be a transport owner, a driver or a passenger, whatever your statuses in the transport sector, we all have responsibilities we must be awoken to. The road is not for competition and the road does not forgive. Let's avoid over speeding, overloading and all forms of distraction while driving."

Earlier in his remarks, the Unit Commander of Bukuru Unit, Assistant Corps Commander, Calvin N. Akaagerger noted that FRSC was and is still concerned over the increasing number of road transport accidents in the country.

Akaagerger explained that the motive of the event was to educate the general public on the dangers of not observing traffic regulations which is very devastating to humanity and encouraged road users to be careful and observant during this Ember months.

In his contribution, NEMA North Central Coordinator, Eugene Nyelong also commended the FRSC for putting up such an event which would go a long way towards reducing road accidents in the country adding that his organization and FRSC have over the years synergize towards reducing road traffic accidents. He appealed to the citizens of this nation to value their lives by not becoming careless while driving their vehicles.

In their respective remarks, DSP D Basil who represented the DPO Bukuru Division and Ishaku Yohanna Gopep who represented the NSCDC Commandant, Plateau State both commended the FRSC for a job well done.







**4th Mishkaham Mwuaghavul ascends the throne**

It was a beehive of activities at the coffers of power this week at the religious, political and cultural sectors.

One of the activities that attracted the political class, traditional rulers, and influential personalities into Plateau state was the official coronation and installation of First-Class Staff of Office to the 4th Mishkaham Mwuaghavul, His Royal Highness Da John Putmang Hirse.

The Colourful cultural and traditional ceremony that saw the royal father ascend the throne of his forefathers was full of cultural displays by King makers, Royal warriors, guards and traditional dancers from Mwuaghavul land who came out in their thousands to participate in the event which took place at the Mangu Mini Stadium on 5th November 2022.

Governor Simon Lalong presented the staff of office to the new Mishkaham who took over from his late predecessor, Da Nelson Bakfur that died last year.

He used the forum to urge other communities with vacant chieftaincy tools who have not selected their rulers due to conflicts and litigations, to go and put their house together, and resolve the issues, to enable him install their own traditional rulers.

Among a roll call of personalities and well wishers that attended the event were the All Progressives Congress (APC) Vice Presidential Candidate, Sen. Kashim Shettima, who during his goodwill message pointed out the historic ties between his tribe the kanuri people of Borno State, and other tribes in the Central Zone of Plateau State, including the Muaghavul people.

Other prominent personalities that graced the historic event was Yobe State Governor, Maimala Buni, three former Plateau governors, Fidelis Tagun, Air Commodore Samuel Bitrus Atukum and Chief Joshua Chibi Dariye including Heads of Government agencies, heads of public, private and religious organisations, political office holders, political aspirants from different political parties, and traditional rulers from within and outside the state.

Other activities that took governments attention was the 14th National Conference of Papal Knights and Medalists which was equally attended by Governor Lalong.

Being a Papal Knight himself, with the title "Knight of St. Gregory the Great (KSGG), Lalong was glad to be the Chief host to his colleagues in Knighthood, whose works to humanity has been recognised by the Church, and the Pope, leading to the conferment of their titles.

The 4-day event from 3rd to 6th November 2022 had in attendance papal knights from 9 Ecclesiastical provincial councils across the country. Governor Lalong appreciated their

choice of Jos for the conference urging them to enjoy the temperate weather, and the hospitality of the 'Home of peace and tourism', even as he stressed the efforts that his administration had done over the past seven years to restore peaceful coexistence in the state.

The Governor also received in audience at the Government House Jos, his party's National youth leader, Comrade Dayo Isreal.

Isreal had assured Lalong who is the Director General (DG) of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council of great mobilisation of Nigerian youths for the APC in the upcoming 2023 general elections.

Since the APC has picked Jos, Plateau as the state to flag off its Presidential Campaign, Governor Lalong, as part of plans to ensure a robust and successful event, scheduled to take place on the 14th November 2022, went ahead to inaugurate a 14-member Local Organising Committee.

The committee headed by Deputy Speaker, House of representatives, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase was inaugurated on Sunday November 6, 2022 at government house Jos and tasked to organise a well mobilised and mother- of-all inaugurations to usher in the official 2023 Presidential Elections Campaigns of the APC.

Among those expected to grace the epoch making event are President Mohammedu Buhari, National Party Chairman Sen. Abdullahi Adamu, APC Presidential Candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, and his running mate, Sen. Kashim Shettima, APC Governors, and political office holders across the country.

Sadly earlier in the week, the demise of wife of former Plateau Deputy Governor, NGO Lydia Botmang was announced.

Governor Lalong in a condolence message to her family including her son, Pam Botmang, who is his immediate past Commissioner for works and the APC Deputy Governorship candidate in the state, urged them to be consoled in the great legacies she left behind, as a great mother to the state and also a seasoned nurse who impacted lives through her work.





**ICRC**

The International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC- ([www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org))  
neutral and impartial. Jos Sub Delegation is looking for a suitable candidate to fill the vacancy below

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**Premises Maintenance Supervisor**

Under the direct supervision of Finance and Administration Manager, the Premises Maintenance Supervisor ensures proper maintenance of ICRC premises, lease contracts and equipment, with close supervision of the maintenance team.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

- Maintains and repairs equipment and infrastructure; coordinates and/or supervises any work done by external providers with respect of timeline
- Analyse and formulate solutions or technical support for the electrical, carpentry, masonry, or metal works, plumbing, painting, and any other civil works.
- Immediately alerts to any issues that could have negative consequences or represent risk (technical malfunctions, accidents)
- Orders or purchases any necessary material and supplies, in coordination with logistics staff and maintenance team
- Brief new collaborators and others as necessary on maintenance, use of equipment & appliances in the ICRC premises.
- Ensure that office structures and residences are well maintained, acting on necessary improvements and preventive maintenance measures
- Prepare, read interpret designs, drawings, and bills of quantities (estimates & costing) and work progress schedules for all civil works as necessary.
- Plan new constructions with Finance and Admin Manager and co-ordinate maintenance of buildings at Delegation, Logistics, and all housing premises.
- Assess the condition of new premises by filling the takeover form and write a report to the Finance and Admin Manager on needed repairs and a work plan.
- Ensures planned proactive maintenance (PPM) of all premises to reduce or prevent corrective maintenance
- Manage all the passive security projects and ensure the implementation of all compulsory measures in all premises and offices.
- Ensures compliance to Electrical Safety and Precaution (ESAP) and minimum safety standards of the ICRC in all maintenance works.
- Ensures inventory of working tools, equipment, safety gears are always up to date.
- Make sure essential kits (First Aid, Malaria, Emergency Stock) are up to date.
- May be asked to perform tasks not covered in this job description and to provide support to other departments when necessary.

**Education and Experience Required**

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or related field
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in similar position
- Previous experience working with an INGO, Embassy, or related organisations

**Desired profile and Skills**

- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Computer literacy; proficient in Microsoft Office software skills (outlook, Excel Power Point, Word).

**How to Apply**


- Send Curriculum vitae, application letter and NYSC Certificate to [ABJ\\_Recruitment\\_Services@icrc.org](mailto:ABJ_Recruitment_Services@icrc.org)
- Clearly indicate "ABJ202200337 Premises Maintenance Supervisor JOS" as the subject of your application (*Applications intended for this role without this subject will not be considered*)
- In the body of the mail, please indicate the following in the following format:
  - Qualification(s)
  - Current location
  - Languages you speak
  - Years of relevant experience

**The deadline for the submission of applications will be 14.11.2022, 16:30hrs. Late applications will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**

Equal opportunities shall be provided to all employees and applicants for employment based on their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex, nationality, status, disability etc. (The ICRC values diversity and is committed to creating an inclusive working environment)

We welcome applications from all qualified candidates; Female & People Living with Disability applicants are encouraged to apply.

ICRC will not request any monetary payments from applicants at any stage of the recruitment process



**ICRC**

The International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC- ([www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)) is an independent humanitarian organisation, neutral and impartial. Jos Sub Delegation is looking for a suitable candidate to fill the vacancy below

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**Welcome Assistant**

Under the direct supervision of Finance and Administration Manager, the welcome Assistant ensures that welcome activities are organized smoothly including coordination of pick up/drop off of ICRC staff and guests, travel arrangements, accommodation and any related events activities.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

- In charge of the welcome Department in the Sub Delegation
- Participates in organizing pick up/drop off with other ICRC offices and accommodation (Hotels and Residences) for staff and guests.
- Interacts with relevant parties (Welcome ABJ, mobile staff, resident staff) regarding certificates, visas, permits, registration when it's needed, etc.
- Ensures that delegation ID card get to new mobiles on mission and new staff recruited.
- Organizes welcome files, business cards, briefing programmes, and tour of the sub-Delegation for new arrivals.
- Organizes welcome side of events/seminars/meetings, coordinating with parties concerned.
- Handles the JOS Welcome Service Task Management (STM) independently.
- Organizes communication flow between ICRC Offices, Sub Delegations/Delegation regarding staff travel.
- Keeps all appropriate databases up to date on staff members, missions, and other travel, documents validity, residences, and any other relevant information (Telephone numbers, airlines etc).
- Provides supports or facilitates the personal purchases of the mobile staff.
- Supports the Admin and IM team during holiday and other absences.
- Handles mobile phone request, keep stock, and disburse recharge cards for staff.
- Maintain the up-to-date list of all satellite phones, their accessories and their SIM Cards.
- May be asked to perform tasks not covered in this job description and to provide support to other departments when necessary.

**Education and Experience Required**

- Bachelor's Degree in Administration or a relevant field
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar role (INGO, Embassy etc)

**Desired profile and Skills**

- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Good analytical skills, detail-orientation, and precision
- Very well organized, with good planning abilities.
- Capacity to work within a team; good interpersonal skills, and ability to deal with people respectfully.
- Computer literacy; proficient in Microsoft Office software skills (outlook, Excel Power Point, Word).

**How to Apply**

- Send Curriculum vitae, application letter and NYSC Certificate to [ABJ\\_Recruitment\\_Services@icrc.org](mailto:ABJ_Recruitment_Services@icrc.org)
- Clearly indicate "ABJ202200338 Welcome Assistant JOS" as the subject of your application (*Applications intended for this role without this subject will not be considered*)
- In the body of the mail, please indicate the following in the following format:
  - Qualification(s)
  - Current location
  - Languages you speak
  - Years of relevant experience

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## Feature

# Traditional ways of object preservation

*The International Council of Museum ICOM (2022) defined Museum as not for profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability.*  
**BENARD UGBEM AKOMOYE writes**

THEY operate and communicate ethnically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experience for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing.

From the above definition, it shows that museum is an institution bestowed with the responsibility to care for the collections of objects of cultural, historical or scientific values and made available to the public through display or exhibition.

Traditional preservation of objects have often been the only resort of the early people in the traditional societies where chemicals were not only unavailable but were expensive to get and naive to our traditional fathers. The preservation sustenance or materials were purely of natural origin. They can be found within the environment and can be source locally. Using the materials does not required special training.

Preservation is a word that is interchangeable with conservation as both preservation and conservation have similar connotation, meaning that they keep objects in question from destruction, harm or decay, preservation is a very important aspect of conservation as according to Burcaw (1975:97) who notes that preservation is more or less defensive to avoid changes from happening or occurring within the object.

Hudson (1978:50) notes that there were some materials which, were used by our craftsmen in the past, but these were purely of natural origin. That these materials were used both for restoration and preservation of objects of wooden and others.

According to the interview of the indigenous people of (Benin) Edo state South-South Nigeria by Agbontean Eghafona (2001:199-201); she enumerated the effectiveness of the use of



traditional substances for conservation of cultural objects such as: Bones, Brass, Bronze, clay/Terracotta, Ivory, Iron, Mud shrines, shell objects and wood. Agbontean also stated that the method devised by the Benin people of Edo State, South; South Nigeria in the pre-colonial era proved relatively effective. That this method to some extent delayed the aging process of organic objects and re-enforce non-organic objects that had tendency to break, flake or were subject to attrition that most of these objects were clean seasonally within a period of 3-6 months after which the process was repeated again (2001:201).

Agbontean Eghafona stated that these items used for caring for the objects locally did not require special training in conservation before their usage or application as may be required of the in-

organic substances (chemicals) the knowledge of their usage or application was not only known to custodians of the cultural objects but also to the general populace interested in caring for the objects.

### The methods use in pre-historicera

#### Smoking of Objects:

George Borgstorm (1979:525) observed that the use of smoke as an agent of preservation dates back to pre-historic times. It has been reported that wooden objects were placed in traditional kitchen where soot comes from the fire place can easily reach them. The smoke act as a check to the growth of fungi and other insects attack on the wooden objects. That this was also able to keep the wood dry and reduces the humidity of the place. The smoke restricts wooden objects from absorbing water vapour from the

atmosphere or Air. Borgstorm (1979) suggested that water which helps in the survival of these insects will be reduced and that the chemical composition of smoke is such that it can stop or retards microbial growth on the wooden object.

#### The use of red and brown camwood

The red and brown camwood are substances gotten from the wood that this powdery wood substances is not use as paint per say, however the substances is painted mostly on mask and it act as a preventive measures. Others are white colour from chalk (Nzu) in Igbo and reddish colour from laterated (Aja-una) also in Igbo (Alex Okpoko 2011-254).

#### Palm Kernel Oil:

According to Agbontean Eghafona (2001-1999) in her interview with the indigenous people of Benin, Edo prove that

this Palm kernel oil can be used in cleaning of Iron and Brass object and that it will prevent rusting and corrosion for taking place. That it's also preventing oxidation on the Iron and Brass objects.

#### The use of White Kaolin Clay

The use of white kaolin clay and terracotta objects can serve as a sealant and seal to cracks and breakages that could have been around the clay or terracotta.

#### Cow Dungs:

This was used for it offensive small to drive away termites from objects placed on the mud floor or structure.

#### Black Soap:

Black soap gotten from processed burnt plantain, palm trees florescence flower and burnt coconut ash and mixed with water and filtered was also used to wash the shell objects and stones. This gives the object a shine and luster.

#### Lime and Lemon:

Unripe fruits are used here. They contain citric acid. These fruits can be used on objects that are infested with algae (Green rust). A treatment of unripe lime or lemon and ashes can be used on the spot where the effect is seen.

This treatment can only be done on brass and bronze objects. The power of the acid from the unripe fruit has no strong effect and can do no harm to the object Agbotaen (2001).

#### Mud Shrines

The cleaning of mud shrines was done with grounded charcoal and with the addition of mud to clean the mud shrine this act like a sealant and coating to the surface. It also makes the place and the surface around the shrine more renewed.

#### The Red Beads.

The beads were kept in cam wood powder and this makes them being polished.

#### Intangible Objects:

The traditional preservation methods of the intangible cultural objective as according to Wikipedia online library, which may include proverbs, tales and dance by moonlight lies solely on the clans, village heads, kings, chiefs, deity priest, the aged or older men and women. They help to maintain the cultural intangible by speaking and displaying it in their respective meeting areas and at homes. Only by this can the intangible be kept alive for posterity.

#### Conclusion

Traditional preservation was of eminence as museum collections would not have been there as most artifacts would have deteriorated leaving museum with nothing hence this method was able to increase the objects stability and duration before the coming of more popular in organic substances for preservation and conservation.

**Benard Ugbem Akomaye is a Principal Conservation I, Staff of National Museum, Minna, Niger State.**





Sports

# Amusan, others listed for Sheroes Awards

World women's 100m hurdles record holder, Tobi Amusan, was, yesterday, in Abuja, given the 2022 Shero of the Year Award.

Newsnow said that, Amusan, who won the gold medal and broke records in 100m hurdles at this year's World Athletics Championships and the Commonwealth Games, is among outstanding Nigerian sportsmen and women selected for various categories of the Sheroes Awards.



Amusan

A statement jointly signed by RSDF President, Paul Edeh and Sheroes Awards Committee Chairman, Mr. Moses Bako, also listed reigning African Woman Footballer of the Year and Nigeria's Super Falcons forward, Asisat Oshoala, as the winner of the Shero Footballer of the Year Award.

Head coach of Nigeria's U-17 women's national team (Flamingos), Bankole Olowokere, was also presented with the Shero Sports Icon of the Year award.

Coach Olowokere led the Flamingos to win, for the first time, a bronze medal at the just concluded FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

Other awardees were Super Falcons star, Monday Gift (Shero Women Football Rising Star of the Year), Wife of Edo State Governor, Mrs Betsy Obaseki (Shero Trailblazer of

the Year), a board member of the Nigeria Football Federation, Margaret Icheen (Shero Lifetime Achievement award), Mrs Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe (Shero Capital Achievement award), and Coach Emmanuel Osahon (Shero Women Football Talent Developer of the Year).

Others are Ruqayyah Adeboye (Shero Humanitarian of the Year), Nelly Orisakwe (Shero Women Football Grassroots Coach of the Year) and Ayisat Yusuf-Aromire (Shero Girl-Child Advocate of the Year).

There was also a posthumous award for the late Alhaji Tewogboye Oyewole, who was recognised as Shero Pioneer of Women's Football in Nigeria.

Also listed for the awards is the Lagos State Football

Association, which was listed as Sheroes Most Outstanding Women Football Development FA of the Year.

According to the organisers, "the Sheroes Award is a yearly event dedicated to celebrating and highlighting the remarkable achievements of African women globally and their outstanding successes. It also seeks to highlight and celebrate women who have continued to leave indelible marks in the annals of our society."

"The theme for the Sheroes Award 2022 was: 'This Is Our Moment - African Women Breaking Limits.' Undoubtedly, the women, who will be awarded the 2022 Sheroes Award are indeed limit breakers, whose moment to be celebrated particularly their incredible success story."

TO give Delta 2022 National Sports Festival the best it deserves in terms of facilities, Delta State has pulled out all the stops to ensure that only top-quality equipment is deployed for the Games.

Newsnow said that, one such facility is the tartan tracks, which, according to the organisers, are of the topmost quality.

According to the organisers, Governor Ifeanyi Okowa has imported the same type of tartan track used at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games in England to be installed at the Stephen Keshi stadium in Asaba.

The 21st National Sports Festival, tagged Delta 2022, will go ahead as scheduled, from November 28 to December 10.

A joint technical meeting, involving the Main Organising Committee (MOC), the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and other stakeholders of the event, was held in Asaba on Friday, where the participants, including Sports Minister, Sunday Dare, took a tour of facilities.

A member of the LOC, yesterday, said that the new tartan track has arrived in the country.

"In 2018 when Delta State hosted the Senior African Athletics Championship, a new tartan track was installed at the Stephen Keshi Stadium but the athletes complained that it was not smooth enough. Now, Okowa doesn't want any complaints. He has imported the same

## Delta imports Birmingham Commonwealth Games tartan track



The 3000 steeple chase is among events listed for Asaba 2022 National Sports Festival

type and quality of tartan track used for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games in England.

"I am sure our athletes will set more national records at the Delta 2022 National Sports Festival," the LOC official said. Apart from the re-laying of the tartan, Okowa is putting in place two brand new indoor sports halls for the Games, just as the old indoor hall is being renovated. A brand new swimming pool is also being built within the stadium complex, while hostel facilities are being constructed in some schools for the festival.

Meanwhile, Sports Minister, Sunday Dare, has boasted that Asaba 2022 would go down in history as a great showpiece in Africa, saying the organisers have invited three countries, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroun to participate in the fiesta.

Speaking at the weekend in Asaba while addressing a joint technical meeting of the Asaba 2022 Main Organising Committee (MOC) and Local Organising Committee (LOC) of Asaba 2022, Dare said: "We have agreed to invite these three countries as part of our plans to make this year sports festival a continental sports showpiece."

The minister lauded the Delta State government for

the massive infrastructure work going on in preparation for the sports festival.

According to him, the facilities being put in place in Delta would not only serve athletes in Nigeria but sportsmen and women across Africa.

"Initially, when I came here in April, I was a bit sceptical. I had my doubts concerning preparations in terms of facilities and other logistics. But today, I can see a whole lot of transformation that has taken place here. I see a lot of infrastructure."

"I am a believer and I can tell you that I now believe in the capacity of Delta State to host this sports festival," Dare said. Earlier, LOC chairman Patrick Ukah, said the Delta State government was desirous to ensure the applicable standards are met in Asaba 2022.

He said the state government was committed to providing the best facilities that conform with international best standard for sporting activities. As you may have observed the Delta State government is putting in place new structures and renovating the old sports venues to deliver up-to-date facilities for the festival.

"You will equally agree with me that work is going on at the venues and should be ready in a matter of weeks, he assured.

## 'It's a privilege to play with Messi'

Sergio Ramos has described playing alongside Lionel Messi for Paris Saint-Germain as a "privilege" and says they have an "excellent" relationship.

Goal said that, for over a decade the two players were fierce rivals when they played for Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively. The pair linked up for the first time at PSG in 2021 and it has been suggested that they didn't get on too well initially, but Ramos has now revealed that the bromance between the two is blossoming and says he has a deep

respect for his teammate's unique talents.

"It's something that I think generates curiosity in everyone. But in the end, we are players who have the same objective, which is to win with Paris Saint-Germain, and to make the team great. My relationship with Messi is excellent. There is great respect between the players and a healthy state of mind," Ramos told reporters.

"Whenever you are given the choice of having Messi with or against you, the answer is quick and sincere. Leo continues to

perform at the highest level. [Messi] is still one of the most decisive players in the world and one of the best, it is a privilege to have him in the team. It is much worse to have him against you, I suffered against him for many years."

Ramos is now often seen celebrating intensely with Messi after the latter has scored a goal for PSG. They have also been spotted sharing a laugh or a light moment in training and Messi even handed over a penalty to

Ramos against Quevilly in pre-season after winning it himself.

Both men will be in action for PSG tonight when they go up against Juventus in the UEFA Champions League.

## Eagles' World Cup miss: Mabo blames Pinnick

Former Super Falcons head coach Ismaila Mabo has voiced out his disappointment at Nigeria's failure to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup to be hosted by Qatar.

Newsnow revealed that, the Super Eagles made it past the preliminary round of the qualifying series but stumbled at the final hurdle to eternal rivals Ghana.

Mabo, who guided Nigeria's Super Falcons to their best World Cup outing - the quarterfinals - in 1999, believes former Nigeria Football Federation president and his board should take responsibility for the World Cup miss.

"It is now that many Nigerians will feel the agony of Super Eagles' failure to qualify for the World Cup," Mabo told The Guardian.



"If someone had told me that the giant of Africa, Nigeria, would fail to qualify for Qatar 2022, I would have tagged such person a prophet of doom. But that is the reality."

Carbali Ep. 4: Ronaldinho made me

love football - Aproko Doctor

Reputed for being one of the internet's biggest medical voices, Aproko Doctor took a spin with Babajide Guerrero where he shared a football side of him that many do not know.



Messi and Ramos



Sports

# WWE's Omos, surprises family in Lagos



Omos, Pays Surprise Visit To Family In Lagos

THE WWE Superstar was pictured with his family members in Nigeria this week, having been away for more than a decade.

WWE Superstar Omos pays surprise visit to family home in Nigeria

Popular WWE superstar Omos has returned to his home country after over a decade of travelling abroad.

The 7ft 3inch superstar was pictured with his family members on Monday, as he was met with a very warm reception in his home in Lagos.

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Tolulope Jordan Omogbehin popularly known as The Nigerian Giant 'Omos' is the only Nigerian international currently competing in the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) RAW division.

Having signed with WWE in 2019, Omos is a former college basketball player for the University of South Florida and for Morgan State University, where he played for a year.

He is also a former Raw Tag Team Champion in WWE, holding the titles with AJ Styles during the summer of 2021.

In January 2019, reports emerged that WWE had signed Omos alongside six other athletes to train at the WWE Performance Center.

On July 18, 2019, Omos made his in-ring debut during a July 18 house show, defeating team 2.0 (Angelo Parker and Matt Menard) in a two-on-one handicap match.

He would then keep wrestling on house shows during the following months.

However, In June 2020, he made his formal television debut during an episode of Monday Night RAW, where he was presented as a surprise member of Akira Tozawa's ninja faction.

Because he was the tallest member of the faction, Omos was then referred to only as the "Giant Ninja" as he stood at ringside during team Tozawa's tag match against The Street Profits and The Viking Raiders.

Shortly after, he was then repackaged as a bodyguard, serving as the doorman and bouncer for Shane McMahon's RAW Underground show.

In October 2020, after the cancellation of Raw

Underground, Omos began associating with AJ Styles, and at Survivor Series, he was introduced with a new ring name, which is known as - Omos.

In March 2021, on an episode of Raw, Omos announced that he would be making his televised in-ring debut at WrestleMania 37 alongside Styles against The New Day (Kofi Kingston and Xavier Woods) for the WWE Raw Tag Team Championship.

At the event, Omos and Styles defeated The New Day to win the titles, after Omos hit Kingston with a choke bomb and pinned him.

However, the duo (Omos and Styles) lost their Raw Tag Team Championship title to RK-Bro (Randy Orton and Matt Riddle).

At Survivor Series in November 2021, Omos participated in a 25-man dual-branded battle royal in honor of the 25th anniversary of The Rock's debut at the 1996 Survivor Series.

Omos had the most eliminations(12) and won the match by last eliminating Ricochet.

After weeks of tension between him and Styles, the pair effectively ended their alliance in 2021.

Earlier in April this year, Omos

acquired MVP as his manager and began feuding with Bobby Lashley after the latter had turned on Lashley.

He defeated Lashley at WrestleMania Backlash with MVP's help, but lost to him in a Chukwueze, coach Salisu steel cage match on the May 16 episode of Raw. Lashley later ended their feud after Hell in A Cell.

## IMC, NPFL clubs to meet over kickoff date, others

THE Interim Management Committee (IMC) of the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL) and the 20 clubs scheduled to participate in the 2022/23 league season, will meet in Abuja next week, the IMC has disclosed.

According to the IMC, the

COSTA Rica will lock horns with Nigeria at the country's National Stadium in San Jose in what is the first of Los Ticos' last two friendly matches before the start of the 2022 FIFA Men's World Cup in Qatar.

In Qatar, Costa Rica will not face any African opposition in the round-robin stage, having been grouped with Spain, Japan, and Germany.

But La Tricolor have resolved to test their wits and might against three-time African champions, the Super Eagles.

The Super Eagles will not be in Qatar after losing out on a World Cup ticket to eternal rivals Ghana in the final playoffs.

But pride will be at stake for the West Africans as they seek to pad their unpleasant record against North American teams.

The Super Eagles arrived in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica and the match venue, early Monday morning.

The Nigerian delegation comprised of, but not limited to, two coaches and 18 home-based players and have been lodged at Real Intercontinental Hotel, San Jose.

In the absence of foreign Super Eagles stars such as Napoli's Victor Osimhen, Everton's Alex Iwobi, and Villarreal's Samuel Yusuf will look to count on the abilities of the players drawn from clubs in the Nigeria Professional Football League.

## CAFCC: Plateau United set to tackle Al Akhdar

AHEAD of the second leg match of the CAF Confederation Cup against Al Akhdar of Libya, Nigeria's representative Plateau United has arrived in Benghazi, Libya for the game, **BSNSports.com.ng** reports.

The Jos-based club under coach Fidelis Ilechukwu departed the country two days ago for Libya after having intensive training representative Plateau for the game.

The Nigeria side arrived in Benghazi, Libya on Tuesday morning brimming with confidence after a huge 4-1 first-leg victory last week at the

## World Cup preparations

### Eagles seek to puncture holes in Los Ticos

Los Ticos are making their seventh appearance at the 2022 FIFA World Cup and are keen to make an impression similar to 2014 when they reached the quarterfinals before losing out to the Netherlands on penalties.

This current Costa Rican side is not as talented as that 2014 team, but they still boast the experience of PSG's shot-stopper Keylor Navas (PSG), former Arsenal forward Joel Campbell, and captain Bryan Ruiz.

Captain Bryan Ruiz celebrates with Costa Rican teammates

Preparations have gone smoothly so far, with La Tricolor losing none of their last four matches. That decent run also includes notable victories over Martinique, New Zealand, and Uzbekistan.

And adding Nigeria to that list just before the Mundial kicks off will boost morale in La Tricolor's camp in no small measure.

The San Jose friendly will be the first international match between Costa Rica and Nigeria.

Los Ticos, however, have a mixed record against African opposition. Costa Rica boast one win each over Cameroon and Tunisia but have suffered two defeats to South Africa.

By contrast, Nigeria have an ugly record against CONCACAF representatives.

The Super Eagles have lost three of six matches to Mexico, tasted defeat twice in three games against the United States, and have won just two of six games against Jamaica.



Super Eagles land in San Jose, Costa Rica

## IMC, NPFL clubs to meet over kickoff date, others

meeting will deliberate on the issues affecting the competition, including kickoff date for the 2022/23 season, Club Licensing regime. Other possible talking points include development ideas of the IMC and contributions from the clubs, as well as the format of the season and calendar.

This maiden meeting of the IMC with the 20 participating clubs in the 2022/23 season will hold on November 14 in Abuja. In a notice of the meeting sent to the clubs and signed by the Head of Operations (HoO), Davidson Owumi, the clubs were

informed that the meeting will hold from 6.00 p.m. at the Sandralia Hotel.

Though no agenda was listed in the notice of invitation, it is believed the IMC will seek to meet one-on-one with the clubs, who are the first line stakeholders in NPFL.

## CAFCC: Plateau United set to tackle Al Akhdar

MKO Abiola Stadium in Abuja.

After missing out narrowly on the group stage of the Champions League to Esperance of Tunisia, Plateau United is willing to qualify for the group stage of the

Confederation Cup.

They will observe their compulsory training at the match venue later in the day as the game is slated for Wednesday as the winner over the two legs on aggregate reaches the group stage of the tournament.



Plateau United





**Quest**



writer

FRAGMENT

*The vision expressed in the idea of African renaissance is that of the reconstruction and development of an Africa in which people's lives are constantly and rapidly improving towards standards broadly in line with the best in the world. It is also a vision of an Africa that is integrated in the world on an equal basis. Africa collectively stands at the bottom of the world stage of development - completely.*

**Late President Nelson Mandela**

Late Nelson Mandela

## My youth, adulthood spent fighting unjust, oppressive system

I grew up in the Eastern Cape, an area of South Africa much like the one so well described to you by Thomas Hardy. It was a world of oral tradition, healing properties were herbal, an abscess would be treated with poultices, clean water was simply not available. Gastro intestinal infections, malaria, cholera were rampant. Life was brutish and short. Electricity and the horseless carriage did not exist for me. The hardness and poverty of existence was aggravated by an uncaring society. Colonies were meant to be exploited both for the mother country and for those who came to settle in our area. Fresh in the memories of the older generation of the poorest of the very poor, and spoken of in low hushed tones, what was said to be a hugely profitable business that was said to have been abolished - that was the business of slavery. My youth and young adulthood was spent with others in fighting an unjust and oppressive system.

Many African leaders today would say exactly the same thing. And when you assess the achievements and failures of Africa you must always keep this background in mind. One of the greatest mistakes which is made by serious political commentators today is to judge us on the same basis by which you judge opinion makers in the old and advanced industrial countries, forgetting that for more than three centuries our people were denied the privileges which you take for granted.

You went to the best schools in the country - well equipped with highly qualified educators; classrooms properly equipped with learning aids; where the language at school was identical to the language at home; with parents with a high level of educational accomplishment, who could help their children to grasp sophisticated concepts at an early age.

But when you consider the situation of the blacks in Africa you come across a different state of affairs. Children who go to school without any learning aids. Taught in a language which is not theirs, by teachers often not so very qualified. A child comes back from school normally to parents who have no educational background at all. Poor children eating porridge in the morning, porridge at lunch, porridge as their dinner, unable to concentrate. Large families with little room to move about. A child who shares a room with about three or four others. No table, no chairs. Doing their homework on



the floor.

These are the people who live in Africa today and I hope that when you make your assessment you will bear in mind this background. The people who run the governments in Africa today are people who were never given any opportunity to train in government, as many of you are. And I have no doubt that you will bear this in mind, not only in our discussions here but when examining the whole situation in Africa.

Being a former head of state has its advantages. One of them is having the time to speak in institutions where young people must listen while their elders pose difficult questions. I trust that my honorary membership of the student unions of a number of London University colleges, including LSE, will not mean that I have to try and provide answers myself! Nor that I will be examined on what I say. One shares one's thoughts with every confidence at a university with a proud record of solidarity with the struggles of oppressed people, and which is also renowned worldwide, as a centre of learning and enquiry.

LSE, as part of the University of London, was in the vanguard of the great army of men and women across the world who responded to the call to isolate the apartheid regime. They insisted that human rights are the rights of all people everywhere. I feel greatly honoured to have an honorary degree from the University of London. Today brings an opportunity to thank LSE in person and with all humility for the part it played in that tribute to the South African people for their achievement in turning from

conflict to the peaceful pursuit of a better life for all.

For many South Africans, LSE also meant the opportunity for learning that apartheid denied them in their own country. Those who were students are now working in all sectors of our society, leaders of a nation, leading a bright and common future. We continue to draw upon you for training and knowledge in fields that are critical to the development of our country. May your practical solidarity and our partnership long continue. Your invitation to me to reflect with you on the challenges facing Africa speaks of your continuing commitment to our shared goals and I thank you most sincerely.

A difficult question I wish to pose today is simply this: What historical stage is Africa going through? As is generally the case with questions of history and development, an adequate answer will require years of work by African historians and social scientists in partnership with institutions like yours.

This is especially so, given the rapid and far-reaching changes affecting the world as a whole. And it is quite likely that future historians will not see this period in quite the same way as we who are living through it. So I will exercise that privilege I refer to, and not try to answer the question, other than to say this: we are convinced that we are in a period of decisive historical significance for Africa and its place in the world. We are determined that this 21st century shall indeed be the African century.

Matching the scale of what we are seeking to bring about, our challenges are formulated in terms that may evoke periods of

major historical change in other regions of the world in other times. Thus, the idea of an African renaissance has taken hold in our continent with all the resonance of an idea whose time has come. The rebirth we are engaged in is not one that will culminate, as European renaissance did, in colonisation and dominance of a world economic system, of which the slave trade was an integral part. Ours is, however, a rebirth that must deal with problems that derive from Africa's historical relation with the rest of the world, established in that period. And this must be achieved in a rapidly globalising world. A second historical project, related to the first, is that of building strong institutions in a united continent. Political, economic and social institutions at national, regional and continental level.

The weak states that are also part of our historical legacy are amongst the conditions which all too easily allow war lordism to emerge, ethnic mobilisation to divide a united people into warring forces, and the resulting tensions and conflicts to threaten regions with instability.

Again, this process of building strong states and institutions cannot pass through the horrific destruction and slaughter that Europe inflicted upon itself before it achieved that goal, above all in the first half of the 20th century. On the other hand, the system of multilateral and international institutions that were established in the middle of the 20th century to ensure that such catastrophes do not happen again will provide an important part of the armory of weapons for building an equitable world.

This remains true, even as we

seek to reform our international organisations so that they reflect in practise the democratic principles of a de-colonised world.

The vision expressed in the idea of African renaissance is that of the reconstruction and development of an Africa in which people's lives are constantly and rapidly improving towards standards broadly in line with the best in the world.

It is also a vision of an Africa that is integrated in the world on an equal basis. Africa collectively stands at the bottom of the world stage of development - completely. This means for millions the ills brought by poverty and under-development, the scourges of disease such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV Aids, and educational programmes that are far from what is needed for Africa's full participation in the modern economy and society. As the world is seeing now in what the floods are doing to the people of Mozambique and part of South Africa, it means a vulnerability to environmental disaster.

If, despite all this, we talk with conviction of realising our long-cherished dream, of rebirth and reconstruction it is because the conditions for doing so now exist. They include the stage of development of the world's economy. While this brings the danger that historical imbalances may be entrenched and even worsened, it also brings opportunities for Africa as a region of vast untapped potential. The conditions improved at the liberation of South Africa as the culmination of Africa's struggle against colonial and white minority rule. This brought a new possibility for the continent to focus energies and resources on shaping its own development, rather than having to devote them to resistance to colonial and racial oppression.

And the conditions for the regeneration of Africa include the growing mass movement of Africans during the past two decades, manifested in struggles against dictatorships and undemocratic rule. Part of this process, and in turn giving it impetus, is the emergence of a new generation of African leaders, capable men and women who are not prepared to accept as inevitable the current conditions under which the ordinary African lives. It is for such reasons that we are hopeful for the future.

**To be continued next week**