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# Sunday Standard



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## Front page comment

# Ibrahim Dasuki Nakande misfired

Recently, there has been an article making the rounds on the social media with the title: "Moving Jos Orthopaedic Hospital To Barkin Ladi: Another Attempt To Short change Hausa/Fulani" written by one Ibrahim Dasuki Nakande. In the said article, the author made some spurious and futile claims that locating the Orthopaedic Hospital in Barkin Ladi, was done to spite and exclude his tribal group and deny them access to that facility. Nothing can be further from the truth. Apart from being

economical with the truth, Nakande presented a very myopic, unfortunate and a manipulative view of the issue.

To us, Dasuki is only trying to stand history on its head by postulating that Plateau State starts and ends with Jos North. That Jos is the capital of the State does not in any way confer on it some kind of monopoly and special status nor does it mean that everything allocated to the state must be located in the capital. Indeed, the Jos

traditional Council comprise of Jos/North, Jos/South, Barkin Ladi and Riyom. To be sure, Plateau State is made of seventeen local government areas. The State spans a landmass of 30,913 km<sup>2</sup> (11,936 sq mi) and has a population of over three million people with over fifty- three ethnic nationalities spread across the State, imbued with a rich history of accommodation and openness. Sadly, Nakande does not seem to know or

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## Child abuse:

# Denying women, children a future

Perhaps, for sane people the world over, the rights of women and children have always been fought over time. Sadly however, there is a sustained increase in the number of cases of child abuse and molestation in Nigeria. Lately, the war has been taken to the public court of opinion insisting, it is high time, the menace is nipped in the bud. KATDAPBA Y GOBUM writes on what this development means to their future. Pages 10,31



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### Ibrahim Dasuki Nakande misfired

deliberately refuses to accept that Plateau is far bigger than Jos and is made of component parts which makes the whole. For reasons best known to him, he has, through his write up tried to inflame unnecessary passion to pitch the people against themselves. But he must know that Plateau people are wiser and cannot be manipulated easily. Resorting to base sentiments when discussing issues that concern the State is an unfortunate path that citizenry have vowed to no longer tow as a state. No one is ready to be manipulated any longer by our failed political leaders whose stock in trade is pitching the people against themselves so as to remain in power at whatever cost to the detriment of the people.

It is obvious that Nakande does not understand the changing dynamics of the present socio-political history of the Nigerian society. It is trite to claim that the Hausa/Fulani are being targeted when in actual fact there is no ethnic conflagration known as Hausa/Fulani. At least that has been made very clear by recent postulation that are in the public domain and can be accessed by anyone.

Indeed, Nakande failed to realise that a huge chunk of Plateau, Wase to be precise is populated by Fulanis who he seeks to exclude from enjoying a facility to be paid for by tax-payers money and which he feels should be accessed only by his own special breeds, the Jasawa. As a matter of fact, Barkin Ladi, where the facility is to be located is home to a large population of Fulanis which he, Nakande sees as second class and not fit to enjoy what is paid for by tax-payers.

Now what is Nakande's motive having benefitted immensely from Plateau State? As a former Minister of the Federal Republic, he is losing out in the political power game and is trying by all means to hold on to whatever straw so as not to sink. He does not mind pitching the people against themselves if at the end he gets what he wants at whatever cost. If beating the drums of war by inflaming passion would get him what he wants so be it. If not, pray, how can you explain singling out a community in the midst of many to claim that they are being targeted?

To make matters worse, Nakande seem not to have known that the JUTH old site was Jos General Hospital which was donated by the Plateau State Government to serve as temporary abode for JUTH until its permanent site was developed. To now claim that it was moved to spite his people is to say the least unfortunate and unbecoming of the kind of leaders we have in the country. We cannot continue to have self-serving and manipulative people whose only interest is themselves and their families taking advantage of the fault lines that had existed in our societies. That our society is building bridges across the divides attest to the fact that no effort is being spared to ensure we live in peace in spite of our differences.

If Nakande had loved Plateau so much, what did he do when the zonal headquarters of the Central Bank of Nigeria was removed from Jos to Bauchi? We did not hear him speak up when UNICEF moved its zonal office from Jos to Bauchi nor did he utter as much as a word when MTN zonal office was moved to Bauchi? Could we then assume that whatever the former Minister is doing is selective, sectional and ethicist?

We feel sad that a so-called leader would not descend so low to the point of throwing tantrums that are divisive, misleading and myopic. Leaders must live above board. They must be shining examples to those that they point the way for not those who seek to build bridges that divide the people. Unless and until leaders start to act in a manner that is honourable and ennobling, our country would continue to wobble and fumble just like our lives have continued to witness slow growth because of the attitudes of pretenders masquerading as leaders.

We do not think that playing politics with the lives of the people is the right thing for any leader to do. Nakande should note that if he has a problem with the governor of the state, he should find better ways of dealing with the situation. Let the people be left alone to deal with the dire situation our leaders have put them into. If he has lost out in the power game, it is only reasonable and right that he goes back to the drawing board and re-strategize not to use the people as canon fodder in his survival fight with the governor. The people are wary from all the follies they have been made to pass through from the activities of these political gladiators.

### FG seeks to recover weapons stockpiled by politicians

The Nigerian government through the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) has said it had intensified the mopping up of illicit small arms and light weapons nationwide ahead of the 2023 general elections.

This is just as the centre hinted that it had recovered and destroyed over 3,000 illegal arms across the country.

The South West coordinator of the NCCSALW, Ben Sola Akinlade, disclosed this in Abeokuta on Friday, saying the arms were recovered from terrorists, bandits and armed robbers through the help of security agencies.

He said the NCCSALW was established by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2021 to tackle the proliferation of illegal

arms by mopping up illicit small arms and light weapons in the country.

He said the centre, in collaboration with security agencies, would be monitoring the activities of politicians before, during and after the general elections.

Akinlade, who blamed the influx of small arms on the country's porous borders, explained that the centre was destroying recovered illegal arms to prevent them from getting into the wrong hands.

He called on Nigerians to be vigilant in the wake of political campaigns and rallies, saying the use of various forms of small arms and light weapons will be rampant.

"We all know what happened in past elections. Some bad eggs in politics will continue to use thugs for campaigns and do a lot of things.

The centre will monitor their activities before, during and after the



Buhari

elections. This is not something the centre can do alone, we count on critical stakeholders to help," he said.

### Most Nigerian graduates can't write, speak English language -Prof Anieke

The Vice Chancellor of Godfrey Okoye University (GOUNI), Enugu, Prof. Christian Anieke, has said speaking and writing English is a major challenge to many Nigerian graduates.

Anieke said the University identified the use of English as the major weakness of many graduates from other institutions, stressing that some first-class graduates found it difficult to write or speak correct English.

The VC noted that the face of every university was its postgraduate school and as such, showed the research strength of the university as some postgraduates reflect the quality of research of the institution.

"This is why we introduced a course we called "Communication in English" and the students' inability to use the English language correctly could be due to their background.

"In the PG School, we ensure that when you write your thesis, it will be strong enough to be published in a journal and if not publishable, then you have not written a good thesis.

"You may not have a lot of students here because a lot of Nigerian students want it easy, but the quality is very important to me.

"NUC is championing national integration by sending those in charge of academics of the universities to institutions outside their regions.

I see this as very important for the growth of our universities", the vice chancellor stated.

Anieke, however, urged the officials to see the assignment as a sacrifice for the development of Nigeria, adding that the GOUNI had never done anything without involving NUC.

Responding, Prof. Kabiru Dandago, who spoke on behalf of the team, gave the assurance that there would be nothing like a witch-hunt during the team's visit to universities.

Dandago said they would maintain a high level of objectivity in the discharge of their duties.

### VC asks FG to reverse no work no pay policy

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, Professor Tanko Ishaya has appealed to the federal government to look into the issue of no work, no pay for members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, and amicably resolve the issue as such does not apply in the University environment.

Professor Ishaya explained that academics in the universities apart from teaching, also engage in administrative work, research, and community service among other responsibilities and the feats he achieved within his first year in office would have been impossible if the lecturers in his University were not working.

The VC who spoke on Thursday at the University's Senate Chamber at the Permanent site of the institution where he gave an account of his first year in office, added that the University should be given autonomy and stakeholders must be sincere about the issue of education in the country.

His words, "We believe that building a collegial environment in the University is the fundamental requirement of excellence since every system's success depends on the strength of the people. Within this period, we have built a collegial University, improved academic standards, improved funding, improved the welfare of staff and students, and foster industrial harmony in the University ...

"My position on the no work no pay is that no work no pay is not something that can apply in the University environment, some of the achievements in the last year, without the academic staff working

during the period of strike, we would not have recorded such achievements. I have said it clearly, the responsibility of academics is summarized into teaching, research, and community service.

"I believe when ASUU went on strike, what they were saying was that they will not go to the classrooms to teach. That is less than 1/3 of their activities, academics also have the responsibility of the administration. They do a lot of administrative work so we have appealed as a Committee of Vice Chancellors together with the

Committee of Pro-Chancellors to Mr. President to make consideration concerning this issue because the staff has been working whether at home or in their offices and that is the reason we were able to make these achievements ..."

He also stated that lack of visibility was affecting the University's ranking but assured efforts are being intensified for improvement and added tree planting campaign has commenced in the University to curb the cases of destruction of University facilities by rainstorms.

### Freed Nigerian student Muhammed to meet President Buhari

The freed student of the Federal University, Dutse, Jigawa State, Aminu Muhammed Adamu, who was earlier detained and tried for tweeting about First Lady, Aisha Buhari, is to meet with President Muhammadu Buhari after regaining his freedom, his family has claimed.

Reports had on Friday said that Muhammed regained his freedom after Aisha Buhari withdrew the case she ordered the police to institute against the 23-year-old.

The source earlier reported that Muhammed, a final-year student in the Department of Environmental Management and Toxicology, in June 2022 posted on Twitter that Mrs Buhari had suddenly added weight after taking part in plundering the nation's meagre resources as the masses endured hardship under her husband's regime.

The wife of the President is known for frivolous trips to Dubai.

The tweet, which was posted in Hausa reads: "Su mama anchi kudin talkawa ankoshi."

The tweet, which was accompanied

by a photograph of Mrs Buhari, loosely translates as "Mama has eaten poor people's money and is now full".

According to his friends, he made the post because he was frustrated about the prolonged strike by universities across the country.

The strike started in February 2022 and ended in October after eight months.

However, on November 8, the 23-year-old student was picked up by security operatives on campus and was reportedly beaten up following his arrest around noon.

Meanwhile, Muhammed's guardian, Kabiru Shehu, on Friday confirmed that the student was currently in Aso Villa and waiting to see President Buhari.

"Aminu has been released. He is currently in Aso Villa and waiting to see President Muhammadu Buhari. We are happy about this development and we are happy. We can't wait to reunite with him," he told Leadership.





With  
**Katdapba  
Y. Gobum  
On Sunday**



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**"If for anything, his ascension to the throne of his forefathers October 20, 2010 was to further boost the established honour that had long become of the stool. Ten clear years after, death came calling. But it was in his passion for doing things and settling for nothing less that he wanted to reinvent visibility for the Tarok traditional institution".**

## Bali: A model in doing the right thing

**O**N Friday, December 4, 2020, exactly two years ago today, the world woke up to the sad news of the passage of one of Nigeria's most decorated Generals, Domkat Yah Bali.

Before his passage to the great world beyond, he was 80 years old having been born on February 27, 1940 in Zamko to the family of Hassan Bali Tabut and Yinkat Bali. He had succeeded His Royal Highness, Edward Cirdap Zhattau as Ponzhi Tarok designate on October 20, 2010 then Bunu Langtang, after the last occupant, had joined his ancestors in 2008.

No sooner had he been announced Ponzhi Tarok, a clear ten years after leaving his last position in the military, than a flurry of court cases against him started to fly. What perhaps may have been worrisome was the fact that those who wanted him out of the way on the stool were his compatriots at arms in the military. It is possible he least expected it coming from them.

It is true that there was an underestimation of the kind of person he was. If he was not once a military man, he was such a disciplined man through, whose place in the hearts of people has remained incandescent and celebratory in all fronts. As a matter of fact, 'he lived a simple life identifying with the common people and touching lives' in more ways than one.

By far, it was the trait in his character that set him apart as an example to follow by many. If that was not anything to emulate, Ponfa Yakubu Bali tells it all, 'he lived simply a life, that was not materialistic, incorruptible, but professionally ethical and enjoyed doing what was right at all times'. These were qualities he wanted to be engraved as an epitaph, when he must have left the stage.

His son, Ponfa Yakubu Bali has this to say of his father: He was 'a man of many parts. He was an incurable lover of golf'. No wonder, 'he was a regular fixture at the IBB Golf Club in Abuja'. As a young army officer training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, England in 1961, it is on record that he became a record holder in the 400 meters in the school.

If you have ever had the opportunity to have read or listened to him speak before his demise, it is undeniable that his brilliance speaks volumes. Not many may have the privilege knowing this aspect of his life. Again, his son, Ponfa Yakubu Bali is quick to come to his defense: He was a lover of books and the arts. His intellect sums up the fact that he was always interested in books and also adding to the body of knowledge generally.

His confidence and belief that the tradition of the Tarok people must always be protected for the future



**HRM Bali**

was unmistakably exhibited while he was alive. Little wonder, in 2010, he became the chief custodian of the customs and traditions of the Tarok nation as Ponzhi, thus establishing him as truly African.

In 1984 through 1985, providence smiled on him after several appointments in the military, he was made Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff and Minister of Defence and member of the Supreme Military Council, when Nigeria's president, Muhammadu Buhari was Head of State. Soon after he was overthrown, and President, General Babangida Badamasi Ibrahim let him continue as Defence Minister and member of the Armed Forces Ruling Council between 1985 and 1990.

Those who have had personal encounter or know General Domkat Yah Bali deeply will be quick to add to the list of his virtues that include his penchant to insist that things are always done rightly. That is the tangent with which he touched lives, and influenced his career in ways, that today serve as a lesson to Nigerians.

And that is why as the family, Tarok nation and associates remember him today, it becomes pertinent to use the opportunity to help rediscover the essence of his person and place in the history of the Army and of his contributions to the development of Nigeria.

It may have been expected that on the completion of his tour of duty in the Army, many had thought he would return amongst his people to a deserved rest from the hustle and bustle of a regimented life and leadership. That was not to be, for ten years after his retirement in 2010, the call to serve the Tarok nation as its

paramount ruler became manifest.

Being a first class stool and one of the oldest traditional institutions in the state, and in Nigeria's north central geopolitical zone, much was expected of him. Let it be known, as in the book by Esther Bali & Bata Musa 'General Domkat Bali as Ponzhi Tarok: A contextual analysis of the imbroglio 1990-2020, 'the stool is a product of the amalgamation of the Hill and Plain Tarok on 22nd August, 1955'. And 'it represents an embodiment of the cultural heritage of the Tarok People'. Much as it was thought that it would be seamless, however, before long, his ascendancy to the throne was involved in judicial rigmarole that unsettled the Tarok nation.

If for anything, his ascension to the throne of his forefathers on October 20, 2010 was to further boost the established honour that had long become of the stool. Ten clear years after, death came calling. But it was in his passion for doing things and settling for nothing less that he wanted to reinvent visibility for the Tarok traditional institution.

Being moved to superintend the Ministry of Interior was for him a demotion. He couldn't condescend to take that lying low, however, 'rather than bear the indignity' of staying around to play the role assigned like many in Nigeria are wont to do today, he elected to resign even when it may be a 'taboo for a military officer to walk out on the military head of state. The practice at the time was that you must wait to be kicked out. But Bali opted out and nothing happened to him. The heavens did not fall and the military lords did not hound him'.

During the celebration of his 80<sup>th</sup>

birthday in Abuja, General Dr Yakubu Gowon, former Head of State, poured encomiums about his loyalty and discipline, saying these attributes 'saved the lives of hundreds of civilians by preventing a genocide hours to the end of the Nigerian civil war of 1967 to 1970'.

He had added: "His loyalty and discipline saved the lives of hundreds of civilians who would have died in the final onslaught planned to take place 24 hours before the war ended. I called him and gave him the instruction to stand down. He obeyed without any question and that was how the war ended on 'No Victor, No Vanquished note'."

For General Yakubu Gowon's description of General Bali's 'hard work, humility, vision, perseverance, courage, incorruptibility, and unwavering pursuit of excellence in all undertakings are important signifiers into how he was imbued with leadership qualities that he patriotically delivered to the service of the nation without blemish. General Bali's attempt at the stool of Ponzhi Tarok was the only recorded moment when he had a mixed reaction that trailed any of his endeavours in life'.

General Gowon had written: He [Gen Domkat Bali] reluctantly emerged as Ponzhi Tarok designate on October 20, 2010, awaiting installation/presentation of the staff of office. This development did not go down well with some Tarok stakeholders, and a Court action in a Jos High Court was instituted questioning the legality of the appointment. Following this Court action, and the resulting High Court restraining order, General Bali, a respecter of the rule of law, immediately expressed his desire to be relieved of the appointment as Ponzhi Tarok [which] was accepted by the Plateau State Government, with effect from 1st November, 2014' as captured in General Domkat Bali as Ponzhi Tarok: A contextual analysis of the imbroglio 1990-2020 by Esther Bali & Bata Musa.

If anything, it should be known that it is to the credit, says Venerable Selcan Miner (in a review of the book above) of 'General Bali's character of always deploying his conscience and conviction firmly lived with him as he worked against the prevailing pressures to contest for the vacant stool. When he eventually, reluctantly yielded to the pressures to ascent to the throne, the scenario became littered with controversies'.

In fact, 'the selection led to a flurry of litigations and other cluster of huddles that did not help the process nor promote the desired peace, but rather hanged the Tarok nation on Aesop fable'

and without doubt, 'General Bali understood the dynamics of the impasse and its implication on his declining health status', therefore 'on 15th October, 2014, he tendered a letter to the State Government, stating his desire to be relieved of the appointment'. His resignation was accepted with effect from November 10, 2014.

'Ordinarily, government's approval of General Bali's resignation would have ended the saga, but it unfortunately stirred yet, another round of confusion as Plateau State Government assumed a starring [new] role in the impasse, as it continues to pay the salary of Ponzhi Tarok into the General's personal account, after approving his resignation. General Bali of course, wrote myriad of letters, reminding government to stop the unmerited salary as he was no longer Ponzhi Tarok.

He had to write in his last letter to Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State stating: 'My earnest desire now, and indeed the collective interest of the Tarok nation is that the vacancy be filled without further delay. I look forward to partaking in the coronation ceremony of my successor. As a senior Tarok citizen and elder statesman, I am quite worried that the issue has dragged on for this long. The Tarok nation will remain eternally grateful to you for bringing this matter to a closure soonest'.

By far, one of the things that does not go against the grain of his commitment is his resolve to continue to defend his fatherland with patriotism. Is it not reason that during his passage two years ago several condolence messages from various sources poured into the family home.

Two of those came from no other person than President Muhammadu Buhari and Governor Simon Bako Lalong. They were many others, and instructive as they were, they further told the world what Nigeria just missed by his death.

The statement said that Buhari "believes the records of bravery and patriotism of General Bali, the Ponzhi Tarok, will continue to inspire young military officers, while the foundation he laid in all the commands he headed will always be remembered." Lalong described him as a 'principle advocate of diversity and Plateau's gift to the world whose advocacy must be supported to endure.'

Bali was married to Esther Bali an educationist and they have two children, Nanna and the heir apparent, Ponfa, who is a management consultant with over 20 years experience in the US and Canada. Currently, he is neck deep in the area of helping innovate businesses and improving their operations for productivity.





## Bullying in school and consequences

ONE of the main hurdles to education around the globe is bullying. In layman's definition, it is any form of intimidation perpetrated by one who is older or stronger and or more powerful than the victim. Bullies engage in this form of intimidation to make a statement, take authority, put fear in their victims, due to inferiority or superiority complex and many other reasons.

Some of the reasons advanced for bullying according to verywellfamily include the following: power, pleasure, problems at home, popularity and payback.

In Nigeria, bullying in secondary schools has become part and parcel of secondary school life. There is no gain saying, it has been accepted. One could remove bullying and secondary education would lose its uniqueness (as a school of thought claims).

A young man shared with me why he lost interest in school. He said he had gained admission into one of the best government schools in Jos, some 20 years ago. And his proud father decided to drop him on the resumption date. Feeling so excited that he was now a student, after his father left, he went back into his dormitory to get a few biscuits. What this fresher didn't know was that there were rules. Not the ones set by the school authority but ones set by senior students for time immemorial.

He just pushed the door and entered the dormitory. Unknown to this fresher, he made a senior student who was taking his garri in peace, jump in fear thinking somebody was coming to discover him and join him. And because of that, he got a very mighty stick which he used to beat the living daylight out of poor fresher. One of the senior's friends was passing, and concluding that his friend had been disrespected, just got his cane and joined the party. It was after he looked very well at the boy rolling on the floor that he discovered that it was the same boy who's father just entrusted in his care. He ended up interceding for the fresher.

A parent shared her son's story in whose case, his only misfortune was his surname. His first cousin had just graduated from the same school and he was very mean to some students. They decided that it was payback time when they saw his first cousin. For about a month after he resumed, he knelt down by one of the boy's bed at lights out till about 11 pm or 12 when he would be released to go and sleep on bare springs because one of the boys sophisticated his mattress and added to his.

While he was suffering all this, he was also the one fetching their bathing water and washing their clothes. After a while, this fresher fell very ill. His mother came for her son but the unhappy face that was all bones she saw was the shadow of her son. It took so much prompting before her son opened up to her. She took action and changed school for her son and left the school to handle the wicked boys.

The worst case scenario was the one that was covered in so much secrecy. According to the person who supplied

the information, some seniors were on the case of a certain student and ended up locking him in the wardrobe. Unfortunately, it was vacation day. Everybody left for home except that boy. Some days later when the boy's parents raised their voices, it was thoroughly investigated and discovered the student was forgotten locked up in a wardrobe in the dormitory. Sadly, he was found dead and the students faced the full wrath of the law.

The cases of bullying are endless. Even as one is writing, more are being committed. It could be perpetrated in subtle ways like forcing students to give up their piece of meat for you because you are superior. Or forcefully collecting your junior's food. If you are making life miserable for a junior student or using your position to make other students miserable, for no reason, then you are a bully.

Uncountable number of students have developed an aversion and or hatred to school and education because of bullying. Bullies are like Pharisees. They don't like education and block the way for others to access it in peace. They are sick souls that trapped in a weak body that finds expression in intimidating others who can easily be frightened. They badly need a psychiatric.

The circle of silence that surrounds it has to be dealt with headlong. Perpetrators of bullying must face the full wrath of the law to serve as a deterrent. And any school that handles bullying with kid gloves should share in the perpetrators' punishment.

Let's teach our children the meaning of love and tolerance and also the golden rule: Do unto others what you want others to do to you.

“  
**In Nigeria, bullying in secondary schools has become part and parcel of secondary school life. There is no gain saying, it has been accepted. One could remove bullying and secondary education would lose its uniqueness (as a school of thought claims). A young man shared with me why he lost interest in school. He said he had gained admission into one of the best government schools in Jos, some 20 years ago.**  
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## NEWS

# DEVCOMS seeks support for people living with HIV/AIDS

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

IN commemoration of World AIDS Day 2022, Development Communications Network (DEVCOM), has joined the United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to seek support for people living with HIV across the world.

This came in a press statement signed by the Programme Officer of DevComs, Fagbenle Marvellous, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital Thursday while celebrating World AIDS Day 2022 with the theme "Equalize".

DEVCOMS explained that analysis by the United Nations revealed that inequalities are obstructing the end of AIDS. He said, "Earlier this year, UNAIDS stated that the AIDS response is in danger with rising new infections and continuing deaths in many parts of the world."

"A new report shows that the underlying factor is inequalities. Also, the analysis by the UN (2022) reveals that inequalities are obstructing the end of AIDS and need urgent actions to get the AIDS response on the track", it disclosed.

The organization, however, commended the decline of AIDS in Nigeria, saying "the Director General of Nigeria's National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Gambo Aliyu earlier disclosed that new HIV infections gradually declined



Marvellous

from 103,404 in 2019 to 92,323 in 2021, which is an indication that Nigeria will meet the United Nations target of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030. He also confirmed that more persons have commenced treatment in the country".

In line with the Director's speech, UNAIDS Country Director, Leo Zekeng and Byanyima UNAIDS Executive Director, also called for equal access to HIV treatment services as well as addressing other barriers to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic so that the world would not be able to defeat AIDS while reinforcing patriarchy.

In celebrating a world of Equal Access to treatment and

prevention services", the entire team of Development Communications Network and DevComs Radio wish to commemorate World AIDS Day with our esteemed listeners, "be an aid, and not a HIV-infected person."

However, Development Communications (DevComs) Network) is Nigeria's leading media development organization with more than two decades' experience in science, public health and social sector advocacy through the media. DevComs won the first ONE Africa Award (2008) based on her innovative strategies in addressing maternal and child welfare in Nigeria.

## Association distributes farm inputs to farmers

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE National Rice Producers, Processors, Millers and Marketers Association of Nigeria (NARPPMMAN), has distributed farm inputs to over 1000 farmers in Kogi.

Speaking at the inauguration in Lokoja, recently, the National President of the association, Mr. Mustapha Ahmadu, noted that the inputs was to boost dry season farming activities of farmers affected by the recent flood disaster.

Ahmadu said that the project would mitigate the devastating flood effects in the lives of the farmers, prevent food crisis and ensure food availability in the country.

He added that the gesture would also empower farmers with low economic structures to be able to cope with the impending challenges ahead of the Federal Government's plan to remove fuel subsidy in 2023.

He said the association had mobilised its members across the 14 states especially those affected by flood to benefit from the 14 hectares' dry season farming project sponsored by the association and its private partners.

He urged beneficiaries to guard the initiative jealously to achieve the desired goals and for its sustainability.

He further appealed to traditional rulers of each benefited local government to encourage their subjects to adhere to the agreement by

paying their equity loans to attract more agricultural projects to the communities.

He enjoined the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development not to relent its effort at ensuring that Nigeria attains food sufficiency.

He stressed that food security remained fundamental and panacea to some of the societal problems facing the nation.

Ahmadu sympathised with flood victims and commended Governor Yahaya Bello for working tirelessly in mitigating the flood effects residents.

The NARPPMMAN's President further praised the governor for creating the enabling environment for agricultural businesses to thrive in the state.

In his remarks, Kogi Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr David Apeh, appreciated the association for the initiative and assured that the state Ministry of Agriculture would give necessary support to the programme.

Apeh, who was represented by Mr Enejoh Alih, a Director in the ministry, said over 200 two hundred communities were affected by the recent flooding.

The commissioner appealed to the association to monitor the distribution of the inputs to ensure they get to the targeted farmers in the rural communities..

Apeh advised beneficiaries

not to sell the inputs, but make proper use of them to better their lives and contribute their quotas to the development of agriculture in the state.

On his part, the Vice National President, North Central Zone, Mr Ishaku Samaila, said the dry season private partnership project of the association was an initiative to ensure that farmers get the necessary inputs at a right time to boost food production in the country.

He explained that farmers would provide the equity contribution of the cost, and advised them to make judicious use of the inputs. This, he said would enable them to pay the loans to enable the association do more for them in subsequent farming seasons.

The state's Chairman of the Association, Mr Ikani Davidson, expressed the commitment of the association in Kogi to partner with the state government and relevant stakeholders to ensure that the association achieved the set objectives in food productions.

Two beneficiaries, Ebiloma Ogbogbo and Memunat Suleiman, appreciated the association for the initiative and promised to use the inputs judiciously according to expectations.

The inputs distributed include: Rice seed, fertilizers, herbicides among others.



## SUNDAY POLITICS

## Dakogol: PLHA holds valedictory session

By DUMAH RANDONG

**T**HE Plateau State House of Assembly has held a valedictory session in honour of their late colleague, Hon. Eric Dakogol, Member Representing Quan-Pan North Constituency describing him as a team player and lover of his people.

Majority Leader of the Plateau State House of Assembly and member representing Mikang Constituency, Hon. Nanlong Daniel moved the motion on the floor of the house during plenary Thursday and was seconded by Minority Leader, Hon. Peter Gyendeng, PDP, Representing Barkin Ladi Constituency.

The valedictory session which had in attendance wife of the deceased, Mrs Celina and their four children, Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong represented by his Deputy, Professor Sonni Tyoden, some former Speakers and members of the state assembly was in line with the tradition of the house to honour their departed colleague.

Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Sanda who presided over the session, described the day as one of the saddest moments in the 9th assembly.

He said the late Eric Dakogol was a committed member who has served his people diligently noting he will be greatly missed but said as people of faith, they have taken everything in good faith.

On his part, the Deputy Speaker, Hon Sale Yipmong, representing Dengi constituency in an emotion laden voice, said every living soul shall test death and urged leaders to remember that they will all give account of their stewardship before God.

Other members who took turns to eulogise the late member were: Hon. Abdul Yanga, Mangu North-East Constituency, Philip Dasun, Pankshin North Constituency, Daniel Nambol Listic of Langtang Central, Livinus Kwapfuan, Shendam Constituency, Hussein Amurudu, Bokkos Constituency, Mangu South, Bala Fwanje and Timothy Dantong, representing Riyom Constituency described the deceased as a fine gentleman whose contributions to the Ninth assembly as impactful.

Also contributing were: Hon. Bala Hudu, Kantana, Gwotson Fom, Jos-South, Pirfa Jingfa, Langtang North-North as well as Wallok Goma, Ezra Dakup, Pankshin South and Hon. Yahaya Adamu Mavo, Wase Constituency respectively



Sanda

eulogised the late Eric Dakogol noting that he was a man of peace whose contributions to the legislative business has impacted not only his people but the legislature as a whole.

The lawmakers who encouraged the deceased's family to as people of faith accept the death as an act of God, said a deliberate policy would be put in place to take care of the children of their dead colleagues.

A graduate of Economics from the University of Maiduguri, was until his death the Chairman, House Committee on Education. He is survived by a wife and four children.

## Group seeks youths' inclusiveness in governance

**A** political group, Young Presidential Candidates Across Party Lines, has sought youths' active engagement and inclusion in governance come 2023.

Dr. Nicolas Felix, Leader and spokesperson of the group, made the call on recently, during the group's meeting in Abuja.

"Another political dispensation is in the offing, and our goal is to see that young, vibrant and visionary Nigerians make up a huge percentage of the incoming government.

"It is 87 days to the conduct of the 2023 presidential election, an election that many of us here had hoped to contest," Felix said.

He, however, said the group was not formed to rebel against the current administration or to spite it, but it was created to support the government and facilitate good governance.

"So to our political leaders, all we are saying is

to get the youths involved, not just during elections, but after the polls."

According to him, youths' inclusiveness is all that matters, and if youths are given the chance to be governors, ministers, heads of agencies, lawmakers, among others, it will turn the ride around.

Felix therefore, charged youths to play their part by contributing to and supporting nation-building.



Dare

**A** Civil Society Organisation (CSO), has called on politicians to shun vote buying and concentrate on issues that would attract votes from the electorate.

The Executive Director of Advocacy for Good Ethics and Accountability for Development, Henry Thomas, made the call at a sensitisation Programme tagged "Vote in Peace" recently in Abuja.

Thomas called on the electorate to vote based on the competence of the candidates.

He said that it was wrong for politicians to prioritise vote-buying at the expense of quality representation.

Thomas said Nigeria was among the most peaceful countries in the world but the story changed over time, due to bad leadership, religious and

## Group urges politicians to shun vote buying

ethnic sentiments.

"Nigeria as a country has no business with poverty which has been the major reason for the insecurity in the country.

"Nigeria is a country that God has blessed with almost everything except good leadership.

"The political class have been very united in disuniting the citizens and the instruments for which they have successfully perpetrated this unholy act are religion, language and ethnicity," he said.

"The future of this country is not in the hands of any political party, it is not in the hands of any individual but it is in the hands of the people of Nigeria," he said.

He urged Nigerians to vote

rightfully and should not sell their votes.

In a remark, the President of a Civil Society Group for Good Governance, Mr Ogaku Dominic called for stringent measures to check the menace of vote trading during the 2023 general elections.

Also speaking, Presidential candidate of African Action Congress (AAC), Mr Omoyele Sowore, expressed concerns over the destruction of the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) facilities in some parts of the country.

Sowore urged politicians to desist from actions that could raise anxiety culminating in electoral violence during the campaigns for next year general elections.

## '2023: I believe time to pass gender bill is now'

**S**ENATOR Biodun Olujimi (PDP - Ekiti South) says it is time to pass the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill 2022, as the 2023 general election approaches.

She stated this at a one-day Policy Dialogue on "Gender and Equitable Opportunities Bills: Challenges, Prospects and Way Forward" held in Abuja recently.

The event was organised by UN Women in collaboration with the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS).

She said that addressing the issues in the bill and the subsequent passage before the election would ensure active participation of women.

"The elections are very close and that is why I believe if we can tidy up as soon as possible we can take a second reading as soon as possible and leave the third reading till after the elections have taken place in March.

"Between March and May, we have that window and then we can lobby and get it passed. I believe the time to pass the gender bill is now. It has lingered for too long," she said.

Giving the history of the bill in the Senate which had failed passage five times, the lawmaker said the contentious issues in the bill made her reintroduce the bill in the 9th Senate.

"The bill was named Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill in Nigeria but renamed 'Gender and Equitable Opportunities Bill 2022'.

"With the renaming, we have removed the seeming contentious issues. The contentious issues included the word equality which we have changed to equitable.

"The time has come for men to take up the bill as their own, they need to make it a bye-in."

Olujimi, who is also the Chairman, Senate Committee on Aviation, noted that 51.2 percent of the population which were women could not be shut out.

"Women are shut out and we are sitting believing it is well. It cannot be well except that portion of the society is taken care of.

"This bill had suffered greatly in the national assembly. It suffered three



Olujimi

assemblies; and it is struggling in this fourth. And the reason is simple. It is only because it is based on gender.

"If it was a general thing, it wouldn't have been so difficult."

She urged the members of the national assembly to give women a chance "to put a foot in the door.

"Why have we never had a 10 percent participation in the national assembly.

"We must be able to set the pace, we must have a law that is binding so that when I want to contest, someone will not say you are a woman."

Project coordinator, UN Women, Fulvia Clerici commended stakeholders on their support for women empowerment.

On his part, Imam Fuad Adeyemi, National Chief Imam, Al-Habibiyah Islamic Society, while opposing the bill, said that when making laws it was important to understand the essence of law.

"Our religion has the Divine Law that is unchangeable; no human being can change it and there is also the Peculiar Law made by people.

"Islam is not a mandate religion that one man will come and amend a law, that will not stand," he said.

Also, Nasiru Baba-Saleh, an Assistant Director in the Ministry of Women Affairs, said everyone should be given equal opportunity regardless of gender to aspire politically.

Mrs Yemisi Nathaniel, Programme Manager, Women's Rights Advancement Protection Alternative (WRAPA) appealed to the lawmakers to "listen to our points on the bill in order to pass it".

On his part, the Director-General, NILDS, Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman said the conversations on the bill were very positive.

Represented by Dr Adewale Aderemi, Director Democracy and Governance, NILDS, Suleiman said that "those that were opposed to the bill are now reading it differently".



## SUNDAY POLITICS

# Nigeria is geared towards free, fair 2023 elections

**N**IGERIA is geared towards delivering a free, fair, and credible election in 2023.

This was made known at the presentation of the Nigeria country report by the Nigerian delegation at the ongoing Second Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja.

Presenting the Country report, Hon Lynda Ikpeazu, said the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has reaffirmed its determination to conduct a technology-driven election, that will prevent any form of human errors, which were seemingly the case in the past.

"It is noteworthy, that the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) has been successfully deployed in the 2022 off-season gubernatorial elections in Ekiti and Osun states, thus reigniting the hope of Nigerians for a credible 2023 general elections.

On security, the lawmaker said the situation is currently stable as revealed in the third quarter security data which shows a decline in security incidents.

Ikpeazu, however, noted that Nigeria is still experiencing some security challenges but the reduced incidents have been linked on one hand to the Federal Government's approval of 2.6-billion-naira intervention.

She said that there have been unprecedented increase in the frequency of strategy meetings by the National Security Council, presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari, geared towards designing and implementing a sustainable security framework.

"In recent months, there have been reduced security incidents in the country. This is linked on one hand to the Federal Government's approval of N2.6 billion for the purchase of security equipment.

"And on the other hand, to improved tactics, techniques and procedures by security forces especially in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

"Also, there is increased inter-service and inter-agency synergy and better cohesion between national and multinational security forces.

As a result, there has been noticeable reduction in security incidents in the North-east and North-west, particularly in states constantly under attack by the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) and

lawmakers to ECOWAS Parliament



Lawan

Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna community text, Nigeria in Lidda'adati wal-Jihad (JAS)." her country report revealed

Ikpeazu in the report said that so far, Nigeria has that the redesign of the remitted a total sum of over higher denomination of the Hundred Million Dollars to Nigerian currency by the the ECOWAS Commission.

Central Bank of Nigeria Ikpeazu said that the (CBN) was a bid to mop-up Government of Nigeria excess cash in circulation, remains committed to arrest inflation, curtail fulfilling her financial counterfeiting. obligations to ECOWAS, and

She noted that with the is making arrangements to progressive exercise, the pay up the balance for the CBN is confident that the year.

measure will help recall more Responding to concerns by some Members of the than 85 per cent of its total Parliament on the massive monies outside the vaults of migration of Nigerian Health banks.

she said that the measure workers abroad which is was also taken to stifle causing a brain drain to the access to monies used as system, Hon. Haruna ransom by terrorists and Mshelia defended the kidnappers in the country. situation.

"All hands have been on Mshelia said that the deck to assist victims of the government has put in place flooding disaster as the mechanisms to improve the National Emergency health care sector noting Management Agency that some of the doctors (NEMA), state governments return to Nigeria to establish and humanitarian partners good private hospitals with have been responding to high technology equipment. critical needs," Ikpeazu This, Mshelia explained will stated. end medical tourism in the

On the implementation of country.

**T**HE SDP Senatorial Candidate for Nasarawa West Senatorial District, Mr Ahmed Wadada, has said eligible voters across all political parties would vote for him in the 2023 general elections.

Wadada stated this during a town hall meeting with the party's executives and members in Toto and Nasarawa Local Governments, in Nasarawa State.

He said that the meeting was convened to enable him interact and brainstorm with officials from the Wards to Local Governments, with a view to strengthening the SDP's structures in the district.

This, according to Wadada, will motivate them to redouble efforts towards ensuring victory for the party in the forthcoming 2023 general elections.

"I am here together with the



Wadada

leadership of my campaign council to interact with the executives as part of strategy to strengthen the party's structures at the grassroots.

"I will also visit and brainstorm

**L**ABOUR Party has advised political parties in Nigeria to focus on issue-based campaigns rather than engage in defaming others for publicity.

The Vice-Presidential Candidate of the party, Datti Baba-Ahmed, stated this at a news conference on the state of the nation in Abuja.

Baba-Ahmed said that the acts of insulting and defaming others were in violation of the peace accord signed by political parties.

"It is not too late to adopt LP's style of strictly campaigning on relevant practical national issues, while respecting individuals and institutions," he said.

He said that the LP Presidential Candidate, Peter Obi, was a successful businessman before joining politics.

"Obi is a two term governor and a former Vice-Presidential Candidate before he moved to the LP, as the Presidential Candidate enjoying tremendous goodwill and overwhelming support of the people.

"In the squabble for second and third positions, some erstwhile major political parties appear to have crossed the boundaries of decency to transgress our peaceful activities and our focus on political schedules.

"On September 29, an eminent group of statesmen under the aegis of the National Peace Committee, brought together all the Presidential Candidates to sign a Peace Accord, which represents an agreed code of conduct for the 2023 Presidential Election.

"It is unfortunate that in spite of the noble objectives of this initiative, disinformation and misinformation about the LP and its candidates have become fashionable in this election season," he said.

Baba-Ahmed added: "Recently, for example there was a false narrative being spread nationwide that Peter Obi is against the production of oil in the north; nothing could be farther from the truth."

He said that that was not true about Obi as he has repeatedly stated at various local and international fora that the greatest physical asset of Nigeria was the vast rich land in

## 'Focus on issue-based campaigns not defamation'

the North.

He said that Obi declared his commitment to exploitsame as a visionary transformative leader to exploit same for the overwhelming benefit of the Nigerian people.

"To the architect of 'consumption to production', oil in the North means more revenue for development, more jobs and opportunities," he said.

Baba-Ahmed said that earlier attempts to discredit Obi's candidacy through fabricated allegations of demolition of mosques, internal deportation of Northerners, issuance of ID cards to northerners and ethnic hostilities were all conclusively proven to be false and without basis.

He called on politicians who had made negative and bad comments to pull down or demean others to respectfully retract same in order to be readmitted to the honour list of esteemed presidential candidates.

"Truth of the matter is that every Nigerian from anywhere needs a credible and competent President. Simple."

Baba-Ahmed said the party was also concerned about the fate of areas designated by security agencies as ungoverned spaces which contain legally delineated polling units.

He said that it was necessary

for INEC to clearly address the nation on how it intended to handle the challenge of conducting elections in these areas.

He said over the past few months the party had witnessed various attacks on its offices, meetings and members in parts of the country including INEC offices have not been spared.

Baba-Ahmed called on the Federal Government to within the time left to at least make attempts at fulfilling its 2015 promise of securing lives and property, while serving justice to the killers.

He said the 2023 election would be different as the Nigerian electorate were increasingly becoming aware of the dangers of ethnic and religious politics; a fact that is causing anxiety, frustration, and desperation with political actors of the old order.

"The Obidient Movement under Labour Party will continue to remain faithful to founding principles and the Signed Peace Accord and we equally invite all stake-holders to emulate.

"The next few weeks will see an escalation of election activity. I urge all who have not yet collected their PVCs, to do so without delay, and to follow through, to identify their polling booths, vote and defend their votes," he said.



Baba-Ahmed

## My candidacy has no party boundary

machineries in motion ahead of the commencement of my campaigns soon," Wadada said.

The former two-term member of the House of Representatives, therefore, enjoined the leadership of the party to ensure internal party democracy, respect for rule of law, justice and fairness to all members of the party.

Wadada urged his supporters to shun all forms of violence and ensure rancour-free campaign, saying: "God is doing the fight for us.

He added: "I have supporters across all political parties in Nasarawa West and eligible voters across all political parties will vote for my candidacy in 2023 elections.

"My candidacy has no party boundary. I represent hope and aspirations of all progressive elements.

"Therefore, I call on the

## – Wadada

electorate to vote for a competent candidate across all political parties.

"We should vote for candidates based on their antecedents and contributions to the development of society."

Earlier, the Chairman of SDP in Nasarawa Local Government, Mr Tukura Agalabe, commended Wadada for reviving SDP in Nasarawa West Senatorial District.

He reiterated the commitment of the party's leadership to continue to mobilise support for Wadada with a view to ensuring his victory in the 2023 elections.

The meeting was attended by teeming supporters of Wadada from across the 59 electoral wards in the five Local Governments that make up the district.



SUNDAY POLITICS

'Tinubu campaign office in Jos has been busy'

*The irritant and hawkish hired Public Relations Officer of an opposition party in Plateau State, Ukandy Odey who has been jumping from one newspaper to the other and who now reports for The Will Newspaper has continued with his mischief and vituperation under the above headline, Re: Tinubu campaign office in Jos remained closed, writes SYLVANUS NAMANG.*

There is nothing he sees positive about the APC government in the state and he has ceaselessly attacked the personality of the Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon Simon Bako Lalong with impunity. He has now taken his mischief to a ridiculous and unacceptable level when he said that the recently inaugurated Tinubu Campaign Office in the choice part of Jos, along D.B. Zang (former Ibrahim Taiwo Road) has remained moribund and under lock since the Presidential Campaign flag off two weeks ago. This is nothing but fabrication of issues of lies and his deceptive antics.

The office which is strategically located in the highbrow of Jos has been very busy with activities going on with serenity. The office is not a campaign arena like the stadium or public square where the cantankerous reporter would see a crowd but is an avenue where ideas on party issues are articulated and executed.

He also claimed that N2billion was invested on the flag off of the presidential campaign in Jos and that many issues have remained unresolved as money for contract for supplies and provisions were cornered by those close to the governor.

Nothing can be further from the truth as the likes of Ukandy Odey have had sleepless nights because of the imposing and intimidating nature of the campaign outfit which has dwarfed all others especially that of the PDP along state secretariat road whose presence is the flags that adorn it.

He has been desperately trying to project the party to no avail as it has been totally overwhelmed by its internal contradictions.

He also claimed that the crowd at the flag off of the APC Presidential Campaign were hired from other states like Borno, Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi and Gombe States.

This is in his continuation of the insults on the APC family in Plateau State.

The flag off at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium which witnessed unprecedented crowd has remained the talk of the town and beyond and it is, indeed, a model being replicated in other states.

It has been adjudged by all, including the media, which Odey is supposed to be a part, as one of the best and most successful gathering of party faithfuls in recent times.

It was graced by President Muhammadu Buhari, the APC National Chairman, the NWC of the party, the Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates and the entire APC PCC, Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Members of the National Assembly, All APC



Adamu



Tinubu



Lalong



Bature

Governors, Ministers, etc. It was, in fact, a gathering of who is who in this country and was, a clear signal of the victory of His Excellency, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Senator Kashim Shettima.

Only chicky elements like Ukandy have tried to throw spanners in the wheel of the unstoppable march of the APC to victory in the 2023 General elections.

I listened with disgust his empty verbosity on Jay FM, the station which has allowed itself to be used by Odey on a daily basis

to pour insults on the APC and Governor Lalong which I hope the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), is taking note of before we write an official complaint about the station's total disregard for the NBC broadcast code.

Himself, the handlers of the programme between 10:00 am and 12 noon on 1st December deployed everything but professional broadcasting in that particular edition which Odey described the flag off as old fashioned and insulted my humble self which is a matter for

another day.

Chased by his shadows, he alleged during that particular programme that his life is being threatened and he has reported the matter to the police.

Let me state this for the umpteenth time that only those who go against the law are afraid of the law as Ukandy Odey knows that he cannot do what he is doing in other climes.

The Plateau person has been the most tolerant which I have advised him in a private chat when he posted one of his insulting pieces on Governor

Lalong not to take this tolerance for granted.

What he is doing is anything but journalism which is a profession that promotes peace and harmonious living.

How can he be the only one who sees nothing good about the government and Governor of Plateau State?

We had cause the other day to advise the NUJ in Plateau state to rid itself of quacks and hatched agents of desperate politicians. Let Odey know that there is a limit to everything including his irresponsible journalism and rascality.



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## PLASU VISITS LALONG

The Plateau State University (PLASU) Bokkos, Governing Council recently visited the Visitor of the University and Governor of the State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) at Government House, Rayfield, Jos



Governor Simon Bako Lalong (CON) responding to the message of the Chairman of the Governing Council, Prof. Mgr. Obiora Ike



Prof. Obiora delivering his speech during the visit



Cross section of delegation with Deputy Vice Chancellors, Academics and Admin, Registrar, during the visit



Cross section of Commissioners at the occasion



Visitor to PLASU, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) with the Chairman, Governing Council, Prof. Mgr. Obiora Ike



Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, Deputy Governor, (right) flanked by Prof. Danladi Abok Atu, SGS and Hon. Noel Dongjur, CoS



From left are, Prof. Mrs. Bibiana Bawa, Pastor (Mrs.) Elizabeth Danladi and Chief (Mrs.) Valentina Dariye, members of PLASU Council



Governor Lalong, Deputy Governor, SGS, Commissioners, PLASU, Chairman of Governing Council in photograph with other Council members

Photos: DANLADI DUK



**T**O everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die..."

Plateau State House of Assembly has again been thrown into mourning, following the demise of Hon. Eric Dakogol. Recall that at this same time last year, the House mourned and buried one of its own the late Hon. Henry Sombis Longs who represented Pankshin South constituency. Are these deaths at the same time mere coincidence or is there more than meets the eye? Only the Almighty has the answer.

As is customary, a valedictory session was held Thursday in honour of the deceased who until his death was the member representing Qua'an Pan North constituency. The emotional session had all members in attendance, each paying tribute and showering encomiums on the late lawmaker. Those who graced the occasion include the state Deputy Governor Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, former speakers and members of the state assembly, Chairman of Qua'an Pan Local Government Councils Hon. Ernest Da'a, some lawmakers wives and members of the deceased family.

In his eulogy to the departed, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda who presided over the session described the late Eric Dakogol as a very committed member of the Plateau State House of Assembly whose demise is a huge loss to not only members of his constituency, but the entire state.

For Sanda, the lessons learnt are many and call for sober reflection. He specifically advised everyone present to do a soul searching while pondering on this question 'if you die today, what legacies are you leaving behind; what will people remember you for?'

For the other members, the occasion indeed called for sober reflection. Despite the fact that death is an inevitable end that must happen in everyone's life, the deaths around them was becoming one too many. In the last few

years, the House has lost about seven of its past and present members including immediate families.

The legislators each took turns as they eulogised and paid their last respect to their departed colleague.

As each shared their personal relationship and experiences with the deceased, he was described as a man of many colours, a man of peace, a team player, committed lawmaker, a friend,



## PLHA: Another November to remember



**Longs**

brother and more.

One thing to take away from the life of the deceased was the love he had for his people. He was said to be one of the members who frequented his constituency almost on a weekly basis. According to testimonies from his colleagues, there was hardly any weekend that Hon. Dakogol did not visit his people to interact and find out what was happening at home.

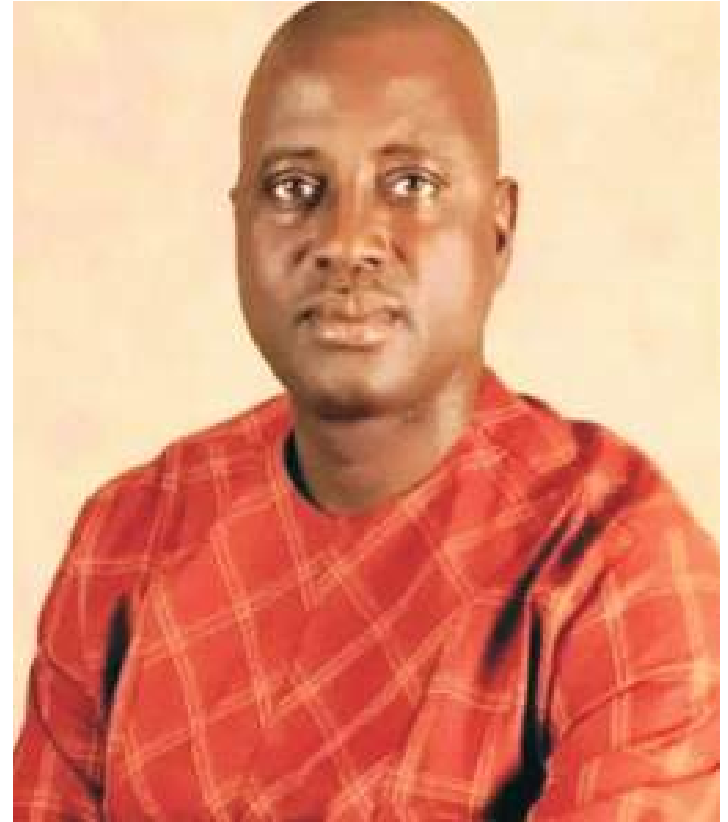
It is only a person who has a heart of service to his people that will do that because he actually passed during his last visit.

The late Eric Dakogol was born on the 3rd of November 1970, to the Dakogol family of Qua'an Pan Local Government

Area. He began his academic pursuit at the Government Science Primary school Qua'an Pan, after which he proceeded to Government Secondary School Langtang for his secondary education. He also attended the prestigious School of Preliminary Studies (SPS) Keffi.

He thereafter obtained his first degree from the University of Maiduguri.

Late Dakogol started his career as a Teacher at the Taraba State Polytechnic during his NYSC. He was later called by his people to be their representative at the Plateau State House of Assembly from 2015 till date. The late lawmaker is survived by his wife and four very young



**Dakogol**

children.

The widow was enjoined to take her husband's passing in good faith and embrace the biblical passage which refers to Jesus as the husband of the widow.

Interestingly, the last motion moved by the late Eric Dakogol was on the need for the Plateau State government to ensure it made early availability of fertilizers to farmers at a subsidized and affordable price.

Meanwhile, in order to curb the issues of erosion and land degradation, the House Committee on Environment and Solid Minerals recently held a public hearing on 'A Bill for a Law to Establish the Plateau State Erosion and Watershed Management Agency and Other Matters Connected, 2021.'

The bill basically seeks to establish an agency that will be saddled with the responsibility of ameliorating devastations caused by erosion menace and other environmental hazards.

This agency backed by law, will help tackle the conditions that create these disasters. The law will also regulate communities on land use while ensuring that preventive measures are taken to avert the cycle of environmental

destruction as a result of erosion and flooding.

Having undergone the first and second reading, the bill was then committed to the House Committee on Environment for further scrutiny and thereafter referred for public hearing.

The public hearing afforded stakeholders and interest groups the opportunity to make inputs and contributions to the bill. As is also customary at public hearings for any proposed law, those making presentations either made additions, endorsed or rejected the bill.

These inputs whether as a correction, objection or recommendation forms the final document for the bill.

Some of the relevant stakeholders who made presentations at the public hearing include those from the Ministries of Environmental, Housing, Physical Planning and Urban Development.

There were NGOs like the Better Earth Foundation, West African Environmental Conservative Initiative, as well as the state NEWMAP Project Unit members led by its Project Coordinator Engr. Levi Gofwen Dash. By the way, NEWMAP is now referred to as ACRE-SAL which stands for Agroclimatic Resilient in Semi Arid Landscape.

***"In his eulogy to the departed, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda who presided over the session described the late Eric Dakogol as a very committed member of the Plateau State House of Assembly whose demise is a huge loss to not only members of his constituency, but the entire state. For Sanda, the lessons learnt are many and call for sober reflection. He specifically advised everyone present to do a soul searching while pondering on this question 'if you die today, what legacies are you leaving behind; what will people remember you for?'"***



## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



## Child abuse: Denying women, children a future

**Perhaps, for sane people the world over, the rights of women and children have always been fought over time. Sadly however, there is a sustained increase in the number of cases of child abuse and molestation in Nigeria. Lately, the war has been taken to the public court of opinion insisting, it is high time, the menace is nipped in the bud. KATDAPBA Y GOBUM writes on what this development means to their future.**

**T**HOSE who know are quick to point out that the cases of child abuse and molestation are disturbingly on the ascendancy. Children are scared to be left alone with older males or females. The threnody becomes even more regrettable as the pictures tell annoying stories about how some have been treated by parents, guardians and society generally.

Stories are told daily to law enforcement agencies, religious gatherings, and workshops and also in the media, how some older persons have sustained taking advantage of children and women in very disturbing circumstances. Perhaps, little wonder why the heat has started to turn on the perpetrators of the act. It is little known if the Child Rights Act and or the law enforcement agencies, parents and society generally have done anything in the right direction to

stem the tide.

### **Who are the ones molested?**

It is no exaggeration that in several parts of Nigeria, like their counterparts in other parts of the world, women 'are victims of gender-based violence'. Even if the cases have not been reported, it is because victims do not want to talk about it to anyone, even the security.

While gender-based violence can happen to anyone, anywhere, some women and girls are particularly vulnerable. The sad development which has continued to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, and peace as well as to the fulfillment of women and girls' human rights should not be allowed to continue.

Some of the children victims are mostly brought in as domestic house helps and or apprentices working for their businesses have ended as

victims of acts perpetrated by older persons, who at best, are supposed to protect them against harm while in their custody.

The stats are alarming and damning, as they present gory details of how children have either been molested or abused in the custody of persons old enough to be called parents. It is sad that in some cases, some of them don't live to tell their stories. Whichever way, it is a known fact that 'every year millions of girls and boys around the world face sexual abuse and exploitation. Sexual violence occurs everywhere-in every country and across all segments of society. A child may be subjected to sexual abuse or exploitation at home, at school or in their community', and yet nothing is done. It wouldn't be right, therefore, to sit and watch while the future of our children is at jeopardy.

The awareness to stem the tide may not have succeeded in most communities where such exist as well as raise advocacy teams to help promote the opportunities for all to discuss the challenges that come with the concern. No wonder, the theme for the 2022 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is Unite: Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls.

It is a fact that women and children have continued to 'be victims of gender-based violence all over the globe largely manifesting 'itself in different forms including battering between those in relationships, psychological abuse, forced marriage, rape, human trafficking street harassment among others'.

Even though there appears to be a tacit acceptance that the issue has not been reported as it should be in the media, the major area of concern has been that the laws are not strong enough to address this menace in general terms. In some states in Nigeria, the Child Rights Act has since come into law, but regrettably however, there is a question that has remained unanswered for years: How effective has that helped in stemming the tide?

The punishment that should be meted to the perpetrators of the crime has remained at best exploratory. Not many perpetrators have been punished in the manner that deters those engaged in it.

Rather, what we have had are small fries that are always punished. The actual leaders are never touched.

So long as they remained unpunished, some of the victims remain traumatized for a period until help comes. Even if they do, the trauma they go through could be better imagined. Most of the time, some of them live with the pains for years; while some are able to overcome it and are able to live normal life thereafter. It has been observed that, 'most often, abuse occurs at the hands of someone a child knows and trusts'; and therefore when it does take place, it becomes surprising to those who are told.

In the last couple of years, there have been consistent voices of resistance that have risen in condemnation of the development, demanding immediate action by government otherwise; the repercussions on the society could be devastating.

### **Any reason for child abuse and consequences**

It is possible, to get to know the reason why child abuse is on the increase. It has been observed that 'neglect is the most common form of child abuse. Physical abuse may include beating, shaking, burning, and biting', which unfortunately still persist in our neighbourhoods up till date. 'Emotional abuse often coexists with other forms of abuse, and that may be the most difficult to identify. Many of its potential consequences, such as learning

***"The punishment that should be meted to the perpetrators of the crime has remained at best exploratory. Not many perpetrators have been punished in the manner that deters those engaged in it. Rather, what we have had are small fries that are always punished. The actual leaders are never touched. So long as they remained unpunished, some of the victims remain traumatized for a period until help comes. Even if they do, the trauma they go through could be better imagined"***

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NEWS



## Bauchi traders, artisans endorse Governor for second term

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

AS 2023 general election is fast approaching, Bauchi Central Market Traders and Artisans Association have given their unreserved support to Governor Bala Mohammed for a second term.

This was made known to the public by the acting Chairman of the association, Mallam Usman Bashir, at the occasion of presenting letter of endorsement to Governor Bala Mohammed where he said their decision to support the governor for second term was informed by his track record in the area of infrastructural and economic development in the state.

He observed that since creation of Bauchi State, there has never been a governor



**Mohammed**

who has prioritized the welfare of citizens of the state through the numerous empowerment programmes and provision of funds for artisans and traders like Bala Mohammed

Governor Bala Mohammed revealed that his administration has concluded plans to build new modern market in MudaLawal and Central Market to boost economic activities in the state.

He confirmed that already, the building of Azare Modern Market has commenced and will in the nearest future be completed for economic development.

While commending and appreciating the traders association for having confidence in his government, he assured them that he will disburse more funds to traders and artisans to boost their businesses.

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

Receiving the Letter of Endorsement for the second term,

## Police arrests 22-year-old student for killing friend

BAUCHI State Police Command confirmed the arrest of one Kamaluddeen Musa, a 22-year-old student of Adamu Tafawa Balewa College of Education, Kangere in Bauchi for killing his friend and a fellow student of the same institution over an argument.

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

The spokesman of the Command, SP Ahmed Wakil, informed journalists in Bauchi of the development.

"On 28 November 2022 at about 1300hrs, information available to the Command

revealed that on the same date at about 9:15 am, Kamaluddeen Musa stabbed his friend Usman Umar, aged 25-years old of the same address with a sharp knife in his stomach."

Wakil explained that when the police arrived at the scene; they evacuated the victim to the Specialist Hospital Bauchi where he was certified dead by a medical doctor, while the suspect was immediately arrested.

According to SP Wakil, "Preliminary investigations revealed that both the suspect and the victim were friends and final-year students of Adamu Tafawa Balewa College of Education Kangere, Bauchi LGA, Bauchi State and that on the 28th November 2022 at about 0915hrs, a little altercation broke up between them when the deceased bewailed that the suspect went on an outing without notifying the deceased. This led to a physical confrontation which inflicted injury to the thumb finger of the

suspect, in the process the suspect drew a small knife from his pocket and stabbed the deceased in his stomach and it was corroborated by the two eye-witnesses; Musa Danjuma, aged 22 and Nawasi Sadi, aged 20, all students of the same school."

Wakil said an investigation is still going on and promised to unfold further information on the development.

"Galadima asked her to enter the car after he had opened the door but at that point, the father came out and confronted his friend expressing anger. Galadima then tried to run away but there was a struggle between them which led to pushing the late Adamu out of the car, he hit his head on the pavement of the road, and the back tyre matched his legs and broke the bones. He died on the way to the hospital", he added.



**Alkali**

## SMEDAN empowers 90 entrepreneurs in Gombe

Ninety entrepreneurs in Gombe State were empowered with equipment by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) to engage in three different skills.

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

laundry and photography and that they have also acquired basic skills in their choice of trade as well as equipped to set up their business.

The director assured that the agency would continue to support all entrepreneurs across the country in the area of job and wealth creation as well as poverty alleviation.

He urged the beneficiaries to ensure maximum use of the equipment given to them so that they can become employers of labour in future and reduce unemployment rate in the state and the country at large.

Declaring the programme closed, Gombe State Commissioner of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Alhaji Nasiru Ahmed, represented by Director Admin and Finance of the Ministry, Alhaji Balarabe, said the ministry promotes

development programmes and activities in the state and always supports the effort made by any meaningful organization to support the state.

He lauded SMEDAN for their interventions in the state saying, "In spite of the daunting economic challenges in the country, you provide qualitative equipment for the

beneficiaries," he explained.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Malam Aliyu Garba, Gombe State Manager of SMEDAN said industrial sewing machines, washing machines, irons and still cameras were provided to the beneficiaries of the programme.



**Yahaya**

## Labour Party sacks DG, 10 others

THE Labour Party in Ogun State has dismissed the Director General of the Peter Obi Presidential Campaign Council, Doyin Okupe.

Okupe was sacked alongside 10 others for alleged none financial membership status, high-handedness and financial recklessness.

The Chairman of the party in Ogun State, Michael Ashade, announced the party's decision in Abeokuta on Thursday, saying that the offences were a breach of the Labour Party's constitution.

### NNPC: Allays fear of fuel scarcity

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC Ltd), has said that it has two billion litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) in stock.

This is contained in a statement issued by Executive Vice President, Downstream, NNPC Limited, Adeyemi Adetunji in Abuja on Thursday.

He said the stock of over two billion litres is equivalent to over 30 days sufficiency.

### Nigeria not broke

In spite of rising debts and other poor economic indices, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Mrs Zainab Ahmed, has said Nigeria was in good economic standing, and not broke.

Ahmed spoke at the 6th edition of President Muhammadu Buhari's scorecard, tagged "PMB Scorecard 2015-2023", organised by the Ministry of Information in Abuja on Thursday.

She said that the country had continued to generate revenue on a regular basis, which is distributed to all the tiers of government.

She added that the country had recorded significant growth in non-oil.

### Attacks on INEC facilities unfortunate

National Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC,

Professor Mahmood Yakubu, has described the incessant attacks on the commission's facilities as "unfortunate" and expressed fear over the impact of the recurring attacks on the 2023 general polls.

Yakubu, who noted that the commission was relying on

security agencies to secure the forthcoming general elections, said everyone should be bothered about the needless attacks.

INEC chairman, who was represented by a National Commissioner, Sam Olumekun, decried the attack on INEC facility at Iboko in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State on Sunday, by arsonists.

Yakubu put the number of INEC offices attacked by hoodlums so far at 50 across 21 states.

### FG: 14-day paternity leave for workers

Federal Government has approved the commencement of 14 working-day paternity leave for federal civil servants.

The Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HOCFSF), Dr. Folasade Yemi-Esan, said this on Monday in a November 25 circular with ref no: HCSF/SPSO/ODD/NCE/RR/650309/3.

The circular titled, "Computation of Leave Based on Working Days and Approval of Paternity Leave in the Public Service," said that this is in line with the provisions of the Public Service Rules, 2021 Edition, that the computation of all leave shall be based on working days.

"Government has also approved Paternity Leave for serving male officers whose spouse deliver a baby. The period of the leave shall be 14 working days.

The leave shall not be more than once in two years, and for a maximum of four children".

### Adeleke freezes Osun accounts

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, the winner of July 16, 2022, Osun state governorship and the sixth executive governor of the state had ordered the freezing of the state's accounts in banks and other financial institutions.

Adeleke said a panel would be set up to conduct an inventory of government assets and recover those in the wrong hands.

Compiled by **Hosea Nyamlong**



## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Historical trajectory, Prospects of Ngas Christmas Carols

*In this piece, I tried to avoid sounding academic but for the purpose of clarity, attempt is made to explain what Christmas carols means and then delve into its evolution and development to the level it is today. The point though is contributing to the growth and development of a project that has come to be a role model in carols celebration in Plateau State, Nigeria. AYUBA YILGAK'HA, writes.*

**C**AROL(s) 'is a religious folk song or popular hymn, particularly, one associated with Christmas.' There is no definite history as to when Christmas Carols started. However, it has been observed that "Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas Carols. They were pre-Christian/pagan songs, sung at Winter Solstice celebrations. But what is Winter Solstice?"

Solstice as a word means, "the time or date (twice each year) at which the sun reaches its maximum or minimum declination, marked by the longest and shortest days (about 21 June and 22 December)." Christopher Muscato, in his "History of Christmas carols" stated that "The winter solstice was a powerful pagan holiday in Europe, celebrated through drinking, dancing, and the loud singing of joyful and popular songs."

The history explained that Christmas Carols is the transformation of the solstice practice where traditional pagan practices were changed into Christian ones by Christians of that epoch and this coincided with the before celebration of the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ which called Christmas. Today Christmas carols have become so popular and widely observed in Christendom with Shikrot Khinen Network (SKN) keying into it and organising the Ngas Christmas carols every year since it started in 2006.

Great is the faithfulness of God. That is just the best way to describe how God can build something from nothing and make great virtues out of it. This piece is a classical lesson in the power of little beginnings which SKN, the precursor and anchor of the Ngas Christmas Carols represents.

Like child's play and from his little corner at Census, a neighbourhood around the State Secretariat Junction, Mr. Darshak Simon Gobum curved and shared the initial vision of SKN with progressive friends and well-wishers and the Ngas Christmas Carols was birthed and nurtured by many more people to the glory of God. Time and space cannot warrant the mention of names but posterity will be kind to these silent destiny helpers!

The Ngas Christmas Carols is, arguably, the single biggest Christian Carols ever hosted by any tribe in Jos and Northern Nigeria. The idea of Ngas Christmas Carols which started as a mustard seed in almost two decades has leapfrogged into one of the most urbane events heralding the celebration of Christmas in Nigeria and Plateau State in particular.

One of the profoundly instructive elements of the Annual Ngas Christmas Carols is the celebration of Jesus Christ in unique Ngas cultural flavours. At the event, the best of the material and non-material culture of the Ngas people are represented with great joy and excitement and unto the glory of God. While the non-material flavour features the deployment of Ngas dialect in praise workshops; Bible quizzes; bible recitation; and lots more. The material culture is represented in the Ngas traditional attires, dances, delicacies which are unique and spacious in every modest sense.

In the spirit of love and brotherliness, the Ngas Christmas Carols have also always feature multiple other tribal groups in the state and beyond. This has



**Ngas dance group**

contributed to adding colour and variety to the celebration. In fact, the bonding that is being cultivated between Ngas and other tribes during the carols, though intangible, is quite profound!

The a Christian faith based event, the Carols is also a platform for the promotion and showcasing of the Ngas heritage: Her culture and the demonstration of the nation's acknowledgement of God's abiding love in blessing it with so much and, more importantly, salvation through Jesus Christ.

Year after year, since the annual Ngas Christmas Carols began, the organisers, the SKN have continue to introduce new innovations into the organisation of the Carols which makes it even more riches in contents. During the yearly event, very seasoned ministers of the Gospel, especially, those of Ngas extraction are mobilised to come with sound and life changing Gospel messages.

During the carols too, dignitaries, especially, Ngas sons and daughters from all works of life and resident across the length and breadth of Nigeria including politicians are invited to take part and give goodwill messages that have continue to strengthen the bond of unity and togetherness in Christ within and across tribal lineages. It has always been a gathering for the propagation and harvest of the benefits of Jesus' Revolution where love is the trade in stock.

The Ngas Christmas Carols is a one stop event and grant point of contact for long-time-no-see friends. It is not just a period for spiritual refreshment but social interaction and cultural rejuvenation. Call it a gathering for the deployment of

Ngas heritage in holy praise and worship to God. It is a link up programme for vertical and horizontal connectivity amongst God's chosen people and nation.

The Christmas Carols is a platform for spiritual enterprise but not without challenges. Over the years, the organisers of this noble event have had to grapple with the funding constraints. The monies necessary to take care of the general organisation of the programme from venue, logistics and security is always in deficit. However, thank God for the generosity of spirited individuals who have always made sacrifices to come to the rescue in kind and cash. It has been God working through these ones and the prayer is that they shall never relent in doing good, especially, God bidding because in due time, they shall reap the harvest.

Traffic control has also always been a challenge during the event too. With thousands of people coming for the carols, it has always been harculean task controlling and effecting free flow of traffic to and away from the venue. Hence, there is the need for humanitarian support from traffic control agencies, particularly, the Road Safety Corps to assist in this regards.

The general security of the venue is another challenge. With the attendance rate running into thousands and counting, there is need for massive security deployment to protect lives and properties. God has been faithful in the area of security throughout the inception of the Ngas Carols but prayers are being said as the organisers seek the intervention of lead and internal security agencies like the police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC) amongst

others is to help now and in subsequent hostings.

When multitude gather, health concerns are supposed to be watched. However, due to constraints arising from paucity of funds still, this critical need is often downplayed. It is, however, wished and hoped that going forward, ad-hoc and volunteer medical personnel will respond to partner with the organisers to have, at least, a responsive, first-aid medical squad that is always on ground to respond to medical emergencies. No bad incident has been recorded but the need to think ahead and be proactive is what SKN has proven to stand for all these years.

Partnership and sponsorship is allowed in event planning and practice. Therefore, SKN is encouraged not only to seek individual support but widen the scope of resource mobilisation by approaching successful corporate organisations, especially, those within Jos metropolis, be they media outfits, business or faith based, to crave support that can lesson the burden of organising such gigantic event.

SKN and its brain-child-turn-big event, have come to stay and got the potential to anchor the propagation of the Gospel of Christ during yulitide seasons. There is no limit to how far men of goodwill and corporate organisations can help with innovative ideas to make these brands grow from strength to strength and coast to coast.

The Ngas Christmas Carols is trailing the blaze. Its increasing popularity has motivated many tribes on the Plateau into organising similar events in the state. What this means is that Plateau State Government

could adapt and make it a grand Annual and Rainbow Christmas Carols that will host all the tribes and residents of the state. This will serve dual purposes of uniting Nigerians in worship to God and to promote religious tourism in "Plateau the Beautiful". I cannot wait to see plateau inhabitants rise in unison and togetherness to worship God under one big roof and in their different but beautiful cultures celebrate the birth of our great Redeemer: Jesus Christ!

With motivation and support SKN has got all it takes to anchor holistic ministry for Christ and it is on a straight mission to produce a unique, standard and global brand in yulitide celebration through the Ngas Christmas Carols Season 17 which by God's grace will take place at Solomon Lar's Amusement Park along Domkat Bali - State Locust Road, Jos, Plateau State, on Sunday, December 4, 2022 from 2Pm.

As revealed by the event's sound jingles and fliers also, popular Evangelist Danjuma Fwenji of the God's Grace Divine Mission (GGDN) is expected at the carols as Guest preacher while Tribal groups like Berom choir, Mwachavul choir, Pan Choir, Yoruba Choir, Michika Choir, Afro for Christ and lots more will be ministering in Special Reditions. It promises to be wow: Rainbow coloured with rhythm packed melodies and feasting from the Word of God, all in unique cultural tunations like no there. May the organisers gain more wisdom and the capacity to give out their best towards satisfying the great and varying expectations of all: Participants and well-wishers alike, wherever they are in the universe, amen!



## BOOK REVIEW

# Legacy of Excellence – Fifty Years of GOSA Experience

**In Luke 17:11-19, we are told the story of the 10 lepers and emphasis was laid on the one leper who came back to show gratitude. Counting your blessings is a sure way of helping you to show gratitude. This is what this book is about. What legacy is GOSA legacy? Writes NATHANIEL UMAR.**

Is GOSA excellence different from general excellence? Is GOSA more than an association? The quest for the answers to these questions would be a good justification for a voyage into the light to discover the truth which has already been unearthed and displayed in limelight. Throughout the book, the revelation of truths and the consistent reference and inference of light, the Light, makes the journey light.

The book, Legacy of Excellence – Fifty Years of Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA) Experience chronicles the journey of GOSA right from the cradle to the present highway to the pinnacle in five chapters while the summary and conclusion take the sixth chapter.

Chapter One depicts the Background of Boys' Secondary School and Girls' High School Gindiri (The Cradle of GOSA).

Chapter Two documents the "Formation of Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA)"

Chapter Three captures the "Activities of GOSA".

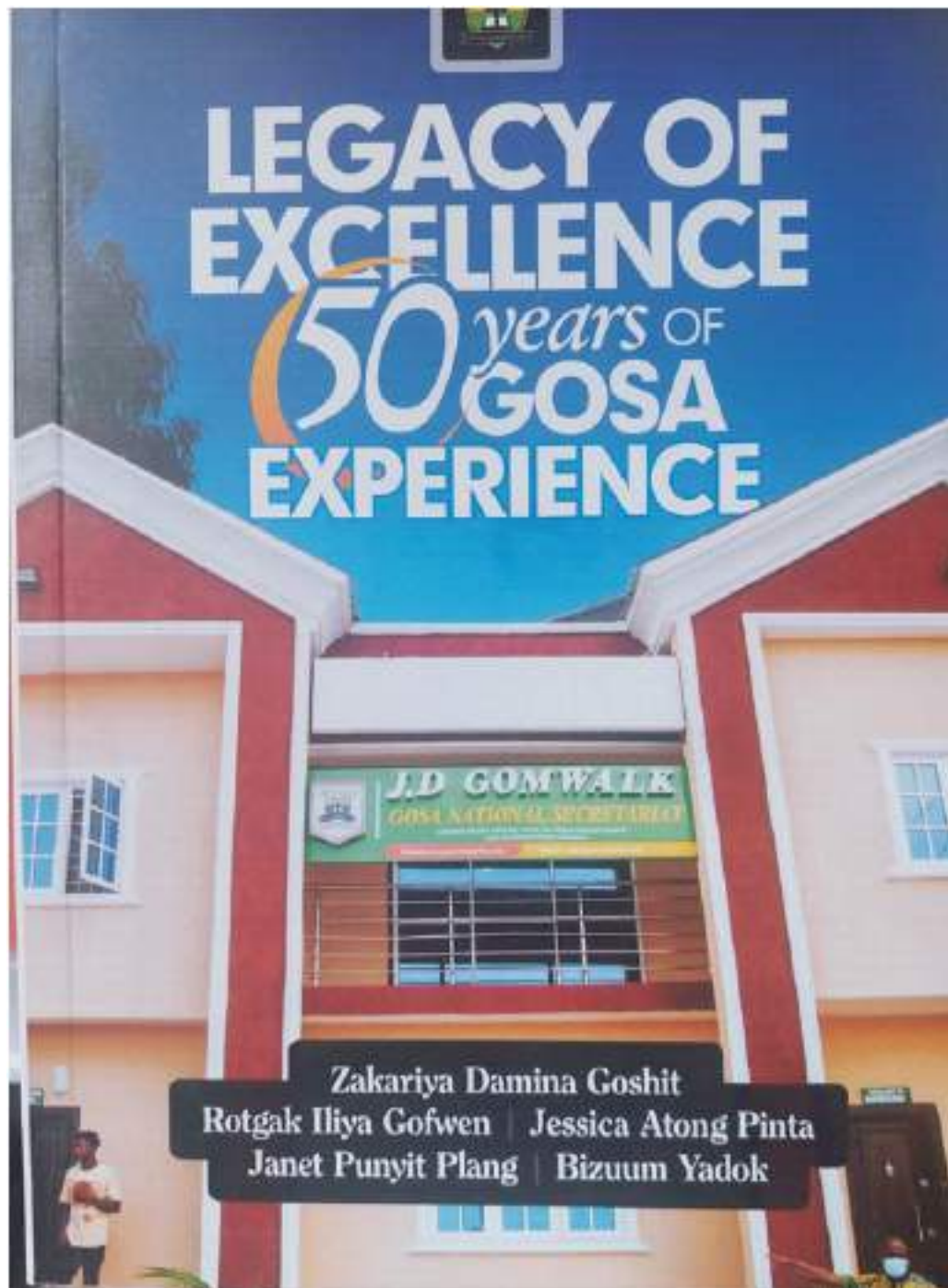
Chapter Four highlights "GOSA Relations"

Chapter Five gives an account of "Achievements and challenges of GOSA at 50"

Chapter Six Summary and Conclusion

An interesting aspect of this well written book is that some of the chapters come with appendices which contain nostalgic pieces eagerly clamoring for a GOSA Museum to showcase the plans, the works, the achievements of GOSA and those who have been adding oil to the burner and holding the prophet's hands to ensure that every dark angle is illuminated and the victory of truth is sustained. It gives you the experience of buy one, get one free (BOGOF).

From this invaluable compendium, we gathered that the founding fathers of BSS and GHS believed that all children who passed through the schools would grow academically, physically and spiritually and be able to stand in society for "Light and Truth" in the spirit of the motto of the Gindiri Schools. In line with the dreams of the founding fathers of the schools, the founding fathers of GOSA after experiencing the changing wider world, decided to add the social growth concept to the equation.



GOSA is therefore about academic, spiritual, physical and social growth.

What began as Gindiri Old Boys Association (GOBA) in 1958 at the Cultural Center in Jos by Ochapa Onazi, Ayuba Tense, James Lot, David Abifarin, Joseph D. Gomwalk, Benjamin Dusu Lodam, Ezekiel Bot and Edward Aleyideino metamorphosed to GOSA in 1972, and was launched in the same cultural centre by one of

GOSA's most outstanding personalities – JD Gomwalk in the company of his North Central State counterpart, Brig. Abba Kyari. It is interesting to note how significant the Jos Cultural Centre is to GOSA. May I call on the Governor, hopefully a GOSA, to champion the reconstruction of our centre of nativity?

It is instructive for any individual who has faced any daunting challenge to consult this book about GOSA. It is a story of gathering, scattering and

and of unquenchable light.

"The Gindiri schools have remained the fulcrum of thrust and concern of GOSA. Their academic standing evokes primary interest because it serves as a yardstick for measuring the expected standard to be maintained always. As such, the vision to always reposition the schools to meet challenges and needs of whatever magnitude has been a permanent feature on the front burner"

Among the many aims of GOSA are:

To seek, uphold and promote high academic, spiritual and moral standards in our alma maters - BSS and GHS Gindiri;

To establish good relationships between the old students and the schools;

This book highlights fundamental issues on the aims above which tempts one to wonder if GOSA should not also be called the engine room of Gindiri Education Trust Fund – GETFUND. It critically enumerates the significant contributions of GOSA in sustaining what has come to be known as Gindiri standard. It also serves as a response to accountability as it says in different ways through what I call the FOUR Cs– Come and see what the Lord has helped us do, Come and see what God is still doing through you, Come and see what we used your contributions to do, and Come let us do more.

Is GOSA an association or a family? It is called an association but has the characteristics of a family, a peculiar people, a chosen people and a productive people. The book also attempts to measure progress that this family has witnessed from inception. It is an onerous task to measure progress without a competitor. But being products of those great schools, the writers painted the picture of a family competing against itself to tell us that one of the surest ways of success and progress is to draw from your inner strength. GOSA does not have other associations to compete with because it is the foremost trying to beat the first.

In this book one gets to know that GOSA has made invaluable contributions in the development of the world directly through its well trained, morally sound and innovative members in almost every field of endeavour. Another important way it contributes is through its quasi vertical integration in BSS and GHS.

My dear GOSA, time will fail me to tell you how precious this book is. Words fail me in trying to tell you how timely it is, even though I believe the best time to write it was yesterday. What I would like to add is that there should be a review of the book immediately to add important details like the speakers and topics at each convention.

Let me leave you with these words: "Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing." I believe what you can do now that is worth writing is to buy this book and read it.

**"It is instructive for any individual who has faced any daunting challenge to consult this book about GOSA. It is a story of gathering, scattering and regrouping to build a formidable association. The story of GOSA reminds one of the Israeli story. No sooner than it was formed than the wind of carnage of the 1976 coup akin to a holocaust for the Association, arose where its prominent and active members faced a brutal end. What did GOSA do at that trying moment?"**

regrouping to build a formidable association. The story of GOSA reminds one of the Israeli story. No sooner than it was formed than the wind of carnage of the 1976 coup akin to a holocaust for the Association, arose where its prominent and active members faced a brutal end. What did GOSA do at that trying moment? The most important evidences are in this book, but I will give you a hint – Let me assume you know the story of Jesus and His disciples in John 6: 68-69 and point you to it. If that is a bit complex, a simpler one is for you to count the heads in this room, assess the generations and you will see that the First President of GOSA, members of the First set and the 50s set and even the last set of GOSA are here answering the question in a similar way the disciples answered Jesus – "where shall we go?" . This is the story of resilience, of unity, of determination, commitment



A couple of years ago, we were worried about the brain drain in the health sector. Doctors and nurses were living this country en masse. They are still leaving in droves. In spite of our worry, we have not fixed the health sector and made it attractive enough for our doctors and nurses to refuse juicy offers abroad. Today, the brain drains, and human capital flight has gone from bad to worse and has spread to other sectors of our society. Lawyers, engineers, bankers, truck drivers, hairdressers. The skilled and unskilled are relocating. This is the japa movement.

Migration is for academic pursuit, for business or for work. Whatever the reason may be, one thing is certain: Nigerians are emigrating with the intention of never coming back due to the insecurity and poverty that has befallen this country. This should be very worrisome to our leaders.....is it? The best brains and hands are leaving Nigeria to go and enrich the economy of countries that are already industrialized, and we are here thinking that this is a good thing.

An old friend of mine is a head of operations in one of the new generation banks. He is married to a Nigerian who is a citizen of the United States of America. He told me that he was travelling to see his family and sign his papers to become an American citizen. I asked him if he was going to come back to his job and he said yes. He told me that his superiors drilled him for a long time. They wanted to make sure that they were not going to lose a very valuable staff. He told me that bankers in Nigeria are leaving in droves and our banks are now shaky because of the unending exit of their members of staff. With this exit goes our most experienced and knowledgeable workers. All going to add value to the country whose citizens they have decided to become. Some of them would rather become care givers abroad rather than remain bankers in Nigeria. Question is, what is the Government doing to stop and reverse this brain drain? Why is there no outcry from the government?

Nigerians are leaving for obvious reasons. The first one is the insecurity that has remained unshakable and is progressively becoming worse. Living in Nigeria is now a big risk. If you leave your house in the morning and return safely after the day's work, you need to thank God. This is so bad to the point where Embassies are closing up and relocating back to their countries. Whether their fears are justifiable or not is a matter of semantics and scaling. Nigerians do not feel safe anymore. It is worse for families who have children. The average parent is a wreck once his child is away at school. They are always worried for the safety of their children. A friend of mine sent her twin boys recently, to go and study in France. Before they left, she was so worried for their safety to the point where she would have tension headaches. She said that she would rather work her fingers to the bone to pay their school fees rather than have them in Nigeria. Which brings me to another thing.

The quality of life in Nigeria is dwindling. My friend sent her boys to school in France not only for the security but also for the standard of education and the health care. About a year ago, my neighbors put up their home for rent and left for the UK. The wife told me that they were relocating because they had lost their business and gone broke after the covid lockdown. They believed that their kids could go to school for free, where the standard of education is so much better than what we have in the country and where there were no strikes. I agreed with my friend and my neighbours who are also my friends. Within the estate where we live, every day, a family relocates to either Canada or UK. They sell all their properties and move. It is like they have no plans of ever coming back to Nigeria.

It is so sad that Nigeria, which is supposedly the giant of Africa is fast losing her viable population to other Nations. Have I said anything about the state of our infrastructure? Having energy for domestic and industrial use in Nigeria is a herculean task with our collapsing grids. The high cost of production is transferred to the end user, thereby adding to the drudgery of surviving in Nigeria. Our roads are beyond horrible. We do not have good drinking water, our healthcare system, just like many other systems is breaking down. The society is faced with many systemic problems from social to infrastructural. We seem to be losing it all.

Are we calling a spade a spade or are we, as usual calling these migrants names? What is stopping us from becoming like the industrialized countries that built their economies on our back? After all, we have human and material capital. Where has all patriotism and nationalism gone? Nigerians feel that they are not cared for, how then can they be patriotic and nationalistic? Abroad, there is a proper social welfare system. In spite of our wealth, we have none. When are we going to be great again? We should please stop calling ourselves the giant of Africa. It is laughable at this juncture. Until we go back to the drawing board and come up with ways to build our economy back to what it was in the day of yore, until we honestly put in the hard work

required as leaders, until we become selfless in our ambition to rule the nation, we cannot continue to ridicule ourselves by calling Nigeria the giant of Africa. That is past tense.

We hope and pray that the next group of leaders, come 2023, will work with the consciousness that Nigeria is in the ICU unit and needs to be resuscitated and brought back to life as a matter of urgency. Our economy needs fixing, jobs need to be created, infrastructure such as energy, road, healthcare, water, transportation system, agricultural infrastructure, mining infrastructure including refineries, need to be built. Our financial systems need to be revamped. Poverty alleviation needs to be actively pursued and the entire nation needs to undergo a social reengineering. Security needs to be restored and a viable healthy investment climate needs to be restored. I hope that our new breed of leaders will lead

## The japa Movement: Nigeria's lose



with wisdom and understanding. Nigerians are leaving for greener pasture. Why can we not create that greener pasture here in Nigeria? Let us start with corruption. It is not impossible to reduce corruption to its barest minimum or end it all together? It takes a leader that is draconian, tenacious and uncompromising when it comes to protecting the national, state and local government coffers, without making any noise about it. He should be a democratic leader with the vibe of a Chinese administrator when it comes to our national treasury. The Chinese kill corrupt leaders. We can simply sentence ours to life imprisonment and build special prison for keeping such vermin. It should be in the hottest part of the county, with absolutely no form of comfort whatsoever. This will make the average Nigerian follower and leader think before stealing. This is very important because corruption is the clog in the wheel of our progress as a country.

Every sphere of our polity is corrupted and raped by corruption. No government can deliver dividends to its people if corruption is not put to rest or reduced to its barest minimum. Any leader who hopes to succeed must lead with an iron fist when it comes to the issue of corruption and he himself or herself must be a man or woman who knows how to create independent wealth. Independent of our national treasury. This means that we cannot afford to vote for leaders who do not know how to create wealth. We cannot afford to vote politicians that see leadership as a business venture for profit making. We must find leaders who are service-oriented. Service to humanity, service to Nigerians. Leaders who have morals and are selfless in their leadership style. Leaders who know that many Nigerians can hardly afford one meal a day as we speak. Leaders who understand the domino effects of corruption on our economy.

I will make two suggestions out of many. Let us look at the how Government is able to make life beautiful in other countries and copy same.

Local government in the UK comprises 160 unitary councils (occurring in all four countries, including the 33 London boroughs) and 33 two-tier authorities, county councils with a second tier of 236 district or borough councils. Below the unitary, county and district/borough councils in England, Scotland and Wales (but not in Northern Ireland) is a further tier comprising more than 11,400 parish or community councils. Local elections in all four countries are generally held every four years. The local authorities have revenue-raising powers, and collect property taxes, rents and fees, as well as receiving



transfers from the UK government. Throughout the UK they are responsible for a broad range of local public infrastructure and services, notably town planning; economic and business promotion; education; environment and public sanitation; social welfare; housing; local transport; and leisure facilities. Parish and community councils are generally responsible for community facilities such as village halls; war memorials; cemeteries; and leisure facilities.

From the foregoing, if we are going to transform our country into greener pastures and keep our citizens from fleeing, then governance must be from the very grassroots. It means that our councilors and local government chairmen and chairpersons must be well equipped and well empowered to "have revenue-raising powers, and collect property taxes, rents and fees, as well as receiving transfers". Our local councils and local government areas must be empowered enough to provide "public infrastructure and services, notably town planning; economic and business promotion; education; environment and public sanitation; social welfare; housing; local transport; and leisure facilities" to name a few.

Are our local councils and local government doing these optimally? No. And yet, we have three tiers of government. The tier that is closest to the people, which is the local government, cannot provide infrastructure such as light, water and education, public sanitation, and healthcare. They cannot build hospitals for the communities and always wait on the state tier. The state tier in turn, muffles the local government and wields debilitating control over the local government to the detriment of our development. Every tier waits for federal the allocation.

Community development is what will trickle into local government, into state and then into National development and for that reason, we must keep our focus on it. Any leader who wishes to succeed in 2023 and beyond must see our local government areas as units for grassroots development which would culminate into National development and economic growth. If the local government functions optimally, the dividends of good governance will come to the people, down to our villages. Jobs will be created, and our infrastructural deficits will be addressed. The quality of life in all communities will become better.

Now to Energy and industrialization. No country will ever grow without energy security. Countries that achieve industrialization are those who put a premium on energy security. I have been to

Europe once. It was winter. That part of Europe only has about 3 hours of sunlight in winter. In Nigeria, we can bottle and sell our sunshine and yet we are not maximizing the sunlight we have in all parts of the country for energy production.

Green energy is possible, starting at the local government level. The local Government can go into a PPP agreement with solar and wind production companies. These companies can install solar panels in houses and business premises which would be paid for in little installments by the occupants and business owners. The job of the Local Government here, is to incentivize the companies and indemnify the business owners and households. Banks can play a role here by lowering the interest rate for these projects. The local government can introduce a little tax called the "green energy tax" to keep this system running smoothly. These would reduce the demand on our national grids so that these could be reserved for industrial activities. I am sure that MAN will like this idea and seek how to collaborate with local government in bringing about this energy security so that power and energy is enough to accommodate our journey towards industrialization.

Industrialization is important for export. When other countries buy our raw materials and minerals, what they do to them is add value and then they export that them back to us in a more refined form. If we can fix our refineries and achieve energy security, we can industrialize, add value to our raw material and make them into finished goods for export to other countries. Therein lies our economic recovery and strength. This will bring us the much-needed foreign exchange for our reserves and boost our economy for growth and development.

The correlation between energy and economic development cannot be over emphasized. If we know it, we need to understand it better, strategize and implement the strategies required. An import economy is a dead economy. We have no business importing fuel when we can process crude oil in Nigeria, even at the local government level, and provide jobs from the by-products of fossil fuel. We have no business having queues for petrol, kerosene or diesel.

It is imperative for us to use what we have to make our nation a green pasture so as to not only stop the exodus of our county men and women but also to attract the much needed direct and indirect foreign investment that would make our county Nigeria, a place of property peace and comfort. Now is the time to act. Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



**I**T is an honour again for me to be able to share God's word with you. We are continuing today with our series on the message of Christmas. Our main text is taken from Luke 2 with focus on Jesus and why He came and the anointing upon His life. The message of Christmas is centred around God's love for humanity. The Bible says in John 3:16&17, **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**

In Luke 2, the angel Gabriel had appeared to shepherds on the hills of Judae and gave them the

announcement concerning the birth of the Saviour. The Lord honoured these shepherds and chose them to be the ones the angel will announce the most important message to be ever announced, the coming of the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:9 says, **and, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.** <sup>10</sup> **And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.** <sup>11</sup> **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

Again the title Christ means the anointing and the anointing that Jesus carries is the only anointing that can severe a human being from the dominion of the devil and to translate that person into the Kingdom of God. There is no freedom outside of Christ. There is no true and genuine and deliverance outside of Christ and I make bold to say, according to Acts 4:12 that **there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved** but the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now back to Luke 2:11. The angel Gabriel made the announcement as he lit up the Judean sky that day, saying **for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

This is the core message of Christmas – that the Saviour and Messiah is born; the one that the world had been waiting for is born. He is the only one that can severe mankind ties to the devil and guarantee a live of

and are yielded to Him, living in service and submission to Him and His authority, that the anointing upon Him will come upon you and that every battle of your life, He will fight for you.

No matter what comes against you, that anointing will cause you to be victorious. Romans 8:31-32 says, **what shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?** <sup>32</sup> **He that spared not his own**

## That sin should not have dominion over you



liberty from satanic affliction. Christ Jesus is the only one that can reconcile man to God that we may have an eternal habitation in heaven.

Jesus is the only one that can guarantee a life in the earth that Satan has no right to intrude. Now, I know the Bible says in Psalms 34:19, **Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all,** so I am not insinuating that Jesus came to give you a life that is free from challenges but I am insinuating that He came to guarantee, because of the anointing that He carries, that if you are connected to Him; if you have given your life to Him

**Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?** Again, the core anointing that Jesus carries is the anointing for deliverance and salvation.

The root word translated salvation in the Bible means to deliver and to preserve. It also insinuates healing, being made whole; to keep one safe and sound and to rescue men from danger and destruction. It also means to restore to health that which has been sick and to preserve one whose life has been in danger of destruction. These are the virtues that the anointing upon Jesus carries. He is the Saviour and He is the Lord



**“Everyone who has named the name of the Lord for salvation and has become a born again believer becomes a partaker of this anointing. Hallelujah. This is the good news, that God has opened this anointing to the entire human race that you can be delivered from spending eternity in hell as well as from a life that is hell on earth. This anointing will help you find meaning and fulfilment in life and will preserve you, defend you and fight for you all the days of your life. Praise God.”**

and the core anointing He carries is the anointing to save.

The reason why Jesus was sent to this earth is because God wanted all of mankind to partake of this salvation. God desires that every human being living to be connected to Jesus and the anointing He carries for that is the only place where true deliverance is found.

Now, we have earlier mentioned, we see that Jesus carries the anointing to deliver from sin. This is the first work of His anointing because sin is the gateway to every satanic affliction in life. This is why John the Baptist made this important declaration concerning the Lord Jesus Christ at the waters of baptism when He came to fulfil all righteousness. John 1:29 & 36 says **... Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

So, when Jesus came, one of His primary assignments was to take upon Himself the sin of the world. 2 Corinthians 5:21 **for he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** When Jesus took and paid for our sin, He effectively broke the power and dominion of sin over our lives and so Romans 6:14 said, **for sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

When a man becomes born again confessing Jesus as Lord and Saviour, he enters into

that blessedness and the finished work of Jesus in that He has paid for that man's sin, comes over that individual and so God no longer holds them responsible for the sin of Adam. The sin of Adam of the umbilical cord that connects humanity to Satan's right to afflict it, that right gets broken. Glory to God forevermore.

Every anointing on the Lord Jesus Christ is geared toward salvation and deliverance of the human race. Every fibre of Jesus is wired to save the human race and God has released Him as a gift to the human race. The good news is that this gift is open to whosoever wills. As many as hear and receive this good news and become born again, that anointing on Jesus comes into your life. The anointing comes into your life to preserve, prosper, elongate your life and help you to fulfil your years, destiny and calling in spite of the oppositions of the devil in this world.

Everyone who has named the name of the Lord for salvation and has become a born again believer becomes a partaker of this anointing. Hallelujah. This is the good news, that God has opened this anointing to the entire human race that you can be delivered from spending eternity in hell as well as from a life that is hell on earth. This anointing will help you find meaning and fulfilment in life and will preserve you, defend you and fight for you all the days of your life. Praise God.

**To be continued.**

**“Every anointing on the Lord Jesus Christ is geared toward salvation and deliverance of the human race. Every fibre of Jesus is wired to save the human race and God has released Him as a gift to the human race. The good news is that this gift is open to whosoever wills. As many as hear and receive this good news and become born again, that anointing on Jesus comes into your life. The anointing comes into your life to preserve, prosper, elongate your life and help you to fulfil your years, destiny and calling in spite of the oppositions of the devil in this world.”**



## INTERNATIONAL

## Macron in US amidst friction over climate laws

**Presidents Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron are celebrating the longstanding U.S.-French relationship — but these are friends with differences. The French president is using his visit to Washington to sharply criticize aspects of the U.S. president's signature climate law as a bad deal for Europe. SYLVIE CORBET, MATTHEW DALY and AAMER MADHANI write.**

President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron depart after eating dinner at Fiola Mare in Washington.

Biden is set to honor Macron with the first state dinner of his presidency on Thursday evening. First, the two leaders will sit down in the Oval Office for morning talks that officials from both sides said were expected to largely center on the leaders' efforts to stay united in their response to Russia's war in Ukraine and to coordinate their approach to an increasingly assertive China.

But ahead of Thursday's meeting, Macron made clear that he and other European leaders remain deeply concerned about the incentives in a sweeping new climate-related law that favor American-made climate technology, including electric vehicles.

Macron on Wednesday criticized the legislation, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, during a luncheon with U.S. lawmakers and again during a speech at the French embassy. The French president said that while the Biden administration's efforts to curb climate change should be applauded, the subsidies would be an enormous setback for European companies.

"The choices that have been made ... are choices that will fragment the West," Macron said at the French embassy. He added that the legislation "creates such differences between the United States of America and Europe that all those who work in many companies (in the U.S.), they will just think, 'We don't make investments any more on the other side of the Atlantic.'"

Separately, at the luncheon with members of Congress from both parties, along with business leaders and diplomats, Macron



**Biden with Macron as he Pays State Visit to US**

said that major industrial nations need to do more to address climate change and promote biodiversity.

He criticized a deal reached at a recent climate summit in Egypt in which the United States and other wealthy nations agreed to help pay for the damage that an overheating world is inflicting on poor countries. The deal includes few details on how it will be paid for, and Macron said a more

comprehensive approach is needed — "not just a new fund we decided which will not be funded and even if it is funded, it will not be rightly allocated."

Speaking after his prepared remarks and without cameras present, Macron took aim at the Inflation Reduction Act, calling the subsidies harmful to French companies and others in Europe, according to a person in the closed-door meeting. The person requested anonymity to discuss the private comments from Macron.

The European Union has expressed concern that tax credits in the climate law, including those aimed at encouraging Americans to buy electric vehicles, would discriminate against European producers and break World Trade Organization rules.

Germany's Economy Minister Robert Habeck reiterated Wednesday that he believes parts of the law aren't compatible with the WTO.

"I believe that this view is largely shared by those countries that are committed to a multilateral trading order," he told reporters in Berlin. "The Americans know that we see it that way and the European Commission will have told them this too."

Macron had planned to make his case to U.S. officials against the subsidies, underscoring that it's crucial for "Europe, like the U.S.,

to come out stronger ... not weaker" as the world emerges from the tumult of the pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to a senior French government official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity to preview the private talks.

Biden administration officials have countered that the legislation goes a long way in helping the U.S. to meet global goals to curb climate change. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre on Wednesday made the case that the legislation will also provide new opportunities for French companies and others in Europe.

"There's a number of provisions that will contribute to the growth of clean energy sector globally," Jean-Pierre told reporters. "It presents significant opportunities for European firms, as well as benefits to EU energy security. And this is not a zero-sum game for us."

Macron's latest blunt comments come after he raised eyebrows earlier this month in a speech at a summit in Bangkok. He referred to the U.S. and China as "two big elephants" that are the cusp of creating "a big problem for the rest of jungle." His visit also comes as both Washington and Paris are keeping an eye on China after protests broke out last weekend in several mainland cities and Hong Kong over Beijing's "zero COVID" strategy.

"The issue of China will be very

high on the agenda for the next couple of days," White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters on Wednesday.

Macron on Wednesday met with Vice President Kamala Harris at NASA headquarters in Washington as both sides looked to highlight U.S.-French cooperation on space. In June, France signed the Artemis Accords, a NASA-led set of principles used to govern international civil use of space. The same month, the U.S. made good on a promise to join the France-led Space for Climate Observatory, which is meant to model and track climate change.

Macron also made a stop at Arlington Cemetery. He and his wife, Brigitte, later had a private dinner with Biden and first lady Jill Biden at a restaurant in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood.

In addition to his Oval Office talk with Biden on Thursday, Macron will be hosted by Harris for a lunch at the State Department before the evening state dinner for some 350 guests, a glitzy gala to take place in an enormous tented pavilion constructed on the White House South Lawn.

Grammy winner Jon Batiste is scheduled to provide the evening's entertainment.

**Source: AP NEWS**



**Macron in a joint press conference**



## INTERN

# US, others slap sanctions on N Korea

**J**APAN, South Korea and the United States have imposed sanctions on North Korean officials connected to the country's illicit weapons programmes, with Washington saying Pyongyang's ballistic missiles.

The US Treasury Department on Thursday named the individuals as Jon Il Ho, Yu Jin, and Kim Su Gil, all of whom the European Union designated for sanctions in April.

The sanctions freeze any US-based assets of the individuals and bar dealings with them but appear largely symbolic.

South Korea's foreign ministry announced sanctions on seven other individuals, including a Singaporean and a Taiwanese person, and eight entities. All are already under US sanctions imposed between January 2018 and October 2022, the ministry said.

Japan also designated three entities and an individual for new sanctions, Japan's foreign ministry said, including the Lazarus Group, which is suspected of carrying out cyberattacks.

China and Russia have blocked recent efforts to impose more United Nations sanctions on North Korea, saying they should instead be eased to jumpstart talks and avoid humanitarian harm. That has left Washington to focus on trilateral efforts with Japan and South Korea, as well as European partners.

The latest sanctions follow a November 18 intercontinental ballistic missile test by North Korea, part of a record-breaking spate of more than 60 missile launches this year and amid concerns the country may be about to resume nuclear weapons testing, which has been suspended since 2017.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the tests threatened



Kim

global security and that the latest punitive measures.

The Treasury said the missile tests, which are intended to prevent North Korea from acquiring the technologies, materials and revenue it needs to develop its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities.

It said sanctioned officials, Jon Il Ho and Yu Jin, had played crucial roles in the development of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) while serving as vice director and director, respectively, of North Korea's Munitions Industry Department.

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

It said Kim Su Gil served as director of the Korean

People's Army General Political Bureau from 2018 to 2021 and oversaw implementation of decisions related to the WMD programme.

South Korea's foreign ministry said the latest move was part of its attempt to sternly respond to North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats.

Decades of US-led sanctions have failed to halt North Korea's increasingly sophisticated missile and nuclear weapon programmes.

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said earlier that Washington was committed to using pressure and diplomacy to entice North Korea into giving up its nuclear arsenal.

He said the administration had no illusions about the challenges but remained committed to holding Pyongyang accountable.

## Burkina Faso interim leader confirms coup attempt

**B**URKINA Faso's interim leader, Captain Ibrahim Traore, has said he was the target of a coup attempt.

The military leader confirmed that some elements of the army wanted to seize power, the reports said, saying he made the announcement in a meeting in the capital Ouagadougou on Thursday.

There was speculation after rumours circulated on social media networks of a coup attempt against the transitional government.

On Sunday night and

Monday, demonstrators presenting themselves as Traore's supporters gathered in the capital to protest against the alleged attempted coup.

Addressing civil society organisations and religious leaders in Ouagadougou, Traore said he knows the perpetrators, but he prefers dialogue instead of arresting them, local Radio Omega reported.

The president asked for the support of everyone because some "forces"

are trying to sabotage the government's efforts and undermine morale, it said.

The president reportedly claimed that there is money being distributed to influence certain elements to destabilise the government and asked those in the meeting not to fall for it.

Burkina Faso has already seen two coups this year.

In September, Traore, 34, led a group of disgruntled soldiers who deposed Lt Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who had seized power in a January coup against the elected government of President Roch Marc Christian Kabore.

One of the world's poorest countries, Burkina Faso is also struggling with a seven-year armed uprising that swept in from neighbouring Mali. Thousands of people have died, hundreds of thousands are displaced, and more than a third of the country lies outside the government's control.



Damiba



## Langtang North Local Government Council

### INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECTS AND OR SUPPLY OF VEHICLES

Langtang North Local Government Council desires to undertake the construction of some projects in the Area as well as purchase some vehicles, thus wishes to engage the services of suitable and qualified constructors for the following projects in the Local Government Area.

1. Construction of Langtang Market, Mini Abattoir and Rehabilitation of slaughter slab
2. Construction of cattle market
3. Drilling of Borehole and other water facilities
4. Construction of modern moto park
5. Purchase of vehicles and a few others

#### PER – QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Evidence of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
2. Evidence of tax clearance certificate for at least the last three (3) years.
3. Evidence of Financial capability from a reputable Commercial bank
4. Evidence of Technical know how and good performance.
5. Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration certificate.
6. Evidence of successful execution of similar projects.
7. Any other information that will enhance the chances of the contractor/company.

#### COLLECTION OF TENDER

Since the pre-qualification and Tender stages are to run simultaneously, the advertisement serves as a notification for both pre-qualification and Tender. Interested contractors should apply and collect unpriced BOQS and other details in respect to the projects from Langtang North Local Government Council Department of Works on payment of a Non-refundable Fee of Thirty Thousand Naira (N30,000=00) only.

#### SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER DOCUMENT

Submission of pre-qualification and completed Tender documents shall be returned on or before seven (7) days from the date of this advertisement, sealed spiral binding of three (3) copies, addressed to the office of the Executive Chairman, Langtang North Local Government Council, Langtang, Plateau State.

**NOTE:** Only shortlisted contractors will be contacted.

**Signed:**  
**Bldr Daniel D. Sani (MNIQB)**  
**Director of Works**  
**For: Executive Chairman.**





With **BULUS GAMBO**

### Madonna surprises all on thanksgiving

**T**HE 64-year-old Rebel Hearts singer was seen with all six of her children to celebrate the annual holiday at her home in New York City. The children are Lourdes, 26, Rocco, 22, David, 17, Mercy James, 16, and twins Estere and Stelle, 10.

'What I'm thankful for.....', wrote the hitmaker whose Erotica single was recently released for its 30th anniversary.

All the kids made it! Madonna was all about family on Thanksgiving. She was seen with all six of her children. The children are Lourdes, 26, Rocco, 22, David, 17, Mercy James, 16, and twins Estere and Stelle, 10

Madonna wore a black dress that was so low cut it flashed her black lace bra. She added black stockings and pointy black boots with black gloves.

The ex-wife of Sean Penn wore her reddish hair in small waves down her chest as she had on makeup with bleached eyebrows.

The \*\*\* Tracy actress also had on several necklaces and rings.

Daughter Lourdes was pretty in a satin black bustier that flashed her



She added black stockings and pointy black boots with black gloves

Rocco was dapper in a gray and black plaid suit with a tie and loafers with a crest.

Mercy had on a black dress with military boots and a diamond necklace.

David wore a power blue top with a handkerchief around his head, glasses and a necklace.

The last time she was seen with her family was in August at her 64th birthday bash in Italy.

After giving her Instagram followers a glimpse at herself and son David, who appeared to steal the show while going shirtless in a pair of sequin flared trousers, the Material Girl was seen snuggling up next



tummy as she added slacks.

Her first born: Daughter Lourdes was pretty in a satin black bustier that flashed her tummy as she added slacks

Red wine in hand: Madonna wore a black dress that was so low cut it flashed her black lace bra.

to her kids.

'Tanti auguri,' she captioned the family photo, which translates to English as 'best wishes'.

Good mommy: Madonna also posed with son David Banda and one of her twin girls

In her bathroom: The ex-wife of Sean Penn wore her reddish hair in small waves down her chest as she had on makeup with bleached eyebrows. The \*\*\* Tracy actress also had on several diamond necklaces and rings

Madonna adopted David in 2006, when he was just 13 months old, with ex-husband Guy Ritchie.

After seeing him sick with pneumonia at an orphanage in Malawi that she had help fund, the couple got the ball rolling with his adoption.

Speaking about her son's love for fashion on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon recently she said: 'He can put on any outfit and look swag as you know what,' adding, 'It's really irritating. He wears my clothes and looks better in them. He

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### Couples who became close friends after ending marriage

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

#### Demi Moore and Bruce Willis



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

#### Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan



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

#### Orlando Bloom and Miranda Kerr



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

Continued on page 26



# EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

# What your tongue says about your health

**W**hat does your tongue say about your health? It can actually signal whether or not you might have certain illnesses. Your tongue can be affected by systemic diseases like the rest of your body. Unlike some changes that can only be seen on blood work or by a specialty exam at your doctor's office, diabetes or immune deficiencies, for example, can manifest as changes on your tongue, which you may be able to see when you look in the mirror.

But that's not all your tongue can teach you about your health. A change in color might hint at a fever while a suddenly glossy tongue could suggest that you're not getting enough of certain nutrients. And while you might be more accustomed to looking at other areas of the body when you're feeling under the weather, there are some conditions that show up almost right away on the tongue.

So, what should you be looking for on your tongue? First, it's important to understand the baseline or what's "normal" for a tongue. A healthy tongue is typically pink in color, although the hue can vary slightly to be darker or lighter depending on the individual. It's also covered with small nodules or bumps called papillae, according to the Cleveland Clinic. Anything outside of that, though, should be discussed with a doc. **Now, here's what your tongue can say about your health — and what to do about it, depending on what you see.**

### If Your Tongue Has a White Coating or White Spots

#### Oral Thrush

Oral thrush, aka candidiasis, is an infection caused by a yeast called *Candida*. *Candida* normally lives on your skin and inside your body without causing any problems but sometimes it can multiply and cause an infection in your mouth or other areas.

In addition to white patches on your inner cheeks and tongue, this condition can come with some other uncomfortable symptoms, including a cotton-like feeling in your mouth, loss of taste, and pain while eating or swallowing, says Uchenna Akosa,

D.D.S., director of Rutgers Health University Dental Associates. And just like the yeast infections of down under, candidiasis in the mouth is usually fairly easy to treat with either topical or oral antifungal medications depending on the severity.

#### Diabetes

Diabetes is a condition where your body either doesn't make enough insulin, a hormone that helps sugar enter your cells, or can't use the insulin it makes as well as it should, according to the CDC. And, when your body doesn't have enough insulin, you can end up with high levels of blood sugar circulating through your body.

If you've already been diagnosed with diabetes and your blood sugar isn't under control, these tongue changes can be a sign that you need to make some modifications to your treatment plan. But if you haven't received a diabetes diagnosis and are dealing with symptoms such as frequent urination, increased thirst, and weight loss without trying — in addition to a noticeably drier and whiter mouth — it's time to check in with your doctor.

#### Leukoplakia

Open your mouth and notice white or gray patches in there? Then you might be dealing with leukoplakia, a condition that affects the mucous membranes of the mouth, thereby causing these white or gray patches to form on your tongue, cheeks, or gums, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM). While the exact cause of this disorder is unknown, it may be brought on by irritation, such as that from rough teeth (a potential result of enamel erosion), rough spots on dentures, fillings or crowns, smoking or chewing tobacco, and drinking a lot of alcohol. Once the culprit is removed, leukoplakia and its patches should disappear.

#### Oral Cancer

A white or reddish patch that (unlike, say, a canker sore may or may not cause pain) inside your mouth, potentially on your tongue, could be a sign of mouth cancer, particularly when it presents at the same time as a growth on your tongue. It's important to note that a bump or sore on your tongue could



technically be the result of any of the health situations covered here or otherwise, such as trauma (think: accidentally biting or burning your tongue on food) or a cold sore. But there's also a chance it could signal cancer.

#### Anxiety

More than 40 million adults have an anxiety disorder (NAMI). And while anxiety isn't usually something necessarily you can see, there are little clues on your tongue that you may be grinding and clenching your teeth as a result of it, whether it's more situational (e.g. due to a big presentation at work or, ya know, the pandemic) or due to a more chronic condition (e.g. general anxiety disorder), says Julie a general dentist in New York City. "A white scalloping will form on the sides of the tongue in heavy clenched from the pressure the tongue exerts on the lower teeth," she says.

Treatment can range depending on the severity of your mental health, some might benefit from just wearing a mouthguard to curb the grinding and clenching while others might also consider therapy to address the anxiety.

#### Dry Mouth

Dry mouth, aka xerostomia, is a feeling that there isn't enough saliva in your mouth, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. "It's a very common side effect we are seeing more and more with a multitude of medications from allergy meds to antidepressants. "Patients report their tongues feeling like sandpaper because the mouth gets so dry. This condition can also make your mouth feel sticky and can cause trouble chewing and swallowing, cracked lips, and even lead to an infection in the mouth if it goes on too long.

If you're struggling with dry mouth and suspect a medication is to blame, it's a good idea to check in with your doctor to see if there are alternatives.

#### Vitamin or Nutrient Deficiency

There are a whole host of vitamin and nutrient deficiencies that can show up on your tongue, says Wolff. These may include low levels of folic acid, vitamins D and B, and iron to name a few. "All of the sudden, the tongue becomes glossy and loses texture," he says. "That's a real

defining moment. The tongue is an amazing location in that respect that so many nutrient-bound conditions just pop right out on the tongue."

Iron deficiencies (aka anemia), in particular, can cause a "flat, shiny, and red appearance of the tongue called atrophic glossitis," says Burgess. "This is from sloughing of the taste buds thought to be due to a lack of oxygenation as patients with anemia carry less oxygen in their blood." Especially low levels of vitamin B12 can also make your tongue sore, sleek, and "beefy-red in color," according to Stanford Medicine.

This is more of a potential sign rather than an actual diagnosis, though. If you're concerned you might have a nutrient deficiency, it's important to check in with your health care provider, as they can do a blood test to determine your levels of specific nutrients. Treatment varies depending on the deficiency,

but generally includes the use of supplements. (Just a friendly reminder that the Food and Drug Administration does not regulate supplements, so it's especially important to consult your doc before adding any to your routine.)

#### If Your Tongue Is Red

##### Kawasaki Disease

Also known as Kawasaki syndrome, this illness causes inflammation and swelling in blood vessels throughout the body, such as those in your mouth, according to the Mayo Clinic. While it mostly impacts children, it can show up in adults, too. In addition to a very red, swollen tongue, telltale symptoms include a high fever (usually about 101°F) red eyes and/or rash on the main part of the body or genital area, swollen palms, and enlarged lymph nodes. "The tongue actually looks like a red strawberry," says Wolff.

Source: Healthnews.com.





# THE S O W O R L D

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

# Body parts you are not washing enough!

By **BRANDI NEAL**

**I**f you're someone who is perpetually running late, you might jump in the shower for a quick rinse off before work, after the gym, or before meeting friends for dinner. While quickies are perfectly fine, there are likely areas of your body you're not washing enough if you're taking shortie showers on the regular. While it's totally fine to take a fast shower, you might want to take a few extra minutes to make sure your quickie-cleaning routine isn't causing you to ignore the little nooks and crannies on your body, like that you're probably not washing enough.

### Your Belly Button Is A Budding Bacteria Farm

The navel is one of the most overlooked areas on the body, and an unwashed belly button is not only known to collect lint, it's also an ideal breeding ground for bacteria, which lead that button in your belly to become a little smelly. "The navel is an occluded area where skin rests on skin creating a dark moist environment in which bacteria and yeast can breed and can become a cesspool for microbes if not properly maintained," Dr. Susan Bard of Sadick Dermatology told Teen Vogue. "If bacteria and yeast are allowed to breed it can lead to foul odor and even infection."

Dr. Bard advises cleaning an innie belly button with a cotton swab. Outies can be cleaned using a cloth, sponge, or loofah. Remember to dry your belly button after your shower, too, lest it become a breeding ground for bacteria.

### Clean Behind Your Ears

You've likely been told at one time or another not to put anything smaller than an elbow in your ear. The website Healthy Hearing reported that cotton swabs should not be used to clean the ear canal because you could accidentally puncture your eardrum. The part you do want to clean is actually behind your ears.

Since the back of your ear is somewhat hidden, it can collect bacteria, especially because the sebaceous glands back there secrete a sebum to keep your skin moist.

### Your Tongue Absorbs Bacteria Like A Sponge

Your tongue absorbs everything you put in your mouth. From coffee, to the tuna sandwich you had for lunch, to the beer you drank at happy hour. Not consciously cleaning your tongue could result in some pretty rank breath. Bacteria will

accumulate greatly in the areas of the tongue between the taste buds and other tongue structures.

A lot of toothbrushes these days come with a tongue scraper on the back. You can also buy a separate tongue scraper, which you can use to scrape the coating off of your tongue similar to those squeegee thin gies you use at the gas station to clean off your windshield. A toothbrush works just as well as a tongue scraper. Just take a few extra seconds while your brushing your pearly whites to brush your tongue, too.

### Your Head Needs Some Love, Too

Even if you're washing your hair on the regular, you might not realize that you're neglecting your scalp. When I stopped washing my hair every day, I noticed that I got dry scalp more often. Now, before I wash my hair, I take a few minutes to massage some oil, like one that's combination of vitamins E and A, into my scalp to ensure it's getting the love and moisture it needs to be flake free and healthy. Not giving your scalp the attention it deserves can lead to what looks like a snow storm on your head, and it might feel super itchy, too.

Wiki How suggests setting a scalp cleaning schedule to address the need once a month. You can also switch to a shampoo like New Wash, which uses a combination of aloe vera and essential oils to clean your scalp while restoring natural moisture to your hair. It does not contain any detergent, so it nourishes your scalp instead of drying it out. And, it's reported to work for all hair types.

### Wash Between Your Toes

Two words: Toe jam. If you wear flip flops, socks, shoes, or go barefoot, yucky stuff quickly accumulates between your little piggies, and it's an oft-neglected area of the human body. Beat, your toe jam can come from things like eczema, athlete's foot, corns — a thickening of skin on the foot — and even scabies. It smells gross, feels worse, and it's super easy to make sure it's not a thing: just wash your feet, including between all of your toes, with soap and water. Talcum powder or cornstarch sprinkled between your toes can help "keep them dry and prevent infection."

### 95 Percent Of People Wash Their Hands Wrong

You likely know that it's important to wash your hands to avoid getting sick and spreading germs. However, a study published in the Journal of Environmental Health noted that 95 percent of people don't know how to



wash their hands properly. If you don't want to contract the dreaded norovirus, or any other icky sickness. Wash 'em with soap for at least 20 seconds, or two renditions of "Happy Birthday," and make sure to get under your nails. If your skin is sensitive to detergents in regular hand soap, you can use an oil cleanser instead.

### Ignoring Your Back = Bacne

Because you hardly ever see it, nevermind reach it, your back can be a pretty neglected body part, and not cleaning it properly can cause you to develop bacne. The back is one of the largest areas of skin on your body, and because it spends a lot of time trapped in sweaty clothes, and resting in your bed, it's pretty easy for the pores and glands in your back to get clogged, which can lead to the dreaded back acne.

"Back acne can also be triggered when heat and sweat is trapped against the body, and when your skin is irritated by friction," according to Acne.com. "If you're frequently wearing athletic equipment, tight-fitting clothing, backpacks or anything similar, you might be prone to bacne." To reduce your chances of bacne, make sure you're washing and exfoliating your back on the regular. Because it's a hard-to-reach area, you can get a back scrubber to make sure your back is clean.

### Your Teeth Need More Attention Than You Think

While brushing your teeth is something you learn as a toddler, a survey from the American Dental Association reported that some people may need a refresher course. The survey noted that 30 percent of people don't brush enough, and 23 percent of people go two days or longer without brushing their teeth at all. Even if you do brush every day, there is actually a proper way to brush that can significantly reduce your chances of getting cavities.

(hopefully?) wash your butt in the shower, there is actually a way you can wash it that will reduce your chances of buttne. Cleansing with an antibacterial soap or benzoyl peroxide to unclog the follicles on your backside. If it helps, you can think of your butt like a face that you sit on. It needs a lot of the same care, but most people aren't treating their butts as well as their faces, and butt skin undergoes a lot more stress because we sit on it.

Additionally, "Make sure you wash your hair first and body last so the dirty suds from your scalp won't drip down and clog your follicles. When your skin is clear (so, before any zits arise), remember to exfoliate regularly to remove dirt and bacteria, the same way you would for your face," Glamour reported.

### It's All Pointless If Your Towel Is Dirty

So, you've upped your body-cleaning game, and you're feeling all shiny and new. This is great news. However, if you're using a dirty towel to dry off that squeaky-clean body, it's all kind of pointless because your towel is transferring bacteria back onto your skin. So, just how often should you wash your towels? You should throw your towel in the washer every two to three uses.

This can be tough if you are sensitive to detergents, or you don't have laundry in your house or apartment. This is why having a few bath and hand towels is a good idea. If you are detergent sensitive like me, using a laundry detergent that doesn't contain any dyes, perfumes, or other harsh chemicals can help.

If you've been showering the same way for well, your entire life, you've likely gotten into some habits that may not get you as clean as you like. You can change this by consciously washing areas of your body that might not get as much love, like behind your ears and between your toes, and up your game for the rest of your body.







# Reality Bites

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## Philanthropy: Group touches lives of PLWD's in Plateau

**L**AST week, it was a fun all through and a very memorable moment for the wards and teachers of Ganaka International School For Special Education, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, as they were visited by a group of five women.

The group, Ebony Sisters Club of New York, Plateau state branch visited the school to make an impact and touch the lives of the pupils, some of them Persons Living With Disabilities (PLWD's).

The August-guests had come into the premises to wine and dine with the children and also render entertainment, gifts aside other side attractions to liven their day.

But what endeared the visit? The State Coordinator of the Club, Mrs. Grace Ojobo said they had visited the institution to show some love to the wards in line with their philosophy.

She said the Club, a purely non-profit philanthropic organisation which targets assistance to the less privileged was founded in Newyork in June 23, 2015 by the President Mrs Evelyn Momodu. But the Plateau state branch was founded in September 2022 with just 5 volunteer members.

However with just barely two months into its existence, the Plateau Branch in line with the mission of the body has already made a move to support the special school.

"The club was created to help and support the less privileged in the society. We have decided to make the Ganaka International School our Club's first point of call to share love, and give logistic support to the school", said Ojobo.

"Our Club is a philanthropic group and our mission is to support schools and the less privileged in the state with our



little resources that is coming both from our Headquarters and the state, so that we can give back to society, and make a difference by helping the children".

"We can't just be waiting for government to do everything for us, we are glad that we have an avenue which we can use, to reach those in need especially PLWD's and vulnerable groups".

"We decided to pick this special school because they are special children", the State Coordinator said.

The vision statement of the beneficiary, Ganaka International School For Special Education Jos is "Using the philosophy of inclusive education to bring qualitative education to both special needs and normal children in Nigeria and in world at large".

While the mission Statement of the school, located behind St. Murumba College Jos is geared towards

providing basic education to people with special needs alongside their normal age group in an inclusive education setting.

A member of the visiting club, Elizabeth Bala was equally excited as she spoke about the role her new-club is going to be playing in the state.

She said: "Like our Sisters at

inclusive form of learning for both healthy and special needs children.

Expressing her appreciation at the kind gesture, the Principal said "It is not a usual occurrence for people to come in here and visit us, so when we see such acts of kindness, we are usually overjoyed".

"I don't know how to explain my feelings but we are so happy and I pray that others will take a cue and know that this school is existing to cater for the educational needs of PLWD's".

It was fun all through as the children danced and ate with their visiting guests. They interacted well and the excitement could not be hidden from their faces, it glowed.

"I pray for more of such assistance to come to our school" said the Head Boy of the school, Henry Pam adding: "This gesture makes us happy because not everyone in the society accepts us".

Likewise, the Head Girl Mary James while speaking on the



the headquarters at Newyork, the Plateau Chapter of the club is passionate in lending a hand to society".

"We are touched by the fact that the kids are vulnerable children and you cannot really understand the challenges of having a special child".

"Therefore we are here telling the kids that they may be physically challenged in one way or the other but with God, they are going to be able to achieve their dreams in life".

Principal of the school, Kalista Umeh who was equally excited with the gesture by the visiting women disclosed that the institution provides an all

development said excitedly "We appreciate the visit, we feel loved".

The outing climaxed with the distribution of gift packages to the wards.

Aside donating two desk top computers, and food stuff to the school, the state Coordinator used the forum to call on well meaning individuals to join the group.

"We are calling for more membership, I am calling on people who can join us to support this kind of system to come", said the State Coordinator of the US-Nigerian based philanthropic group.



# EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

### Things you should do every few months

By **LAURA AYIENGA**

**A** new year is upon us, and this time, I imagine that most of us are ready to make a change in our lives. Again, I would like to imagine that this change is positive, and will help you to lead a sustainably comfortable life.

Every few months, there are a few things that you may want to include in your plan that will help you conserve and sustain your life. Here are things that you need to do every few months:

**Change your toothbrush**

No matter how much you clean it, your toothbrush is bound to carry with it a lot of bacteria, dirt, plaque and other unwanted particles. If you continue to use this toothbrush with all this debris, the bacteria will take over the brush. This can put you at higher risk of sickness because if you are dealing with a cold, flu, or other viral infection, you can reinfect yourself. The last reason you need to change your toothbrush is because, over time, the bristles wear out and become more abrasive on your gums, which can lead to premature gum recession and inflammation in your gums.

**Flip or rotate your mattress**

When you sleep on the same side of your mattress for a long period of time, what tends to happen is that your body eventually leaves a big imprint. Flipping the mattress or even rotating it can prevent these indents as you distribute weight across the bed. This helps it to last a much longer time.

How do you decide whether to flip or rotate it? Some mattresses come with clear instructions that you should not flip them. Not all mattresses are dual-sided. If this is the case, then you may opt to rotate it by turning it 180 degrees. The part where your head rests will now support your feet and vice versa. You should do this every four to six months.

**Deworm**

How often do you remember to deworm? When was the last time you did it? Deworming is important for various reasons. It improves immunity, controls infections and increases nutritional uptake by the body. It's not just for children, everyone needs to deworm.

If ignored, worms have the ability to form cysts in the liver and lungs, leading to pneumonia and other neurological conditions. For this reason, experts recommend that deworming should get done twice a year or every six months, starting from the age of two years.



**Digitally declutter**

Our phones and other devices tend to hold a lot of useless information and data. We have pictures, messages, notes, alarms, apps, emails and reminders which we probably don't even need. As you put together a list of things to do every few months, don't forget to digitally declutter. Digital decluttering can save you money as your current device might still be good enough, it's just overloaded. It can also earn you money as your productivity and focus are improved, which can lead to better work/business. You may choose to do this every two to four months.

**Edit your closet**

Another area of your life that you may need to look at is your wardrobe. Depending on how often you treat yourself to new clothes, you may end up with a full wardrobe, and yet still nothing to wear. If this is the case, then you may consider building a capsule wardrobe by editing your wardrobe down to your favourite clothes, remixing them regularly, and shopping less often and more intentionally. Donate the clothes that you no longer wear and keep the ones you need only. Every few months, you will need to sit down and think about your wardrobe. How can you make it more efficient, sustainable, and affordable?

**Evaluate your finances**

Evaluating your finances every few months is important. This is not to say that you won't do it more regularly, but that you can see the bigger picture after a few months. Every quarter of the year, your

such as beauty blenders tend to absorb a lot of dirt and bacteria. Using them for too long might take you many steps backwards in terms of achieving your skincare goals. Clear out and replace your eye makeup like

If you use a water filter at home, then you will also need to clear it out and replace it every few months, according to the manufacturer's instructions. Not doing this may attract bacteria and other germs that can cause illnesses. Read the user manual and be sure to follow it, as advised. Above this, replacing water filters regularly or as needed ensures that your filtered water system continues to work efficiently at removing the contaminants from drinking water.

**Herbs, spices and flours**

Many of us forget to go over herbs and spices to check for expiry dates. Sometimes we completely forget about these herbs and spices and come back to them much later. Different spices have different shelf lives, and you must be keen to notice and replace them. Whole spices usually stay fresh for about four years. On the other hand ground spices run between three and four years. Lastly, when it comes to dried herbs, many will last from one to three years, but this will change depending on the spice itself. Sometimes lids are not closed too tight and they get insects and webs so it is important to regularly check your spices and flours.

**Supplements and medication**

Another area of your life that you may need to focus on is supplements and medication. Some people keep a



financial situation may change for the better or worse. It's important to sit down and analyse once more, see how much progress you have made and check to see how much more you can make. This will enable you to make clearer goals based on your current situation and future expectations.

**Go for a medical checkup**

If you are privileged enough to afford it, then you definitely need to go for a medical checkup. There have been so many tragic stories of people who died prematurely simply because, for one reason or the other, their conditions were not detected in good time. So, if you can, schedule an appointment and do a full medical checkup every few months.

**Clear out some makeup products**

With makeup or any other products that you apply to your face, you need to be super careful. Makeup products

such as mascara and eyeliner every 3 months in order to avoid bacterial growth that could cause an eye infection.

For products such as foundation, powder, concealer, bronzer, highlighter and the likes, usually, there will be a specific date of expiry attached to the packaging. Even so, liquid foundation and highlighter generally last for 12 months. For concealer, experts recommend that you get a new bottle or tube every six to eight months. Powder and bronzer may last a little longer, and the recommended time to keep it is 18 months.

Lastly, you need to replace your makeup brushes fully replaced every three months or sooner if they shed bristles, become discoloured, or have an unusual smell. This is because, after a while, they trap dirt, harbour germs, and create a breeding ground for unpleasant microbes.

9. Replace your water filter

cabinet with general medication such as painkillers, while others are on supplements and vitamins. Whatever the case, and depending on the expiry dates, you will need to change and monitor this cabinet every few months. This is essential if you only take vitamins or painkillers every once in a while.

**Pillows**

Pillows make our lives more comfortable and for some even, they improve the quality of sleep. Even so, they need to be changed every so often. Apart from the pillowcase which probably needs to be changed much more frequently (every two weeks or so), your pillow is likely to gather dust, dirt, oil, dead skin, hair, and allergens. This is unhealthy and can make you ill. The National Sleep Foundation advises that you replace your pillows every year or two. They also recommend washing your pillows at least once every six months.





## BUSINESS WORLD

# Soft drink sector at the verge of collapse

**The collapse of the soft drink companies in Nigeria looms as the sector is faced with the devastating effect of the recent N10 per litre excise tax on non-alcoholic beverages. MODUPE ONI writes.**

**T**HE ugly situation has led to a decline in sales and revenue, as they grapple to thrive with the N10 per litre excise tax, which has led to an average loss in volume and revenue which is put at -10 percent between June and September 2022, and estimated to reach -25 percent by the end of the year. This development will eventually lead to workers layoff, possible plant shut down and a multiplier effect on the economy.

The suffocating effect of the excise tax and its devastating consequences prompted the emergency meeting of sectoral heads of the carbonated soft drinks sub-sector of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) on Thursday, November 17, 2022. The sectoral group asserts that since the introduction of the N10 per litre excise tax, manufacturers and players in the sector have had to contend with a serious decline in revenue.

At the meeting, the sectoral heads cried out over the harsh ad-valorem tax they are struggling with and the proposed 20 percent excise tax the Federal Government is planning to introduce.

This, they stated, spells doom for the sector as the prevailing N10 per litre excise tax on beverage drinks is biting hard on businesses, a situation that shows that an additional tax burden will lead to the total collapse of the industry.

They pointed out that if the N10 per litre excise tax on non-alcoholic beverages is already having debilitating effects on the industry, the proposed 20 percent excise tax will ultimately lead to a collapse of the sector.

At the meeting, Ekuma Eze, corporate affairs and sustainability director, Nigerian Bottling Company (NBC), said the proposed 20 percent excise tax would cripple the operations of companies in the non-alcoholic beverage industry, which has been saddled with the already 10 percent excise tax per litre of beverage drink produced.

On the prevailing N10 per litre excise tax on CSD, the director-general, MAN, Segun Ajayi-Kadir, affirmed that the new tax regime is likely to cause a 0.43 percent contraction in output and about a 40 percent drop in total industry revenues in the next five years.

He explained that rather than the estimated revenue increase of N4.8 trillion, the directive will cause the beverage sub-sector to lose up to N1.9 trillion in sales revenue between 2022-2025.

"The government is estimated to generate an excise tax of N81 billion between 2022 and 2025 from the group, but this will not be sufficient to compensate the corresponding government's revenue losses in other taxes from the Group. This will have an unpleasant impact on employment, households, and consumers, a further cut in jobs for an industry that employs over 1.5 million people, directly and indirectly," he said.

Sadly, analysts believe that this is bad news for the sector that accounts for 33 percent of the entire manufacturing industry in the country, and contributes 15 percent to the GDP of the Nigerian economy, with an annual payment of N202 billion Value Added Tax to the government and N207 billion as Company Income Tax, an enormous amount that would be lost by the Federal Government if the sector collapses.



They posit that if the proposed 20 percent excise tax is allowed, there would be a huge loss of jobs as the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS), had on record that the sector has generated 1.5 million direct and indirect jobs in the past five years.

According to them, excise tax is a good source of revenue generation by the Federal Government but if on the high side, would have dire consequences on any sector of an emerging market economy, as it will lead to the eventual collapse of the industry, compared to developed economies with the enabling environment.

They avowed that it would lead to job loss because if the companies affected do not produce at full capacity, which may contribute to the high wave of crime in the society, as well as poor infrastructural development as revenue used for projects that are accrued from taxes would be lost.

In light of the aforementioned, these analysts affirmed that the World Bank's advice on tax regimes to raise revenue by governments in developing countries would spell doom for manufacturers and that it should be discarded.

This issue of the proposed 20 percent excise tax on non-alcoholic beverages, which would lead to a hike in the price of the popular soft drinks consumed by Nigerians, especially the low-income earners who sees them as a source of meal supplement, has sparked comments from worthy Nigerians.

It led to the recent TV interviews of Olufemi Awoyemi, founder/chairman of Proshare Limited - Nigeria's foremost Financial Information Hub, on Monday, 21 November, 2022, on Television Continental Business

News, and Teslim Teslim Shitta-Bay, managing editor of Proshare Nigeria on Today's Business programme on Silverbird Television.

Shitta-Bay stated that "a tax is designed to create an environment for expansion, consumption, and productivity, so you need a tax that is not primitive".

He said "the scale of the tax in the carbonated soft drink sector is too high., that the proposed 20 ad-valorem tax on the value of the product plus a recent N10 per litre excise tax will create difficulties for manufacturers in the sector.

Teslim added that sugar consumption in Nigeria is one of the lowest consumers on the planet, with 8 kilogrammes per person, while the United Kingdom records 36 kilogrammes per person and the United States of America 40 kilogrammes per person.

On his part, Awoyemi remarked that the manufacturing industry has recorded a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, foreign exchange challenges, high cost of raw materials, high cost of technology adoption and a look at the sector shows that there have been problems over the years and the government has reacted to it in various ways, through taxation.

He said while it is good for the government to generate revenue through its tax policy, there is need for a balance to create an environment for the manufacturing companies to thrive.

On excise tax, the economist said he supports it for the government to do, but that there is a single factor narrative that makes no sense, which is ad-valorem tax, which means you understand your economic recovery and should not be looked at as a

component on its own.

He said the N10 per litre excise tax on non-alcoholic beverages which has been paid by soft drink companies is a tax on production and consumption, and that its adverse effect on the manufacturers trickles down to the consumers who find it difficult to cope with the price of the products.

"If the revenue of the manufacturing companies declines, with the -25 percent being experienced, there would be a layoff of workers, and it would lead to a drop in their standard of living," Awoyemi averred.

According to him, the proposed 20 percent ad-valorem tax on soft drinks will impact negatively on the government, manufacturing companies, and citizens. "It should be done in a way that recognises the rate of economic recovery, that means you will tax them in relation to their ability to be more efficient."

The Proshare analysts asserted that the new ad-valorem or percentage tax of 20 percent on carbonated soft drink products could put some revenue gains on government coffers. Howbeit, its adverse impact on the economy would outweigh the gains.

The immediate pain points would include the high unit cost of products, fall in demand, decline in corporate revenues, lower foreign direct investment (FDI), and rising job losses.

Analysts believed the tax advocates had no social impact assessment before proposing the excise tax on carbonated drinks. The one-sided narrative that considered economic justification of taxes without social impact assessment has unintended consequences.

Not limited to the carbonated soft drink sector, the Federal Government has in recent times imposed various excise taxes on commodities and services which has had adverse implications on the manufacturers, service providers, and end-users.

As part of the new tax order, the Federal Government on the recommendation of the Tariff Technical Committee of the Ministry of Finance approved increased excise duties on tobacco and alcoholic beverages in June 2018.

On tobacco, in addition to the 20 percent ad-valorem rate, a specific rate of N1(One Naira) was added to each cigarette stick, amounting to N20 per pack of 20 sticks. In 2019, the rate was increased to N2 per stick (N40 per pack of 20 sticks), and N2.90k per stick (N58 per pack of 20 sticks) in 2020.

Beer and Stout in 2018, attracted N0.30k per centilitre ("Cl"), and N0.35k per Cl in both 2019 and 2020.

Excise tax on wines was increased from N1.25k per Cl in 2018 and N1.50k per Cl for both 2019 and 2020. Spirits were N1.50k per Cl in 2018, N1.75k per Cl in 2019, and N2.00k per Cl in 2020.

On 31 December 2020, the Federal Government signed into law the Finance Bill 2020 (now Finance Act 2020) which introduced amendments to 14 tax and fiscal legislations, and one of them was the inclusion of telecoms services on the list of goods liable to excise duty.

This took effect on 1 January, 2020, but raised concerns from various stakeholders about the implementation, rates, and ultimately, its effect on the Nigerian economy taking into consideration the broad coverage of telecom services in the country.

Source: Business Day



# BUSINESS WORLD

## FG blames governors for rising poverty in Nigeria

**T**HE Federal Government on Wednesday blamed state governors for the rising rate of poverty across the country.

The Minister of State for Budget and National Planning, Clement Agba, attributed the poverty rate to governors' misplaced priority while briefing State House correspondents shortly after the Federal Executive Council meeting at the Aso Rock Villa, Abuja.

Mr Agba blamed the governors for prioritising the construction of infrastructure such as bridges and airports in cities rather than improving the lives of the people in rural communities.

The minister explained that 72 per cent of the nation's poor reside in rural communities but the governors have abandoned them to expend state resources on the capital cities.

"The governors are basically functioning in their state capitals. And democracy that we preach about is delivering the greatest goods to the greatest number of people. And from our demography, it shows that the greatest number of our people live in rural areas, but the governors are not working in the rural areas."

"Right now 70 per cent of our people live in rural areas. They produce 90 percent of what we eat. And unfortunately 60 percent of what they produce is lost due to post harvest loss and it does not get to the market."

"I think from the Federal Government's side we are doing our best. But we need to say that rather than governors continuing to compete to take loans to build airports that are not necessary, where they have other airports so close to them, or governors now competing to build flyovers all over the place, we appeal that they should concentrate on building rural roads so that the farmer can at least get their products to the market."

Multidimensional Poverty The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) last week announced that over 133 million Nigerians live in poverty, adding that the figure represents 63 per cent of the nation's population.

In its "Nigeria Multidimensional Poverty Index", the NBS said over half of the population who are poor cook with dung, wood or charcoal, rather than cleaner energy.

Speaking about the findings of another survey conducted across the 109 senatorial districts nationwide, Mr Agba said Sokoto state ranked the highest on the poverty scale, followed by oil-rich Bayelsa State. He argued that the survey result showed that the issue is not about availability of money, "but it has to do with the application of money".

He said: "In the course of



**Buhari**

working on the national development plan, we looked at previous plans and asked why they didn't do as much as expected. We also looked at the issues of the National Social Investment Programme.

"At the federal level, the government is putting out so much money but not seeing so much reflection in terms of money that has been put into alleviating poverty, which is one of the reasons the government also put in place the national poverty reduction with growth strategy."

Speaking of high food prices, the minister said farm products were affordable at the point of harvest but became expensive due to the poor state of rural-urban roads.

He said: "In terms of agriculture, you find out that the federal government doesn't have land that they would plant. The government has pushed for the Anchor

## Buhari tackles governors for looting local government funds

**P**RESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari recently in Abuja flayed the tendency of some chief executives to encourage corruption at the local government system, thereby inhibiting development at the grassroots.

The President spoke at a parley with members of the Senior Executive Course (SEC) No. 44 (2022) of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru.

He narrated his personal experience on stemming the tide of corruption in the local government system after the presentation of the report of NIPSS SEC 44.

After listening to comments on the Course 44 presentation, themed "Strengthening Local Governance in Nigeria: Challenges, Options and Opportunities", by some members of the Federal Executive Council, who aired their personal views on enhancing the autonomy of local governments, the President narrated his own experience on the treatment of local governments by some

Borrowers programme and that is going on very well but the state control lands states. They are the ones to provide land for agriculture. They are not investing in that. They would rather build skyscrapers in a city where people will see and clap but the skyscrapers do not put food on the table.

"When we're talking about food prices, like I mentioned right now is driving inflation, prices of food at the farm gates are low. But when you now take it to the urban areas, you find out that the prices are high due to supply chain disruptions or lack of infrastructure to take them there."

The minister advised state governors to improve basic infrastructural facilities that will enhance the quality of lives of the people before they begin to think of "how to go to the moon" and build flyovers and airports in the state capital.

State governments.

"I found it necessary to digress after reading my speech and this digression is as a result of my personal experience."

"What they did, this is my personal experience, if the money from the Federation Account to the State is about N100 million, N50 million will be sent to the Chairman but he will sign that he received N100 million. The Governor will pocket the balance and share it with whoever he wants to share it with."

"And then the Chairman of the local government must see how much he must pay in salaries and to hell with development. When he pays the salaries of the big man, the balance he will put in his pocket."

"This is what's happening. This is Nigeria. It's a terrible thing; you cannot say the person who was doing this is not educated."

President Buhari urged public office holders to be guided by their conscience and personal integrity wherever they find themselves.

He pledged that the

**T**HE Federal Government has disclosed that it disbursed a total of N1.98 trillion as share of the 13% oil derivation fund paid to oil-producing states.

This was revealed by the Minister of Finance, Budget, and National budget Zainab Ahmed, on Thursday at the sixth edition of President Muhammadu Buhari (rtd.) administration scorecard.

She stated that the amount was paid in seven years, despite some of the funds preceding the current administration.

She said, "One of the key functions of the Ministry of Finance Budget and National Planning is to support the states."

"We wouldn't have been able to grow consistently without enabling the states to grow because it is a federation."

"Mr. President has been very uniquely generous in his support to states. I can say no president has provided the level of support provided to the states of the Federation."

"He understands that the

## Gas, power, others to transact via trading platforms

**T**HE Federal Government has announced that power generation, distribution and transmission companies, gas suppliers, consumers, among others, will conduct electricity transactions through an automated energy trading platform in 2023.

The government said the platform would facilitate an automated and transparent marketplace and would serve as a system for the consummation of bilateral contracts for energy using standard template contracts.

Managing Director, Nigerian

Bulk Electricity Trading Plc, Nnaemeka Ewelukwa, disclosed this in a presentation titled, 'Actualising Enhanced Electricity Supply and Commercial/Industrial Decarbonisation in Nigeria' in Abuja.

In the document obtained by Economic Confidential, Ewelukwa stated that the platform would also serve as a spot market for real-time energy trading as the market developed further.

He said, "IPPs (Independent Power Plants) wishing to sell power can register on the platform and immediately have access to a comprehensive database of commercial/industrial customers across the country, and their energy requirements."

Ewelukwa said the interactive map would facilitate transaction structuring by willing buyers and sellers.

It would also boost network investment coordination, guide investment decision-making, while facilitating greater policy planning and efficient resource planning.

He added, "With price discovery, energy buyers and sellers have the assurance that they are purchasing these commodities at fair prices in a reliable marketplace."

"Ultimately, it will enhance overall visibility of tariffs, capacity availability, costs and prices along the energy value chain, which will aid buyers and sellers in undertaking transactions."

Ewelukwa said the Securities and Exchange Commission, Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission as well as the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority were being engaged by NBET on the new initiative.

He further noted that the Federal Ministries of Power; Finance, Budget and National Planning; Industry, Trade and Investment; as well as the media and CSOs were being engaged.

On industry groups that the NBET was interfacing with, Ewelukwa outlined them to include: the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (3064 members); Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (332 members); Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (64 member members); Nigeria Association of Small Scale Industrialists; and Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises.

## FG disbursed N1.98tn derivation funds to states

federating units need to work together as one to achieve the targets that he has set for the country. So everybody goes to support sub-national governments.

"In seven years, we have disbursed N1.98 trillion in funds to oil-producing states."

The 13% derivation fund had been a contentious issue

– Minister

following comments from the Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, alleging that the oil-producing states have refused to disclose their share of the 13% derivation arrears that have been paid by the Federal Government since 1999 to all Niger Delta states.



**Ahmed**



# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## Challenges of entrepreneurship in Nigeria and potential solutions

**Entrepreneurship is one of the essential pillars onto which most economies are built. Entrepreneurs play a huge role in a country's trade balance, job employment, and tax revenue generation. In Nigeria, like in other developing countries, entrepreneurs face numerous challenges, some related to factors beyond their control and some not. JACKLINE WANGARE ADRIANNA SIMWA writes.**

**W**HICH are the main challenges of entrepreneurship in Nigeria, and what can be done to address them? PAY ATTENTION: You can save a life of girl at risk. Donate to Legit Charity on Patre on. Your support matters! Challenges of entrepreneurship and their solutions A person deep in thought about various things.

The entrepreneurial scene is remarkably different from those in more developed countries, such as those in European and American nations. Some of the challenges entrepreneurs face have to do with the government and its policies, while others have to do with an individual's business prowess or lack thereof. Ads by what are the challenges of entrepreneurship in Nigeria?.

What are the challenges of entrepreneurship development in Nigeria? Here is a look at the most prominent challenges faced by Nigerian entrepreneurs.

Capital problems for any entrepreneurial venture to take off, there must be sufficient capital to cater for the wide-ranging startup costs. For most businesses, these initial costs include premise fees, licenses, opening stock, logistics, business registration, hiring, and so on. In Nigeria, the financial sector is hugely biased against startup entrepreneurs.

This is because most entrepreneurs who are just starting up often have little to no capital. This comes as no surprise since most are just getting into the business scene. In addition, those who can access loans often find the lenders' fees and interest rates to be somewhat exorbitant. Possible solutions Like in many developed countries, the Nigerian government can come up with ways to alleviate the capital problem amongst beginner entrepreneurs.

Here are some possible solutions. Create, facilitate, and sustain a government-owned fund to lend capital to entrepreneurs based on the soundness of their potential ventures. Work with private lenders to avail low-interest loans to the owners of promising business ventures. Encourage wealthy Nigerians to create venture capital firms that can then create funding and ownership deals with potential entrepreneurs.

Insufficient business knowledge challenges faced by Nigerian entrepreneurs A tablet and printed charts with business information. Photo: pixabay.com, @Pexels Source: UGC A successful business venture largely depends on its founder(s)' understanding of numerous aspects of the modern-day business environment. To succeed, one must understand how to place and promote their product or service, who to hire, where to market, what to charge, where to source materials, and so on. For some Nigerian beginner entrepreneurs, this knowledge is either lacking or inadequate. With the unforgiving nature of today's business world, a venture created by an unknowledgeable founder is almost guaranteed to fail. Possible solutions here are some possible solutions that can help improve entrepreneurship in Nigeria.

The challenges of entrepreneurship education in



Nigeria can be alleviated by encouraging entrepreneurs to enroll in online and offline courses on how to start, run, and grow a modern-day enterprise. Improve the quality of business education in Nigeria's universities and colleges. Create platforms where students can interact with successful entrepreneurs and begin to hone their business skills while still in school.

. Poor infrastructure this is one of the most prominent government-related challenges to Nigerian entrepreneurship. For enterprises to

***"The challenges of entrepreneurship education in Nigeria can be alleviated by encouraging entrepreneurs to enroll in online and offline courses on how to start, run, and grow a modern-day enterprise. Improve the quality of business education in Nigeria's universities and colleges. Create platforms where students can interact with successful entrepreneurs and begin to hone their business skills while still in school. . Poor infrastructure this is one of the most prominent government-related challenges to Nigerian entrepreneurship. For enterprises to succeed in a country, there must be adequate infrastructure. Some of the most important infrastructural requirements include good road networks, reliable electricity, and adequate water supply. Unfortunately, all the above requirements are significantly lacking in Nigeria."***

succeed in a country, there must be adequate infrastructure. Some of the most important infrastructural requirements include good road networks, reliable electricity, and adequate water supply. Unfortunately, all the above requirements are significantly lacking in Nigeria.

Up until recently, power has been quite unreliable in Nigeria, and road networks in some states are barely existent. This means that budding entrepreneurs in such states would be forced to abandon their venture since there would be no means of transporting their finished goods to

the market. Possible solutions here are some possible government-initiated solutions to entrepreneurship problems in Nigeria.

Invest in infrastructure development through external and internal borrowing, public-private partnerships, and internally generated revenue. Encourage private power providers to compete with the primary national provider. This will reduce monopoly power and possibly improve the power supply throughout the country.

. Multiple taxations solutions to entrepreneurship problems in Nigeria Scrabble tiles with the word tax this is a huge hindrance to entrepreneurs in numerous developing countries. In a bid to increase tax revenue, governments in these countries tend to have multiple taxes. A budding entrepreneur, for example, would be required to pay some federal tax for their business, pay VAT for the goods they produce, pay state-based taxes, renew their operating licenses each year, and numerous other tax-related obligations.

Today, Nigeria has over 30 forms of tax and more than 300 levies, most of which affect entrepreneurs in various economic sectors. Possible solution the easiest way to deal with these is through tax consolidation. This would mean that a potential entrepreneur will know the exact amount of the only tax they will ever have to pay once their venture is up and running. This would make it easier for such a person to know beforehand whether their venture makes sense considering the payable tax.

. Impatience and lack of

commitment most successful business ventures have a story behind them, often riddled with failure, setbacks, and growth on the entrepreneur's part. Today's generation, commonly labelled as 'the microwave generation,' likes to have things happen overnight. This has led many business owners to abandon their ventures at the first challenge encountered. A successful enterprise calls for a lot of patience and resilience.

Most Nigerian youths need to be reoriented and invest some commitment into their new ventures. Possible solution this is mostly a mentorship issue. People need to be trained that business ventures take time, at times years, to succeed. By encouraging potential business owners to seek mentorship, numerous new enterprises can be saved.

. Inconsistent government policies Nigerian entrepreneurship. A group of people in a meeting. Photo: pexels.com, @Rebrand Cities Source: UGC Businesses usually thrive in an environment with good government policies. When there is a lack of continuity with government policies, entrepreneurs feel the heat. In Nigeria, for example, regimes are known for overturning policies put in place by previous regimes.

This puts business ventures in a state of confusion, hampering their growth. Read also Consider these great NGO jobs in Nigeria Possible solution The existing regime should put in place policies enshrined in the laws of the land. This means that the policies will remain in place regardless of the reigning government.

Source: Legit.nig.





Continued from page 18

# Madonna surprises all on thanksgiving



can even wear a dress and look butch.'

The mother was seen matching with David back in May, while attending the WBA World Lightweight Championship at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The duo wowed in Adidas outfits, with Madonna wearing a black tracksuit and David sporting a red and white dress, a layer of necklaces and black sneakers.

The new DJs: Her twins, 10, were mixing music as one of them wore head phones

Over the years the Like A Virgin mega-star has also proudly shared snaps of David's stylish outfits, including a clip of him wearing one of her flowing white dresses last month

Elsewhere in the interview, the Vogue hitmaker said that, like his mother, the teenager is also working on his own music.

'He's going to end up being one of your guests,' she foreshadowed, saying he has 'everything' needed to be a star.

A pal: One of David's friends who had on an All Saints shirt put his arm around him

Fallon agreed, replying, 'He's got it. He's got magic. He's funny, he's charming, he's athletic, he's a good-looking dude.'

Aside from David, Madonna also adopted daughter Mercy James from Malawi in 2009, followed by twins Stella and Estere in 2017, when they were both four-years-old.

Madonna shares her son Rocco with ex-husband Guy Ritchie, and her daughter Lourdes Leon with ex-partner Carlos Leon.

While her illustrious career has spanned more than five decades, Madonna revealed during the show that her reps thought her career was over after an accidental backside flash in the early 1980s.

The star appeared on the show to promote Finally Enough Love: 50 Number Ones on The Tonight Show, which was released on August 19.

Another family portrait: Madonna

was with all of her kids during her 64th birthday in Italy in August of this year



# Couples who became close friends after ending marriage

Continued from page 18

## Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony



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

## Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillip



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

## Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton



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







## NEWS

## Da'a congratulates Maiyaki on his conferment as SAN

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**T**HE Executive Chairman and leader of QP Project Administration in Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council (LGC) of Plateau State, Hon. Ernest Abner Da'a, has expressed joy over the conferment of the Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) status on Associate Professor Theodore Bala Maiyaki.

This was contained in a press statement signed by Senior Special Assistant on Media and Protocol to the Council Chairman, Mathias Yengoev Dajan, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently yesterday.

The chairman, described Associate Professor Theodore Bala Maiyaki's conferment as deserving and that, it has confirmed his worth as the APC flag bearer for Qua'an-Pan South constituency for the Plateau State House of Assembly in the 2023 general elections.

He said, "The contributions of Assoc. Prof. Maiyaki to nation building and



Da'a

the legal profession has earned him this exalted position. The people of Qua'an-Pan LGA are proud to identify with the legal luminary, as one of them. The new SAN is a man of proven character and integrity", Da'a commended.

The Chairman, therefore, encouraged Maiyaki to handle

his promotion with every sense of responsibility and counseled him to use it to provide services to humanity and to the glory of God. And he prayed God to give the Associate Professor more wisdom, grace and good health of mind and body to carry out his responsibilities.

him.

**T**HE Federal Road Safety Corps zonal conference of RS.10 HQ held at the Sultan Muhammadu Maccido Institute for Qur'anic and General Studies, Sokoto has been successfully concluded.

The theme of the conference according to the unit one Secretary Anene Aike was responsibility in the face of a new administration on the corps.

This was presented by the guest lecturer SM Prof M A USHAU, and the Sub-Theme Roles and Responsibilities of Special Marshal: A Catalyst For Change in FRSC Activities in Nigeria.

The second theme was presented by Engr Dr. Muhammad Bello Garba from the Shehu Shagari University of Education, Sokoto who is also a special marshal in the state.

That there were about 300 attendees at the conference from the said zone, including special marshals, regulars and invited guests,

The Special guest of honour His Excellency RT.HON. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, CFR, Mawallan Sokoto, Executive Governor sokoto

## FRSC holds zonal conference

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

State was represented by HON Commissioner of Information and Orientation Muhammad Akibu Dalhatu at the occasion.

Others at the event where the representatives of the Corps Marshal, The Zonal Commanding Officer, RS10, ACM Ramalan M. Yerima, MNSE, fwc, Sector Commanders, State Coordinators from the zone were present to grace the occasion.

Other highlights of the day was the induction of

Honourary Special Marshals and presentation of Award of Excellence to the best performing members for the year 2022 from the three states in the zone (Sokoto, Kebbi and, Zamfara states).

The Conference communique was presented and read by the chairman of the Communique Team, SM Nordiana Osagie Davies Secretary RS10.2 Kebbi State while Sanusi Muhammad Wadata, the Zonal Coordinator RS10 watched the proceedings with admiration.



Biu

## Commissioner commits to staff development

By JIDAUNA DARING

**C**OMMISSIONER of Finance Plateau State, Hon. Regina Soemlat has reaffirmed the ministry's commitment towards equipping staff with the basic knowledge for more effective service delivery in the ministry.

Soemlat who was represented by permanent secretary of the ministry Mr. Kenneth Horlong stated this while declaring open a week long in house training for Directors and staff of the ministry, held at it conference hall, J.D Gomwalk Secretariat Jos, recently.

This was contained in a press statement signed by the information officer to the ministry, Mr. Timothy Joseph Zitta and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos.

She said assured staff of the ministry's readiness to continue organize more training workshop, saying

that training and re-training of its workforce is now a serious priority in the ministry.

Soemlat maintained that the essence of the training was to add value to the staff. She implored them to make good use of what they have learned during the training.

She called on staff to make punctuality their watch word by dedicating themselves to work at all times.

The commissioner also pointed out that they would not relent in their effort in developing staff with ore skills. She noted that the ministry wants its staff to be good representative of ministry wherever they find themselves.

Soemlat described the absent of training school for civil servants as it used to be as a setback which need to be revive.

She advised staff of the ministry to do away with the spirit of coming to work and stay till closing time without doing anything during working hours.

Soemlat also appreciated the resource persons for instilling more knowledge to the staff who are going to be better equip.

The event featured presentations on general orientations to ministry's structure and activities, office ethic and accountability procedure, computer/ICT base application knowledge and computerization of office files, civil service rules and regulations, financial regulations and dress code are among others.



Soemlat

## Students benefit from distribution of free text books

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**T**HE Kogi State Government, has extended the distribution of free science textbooks to Senior Secondary School Secondary (SSS 2) students in public schools in the Eastern Senatorial district of the state.

The free 11,000 Chemistry and Physics textbooks, were sponsored and donated by Alhaji Usman Ododo, the Kogi Auditor-General for Local Government, in support of the state government's State Government's School Adoption and Mentorship Programme.

Speaking at Our Lady of Schools (OLS), Anyigba, Gov. Yahaya Bello commended the donor for boosting his administration's effort to revamping education and for extending the gesture across all the three senatorial districts.

Bello, who was represented

by the State's Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Wemi Jones, FCIB, said that the distribution of the 11,000 science textbooks was inaugurated on November 12, at Okene, in Kogi Central.

Bello reaffirmed his commitment to continue to give utmost priority to education sector, particularly the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The governor stressed that education remained the most expensive venture that any government could fund, and expressed his full support for the school adoption and mentorship programme.

He The governor enjoined individuals and organisations to support government's efforts through its School adoption and mentorship programme to bringing back the glory of education in the state.

The governor advised the

schools' principals against selling the textbooks, saying government had put machinery in motion to ensure the books were effectively utilised as intended.

Bello noted that the education ministry was already working with another individual who has volunteered to sponsor the production of Mathematics textbooks.

He further said that the state government during the recent State Executive Council (SEC) meeting, approved the elongation of service years for teachers from 35 to 40 years in service as well as 60 to 65 years' retirement age.

The governor stressed that Kogi remained the first state to domesticate such education policy of the federal government on the elongation of teachers' service years.

He disclosed that the government would round up the ongoing teachers' recruitment processes in the next two weeks.

"You cannot achieve anything meaningful in life without education. We are bringing back the glory of education to Kogi State," he said.

He, therefore urged the students to utilise the textbooks effectively by studying hard, saying there was no more room for examination malpractice in the state.

The governor warned that any erring student, teacher as well as parent involved in examination malpractice would be prosecuted in line with the newly enacted education law of the state.



Bello



NEWS

# Bello presents N172bn as 2023 budget

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**G**OVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi State recently presented an estimated budget of N172,090,787,002,92 for 2023 fiscal year to Kogi House of Assembly for consideration.

Bello in his budget speech disclosed that the budget is targeted at achieving the desired peace, security, infrastructure development, health care delivery and quality education.

The 2023 budget tagged Budget of Transformation, according to Gov. Bello is higher by N4,788,825,095,00 compared to the 2022 budget, thus representing a 2.86% increase in reach as against an estimated outlay of N167,301,962,197,00 approved budget for year 2022.

Gov. Bello while presenting the budget referred as the people's budget to the members of the Kogi State House of Assembly, said the 2023-2025 multi year budget is premised on zero based budgeting principles and tailored towards the actualization of the state development plan.

Gov. Bello also disclosed that the 2023 budget objectives and target is geared towards peace and security, improving quality education at all levels, democratize access to health care by sustained improvement in the efficiency of health in the state



Bello

healthcare delivery system and infrastructure.

Similarly, the budget, Gov. Bello explained would ensure food security, exploit the full potentials of the economy, ensure that products from agricultural and industrial activities have access to markets locally and internationally.

He further stated that the budget is geared towards creating employment, achieve sustainable development and promote social economic development through culture and tourism.

The 2023 budget which has a recurrent expenditure of N101,315,129,341 representing 58.87% of the budget, has N70,775,657,951 as capital, representing 47.13% of the budget, also aims at establishing the

necessary framework for a robust mining and solid minerals sector, improve road network in urban and rural areas as well as improve the quantity, quality and access to safe water for domestic, commercial and industrial uses.

A breakdown of the budget shows that administration has a total allocation of N40 billion representing 21.94% of the budget; economic N53b representing 31%; law and justice, N7b representing 4.14%; social- N63b representing 36.69% of the budget.

The budget according to Gov. Bello has an estimated revenue of N172b, estimated expenditure of N172b, thus representing a balanced budget of N172,090,787,292 for the 2023 fiscal year.

**O**NE week after the abduction of a man in Boi, Mr Chukwunonso Chukwujekwu, he has been found and confirmed dead, a report by the Information Officer of Bogoro LGC, Bauchi State, Mr. James Gomna and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** has said.

Age 37 late Mr Chukwunonso Chukwujekwu is an indigene of Anambra East Local Government Area of Anambra State.

The incident took place Thursday 1st December 2022. As at the time of filing this

# Man found dead one week after abduction

report, the cause of his death remains mysterious.

A member of the Police Community Relations Committee, Com Joel Daniel said the incident left many residents of the area in confusion.

The deceased was found dead in his hotel after he was reported missing, a report by the PCRC indicates.

He was said to have participated in the Igbo end of

year party which took place on Wednesday night.

Born on 25th January 1985, he is survived by his wife, Mrs Grace Chukwunonso and three children.

Until his death he was the Onyewetehi of Nandi and turbaned as the Kaigaman Boi by the paramount ruler of Boi, Mal. Bala Likita.

His corpse has been deposited in the morgue as investigations are ongoing.

# CPWB accused of shoddy pilgrimage arrangements

From GYANG PAM, Yola

**A**LLEGATIONS of alleged shoddy arrangements during the last pilgrimage has been made against the Board of the Christians Pilgrims Welfare Board (CPWB) led by Reverend Yakubu Pam.

According to the CAN Chairman in Adamawa, Most Reverend Bishop Dami Mamza, he wants the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) to wade into the matter because of the irregularities taking place.

Mamza said in strong worded advice that he cannot stand and watch the irregularities go on at the Board.

The Adamawa State CAN Chairman pointed out that six months ago, the Adamawa State Government made arrangements for Christian Pilgrims to go to Rome in their large numbers. "However, six months on, I cannot be expected to keep silent on the activities going on in the Nigeria Christians Pilgrims Board under the leadership of



Pam

Reverend Pam", he lamented. Bishop Dami Mamza says but for his presence, the pilgrims would have suffered untold hardship. He told newsmen that Adamawa State Government gave adequate resources in order for the

activities of the pilgrims to take place but the NCPC did nothing.

Mamza lamented that on arrival in Rome some of us had no rooms to stay while there were no buses and other arrangements made for the pilgrims to move from one place to the other.

"It now dawned on me to make arrangement so as to have an audience with the Pope and Holy Father hence the Holy Father acknowledged the presence of the over 100 pilgrims from Adamawa State and this was the only good thing that went well in that pilgrimage", he says.

The Adamawa CAN Chairman also said that while some of the pilgrims ought to spend no fewer than seven days in the holy land, they were made to spend just one night and had to come back courtesy of shoddy and shabby arrangements by the Yakubu Pam led commission.

Lack of accommodation forced some of the pilgrims to come back barely one day as there was no accommodation or feeding. Those who spent five days instead of seven have tales to tell.

Three 1<sup>st</sup> class traditional rulers were among us who suffered from improper accommodation and lack of good feeding.

"Our situation is even said to be better compared to the reports of the latest travails of pilgrims who just returned", he said.

He called on the SGF to investigate the allegations since it is under his office, more so, the shoddy handling of pilgrims is not good for the government. Pam is accused of even coming to Adamawa severally and at one time even ensured that the Halidu embassy denied Adamawa from performing the pilgrimage.

Things are not perfect and we cannot continue to keep quite.

# Kogi, China partner on smart security

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**T**HE Kogi State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chinese investors for the provision of a high technology security architecture that will capture movements in and out of Kogi State from a control centre.

The state government said, in sealing this laudable security control deal, all stakeholders, including the Army, Department of State Services, Navy, Police and local vigilantes, among others, were carried along.

The Chief Executive Officer, Kogi State Investment Promotion and Public Private Partnership Agency, Abdul Kareem Siyaka, disclosed that a lot of work went into the conceptualisation and design of the project with the Chinese firm, Hytera, to eventually arrive at an investment deal that would greatly improve the state's economy as well as halt grinding insecurity across adjoining states.

He made this known at the opening of a two-day interactive workshop on "Kogi State Mission Critical Support System: A 21st century integrated smart

state/security architecture."

He noted that the project was expected to create over 685,000 jobs, attract over N591bn investment, yearly and encourage migration to rural areas in the state, adding that a 5G licence had already been acquired by the state from the Nigerian Communications Commission.

Siyaka said, "We are putting the whole state on the map, real-time, virtual, audio and visual, so as you enter Kogi State from anywhere, even though the bush, we will see you. I won't go into too much details because of the sensitivity of the architecture. But the components will be manned by a command/control centre. "The idea is that the moment you come into the state, we will see you; if you're driving, if you're walking, you have metal, if you're talking, we will be able to pick it and then if you do something wrong, we will be able to intercept you using our field personnel on the ground etc."

The KOSIPA CEO added, "Our boss, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kogi State, is futuristic in everything he does. He is not a leader that jokes with the security of the state. That is why we are number oneNumber One in that area

today.

"He knows that, to develop Kogi State, he will need to be ahead of criminals by using artificial intelligence, by using super crime fighting infrastructure. We are bordered by 11 states we don't have control over, so the best way to immunize, to arm ourselves is to go into this kind of project."

Governor Yahaya Bello, while declaring the workshop open, said he was confident

# 43, 373 people living with HIV in Kogi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**N**O fewer than 43,373 people are living with Humane Immune Virus (HIV) in Kogi State.

Kogi Commissioner of Health, Dr. Zakari Usman disclosed this at a press conference to mark this year's World AIDS Day celebration in the state.

The commissioner advised the people of the state to disregard misconception by some citizens that HIV is no longer in place saying that they should in their own interest avail themselves of the preventive and curative measures provided by

that the project, which would be driven by 5G network and a 30 megawatt30Megawatt gas-powered electricity plant to be built by an American company, would not only ensure a safer Kogi State, but would improve economic and infrastructural development, greatly.

Governor Bello said, "There cannot be any meaningful development without adequate security. We are a serious government ready to

government to tackle the epidemic.

He vowed that Kogi State government would not relent to reduce to the barest minimum the havoc of HIV/AIDS in the state through preventive and curative means.

"I will assure you that government will increase availabilities of quality and sustainable services for HIV treatment, testing and prevention to reduce its negative impacts.

"Government will also encourage reform laws, policies and practices to tackle the stigma and exclusion faced by people living with AIDS.



## NEWS

## ACSN alarmed over removal of sexual education

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**T**HE Association of Christian Schools in Nigeria (ACSN), has raised alarm over the strange removal of sexual education from the school curriculum in Nigeria after reviewing the position of the honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, describing it as poisonous and toxic.

This was contained in the communique signed by Pastor Yeme Martains and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently shortly after the Annual General Assembly of the ACSN, held at the Nigeria Bible Translation Trust (NBTT) Jos.

The statement stated that there was a deliberate and calculated global drive to influence curriculum content in Nigeria in ways that would impose value systems alien to them as a people and as a nation in gender and sexuality issues.

"We must assert our rights as a people in a post-colonial context to determine basic and crucial parameters such as curriculum contents in our schools. Under no circumstances should we trade away our rights but rather assert them with all dignity, pride, and grave importance.

"We also observed that determining curriculum contents for our children (0-18 years) who also make up about 50% of the population of the country (i. e. approximately well over 100 million) and for the unborn generation is not only crucial to the future moral compass of Nigeria, but also demands the input of parents, schools and religious leaders.

"The sponsors of this poisonous and toxic curriculum, having failed in their own society and are currently grappling with their moral failure as a result, are using gullible and highly placed individuals to fund and introduce into the Nigerian curriculum strange and inimical values that will prevent us from raising our children on issues of purity and virginity", the communique stated.

ACSN, however, condemned this position reacting that the African society could lead the Western world by proving that they were not just mammals controlled by hormones or instincts but humans created by God and have the power of choice.

The association disclosed that the societies where this kind of curriculum and funding were coming from are still finding it difficult to handle the aftermaths of this issue as a society, but wanted to force it on Africa. They said that "we do not want to be exposed to the same challenges and repercussions.

It noted very critically that the western concept of family



Adamu

transcended what we know in our cultural values as they include same-sex marriage, civil unions and other incompatible practices with some of the learning resources to include internet use by children as young as 6 years, videos (not defined) and pictures respectively.

The association made a

clarion call to every parent who considered their children as treasures of inestimable value to spend time with their children and teach, coach and disciple them on issues of character, morality and sexuality. "Let us not be deceived, we are in an ideological war! Ideas have consequences! Let us not be fooled!"

## VAPP laws: WRAPA commended on role

From JIDAUNA DARING, Bassa

**W**OMEN'S Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative [WRAPA] has been commended for championing the course of ensuring full implementation of Violence against persons prohibition (VAPP) laws in Plateau State.

The commendation was showered by participants at a one day town hall Engagement campaigning for the prevention and accountability for violence against women and girls and the effective implementation of the model laws in Plateau State, held at Bassa Local Government Council (LGC) Secretariat, last Wednesday.

**SUNDAY STANDARD** reports that the organized by WRAPA, Support by African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) under legal and social empowerment programme on women's Rights in Plateau State.

The participants also advocated for full implementation of the VAPP laws by government, adding that, if implemented would go a long way in addressing violence against women and girls.

In her remarks, Secretary General WRAPA, Saudatu Mahdi told the participants that the objective of the meeting was facilitate community-led town-hall engagement demanding the prevention of, and accountability for VAWG and effective implementation of the model laws in the state.

Mahdi disclosed that other objectives were to establish the number of women and girls who have access to support services such as legal aid, medical assistance, financial assistance, shelter and other assistance, as well as to demand implementation



Saudatu

of innovative strategies or action plans committed to by the leaders of faith and culture for the effective implantation of the model laws in Plateau State among others.

Earlier in her welcome remarks, coordinator, WRAPA Plateau State, Mrs. Jummai

Madaki appreciated all the participants for honouring the invitation said that the project seek to achieve full implementation of VAPP Act and passage of Gender and equal opportunities Bill in the state.

Madaki said over the year,

reviewed and the last was on November 5, 2011. Concerns and the need to carry out reforms made it necessary to amend the constitution.

In view of this need, a committee was constituted with Barr. Ledak Dafer, as Chairman and Barr. John L. Dasat as Secretary.

"In compliance to due process, the constitution was placed on relevant GOSA platforms for members to make contributions on its review and amendments. Today, at this convention, we will have the opportunity to conclude on the constitution review and adopt it for our use. I wish to appreciate members of this committee for the wonderful job", he commended.

On his part, the first GOSA President, Dr. Obed A. Ikwuegbu, said the association started from a humble beginning and has grown like a mustard seed in

## TASTE commissions office

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

benefiting 21 communities.

Narrating how the organisation first started, the Chief Executive Officer of the TASTE Nigeria, Ben Udejofor, said the inspiration came to him due to the experience he had as a child during the Biafra war in Nigeria and thought of how good the Lord.

He said, "we are thankful to God for these wonderful and encouraging blessings. However, as remarkable as these successes are, our main source of Joy has been to see the way God has been with us throughout these 23 years.

"TASTE was 23 years old on September 9, 2022. Twenty-three years during which many Nigerians, especially those in the rural communities have been able to 'Taste and see that the Lord is Good' (Psalm 34 vs 8). They have seen his provision of clean and safe drinking water, improved sanitation, new clinics and refurbished local schools all because- the Lord is Good", he highlighted.

While commissioning the office, the ECWA President,

Rev. Dr. Panya Baba, commended TASTE for touching lives. He said that TASTE has very critical link to the salvation because they have helped women and less privileged children, describing it as very fundamental to humanity by providing not only spiritual water, but physical water as Jesus did.

On her part, the former Minister of Water Resources, Hon. (Mrs) Sarah Ocheke, commended TASTE for its wonderful intervention and urged Nigerians to develop the spirit of maintenance, because that has been the challenge laudable projects have been facing.

Earlier, the Country Director of TASTE Nigeria, Nuhu Yakubu, disclosed that they have about seven thousand, seven hundred and seventeen (7,717) people had access to safe and clean source of water through the provision of eighteen boreholes in Central and North Eastern States of Nigeria over the years and they intend to double it now that they three drilling machines.

Nigeria as a nation has struggle to enact and enforce laws and policies that are intended to protect the rights of women. She pointed out women's and girls' rights are still being violated.

She added that, state and non-state actors efforts to prevent gender based Violence have been hampered by a lack of awareness, poor coordination among key players, inadequate implementation of legal frameworks, and entrenched gender discriminatory norms.

Madaki explained that the meeting was part of the 16 Days Activism Against Gender-Based Violence that is being commemorated annually from November 25 to December 10 in recognition of these challenges. She added it is a period to galvanize support and take action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

She pointed out that the expected outcomes are community stakeholders

enlightened on the model laws and the punitive measures that have been activated to deter existing or potential perpetrators among others.

Also X-raying status of the model laws in Plateau State offences covered and penalties, Director Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), Comrade. Steve Aluko-Daniel said that the law is of great interest because it covers everybody.

Aluko-Daniel added that the model laws if implemented would not spare anyone, stressing that the law equally pelt's out life impression for perpetrators or offenders with different charges.

He called on parents to caution their children against been used as thugs by some selfish politicians who do not men well for the future of such children.

Our correspondent reports that about 50 participants were in attendance during the meeting they were also drawn from different organizations.

## GOSA reviews, adopts constitution at convention

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**T**HE Gindiri Old Students' Association (GOSA), has reviewed and adopted its constitution to refresh conduct of the association that would give room for families of its members to be automatically incorporated as associate members of the association.

This took place Saturday, at the convention and celebration of GOSA @ 50, held at the Crispin Hotel and Suites Rayfield, Jos, the Plateau State capital when the Constitution Review Committee submitted the drafted constitution.

Receiving the drafted constitution from the chairman of the committee, Barrister Ledat Dafer, the National President of GOSA, Engr. Sunday C. Hyat, commended the committee. He disclosed that the first GOSA constitution was drafted and passed on to guide the conduct of the association.

He said, "this has been

vision, mission and activities. He said that "what started as a platform for social reminiscence of school days expanded to provide a veritable platform through which we could improve our alma maters in infrastructural developments.

"GOSA is now the only association complementing the proprietor's efforts. We put up an impressive ICT/e Library edifice that is a wonder to behold. We have also impacted the host community and environs through regular medical outreaches. GOSA has encouraged other colleges to do likewise with its multiplier effects on school infrastructural development. We set the pace, others follow", he enthused.

Ikwuegbu, however, appreciated the sacrifices of the missionaries who left their comfort zones in the United Kingdom (UK) to impact knowledge and inculcate godly values in their lives and charged

members to endeavour to maintain the school's motto: "For Light and Truth".

Meanwhile, the GOSA President received reports of some committees alongside Constitution Committee to include: Work Committee; Strategic Plan Committee; Membership Drive and Convention and GOSA @ 50 Planning Committee as there was also the presentation of secretariat report respectively.

The association later returned for dinner in the evening as there were presentations of prestigious awards to over thirty-two (32) members who have contributed immensely to the development of the association among whom were the First Head boy and First Military Governor of Benue-Plateau State, late CP Joseph Gomwalk and former Nigeria's Minister of Defense, late Major General I. D. Bisalla among others.



## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



## Child abuse: Denying women, children a future

**Continue from Page 10**

and speech problems and delays in physical development, can also occur in children who are not being emotionally abused.

'Physical abuse can cause many chronic (long-lasting) health problems, including heart problems, high blood pressure, and digestive problems. Women who are abused are also more likely to develop depression, anxiety, or eating disorders. Women who are abused may also misuse alcohol or drugs as a way to cope.'

It is a fact that 'many victims of sexual violence, including millions of boys, never tell anyone. About 1 in 10 girls under the age of 20 have been forced to engage in sex or perform other sexual acts.'

'Sexual violence results in severe physical, psychological and social harm. Victims experience an increased risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, pain, illness, unwanted pregnancy, social isolation and psychological trauma. Some victims may resort to risky behaviours like substance abuse to cope with trauma. And as child victims reach adulthood, sexual violence can reduce their ability to care for themselves and others.'

'The harmful norms that perpetuate sexual violence take a heavy toll on families and communities too. Most children who face sexual abuse experience other kinds of violence. And as abuse and

exploitation become entrenched, progress towards development and peace can stall – with consequences for entire societies'. Sexual violence knows no boundaries. It occurs in every country, across all parts of society'.

### **Disturbing statistics everywhere**

Recently, the Plateau State director, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Grace Pam, chairperson Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Obioma Achilefu and chairperson, Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) at a joint press conference held Monday, November 21, 2022 in Jos, revealed that a staggering number of 247 children that have been abandoned by parents and guardians in the state. The statistics could be eye-popping in other states.

The revelation was made during a press briefing at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Plateau Council Press Center. It was a joint effort to remind Nigerians that there is need to wage a total war to eliminate the menace. The press conference was, in the main meant to address the incessant cases of child molestation that has become a source for concern in the state.

According to her, the statistics on the affected children was gathered between the months of January to October 2022, saying that none of the suspected perpetrators have been prosecuted, because the cases

are still being investigated. But how long would it take to get it off society's sleeve?

It was gathered from the state director, Human Rights Commission that recently a 4 year old child lost 4 upper teeth due to molestation by a care giver. Grace Pam is of the opinion that the heat is not only on the girl child who is constantly being molested; she stated that male children are also victims of inhuman treatment.

### **Safe home and justice to victims advocated**

NAWOJ chairperson in the state, Nene Dung, in a text read during the press conference noted sadly that Plateau State government has no "Safe Home" thereby making victims of child abuse more vulnerable. She is worried like many, who feel that the child Law implemented in the state since year 2016 as a means of protecting children against molestation in the state seems not to be effective.

During the press briefing, NAWOJ chairperson reported to the consternation of journalists,

the molestation case of a 17 year old girl who was kept incommunicado in a room within Jos North LGA for months without food. As such, she advocated for a collective fight against child labour, and insisted that anyone found guilty of committing such act should be made to face the full wrath of the law.

To give justice to victims, Plateau State FIDA chairperson Obioma Achilefu assured that her association shall continue to provide voluntary services to human rights abuses, particularly those that affect minors. FIDA said the case of an 11 year old girl, Margaret Joshua who was recently beaten to death at Vom, Jos south LGA by her guardian, who is a mother of two has been taken up by the association.

According to FIDA, the law stipulates that children below the ages of 18 should not be allowed to be engaged as house helps, nor carry out menial job's no matter the condition. The three women human rights

advocate associations have therefore pushed for the rights of children and other human rights violation in Plateau State called for an end to the inhuman treatment.

What has come out of this development is to encourage citizens not to keep quiet. There are instances where cases of violations against women and children are kept away from the authority. Citizens can help to embark on whilst blowing against suspected cases of child abuses within their locations, as doing so would help give justice to victims. Some of the perpetrators are on the loose so long as everywhere is silent when it takes place. The justice system should wake up from sleep as speedy dispensation of the numerous cases in our courts and at various police stations awaiting justice would give everyone a breathing space.

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***"Citizens can help to embark on whilst blowing against suspected cases of child abuses within their locations, as doing so would help give justice to victims. Some of the perpetrators are on the loose so long as everywhere is silent when it takes place. The justice system should wake up from sleep as speedy dispensation of the numerous cases in our courts and at various police stations awaiting justice would give everyone a breathing space".***

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## METRO-FOCUS



## Fan/Mangu bye-pass road, death trap

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**I**T was not only for the sake of development but to serve as an alternative route to motorists going to or from the Central and Southern Zones to the Plateau State capital in event of any unfortunate eventuality and traffic around Barkin-Ladi Local Government Area.

Government had seen the hardship suffered by motorists especially on Fridays when the Barkin - Ladi road to Mangu axis traffic used to be heavy not only because it is the popular Mangu Market day which attracts traders from far and wide. Friday has become synonymous with burial for people of the Central and Southern zones. Countless times, the bereaved, their sympathisers along with the corpse of their loved one have been stuck for hours on that route for many hours until traffic was cleared.

The Fan-Mangu bye-pass road constructed by the immediate past administration of Governor Jonah David Jang, was highly celebrated by citizens because of how apt and timely it was in the

face of the unfortunate crisis and attacks on communities around this axis. People then preferred to follow that road and were constantly plying it for what they described as the safest and the shortest road so far especially when going and coming back to Jos city.

In fact, the most interesting part of this is how women and youth benefit from this road. You see them hanging with fruits and other food items by the road side, attracting motorists to buy their food produce. It was a source of income for many in those communities because they are agrarian in nature. And farm potatoes, tomatoes, cocoa yam, pepper, chilli pepper etc.

Although, people in some quarters described the road constructed when commissioned by former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, in 2014 as substandard but the benefit of it was quite enormous. For one, it connects communities around the axis to Jos North, Jos South

and even Jos East without them taking the long route that passes through the city centre with the heavy traffic.

Apart from how it connects communities, it has also helped tremendously in easing the transportation of food materials to the capital city where majority of people depend on white collar jobs. Today, hardly would you see cars passing through that road because of how bad it has become.

Some parts of the road have become so bad that to the point that only the bare ground can be seen. The tar on the road is in patches while the parts that have washed away are now deep holes. Driving along that route has become a drunken dance. It now takes longer time than the usual for motorists to ply the road.

It is certain that, the observation of those who saw the road construction as substandard has proved true because in its eight years after

commissioning, the road became so dilapidated to the point that people now prefer the long Barkin-Ladi road to this baby road that came with so much celebrations.

It is on this note that we want to appeal to the present administration led by Governor Simon Bako Lalong, to turn its development search light to this much celebrated bye-pass road that has been an alternative road by dualizing it, now that the elections are around the corner.

It would be recalled that, this road was the only saving grace or alternative road for motorists during the unfortunate crisis in Barkin-Ladi Local Government that claimed so many lives. Lack of good alternative road could give these criminal elements the advantage of trapping innocent people into their nets.

So, It would be good to reconsider the present condition of this road even if it means relaying the road just like what the governor did in Murtala Muhammad way, Tudun-wada

bye-pass and other roads within Jos/Bukuru metropolis.

If within a week, government could fix potholes and it relaid bad roads in the capital city of Jos ahead of presidential flag off, we are convinced that the government would be able to do that in two weeks when its attention is drawn to that road.

We are confident that the Lalong led government would waste no time when handling issues of much importance like this. He has proven that in several areas and we are sure that when information reaches him, it will be a thing of the past.

It will interest you to know that majority of people living in the capital city of Jos are either from Central and Southern zones with many from states like Taraba and Adamawa who ply this road on daily basis. So, it is our prayer that, our listening Governor would look into this and fix this road ahead of the forthcoming general elections.

God bless Plateau! God bless Nigeria!



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## MAIDEN EDITION OF PLAFEST 2022

Plateau State Governor and Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum, Director General, PCC, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) recently declared open the Maiden Edition of the Plateau State Festival of Arts and Culture (PLAFEST) 2022 at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos



Governor Simon Bako Lalong (CON) in a handshake with the Director General, National Council for Arts and Culture, Otunba Olusegun Runsewe



His Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba (CFR) Gbong Gwom Jos, and President, State Traditional Council (right) representative of Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, Mrs. Victoria Lar, Deputy Director of the Ministry (left) with other First Class Traditional Rulers at the PLAFEST 2022



From left are, Commissioner Tourism, Culture and Hospitality, Hon. Cecilia Yilkorah, Women Affairs, Hon. Rebecca Adar Sambo and APC Women leader, Barr. Alice Dimlong Asaije at the PLAFEST



Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden (right) some members of PLHA, HoS, Engr. Sunday Hyat, mni and Chairman, Jos North LGC, Hon. Shehu Bala Usman



Cross section of Second Class Traditional rulers at the festival



Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe, wife, Brigadier General Jon Temlong with the Adviser to the Governor on Women Affairs, Mrs. Felicia Yakzum



Representative of PIDAN President, Comrade Nanle Gujor, Secretary General of PIDAN (right) and other elders being ushered by John Likita Best, ATPN member



Plateau State Cultural Troupe entertaining guests at PLAFEST 2022

Photos: DANLADI DUK





**Road Runner**  
 Michael Agada  
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 SAFER TOGETHER

## Developing your hazard awareness

**S**OME information processing goes on at a subconscious level but a prompt can summon our attention to it. An example is the way we prick up our ears when we hear our names mentioned. In a similar vein, experienced drivers rapidly and automatically switch their attention to events happening outside their field of focus because they have a subconscious and instinctive understanding of the implications of particular traffic situations.

At this point in our analyses of driving proficiency, it is necessary to analyze some examples of hazardous traffic situations and remedies thereof. These examples are aimed at facilitating your understanding potential hazards in different situations. They are further meant to 'pre-sensitize' your awareness so that when you encounter such situations, you already know what hazards to look for and can respond to them more quickly.

### Alertness

Alertness determines the amount of information you can process. It can be thought of as mental energy and its opposite is tiredness or fatigue. Alertness depends to some extent on your personality. Extroverts (outgoing people who need a lot of external stimulation) are probably more susceptible to fatigue than introverts

(inward looking people who shy away from high levels of stimulation).

To drive, we need to remain alert -ready to anticipate, identify and respond promptly to hazards. However, most driving is routine that places less demands on our abilities and the risk of crashes from moment to moment is negligible. This relatively low level of stimulation makes it to lose concentration and we need to take active steps to maintain it. In bus urban traffic, the demands of driving may be sufficiently stimulating, but on long journeys on highways or expressways, other forms of stimulation are needed.

### Alertness and anxiety

Alertness depends on your level of anxiety and there is an optimum level of anxiety for any task. A small of anxiety arising from a sound understanding of the risks involved can help to maintain alertness and readiness to respond. No anxiety at all dampens your responsiveness and decreases your reaction speed. Too much anxiety can result in failure to process information and respond appropriately. You can help yourself to stay alert by:

Consciously assessing the level of risk

Constantly updating your assessment

Talking your through the risks of the traffic situation.

If you actively maintain your awareness of the risks in this way, it will help you to keep anxiety at an optimum level

and you will be less likely to neglect a potentially dangerous situation.

### Fatigue

The ultimate loss of alertness is falling asleep behind the wheel and this has accounted significantly to road traffic crashes. Professional drivers need to be aware that fatigue is related to the total time spent at work and not just the time spent at the wheel. If you are tired from other duties before embarking on a journey, you are much more a risk from fatigue during the journey. As they say, 'body no be wood'. Fatigue is a particular problem for professional drivers owing largely to professional and social pressures that often make them continue driving beyond their safety limit. Professionals recommend 30 minutes rest after every four hours of continues driving. At such breaks, drivers can alight from the car and take a work or go for light food like snacks (not heavy meal that will further weigh them down and induce dozing and sleeping).

### Monotonous conditions

Driving for long periods of time in monotonous conditions such as low-density traffic, fog, at night or on an expressway reduces stimulation and promotes fatigue. Most people experience some fatigue, whatever the conditions, if they drive for longer than four hours at a stretch.

Watch out for how to combat fatigue in next edition. Keep a date.



## NEWS

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

## UniJos to partner University of Manchester UK

**N**igeria, is set to partner with the University of Manchester United Kingdom in exchange of educational programme, research and training that would further enhance academic excellence of the institution in no distant time.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, Professor Tanko Ishaya, disclosed this Thursday, at the press briefing on the occasion marking his one year in office as the 10th substantive Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, held at the Senate Chamber of the University in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

The VC said, "Precisely a year ago, I assumed office as the 10th substantive Vice-Chancellor of this our great University of Jos. Since then, we have not taken anything for granted to ensure that we continue building on the legacies that our predecessors have left.

"We came on board with a clear vision of nurturing a world-class institution for academic and innovation with local, national and global impact. We promise to operate on a core principle of purpose, process and people that should be guided by the core values of transparency, accountability and integrity adhering to the University Act and Statutes.

"So far, all we have been able to achieve resulted from a pluralism of efforts and team approach to getting things

done. During an official visit to Manchester earlier in the year, we were received by the Vice-Chancellor/ President of the University of Manchester.

"Whilst at it, we explored various avenues through which we could align our areas of comparative advantage and entered partnership that would be mutually beneficial. We are working out the terms and modalities of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and once the processes are concluded, we shall announce same", he disclosed.

Ishaya, disclosed that the University has also signed an MoU with the University of

Iowa, United States of America on educational, training and research cooperation in the Faculty of Education and the University of Piraeus, Piraeus Greece on October 19, 2022 respectively.

He, however, revealed that Joint educational, training and research activities; exchange of invitations to scholars (Faculty, research personnel and graduate students) for lectures, visits and sharing of experience; exchange of invitation to scholars for participation in conferences, symposia and seminars were some of them.



Ishaya

## Safeguard, maintain state government legacy project

From ANENE AIKE, SOKOTO

**T**HE people of Sokoto State have been reminded of the need to exhibit the culture of safeguarding and maintaining state government legacy projects across the state. This was stated by the District Head of Yabo, Alhaji Muhammad Maiturare II, during an assessment tour of projects and activities of government by journalists in the state.

Maiturare also appreciated the state government's commitment in executing legacy projects across the state, urging people in the state to be their brothers' keepers for the overall benefit of the state. He also noted that the government's dedication to youth empowerment, health, education and employment was of great importance to human capital development.

The monarch also urged journalists to continue to work in accordance with the ethics and guidelines enshrined in the profession. The chairman, Yabo Local Government Area, Alhaji Halliru Kigori, had earlier stated that no fewer than 78 major projects were executed for the area by the state governor, Alhaji Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal.

He said projects executed in the area had greatly improved the people's wellbeing and were of great benefits to the development of the area.

"We have truly experienced the real democratic dividends in our domain and we witnessed the giant strides of the state government's presence across the area".

"This commitment has been turned into reality in spite of the global economic challenges, Covid-19 pandemic and insecurity," he added.

The chairman, while going round with the team of journalists, led by the Secretary of Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Sokoto State Council, Muhammad Nasir Bello, explained that the

projects have direct benefits to the people.

According to him, these projects include the upgraded General Hospital Yab,, provision of befitting teaching and learning environment through expansion and total renovation of both primary and secondary schools across the LGA. Meanwhile, in Shagari Local Government Area, Alhaji Aliyu Dantanin, its chairman, while addressing newsmen, described the projects executed by the present administration in the state as the best ever witnessed for human development.



Tambuwal





**PLATEAU STATE UNIVERSITY, BOKKOS**  
**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of the Director of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Plateau State University, Bokokos

**A. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

Applicants must possess the following:

- A good First Degree in a relevant area of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Electronics Engineering
- A Masters Degree in relevant discipline
- Membership of the Computer Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN) or equivalent and any of the following Professional Bodies
  - o Nigerian Computer Society (NCS)
  - o British Computer Society (BCS)
- Professional Certifications in at least any two (2) of the following: Project Management; Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL); Data Centre Management; Cloud, Virtualization and Server Administration; Networking Professional; Information Systems Security Professional; Ethical Hacking; Solutions Expert; Software Development; CompTIA A+
- Candidates should have a minimum of fifteen (15) years cognate experience in managing complex ICT projects.

**B. THE ROLE**

The Director of ICT shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the effective implementation, operation and management of the University's ICT infrastructure, systems and services ensuring it is fit for the delivery of a robust and cost-effective technology solutions to meet the growing and dynamic needs of a multi-user, complex community. The Director will lead in the development and execution of the University's ICT Policy/Strategy which will support and be aligned to, the University's strategic plans and goals, meeting the requirements of the academic units, management and service departments, staff and particularly the students to ensure the University benefits from the competitive advantages that ICT has to offer. In that role, the Director of ICT will report to the Vice-Chancellor to create an effective IT driven organization that is cohesive, forward-looking, service-oriented, and keenly focused on the changing needs of the University.

The person to be appointed must demonstrate broad and in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience in successfully managing complex ICT infrastructure, systems and applications. He/ She must demonstrate high levels of credibility, honesty, initiative and commitment to integrity. The person will provide leadership within the ICT team and other units of the University and therefore must be able to lead, organize, supervise, motivate and work as part of a team. He/ She must also demonstrate extensive and in-depth knowledge of the University system.

**C. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

The general conditions of service are as obtainable in the Nigerian University System, subject to continuous satisfactory performance, the appointment is for a period of **five (5) years** and the person may have his/her tenure extended for a further period of **one (1) year** subject to satisfactory performance.

**D. METHOD OF APPLICATION**

Candidates should send in their typewritten applications and Curriculum Vitae in twenty (20) copies, addressed to:

**The Registrar**  
**Plateau State University, Bokokos**  
**P.M.B 2012 Jos,**  
**Plateau State, NIGERIA.**

Applicants should give names of three (3) referees at least two (2) of whom should be competent enough to attest to the candidates' professional/academic standing and character

Candidates should request their referees to send their confidential report direct to the address above.

**CLOSING DATE**

Applications should reach the Registrar not later than four (4) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

**Signed:**  
**Yakubu F. Ayuba**  
Registrar



**PLATEAU STATE UNIVERSITY, BOKKOS**  
**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**DIRECTOR, WORKS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING**

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the position of the Director, Works and Physical Planning in the Plateau State University, Bokokos.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Director of Works and Physical Planning is the Chief Technical Officer of the University and responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day running and maintenance of University buildings, roads, water boreholes, electrical installations, equipment and other properties, including provision of services and utilities for the well-being and smooth operations of the University.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Candidates for the post of Director of Works and Physical Planning must possess a good honours degree in Civil Engineering, Building, Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Estate Management, Urban and Regional Planning or other related disciplines plus at least fifteen (15) years of cognate experience preferably in a University.
- Possession of a Master's degree in related discipline will be an added advantage.
- In addition, candidates must be fully registered member of relevant professional and statutory bodies such as Council for the Society of Engineers (NSE) and the COREN (for Engineers) ARCON and NIA (for Architects), QSRBN (for Quantity Surveyors), CORBON and NIOB (for Builders) etc. Other elevations in the profession will be an advantage.
- Prospective candidates must demonstrate competence through experience, strategy etc to maintain a high level of discipline, prompt and adequate response system, prudence and strong accountability in the Works Department.
- Prospective candidate will be expected to propose and discuss a plan for proactive maintenance culture for the University during the interview.
- Prospective candidate must be proficient in ICT with demonstrable competence in computer aided designs and controls.

**METHOD OF APPLICATION**

Interested applicants are required to submit twenty (20) copies of letter of application, credentials and curriculum vitae, specifying the following: Name (Surname First), Date of Birth, Nationality, State of Origin, Local Government Area, Permanent Home Address, Present Contact Address, Functional E-mail Address(es), Telephone Number(s), Marital Status, Number of Children with Ages, Institutions Attended with Dates, Certificates Obtained with Dates, Membership of Professional Bodies, Community Service, Previous Work Experience, Present Appointment with Date and Current Salary, Names and Addresses of three (3) Referees and any other relevant information. All reference letters are to be forwarded in a confidential cover to the address below on or before the closing date.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

**CLOSING DATE**

All applications are to be forwarded not later than 28 days (4 weeks) from the date of this publication to:

**The Registrar**  
**Plateau State university, Bokokos**  
**P.M.B. 2012 Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.**

**Signed:**  
**Yakubu F. Ayuba**  
Register



## SUNDAY FEATURE

# The museum and information Communication Technology

**The 21<sup>st</sup> century is undoubtedly the age of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). All aspects of our daily life and professional activities are no doubt connected with technologies. It is hard to escape from them- they are everywhere and in everything. ICT therefore is the future. To be acquainted with ICT means to be contemporary, otherwise one is considered out of date and without perspectives. This is factual. ALIKA CECILIA N. writes.**

**F**OR the museum to be active, it needs to embrace ICT and moreover should be ready to learn and to use it adequately. Suffice it to say that the museum may not require the high ICT qualifications, however, the starter level, the basics is mandatory in order to do museum work effectively.

The functions or roles of the museum is encapsulated in its definition which is generally to acquire, conserve, research, communicate and exhibit the heritage of humanity, etc. However, in Prague, on 24 August 2022, the Extraordinary General Assembly of ICOM adopted a new definition of the museum which says "A museum is 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. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing".

In addition to highlighting the roles of the museum as also captured in the former definition, the new definition of the museum above recognizes the importance of inclusiveness, community participation and sustainability among others. Thus leveraging ICT will ensure that the museum lives up to its meaning.

Traditionally, museums are concerned with history and the past; they also exist in the present. They are part of the actual cultural industry and so should make use of ICTs as in every other economical/ business sector. As the public becomes technologically aware, the museums in Nigeria for instance have the opportunity to use the new technology to expand their reach, enhance their capability and ability to reach millions of people.

Areas of Information Communication Technology (ICT) use in Museums.

We live in an increasingly mobile digital and virtual world built of personalized user experiences with services at our finger tips.

ICT application covers all facets of museum services.

ICT in museums Collections and Management

Without collections, there is no business in the museum. The method of computerized documentation of museum objects is a reference tool that advocates a methodology for describing collections common to the contemporary museum globally. There is pressure on museum as an institution to adopt more efficient method of stock taking and inventory, which centers on documentation. There is no doubt that manual documentation has its limitations including among others, the inability to share information about collections.



Employing ICT in our collections therefore, guarantees safety and good record keeping, easy access to the record anytime; it is faster than manual documentation and as such it saves time. Involving ICT in our documentation ensures there is no fatigue as there is no much labour involved. A comprehensive information of objects is certain and reliable. It also ensures that all transaction on documentation are kept save in a single electronic file. It therefore means that complete and consistent information is maintained in computerized system of museum objects documentation.

ICT and Accounting: ICT has been a major factor of efficient accounting system and great organizational performance in the museum. It helps accountants store and access financial records, makes changes and alleviate the need to keep paper files. More so, if paper work is needed, computer files can easily be accessed and printed along with any changes the accountant makes at any given time. The storage capacity of a computer helps reduce cost and makes financial information more readily accessible. Financial files that require storage can be transferred to CDS, flash drives or other storage devices.

The deployment of ICT in the accounts department makes for a secure access of accounting information. This is so because there is always a requirement for password for files programs and the computer itself.

ICT and Museum Educational Services

Museum education is the totality of all the educational activities undertaken by museum to effectively communicate with a diverse public, using heritage resources as its guide and catalyst. For these to be achieved effectively, intellectually and practically translate the abstract framework of museum activities

into intelligible, understandable and positive realities to the public, there must be the use of multimedia to convey both intra and extra moral activities of the museum programmes in general.

Museum education can connect with the next generation in this digital era through:

Gallery backups/ Audiovisuals – This involves creating a voice in the background at galleries to explain, arouse interest and catch attention of visitors.

Museum education can as well use the ICT platform using digital photography/film shows of interest in galleries that will help to explain better certain exhibit, this can be seen in historical event of slave trade in the Calabar slave route museum, and colonization in Nigeria past government till date and different communities and tribes in Nigeria.

Through ICT, Museum galleries are now more accommodative and user friendly with a higher degree of audience participation creating a more lively communication platform and can air programmes 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

ICT and Research

Museums cutting-edge technologies provides researchers with access to collections through computer terminals that allow them to conduct in-depth research on the collections by calling up images, zooming in on details, and sorting information by date, by artist or by subject.

Researchers select images on the basis of photographer, theme, place, time and other variables, and the images are delivered nearly instantly through an interface that is very easy to navigate.

ICT and Exhibition

ICT has become a communication tool for museum exhibition. In its current state of development ICT has taken various forms and serves different communication purposes. For instance, in museum exhibition/showcases

arrangement, every exhibition has its own exhibition plan that includes exhibits, texts, pictures and other different elements that should sound harmonically. ICTs can help in arranging the visual, textual and contextual elements by computer based unification of the colours, the graphic design, the fonts in the texts, etc. officers responsible for the exhibition/showcases design use variety of computer programs to reach the authentic vision of every theme and showcase.

ICT and Museum Security

ICT is also deployed in the area of museum security. This is so because the security of museum's collections, property, environment and staff is very important.

With the spate of insecurity in Nigeria for example, manned guarding of the museum and its environment is not sufficient. Modern computerized technologies like metal detectors, motion detectors, intruder alarms, closed circuit television (CCTV) and other physical security devices also play an equally important role in securing museums and its collections. In fact the closed circuit television (CCTV) is one of the most important communication technology within the disposal of man. This is because of its enormous role in security activities in every organization. Virtually, every formal sector is using the CCTV especially now that there is a great security challenge in the world and Nigeria in particular. As a public place, the museum needs total monitoring in order to secure collections and environment against theft, vandalism, attacks, etc.

ICT and Heritage

ICT in Heritage and Cultural Activities in our Community promotes the development of research projects, making use of new technological solutions for the diagnosis, restoration,

preservation, digitization and use of cultural heritage, are capable of enhancing the attractiveness of the area and its cultural and economic impact on society. In this context, the department is also involved in encouraging the emergence of spin-offs and the development of new enterprises in some areas of interest such as Systems for assessing and monitoring the risk and vulnerability of the Cultural Heritage related to environmental conditions in a broad sense, including geological hazards, biological and structural; Archives and digital libraries, Restoration and conservation, etc.

ICT and Museum Marketing/Ticket Sales

In marketing the museum, ICT comes handy. Planned exhibitions for example can be put on the website or on facebook/Twitter; advertising the museum and her activities. In some museums, the ticket desks work with special software that reports the day for a visit, reason for a visit, type of the guided tour or other museum services to be used. Sometimes, the program gathers information and its analyzing gives the real picture of the visitors profile in every time/period in the year. As a result, the museum marketing experts know the weak and active days for visiting the museum target group. With this knowledge, the museum staff is ready to plan their new initiative-directed to the public that visits the museum often. The computer software that implements this marketing research on the museum is not difficult to create and use. It is very useful and not expensive, even produced separately for the needs of every single museum.

ICT and museum storage

For good practical results, ICT is highly important in museum storage. Digitalized information about museum collections in storage is made possible through ICT. Some computer applications are used for arranging the order in the storages. The storage keepers fill in this data base every day and register all changes in the movement and localization of each object.

The list of areas of application of information and communication Technology (ICT) is indeed endless. ICT has evolved rapidly offering many possibilities and numerous advantages to the world at large and the museum in particular. ICT has continued to play an increasingly important role in fostering the promotion of arts and cultural heritage, educational activities as well as programmes and actions in museum activities in general.

The museum must be fully placed into this increasingly evolving mobile digital and virtual world if it must remain relevant in this 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

**ALIKA CECILIA N. is a staff of National Commission for Museums & Monuments, Abuja.**



# SUNDAY SPORTS



## Did it cross the line?

That is the age-old World Cup question for **Germany**, who crashed out as Japan beat Spain thanks to an opinion-dividing winner that left many scratching their heads.

Kaoru Mitoma's cutback for Ao Tanaka's tap-in happened just after the ball looked to have crossed the byeline.

Even after cropping and zooming it looked incredibly close. Eventually it was ruled that the ball had not fully crossed the line.

In other words, if you drew an imaginary line upwards at 90 degrees from the far edge of the whitewash, it would have still passed through the curve of the ball - albeit only just - even though the part of the ball that touched the ground had fully crossed the line.

The goal was initially ruled out by the assistant referee after a long pause, then the video assistant referee (VAR) intervened and ultimately Japan's lead would stand - and they would go on to win.

"I felt that something fishy was going on when the VAR took as much time as it did to decide... I have nothing to say.

The controversy evoked memories of Frank Lampard's "ghost goal" against Germany in 2010, when England went out in the last 16, and - no doubt for German fans of a certain vintage - of 1966 and Geoff Hurst's extra-time effort when England won the World Cup.

In Qatar, those three points for Japan meant Germany were out, the four-time winners falling at the group stage for a second consecutive tournament.

It was just one moment on a World Cup night full of spinetingling drama.

It was a frantic and thrilling Thursday night which began with Belgium, the side ranked second in the world, being

At the break Germany had a comfortable 1-0 lead over Costa Rica, with Spain also winning 1-0 as both

European sides seemed to be cruising into the last 16.

Then the drama unfolded. Japan levelled against Spain four minutes into the second period.

Then, incredibly, 142 seconds later they were in front. Japan and Spain, despite trailing, were heading through. With just under 40 minutes to go Germany and Costa Rica were going out.

Defeat for Spain wasn't a disaster, unless Costa Rica - then 1-0 down to Germany - took the lead.

But Costa Rica equalised in the 58th minute, and after 70 minutes they were ahead. At 2-1 Costa Rica were suddenly set to advance with Japan at Spain's expense.

However, that lead lasted for

only three minutes before Kai Havertz levelled for Germany.

For three second-half minutes Costa Rica were heading through and Spain were going out

Germany would hit two further goals to win 4-2. But, as long as Japan held on to all three points against Spain, the champions in 2014 would go out.

Spain kept on coming but Japan, dodgy goal or not, survived until full-time, winning 2-1. They and Spain, despite their defeat, reached the last 16. Germany and Costa Rica were out.

Spain boss Enrique said he was not aware his side were on course to head out of the tournament when Costa Rica led Germany.

## Suarez refuses to apologise for Ghana handball

URUGUAY striker Luis Suarez has refused to apologise for his handball against Ghana in the 2010 World Cup.

Suarez was sent off in the last minute of extra time in the quarter-final for denying the Black Stars a goal with a deliberate handball on the goalline.

Asamoah Gyan missed the subsequent penalty and Uruguay went through.

"The Ghana player missed the penalty, not me," said Suarez

before the teams meet in a decisive Group H match on Friday in this year's World Cup finals.

Ghana play Uruguay knowing a win would send them into the knockout stage - but a defeat would see the South American side progress if South Korea fail to beat Portugal.

If Uruguay and South Korea both win, goal difference - and possibly goals scored - would decide their fate, with the Asian side holding a one-goal advantage.

It is the first time the countries

A man is reported to have been killed by security forces in northern Iran, as anti-government protesters publicly celebrated the national football team's elimination from the World Cup. A activist said Mehran Samak was shot in the head after he honked his car's horn in Bandar Anzali on Tuesday night.

Videos from other cities showed crowds cheering and dancing in the streets.

Many Iranians refused to support their football team in Qatar, seeing it as a representation of the Islamic Republic.

State-affiliated media blamed hostile forces both inside and outside Iran for putting unfair pressure on the players following their 1-0 loss to the USA in the final group game.

The players did not sing the national anthem before their first game, a 6-2 defeat by England, in an apparent expression of solidarity with the protesters. But they did sing at the Wales game, which they won 2-0, and at the politically-charged showdown against the USA.

Some protesters saw that as a betrayal of their cause even though there were reports that the team came under intense pressure from Iranian authorities.

Pulisic winner sends USA through as Iran go out Iranian anti-government football fans protest in Qatar

'Iran is my country but I can't support them'

The unrest started 10 weeks

## Man killed in Iran celebrating football team's loss - report

By David Gritten



Samak

ago following the death in custody of MahsaAmini, a 22-year-old woman arrested by morality police in Tehran for allegedly violating the strict rules requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab.

Authorities have responded to what they have portrayed as

foreign-backed "riots" with a violent crackdown in which the Norway-based group Iran Human Rights says at least 448 people have been killed, including 60 children. More than 18,000 others are reported to have been arrested.

## Security personnel killed Mehran Samak

WHEN he honked his car's horn in the Caspian Sea city of Bandar Anzali on Tuesday night to celebrate the Iranian football team's defeat.

BBC Persian obtained a

video that showed Mr Samak's burial on Wednesday morning.

The mourners can be heard chanting "You are the filth, you are the immoral, I am a

free woman" - a slogan frequently used during the protests.

Iranian security forces have denied killing peaceful protesters.

However, the opposition activist collective 1500tasvir posted videos that it said showed security forces opening fire at people in the south-western city of Behbahan overnight and beating a woman in Qazvin, south of Bandar Anzali.

Other videos showed men and women celebrating the World Cup elimination in Tehran and a number of cities in the predominantly Kurdish north-west of the country. Dozens of protesters have reportedly been killed in recent weeks there as security forces intensified their crackdown.

In footage from MahsaAmini's home city of Saqqez, dozens of people could be seen cheering and waving scarves in a main square before fireworks are set off.

The BBC is not responsible for the content



Fifa World Cup



# SUNDAY SPORTS



## Plateau athletes storm Asaba

**T**HE Plateau State Contingent to the 21st edition of the National Sports Festival holding in Asaba the Delta State capital, arrived earlier for better preparation, in order to win laurels for the State.

Hon Daniel Dung Dalypop, Plateau State Commissioner for Youths and Sports Development disclosed this during an interview with journalists in Asaba, the Delta State capital, emphasising that the purpose of

From  
**ANDRE BISYIT, Asaba**

the earlier arrival was for the athletes to rest for better performance.

"The spirit of our athletes is very high, as you can see. They arrived the host city on time this time around not like before," he said.

"As far as welfare is concern, we have to appreciate his Excellency, Rt

Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, the Governor of plateau State, for ensuring that all that is meant for the athletes was approved," he maintained.

"I really want appreciate governor Lalong for consistently showing love for our athletes, we brought every athletes we wanted and we can't ask for more as far as motivation is concern," the commissioner concluded.

DARE made the revelation in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the 21st NSF at the Stephen Keshi Stadium, Asaba, Delta.

Over 13,000 athletes gathered in Asaba to compete for honours in 38 sports for 10 days.

Dare, however, remarked that the festival was a good opportunity for talent discovery which would allow the country to add to the pool of national athletes.

"My sight and focus is on the 10 days when I am looking for talents to deploy into the national team for the next Olympics, France 2024.

"My immediate concern is searching for young talents to represent Nigeria at international games.

"I thank the Delta State Government for the adequate preparations because they did not have the entire 24 months to be ready rather 16 months.

"A lot of credits go to the government, which for me, is one of the highlights of the game and also, all the state of

## 14,000 athletes compete for medals in Asaba

THIS is contained in a statement issued by Mohammed Manga, Director of Press and Public Relations at the Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports Development (FMYS) on Monday.

the federation are all represented in the festival," he said.

Dare mentioned that the next NSF was not wanting in state bidding to host, adding that the best bid would emerge among the contenders.

"We have five states that have registered their

intention to host the next NSF, so, it will be a battle within them.

"Come December 10, when we will announce the winner, we will also announce the next host of the festival, the best state will win.

"I am waiting for the game to start to have a feel of what our athletes have in stock for us," he said.

Manga quoted Sunday Dare, Minister of FMYS, as saying that he was optimistic that the competition will expose new set of athletes that will compete favourably with their counterparts globally.

"I am optimistic that at the end of the competition, budding talents will emerge and the country will witness more podium performances through them in subsequent global competitions," he said.

The minister also commended the Delta Government for its dogged determination towards ensuring the reality of the

21st NSF. While stressing that the Games will also help in strengthening the unity of Nigerians, Dare called on participating states to go all out for medals.

Dare called on all sports loving Nigerians to create time to grace the festival, saying that the National Sports Festival is the "Nigerian Olympics".

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that 36 states and the FCT will be competing in over 30 different sports in the Festival beginning from Monday to December 10.

## 'Female refs 'a positive message' for women'

IT'S a good sign to see women referees at the men's World Cup - Frappart

Having female referees at the World Cup helps send a positive message over women's rights in Qatar, says Stephanie Frappart.

The 38-year-old Frenchwoman will be the first woman to referee at a men's World Cup in Thursday's group-stage game between Costa Rica and Germany.

Frappart will be joined by assistant referees Brazil's Neuza Back and Mexican Karen Diaz Medina at Al Bayt Stadium, forming the **first all-female on-field officiating team** in the history of the tournament.

She is one of three female referees selected to officiate in the tournament, the first time it has happened in a men's World Cup.

Rwanda's Salima Mukansanga and Yoshimi Yamashita of Japan are the other two women referees to be chosen.

"We know there are some difficulties there for women," Frappart said.

"But I think and I hope that this World Cup will help them.

"I have always been made welcome [in Qatar], so there is no problem. I am not afraid to go there, but I hope this World Cup will help them in the

future."

The Gulf state, which follows strict Muslim laws, has been widely criticised for its ban on same-sex relationships and its treatment of migrant workers.

Human rights organisation Amnesty International has said women and LGBTQ+ people "continue to face discrimination in law and practice".

England women's captain Leah Williamson has said she has not "got any interest" in watching the tournament while team-mate Beth Mead said it was "disappointing" the World Cup was being held in Qatar.

However, Frappart said she could not turn down the opportunity to officiate at a men's World Cup.

"When you are selected for the World Cup, how can we say we will not be going?" added Frappart.

"The men's World Cup is the most important competition in the world, not only in football."

In total there are 36 referees selected for the 2022 World Cup.

Frappart was the first

female official to referee a Ligue 1 game in 2019 and then, in 2020, a men's Champions League match.

She was also the first woman to referee the French Cup final in the summer and also broke new ground when she officiated at the men's Euro 2020.

On looking forward to the tournament she said: "There is always pressure in the matches. And when you are a woman there is more pressure because it is always new.

"We know the pressure. But I think we will not change ourselves - be calm, focused, concentrate. And don't think about the media and everything and be focused on the field."

Frappart knows from previous experience that she and her other female colleagues are well-equipped to deal with the

## Pele says hospital stay was routine 'monthly visit'

PELE has thanked well-wishers for sending "good vibes" after confirming his hospital stay was a routine visit.

Concerns were raised on Wednesday when **ESPN Brasil** reported Pele had been admitted to Sao Paulo's Hospital Albert Einstein with "general swelling".

The Brazil legend had a tumour removed from his colon in September 2021 and has since had **regular treatment**.

"Friends, I am at the hospital making my monthly visit," the 82-year-old wrote

on Instagram.

The three-time World Cup winner included an image of a tribute to him at the Qatar World Cup alongside the post.

And he added: "It's always nice to receive positive messages like this. Thanks to Qatar for this tribute, and to everyone who sends me good vibes!"

ESPN Brasil also reported Pele was having cardiac issues and there were concerns that his chemotherapy treatment is not having the expected effect.

His daughter, Kely Nascimento, **was moved to clarify** on Instagram, saying: "There is no emergency or new dire prediction. He is in

## Nigeria hunting for new national talents-Dare



**Minister of Youths and Sports Development Sunday Dare said that his primary objective at the 2022 National Sports Festival (NSF) was to hunt for new national talents that would represent Nigeria at the next Olympics, France 2024.**

the federation are all represented in the festival," he said.

Dare mentioned that the next NSF was not wanting in state bidding to host, adding that the best bid would emerge among the contenders.

"We have five states that have registered their

intention to host the next NSF, so, it will be a battle within them.

"Come December 10, when we will announce the winner, we will also announce the next host of the festival, the best state will win.

"I am waiting for the game to start to have a feel of what our athletes have in stock for us," he said.

pressures.

"We know there is a lot of expectation, we know that each game is more important, but we also have experience in our competition," she added.

"I made a lot of games with high importance, so with all this experience we will be ready for the matches."

## Athletes praise Delta facilities

A majority of athletes, who arrived in Asaba yesterday, were thrilled by the quality of facilities provided by Governor Ifeanyi Okowa for the Games.

One major area that caught attention of the athletes and their officials was the new tartan track installed at the Stephen Keshi Stadium.

In 2018, when Delta State hosted the African Senior Athletics Championship, athletes from different parts of Africa complained that the tartan track was not smooth enough.

In his bid to host the best ever

National Sports Festival, Governor Okowa, who is the vice presidential candidate for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2023 election, ordered that a new tartan track be installed for Nigerian athletes to showcase their talent. The tartan track in Asaba Stadium is the first of its kind in Africa.

Other facilities build for Delta 2022 Games are two brand new indoor sports halls, a new swimming pool, a new shooting range, all within the Stephen Keshi Stadium, as well as a new hockey pitch at

Okpanam. Delta won the bid to host the fiesta, which is Nigeria's version of the Olympics Games, at the end of the last edition held in Benin City, Edo State, last year.

Governor Okowa has also constructed new hostel facilities at the NYSC camp at Issele-Uku and in various schools within Asaba.

Delta 2022 National Sports festival, which will end on December 10, will see a total of 11,000 athletes in attendance. It is about 2,000 more than the number that participated at the last edition in Edo State.



Stephanie Frappart



**Pele won the World Cup with Brazil in 1958, 1962 and .** the hospital regulating medication." Pele is Brazil's all-time leading scorer with 77 goals in 92 games, and the former striker is one of only four players to have scored in four World Cup tournaments.



## SUNDAY SPORTS



FIFA President, Gianni Infantino at the press conference in qatar

## Qatar World Cup

## 500 workers died while constructing stadia for tournament

By BULUS GAMBO

**A**BOUT 500 workers reportedly died while constructing stadiums for the ongoing World Cup tournament in Qatar.

A top Qatari official, Hassan al-Thawari said, the number of workers who died while building the World Cup for the ongoing tournament is "between 400 and 500"

According to Thawari who is the Secretary General of the Qatari Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy during an interview that when asked by British Journalist Piers Morgan, 'What is honest, realistic total do you think of migrant workers who died from ... as a result of work they're doing for the World Cup in totality, he replied that 'the estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500. I don't have exact number. That's something that's been discussed.

One death is a death too many. Plain and simple, Mr. al-Thawadi added in the interview.

According to agency report, reports from the Supreme Committee dating from 2014 to the end of 2021 only included the number of workers' death involved in building and refurbishing the stadiums now hosting the World Cup.

Those figures put the total number of deaths at 40, and include 37 from what the Qatar officially described as non-work incidents such as heart attacks,

incidents.

In a later statement, the Supreme Committee said, Mr. al-Thawadi was referring to "national statistics covering the period of 2014-2021 for all work-related fatalities (414) nationwide in Qatar, covering all sectors and nationalities.

Back in 2021, The Guardian reported that 6,500 migrant workers had died since the country awarded the rights to host World Cup in 2010 by Fifa.

Super Eagles and Al Hilal attacker Odion Ighalo believes that former Manchester United Cristiano Ronaldo would be a commercial boost to the Saudi Arabian Professional League if he decides to join.

Ronaldo's contract at Manchester United was terminated in November after he made some unsavory comments about the club.

The Portuguese star is currently with his national team at the World Cup, but talks surrounding his future have not ended, especially as the January transfer window draws near.

Ronaldo has been linked to many top teams in Europe, and there are also talks that he could move to the Middle East.

Chelsea, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, and Napoli are some of his suitors. Also, the Saudi Arabian Professional League side Al Nassr has been heavily linked with a blockbuster move for the 37-year-old talisman that could be worth over €170million.

Super Eagles striker Odion Ighalo, who spent a season at Manchester United before moving permanently to Saudi Arabian, wants Ronaldo to move to the Middle East because his presence would add a lot to the league.

"Cristiano Ronaldo is hugely ambitious, and I think he will want to play in a Champions League team and end his career well, but you never can say," Ighalo told The Athletic.

"He has the decision to make. I wish him all the best in that decision, and hopefully, he does come to Saudi Arabia.

"I would love for him to come to Saudi because he would boost the league and add more fanbase to the league. People who aren't already watching will start to engage with the league and see

something they are missing."

When Ronaldo moved to Juventus in 2018, his impact was felt.

According to Marca, Juventus' social media grew by 30 percent, increasing the number of followers to 16 million users.

Their YouTube channel saw a 136 percent boost, while their Instagram account grew by ten million followers.

Juventus' Twitter account experienced an increase of 10.73 percent, translated to more than 600,000 users, while three million new users joined their Facebook page.

If Ronaldo eventually joins the Saudi Professional League, he would give them a massive boost, and they would surely get more followers

Meanwhile, sports fans in Nigeria express mixed reactions following the announcement of Ghanaian coach Otto Addo, who let the Black stars to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

In a match that finished in a 1-1 tie at the MKO Abiola stadium in Abuja, Addo led the West African team that earned their spot in the world cup with a double-counted goal against the Super Eagles of Nigeria.

Following Ghana's Friday World Cup elimination, the 47-year-old reaffirmed his resignation and The coach said that his choice was influenced by his family.

Some sports enthusiasts responded to his departure by sharing their thoughts.

A supporter commented: Super eagles coaches will never resign.

**"Cristiano Ronaldo is hugely ambitious, and I think he will want to play in a Champions League team and end his career well, but you never can say," Ighalo told The Athletic. "He has the decision to make. I wish him all the best in that decision, and hopefully, he does come to Saudi Arabia. "I would love for him to come to Saudi because he would boost the league and add more fanbase to the league. People who aren't already watching will start to engage with the league and see something they are missing."**



# Senegal are 'dangerous' for England

**T**HE World Cup quarter-final everyone is talking about. Yet, there are significant hurdles to overcome first.

Both sides may face lower-ranked opposition in their last-16 ties on Sunday but this is a World Cup that has thrown up shock result after shock result. France must first overcome Poland, while England face African champions Senegal.

They may sit 13 places lower than England in the Fifa world rankings, but Senegal have a squad packed full of talent, even without injured superstar Sadio Mane.

"We know we will be favourites in terms of rankings but Senegal will be a very dangerous side," said England manager Gareth Southgate.

"We know many of their players who play in the Premier League and throughout Europe."

Senegal are the pinnacle of African football, ranking highest of all the teams on the continent and the current holders of the prestigious Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon).

This is their third World Cup finals, having also qualified in 2002 when they reached the quarter-finals, and again in 2018 when they were knocked out in the group stages.

BBC Africa's Babacar Diarra, said: "I think the players are inspired by the 2002 generation with the head coach being former Birmingham and Portsmouth midfielder Aliou Cisse, the goalkeeper coach Tony Sylva and other former players close to the team like Lamine Diatta and El Hadji Diouf.

"So after dedicating the win in the Afcon to their elders, and the victory against Ecuador to Papa Bouba Diop, the first-ever Senegalese goal scorer in a World Cup, exactly two years after he died, we can say the spirit of 2002 is inspiring this current team.

"The qualification for the round of 16 was celebrated on Tuesday for several hours after the game. Now, there is trust in the team despite Mane's injury. Debates are going on about how to play against England and what could be their weak points."

Senegal are a nation improving on the global stage with several players now featuring regularly in Europe's top leagues, including the Premier League.

Chelsea duo Kalidou Koulibaly and Edouard



Senegal manager Aliou Cisse captained the 2002 team that reached the Africa Cup of Nations final and World Cup quarter-finals

Mendy and Watford's Ismaila Sarr are among those who represent the 'Lions of Teranga', while Everton's Idrissa Gueye will miss the game because of suspension.

Bayern Munich forward Mane is also not playing. He was kept in Senegal's squad despite being ruled out of the tournament with a leg injury.

"We know English people. They play strong and attack well. They have a great squad. But Senegal has a chance," former Senegal international Alassane N'Dour told BBC Sport Africa.

"A lot of Senegal players are in the Premier League or the Championship. We know about English football.

"We deserve to be here and to play this game. We have to make sure we don't go there just to watch them play. We need to take our chance."

"It would be a result for history' They famously beat defending champions France in their group in 2002, as well as Sweden in the last 16.

N'Dour, who was in the 2002 squad, said now was "Africa's time" to prove their capabilities at the World Cup.

"Africa has so many good players and talent. You cannot find a very good team without African players. We are everywhere in the top leagues," he added.

"It is the time for us to

improve. This is the African time and especially the Senegalese time. It is time for us to come back."

Senegal fan Ousmane, 25, told BBC Sport it would be "the best ever result" if they were to beat England on Sunday.

"What a moment [it would be] for Senegal. Everyone thinks England will win but why can't we win?" said Ousmane.

"We have good players - we can beat the mighty England. It would be a result for history. The team would be heroes. We will never forget these players if we beat England."

Amy, 23, added: "This is one of the biggest football matches I can ever remember. The reaction at home would be crazy if we win, absolutely crazy."

Experienced Chelsea centre-back Koulibaly is the captain and Senegal's key man in defence. He has played in two World Cups and two Africa Cup of Nations finals with Senegal. He became the first Senegalese to lift the Afcon trophy, after beating Egypt in 2021, in which he scored the first penalty in the shootout. He also scored the winning goal in Senegal's vital group-stage victory over Ecuador on Tuesday.

Dia is a forward at Italian Serie A side Salernitana, on loan from Villarreal. He has started all three of Senegal's group matches at the World Cup and scored in the 3-1 win over Qatar. In Mane's absence, he has stepped up as the main striker and has been a handful so far in the competition.

RB Leipzig centre-back Abdou Diallo, on loan from Paris St-Germain, has built a strong partnership with Koulibaly since making his debut for Senegal in March last year. In their World Cup qualifying group, Senegal conceded just four goals in six matches. However, they are yet to keep a clean sheet in Qatar.

Sadly for the African Champions, England won't be facing the strongest possible version of Senegal. That will make a huge difference.

As well as the high profile absence of their star man and major attacking threat Mane, their midfield driving force Idrissa Gana Gueye will be missing due to suspension on what should've been his 100th appearance.

But without these key

players, can Senegal still cause problems for England? Without a doubt.

The two full-backs who have stepped in - Youssef Sabaly and Ismail Jakobs - have had a very good tournament so far, looking strong defensively but also offering a threat going forward.

The major attacking dangers are in the wide areas. I've always felt this Senegal team really misses a top-class number nine and goalscoring has been a problem even with Mane fit, but Boulaye Dia is proving to be a handful at this tournament.

Senegal are at their best on the front foot. When they've looked ponderous, trying to drop deep to hold on to a lead or clean sheet, such as in the second half against Ecuador, they have paid the price.

Like any international manager, Senegal's Aliou Cisse has taken some criticism since taking over in 2015 for his tactics but you can't question his record. He led them to the Africa Cup of Nations title and two World Cup qualifications - now a place in the last 16 for the first time since 2002, when he was the captain.

His calm, composed demeanour in the dressing room and the technical area seems to rub off on his players and he gives them real belief. The hangover from the awful Mane injury news has long gone, and they have been improving with every game in Qatar.

England are favourites but after a wonderful 2022 so far, Cisse and Senegal will feel they have nothing to fear.



Senegal are the current African champions