

Page 2 **I will sell  
refineries to  
raise \$10b -Atiku**



**Tinubu points way forward on power, security, others** Page 2

**INEC Plateau receives another batch of PVCs** Page 7

**25m Nigerians to face food crisis in 2023 -FAO** Page 4

# THE Nigeria Standard



VOL. 13 NO. 782

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

N200

Email: [nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com](mailto:nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com)

## ASUU: FG to review university autonomy laws

**T**he Vice-President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, has revealed that Nigerian University System has lost a cumulative 50 months to strike actions by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) from 1999 till date.

He has accordingly called for a review of the Nigerian University Autonomy Laws so as to address the challenges of incessant strike action by the various staff unions in the nation's University system.

Osinbajo spoke on Monday in Abuja, where he formally launched the

newly-developed Core curriculum and Minimum Academic Standards for the Nigerian University System (CCMAS) as part of efforts to revitalise university education in Nigeria.

The reviewed curriculum was unveiled at an event marking the 60th-

anniversary celebration of the establishment of the National Universities Commission (NUC).

The Vice-President who was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr Boss Mustapha, lamented that one of the major issues

bedevilling University education is the incessant strike actions by various staff unions in the public universities in Nigeria.

According to the Federal Government, the Nigerian University Autonomy laws should be reviewed to grant more powers to the



Continued on page 2 Prof Osodeke

## "2023: Campaign with ideas, visionary candour"

**A** Pro-Tinubu/Shettima Ticket Support Group, Patriots Roundtable, has called on the presidential candidates in the 2023 elections, to campaign with ideas, visionary candour, commitment to nation-building and service, rather than mingling in the dirty pool of calumny.

The Group, in the 8th series of its newsletter, titled: 'Beyond Chatham', made available to the media on Tuesday and signed by its National Coordinator, Prince Uthman Shodipe-Dosunmu, said malice does not win elections.

It said rather planning, legacy, and selfless commitment to the nation invariably decide the path to victory.

"Now that Chatham has gone and is gradually being subsumed by other matters, we may now return to the persistent, unyielding reality: the fact that Bola Ahmed Tinubu is the most dominant issue in this presidential campaign. We acknowledge this with all sense of humility and riveting approbation.

"When a presidential candidate is the pivot of manufactured malice when

the candidate is the subject of untidy and undeserved opprobrium when the candidate is the conjured ogre haunting the conscience of malignant characters- it is safe to attest that the candidate is of immense political value and importance that the nay-sayers find it convenient to pull down", Patriots Roundtable said.

The Group said in truth, Tinubu has worked hard for his towering political magnification.

It said, "He has earned his reputation and national stamp of political veneration from endless, untiring support for others; from his instinctive willingness to groom a multifarious gallery of lieutenants, mentoring, graduating a powerful array of mentees into the highest acme of power in our nation and far beyond.

"From the stretches of the howling desert of Jigawa to the mangroves of the Delta, from the Sudanian Savanna of Bauchi to the forest and the hills of Ondo, from Ekiti to the shores of the Atlantic in Lagos - Tinubu, like Tennyson tells us, has 'become a name.'"

Continued on page 2



APC Presidential Candidate Asiawu Bola Ahmed Tinubu speaking recently at Chatham House London lecture titled: Nigeria's 2023 elections



News

ASUU: FG to review university autonomy laws

Continued from page 1

Governing Councils to be able to negotiate on issues bothering on welfare of workers with the staff unions.

He noted that all the issues over the years have remained the same, primarily on funding, University Autonomy, and infrastructure among others, stressing that there must be honest conversation on how to end the menace in the nation's university system.

Osinbajo insisted that government alone could not adequately fund education in Nigeria, saying it was therefore imperative to develop a sustainable funding mechanism taking into consideration the socio-economic issues in the country.

"I need to stress here that government alone cannot fund education. It is therefore imperative that a sustainable model of funding university education must be developed. Such a model should take cognisance of the socioeconomic diversity and competing

expectations of the Nigerian populace and workforce," he said.

He added: "You are all aware that one of the issues bedevilling university education in Nigeria, is the incessant strike actions by various unions in our public institutions. For instance, the system had cumulatively lost over 50 months from 1999 till date as a result of strike actions by the Academic Staff Union of Universities.

"I doubt if there is any country that has lost such amount of time to strikes in its university system. From the first strike from 1978, all the issues have remained the same. The agitations have been primarily on funding, university autonomy, and remunerations.

"The most recent industrial actions by the University-based unions has necessitated the revisit of issues affecting University system in Nigeria and this will lead to review of the Nigerian University Autonomy laws".

All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu yesterday spoke on how he will tackle insecurity and reposition the economy if elected in next year's election.

He also emphasised that under his administration, Nigeria will maintain its leadership role of advancing democratic values in the West Africa sub-region, in the continent and in the world.

The former Lagos State governor reiterated his commitment to the sanctity of the ballot box, saying the next crop of leaders should evolve from free, fair, democratic and transparent elections.

Tinubu highlighted his plans for Nigeria at the Chatham House, London, while delivering a lecture titled: "Nigeria's 2023 election: Security, economy and foreign policy imperatives."

He was accompanied to the United Kingdom's elite foreign and policy think-tank institution by members of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, including governors, members of the National Assembly and other key party stalwarts.

At the session, Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai, House of Representatives Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila, former Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy Dele Alake, one-time Lagos State Commissioner for Finance Wale Edun and National Women Leader Dr. Beta Edu shed light on Tinubu's manifesto, 'Renewed Hope for 2023,' particularly those aspects related to their areas of competence.

The eminent politician was accompanied by Governors Abdullahi Ganduje (Kano), Dapo Abiodun (Ogun), Babajide Sanwo-Olu (Lagos), Abubakar Sani Bello (Niger), Ben Ayade (Cross River), Abubakar Badaru, (Jigawa) and David Umahi (Ebonyi); former Ekiti State Governor Kayode Fayemi, ex-Edo State Governor Adams Oshiomhole; Deputy National Women Leader Hajija Zainab Ibrahim, former Lagos State Deputy Governor Chief Femi Pedro, Senator Tokunbo Abiru, Senator Fatai Buhari and Senator Adeola Olamilekan.

Also in the entourage were Senator Musiliu Obanikoro, Senator Tokunbo Afikuyomi, former Ogun State Deputy Governor Segun Adesegun, Hadiza Bala-Usman and Alhaji Mutiu Are.

It was his second visit to Chatham House, having participated in a lecture there in 2011.

Exuding confidence, Tinubu demonstrated a mastery of

governance principles, the challenges of the post-Buhari period and how to tackle them.

The APC candidate said: "I have confidence that the Nigerian people will go to polls in a few short months and give me their mandate."

His address was intermittently punctuated by thunderous applause from dignitaries who were captivated by his candour and the message.

While introducing Tinubu, the chairman of the event, Dr. Alex Vines, described him as a prominent politician who is no stranger to the House.

Referring to the fake news by opponents that the candidate was denied a US visa, Vines, who is also the Managing Director, Ethics, Risk and Resilience of Chatham House, and Director Africa Programme, said: "He(Tinubu) has a US visa."

Shortly before the commencement of the lecture, a few subjective protesters, led by Reno Omokiri, stormed the venue to demonstrate against Tinubu.

However, they were overwhelmed by the presence of APC faithful and supporters, who sang the popular caucus song: "On your mandate we stand, Bola."

After the lecture, the APC standard bearer had an interaction with the APC UK chapter.

'We'll tackle insecurity from the roots'

Tinubu lamented that insecurity has persisted despite the remarkable progress achieved by the Muhammadu Buhari administration.

He said if elected, he will tackle the crisis so that Nigeria can also effectively provide security support for its neighbouring nations.

Tinubu said: "The challenges which have manifested themselves with regard to our national and regional development and security trajectories are very well-known to all of us here: radical extremist violence, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, human trafficking, trafficking in weapons, trafficking in drugs, climate change and resource-driven conflicts etc.

"Mostly manifesting initially as national problems, these challenges evolved over time into trans-border and multinational challenges.

"We see the thousands of people who have been internally displaced at home or forced into refugee camps abroad. With farming activities disrupted, we have seen shortages of basic food items

Tinubu points way forward on power, security, others

and food price inflation that are further undermining human security.

"To respond meaningfully to the discontents and to redress the many dislocations arising from them, we must begin by reminding ourselves of that old dictum: Foreign policy is but a continuation of domestic policy.

"As a first step, we must recalibrate domestic policy in order to revamp the foundation on which our quest to pursue human security rests."

'Power outage will end'

Tinubu identified regular electricity as the key to economic revitalisation and industrial growth, promising to improve the framework already in place for boosting energy generation and distribution.

He said: "Fixing the perennial riddle of energy supply is another priority. There is no version of the world where Nigeria's ambitions for itself can be achieved without solving the problem of how to provide energy to homes and businesses across the country.

"It is time to recognise that the centralised approach to energy policy and infrastructure is not an optimal arrangement and is unlikely to improve by mere tinkering around the sides.

"The Federal Government as regulator and operator, and price fixer is a broken model and one that we fully intend to fix if elected.

"We have privatised power distribution in Nigeria and generation to a certain degree. What we need to do, going forward, is to improve the enabling environment and further reform the legal and regulatory framework to attract more private investments in the sector as we have experienced in the telecom industry."

Acknowledging the place of agriculture in economic development, Tinubu said: "The present administration has invested heavily in agriculture, providing loans and expanding the country's total acreage of cultivated land.

"We will build on this, but our focus will be on using technology and expertise to accelerate growth and development by providing the critical infrastructure necessary to achieve the commodity transformations in the agriculture value chain."

He added: "Roads, rail, access to ports, and storage infrastructure are what we require to radically transform the agriculture sector and increase its value to the nation.

"Providing these will be the areas of our focus so that the full potential of our agro-economy can be achieved, and we can reap the benefits in jobs, improved economic opportunities and increased prosperity."

'Economic to be driven by private sector'

Tinubu promised to engage the private sector to drive economic development.

He said: "My belief that the private sector is the fulcrum of economic progress is evident and documented.

"However, fundamental flaws with the basic design of our national economy imperil the private sector from playing the role it ought to and adding the value it is capable of.

"In this instance, the government must act as a catalyst. We shall do this on all fronts. We will address the conflict between monetary and fiscal policies.

"Budgeting will be based on the projected spending levels needed to push real annual growth rate above seven per cent while reducing the unemployment rate so that we can double the economy in ten years."

To Tinubu, Nigeria, which has experienced democratic rule for 23 years, should continue to be a beacon of hope to the continent and West Africa sub-region.

He said Nigeria will continue to lead by example in free and fair elections devoid of violence, emphasising that the will of the people should always prevail.

Tinubu stressed: "I stand firmly against all forms of electoral violence and intimidation. Having spent most of my career in the political opposition, I have long fought against electoral malpractice and any attempts to extinguish the legitimate choice of voters. I will continue to do so.

"I urge all my fellow contestants in this election to do the same. Let the sovereign will of the people decide the path of our nation. And let this election be determined by voters making their choice freely rather than the domineering intimidation of the troublesome few."

Drawing a link between peace in Nigeria and political stability in the sub-region, which is troubled by military intervention, Tinubu said the country must always be its brother's keeper.

He said: "The Nigerian elections of 2023 are coming up at a time when the country's immediate geographical neighbourhood of West and Central Africa is undergoing serious political turmoil that has manifested itself in the incursion of the military to power in a number of countries.

"In spite of the legitimate concerns being expressed by observers, Nigerians are resolutely committed to democracy, regardless of their political differences."

On his age and identity, Tinubu said his birthday was March 29, 1952, adding that his records are with his alma mater, Chicago State University, United States, and Mobil Oil, where he worked as treasurer.

He said: "At the time of birth, I was born March 29, 1952 in the family record.

"I have good exposure in life, my record is consistent. For the school and university I attended, the records are there. The transcript is also there.

"I'm not claiming another father, I am Tinubu and Tinubu proper. If they want DNA, they can as well request that. Chicago State University where I graduated has attested to that (education).

"I've received my original replacement certificate from them. Deloitte trained me, and Mobil Oil has also attested to my record. I got to the pinnacle of my career. Who among them can brag about that?

"You want to wrestle with the pig, you need to live with dirt. I got into politics knowing that it is muddy water, one has to live with the dirt.

"I see myself as a marketable individual. They want to use me to make money, and I say no."

On youth development, he said youths were part of today and the future, adding that the country should invest in them.

He singled out Sanwo-Olu, who he described as a youth running the 5th largest economy in Africa and building on his legacies as former governor of Lagos State.

"2023: Campaign with ideas, visionary candour"



Continued from page 1

"Intrinsic in the Tennysonian affirmation is the kindling of a stout heart, the stubborn, unyielding commitment to a good cause, the unfailing creative ardour, the powerful visionary steadfastness, unbowed and unbowing before the slings of hate and a n i m a d v e r s i o n . "Pray how many men can absorb the thronging barrage of calumny, the callous spate of hate, the crude eructation of venom without crumbling and folding up?

"We do believe that there is a guiding star in all our firmament. We do agree that everyone is defined ultimately in some unfathomable womb of Heaven that none can alter.

"As the days roll by and the election draws nearer, destiny beckons for Asiwaju. More often, power is thrust upon those who seek it not. For 22 years Tinubu has been much

more comfortable behind the scene galvanising others to the upper echelon of power. He is now drafted by fate to contest for the greatest office in the land. If it is God's will, no mortal can alter this recourse."

I will sell refineries to raise \$10b -Atiku

The presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, has promised to privatise the nation's three refineries to raise \$10 billion for the empowerment of small and medium scale businesses (SMEs) in the country.

Atiku, who said this while addressing a campaign rally Tuesday in Lagos, listed the refineries as those in Warri, Port Harcourt and Kaduna.

The former Vice President said he would follow the privatization through, if elected President next year.

He said: "On my own part, if you elect me as your president, I said and I promise by the grace of God that I am going to set aside \$10 billion so that we can empower our young men and women in small and medium enterprises.

"People were asking me where I am going to get the

money. If I privatise the Port Harcourt refinery, Warri refinery, and Kaduna refinery, I will get the money."

The PDP candidate also promised that his administration would restructure the country, if elected President in 2023.

"So, let me also promise you, if you elect me, we are going to restructure this country. What do we mean by restructuring? We will give states and local governments more powers and resources. It is up to you to hold them responsible."

Also, Notable PDP leaders were conspicuously absent at the party's presidential candidate's rally at the Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos, yesterday.

The leaders included the former National Deputy Chairman (South) of the party, Chief Olabode George.

Also absent were the five

governors of the party, popularly called the G-5 governors, led by Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike.

Others members of the group are: Governors Seyi Makinde (Oyo State), Samuel Ortom (Benue), Okezie Ikpeazu (Abia) and Ifeanyi Ekwuayi (Enugu).

Also, the state chairman of the party, Phillip Alvoji, was not seen at the event.

But addressing members of the party at the event, Atiku also said his government would ensure full autonomy for the state and local governments.

He urged the PDP members to protect their votes and not to succumb to any form of intimidation.

The PDP vice presidential candidate and Delta State Governor Ifeanyi Okowa said Atiku is the only acceptable presidential candidate to Nigerians.





# Kolmani oil field: Another resource curse?

***It will not be out of line to use Nigeria, as a country, to theorise the concept of "Resource Curse". Indeed, the supposed powerhouse of Africa is a ready-made example that consistently ticks all the boxes and provides justification for the viability of the theory. AUSTYN OGANNAH writes.***

AS soon as one is conversant with the distinct characteristics of the concept, it becomes abundantly obvious why this is the case.

The paradoxical circumstance in which a nation performs poorly economically, despite having access to valuable natural resources, is known as the "resource curse."

Richard M. Auty is credited with coining the phrase, which he discussed in his 1993 book entitled, 'Sustaining Development in the Mineral Economies: The Resource Curse Thesis' and the first econometric work on the subject was published in 1995 by economists, Jeffrey Sachs and Andrew Warner.

A resource curse typically results from an over concentration of the nation's capital and workforce in a small number of resource-dependent industries. Countries might become sensitive to drops in commodity prices by failing to make sufficient investments in other areas, which can result in long-term economic underperformance.

A resource curse may emerge for a number of reasons, but the main one is when the nation starts to concentrate all of its production resources on a single industry, such as mining or oil production, and neglects investment in other critical industries.

This resource curse is also known as the paradox of plenty and it could be the outcome of corruption. With the significant portion of the nation's wealth concentrated in a small number of industries, the government often may abuse its regulatory authority by, for example, providing lucrative contracts in exchange for bribery.

A surplus of labour and capital that goes to just a few industries tends to damage the rest of the economy and hurt the progress of the whole nation. This kind of issue is frequently seen in emerging economies that find significant natural resource deposits, the commercialisation of which births an entire industry.

The industry tends to attract available investment capital once a natural resource is discovered and material and natural resources are focused heavily on that industry. Local and foreign investments will also indiscriminately gravitate in that direction.

Petroleum is one natural resource in particular where the resource curse is quite apparent. Petroleum-rich nations such as Nigeria, indeed, suffer from a resource curse, according to studies examining the relationship between natural resource riches and politics.

Three negative (and mainly unresolved) impacts are clearly present in these nations. First, it promoted authoritarian regimes. Next, it increased corruption. Finally, it sparked conflict in low- and middle-income countries. It proved the irrefutable reality that a nation's economy can suffer severely and negatively if it depends too heavily on one or two resources.

The discovery of oil in commercial



**President Buhari during the commissioning of Kolmani old field**

quantities in Oloibiri in the Niger Delta in 1955 marked a turning point in Nigeria's economic history. Agriculture used to be the primary source of government income prior to the discovery of oil resources. But as time went on, the economy's main source of income was from oil exports.

The only source of funding for the annual budget, which guides the nation's economic path, is crude oil earnings. This predicament is comparable to putting all of one's eggs in one basket. And, it is precisely this circumstance that has given rise to the majority of the agitation for resource control—or, to put it another way, fiscal federalism—among Nigeria's oil-producing regions.

Without equivocation, it is obvious that these oil exploration activities wreaked havoc on the environment in the Niger Delta region of the country.

As a consequence, environmentalists, human rights defenders, and proponents of fair trade from all over the world turned their focus on the Niger Delta. Environmentalist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni ethnic minority leaders were tried and executed by the repressive General Sani Abacha regime, gained international attention. Large oil companies like Mobil, Chevron, Shell, Elf and Agip, among others, who were gaining from the region's oil, came under fire and scrutiny as their operations made headlines. Yet, business in the region continued.

In a bid to profit from the fossil fuels in the region, western governments and oil companies supported and maintained a number of oppressive and corrupt governments in Nigeria. In the Niger Delta, there has been a battle between the people and multinational oil companies over oil, leading to extreme poverty and

environmental destruction.

The Niger Delta's Ogoni, Ijaw, and other natives—those who have suffered the most harm for decades—have been working to defend their own interests, the environment and their fundamental human and economic rights. In response, the Nigerian Government and the oil firms have violently repressed protesters.

Shell, for instance, came under fire at different times for attempting to rift communities by paying off some residents to quash peaceful rallies. Multinational oil companies are involved in the abuses carried out by the Nigerian military and police, as Human Rights Watch have previously reported.

Still, the oil of the Niger Delta, which should have been a blessing to the region and the country, poses a major threat to the local population. Farming and fishing have become impossible or very difficult in oil-affected areas due to the numerous environmental pollution-related effects of oil that are visible across the area. Even drinking water has become scarce. Malnutrition and illness are widespread.

Additional negative repercussions of the presence of multinational oil firms on the local economy and society include property loss, price inflation, prostitution, and the negligent fathering of children by foreign oil workers.

Military persecution frequently meets with organised resistance and action by impacted populations, occasionally leading to fatalities. One cannot forget the disturbed history of armed resistance of the Niger Delta militants, who threatened oil installations and kidnapped expatriates to address their grievances until the Amnesty Programme of late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

Most of these militants were products of a society torn apart by

the resource curse.

These were the thoughts that coursed through my mind as I reflected on the fanfare that attended the commencement of another oil drilling campaign, this time in northern Nigeria, following the presidential flag-off of the Kolmani Field Integrated Development Project straddling Bauchi and Gombe States.

The Kolmani River Field, which is situated in the Upper Benue trough, is estimated to hold a reserve of 500 billion cubic feet of gas and around a billion barrels of crude oil. The Kolmani Integrated Development Project also includes a 120,000-barrels per day refinery, a 500 million standard cubic feet per day gas processing plant, a 300-megawatt capacity power plant, and a 2,500 tonne per day fertiliser plant.

It is reported that the project has already attracted about \$3 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI). The Northern Nigeria Development Company Limited (NNDC), a business controlled by the 19 northern states, and Sterling Global, a Nigerian branch of the Indian Sandesara Group, are working together with NNPC to develop the field.

While it is a positive development for Nigeria on paper, it cannot be taken for granted that there are concerns, especially with Nigeria's experience and history of association with the resource curse, as I have belaboured to outline thus far. What makes it even more disturbingly worrisome is the status quo ante of the North.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed last month that 133 million Nigerians experience multidimensional poverty. It stated that 63 per cent of Nigerians were poor due to a lack of access to health, education, living standards, employment and security in its most recent National Multidimensional

Poverty Index study.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index provides a multivariate method of assessing poverty by highlighting deprivations in the areas of health, education, living conditions, employment and shocks.

Semi Adeniran, the CEO of the NBS and the Federation's Statistician-General, stated that this was the organisation's first attempt to undertake an international multidimensional poverty survey in Nigeria.

What it revealed about the North confirmed previous studies on impoverishment indices in the region. According to the NBS research, Sokoto, Bayelsa, Gombe, Jigawa, and Plateau were the worst states in 2022. With 90.5 per cent of the state's population living in poverty, Sokoto was the poorest state in the country. It is followed by Bayelsa, with 88.5 per cent of its population living in poverty, then Gombe, with 86.2 per cent, Jigawa, with 84.3 per cent and Plateau, with 84.4 per cent.

At the other end of the list, Ondo had the lowest poverty rate with 27.2 per cent of the population living in poverty, followed by Lagos with 29.4 per cent, Abia with 29.8 per cent, Edo with 31 per cent and Anambra with 32.1 per cent. According to the survey, 86 million of Nigeria's poor people live in the North, compared to 37 million in the South.

This is just one angle of the level of decline that is the contemporary reality in the North with low levels of education, lack of access for most women and the widespread statistics of unemployed men which has been inexorably linked to the increase in the population of terrorists who recruit from this number.

Is it into this conundrum that the country wants to add the resource curse to? What happens when their livelihoods are affected? When their farmlands are devastated? When the trajectory of their lives is impacted by the influx of expatriates and their ecosystem is hampered by the activities of oil mining and production? Are we looking at Niger Delta 2.0?

It is my sincere recommendation that the lessons of the Niger Delta be front and centre as the country enters a new phase of oil promise. It is early days and there is time to ensure that we do not put ourselves and already strained Northern Nigerians through the deleterious experience that have desolated the land and waters of the Niger Delta and left them with the worst effects of climate change, including soot pollution and acid rains.

We can do better than that and it is the responsibility of the government and all of us to make sure history does not repeat itself in the oil story of the North because, if we make the same mistake, as we have seen from the Niger Delta and the worst case scenario of the terrorists in the North, we will all be equally culpable and become victims of the fallout.

**Source: The will.**





## 25 million Nigerians to face food crisis in 2023 – FAO

ABOUT 25.3 million people will face food insecurity across Nigeria between June and August 2023, according to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The FAO in a statement warned if actions are not taken to avert the crisis, 4.4 million people in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states will be affected.

The UN food agency in its October 2022 food and nutrition analysis said about 17 million people in the country were already facing food crisis.

These include IDPs and returnees in 26 states including the Federal Capital Territory. The report said 3 million of these are living in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states.

In a bid to assist the victims, the government of Norway has renewed its funding cooperation with the FAO.

The funds are aimed at helping the most vulnerable populations in Borno, Adamawa, Yobe and Taraba states.



**Abubakar**

The three-year intervention will benefit 43,990 households (about 307,930 individuals), with at least 45 per cent of them being women, who will receive agricultural inputs, livestock assets, energy-saving stoves and other products.

The ambassador of Norway to Nigeria, Knut Eiliv Lein, said his country remains committed to supporting the efforts to restore the conflict-affected livelihoods in

northeast Nigeria.

"This project we are signing here today is part of Norway's larger support to Nigeria in general including humanitarian efforts specifically targeting those in need in the northeast region," Mr Lein said.

"We have partnered with many organizations in addressing several issues including health, food security, democracy, gender equality and more."

MONEY sent home by Nigerians who live abroad is projected by the World Bank to hit \$20.9 billion this year, with analysts citing the 'Naira-4-dollar' scheme and talent exodus as major factors behind the expected increase in remittances.

Many Nigerians have relocated to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, among others, in recent years in search of greener pastures, a development that is popularly called 'japa' (a Yoruba word for "run quickly").

According to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief report, remittance flow to Nigeria grew by an estimated 8.85 percent in 2022 from \$19.2 billion last year.

Africa's biggest economy saw its diaspora remittances plunge to \$17.2 billion in 2020 amid the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic from \$25.3 billion

## Remittances head for 3-year high on CBN incentive

in the previous year.

"Nigeria witnessed a sharp recovery in flows during 2021 (13.2 percent), maintaining the improved momentum of 2021 into the first quarter of 2022," the report said.

It however said the remittance growth fell in Q2 to 0.5 percent compared to the same period in 2021. "Moreover, the country is reaping little benefit from the surge in crude oil prices, while the expatriate community faces real income losses in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Euro Area."

The World Bank said remittances flow to sub-Saharan Africa grew an estimated 5.2 percent to \$53 billion in 2022, with Nigeria being the largest recipient.

Cheta Nwanze, the lead partner at SBM Intelligence,

UK and the US through study and work visas.

According to the British government, the number of Nigerians granted student visas increased by 222.8 percent to 65,929, the highest in four years in June 2022 from 20,427 in the same period of 2021.

The number of Nigerians who got skilled work visas grew by 109.1 percent to 15,772 in June 2022. Canada's study permits for Nigerians increased by 30.3 percent to 13,745 in 2021 from 10,550 in 2020.

"The trend of the 'japa' syndrome has increased in recent periods and it is expected to continue. So, the projected increase in remittances is expected to come from the set of new emigrants, especially the professionals," said Moses Ojo, a Lagos-based economic analyst.

Experts believe that cash flows from diaspora remittances, an example of brain capital export, appear to be more resilient in the face of global economic changes compared to oil prices.

They believe that it could help lessen the foreign exchange pressures and revenue deficits facing Africa's most populous nation.

Crude oil production, a major source of revenue for the federal government, declined by 30.2 percent to 972,394 barrels per day (bpd) in August from 1.4 million in January, data from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission show.

In October, it rose by 11 percent to 1.01 million bpd from 972,394 in August. The country's oil sector contracted for the tenth consecutive time in Q3 by 22.67 percent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Amid the decline in oil production, the country's foreign reserves tumbled to \$37.11 billion in November 30, 2022, the lowest in 14 months.

"In addition to the trends reshaping the global human capital value chain, Nigerians have shown they can consistently generate significant cash flow from foreign economies," they said.

The report added that Nigeria can continue to grow its foreign exchange cash flow by inserting more citizens into global value chains.

"The Nigerian economy is not generating enough jobs, making it lose out in terms of productivity; so there will be an increase in remittances," Nwanze said.

According to the World Bank, remittances can help alleviate poverty, improve nutritional outcomes, and are associated with increased birth weight and higher school enrollment rates for children in disadvantaged households.

"Studies show that remittances help recipient households to build resilience, for example through financing better housing and to cope with the losses in the aftermath of disasters," it said.



**Emiefele**

## Nigeria's debt sustainable -DMO

THE Debt Management Office (DMO) says Nigeria's debt remains sustainable, in spite of the country's seeming huge debt stock.

The Director-General of DMO, Patience Oniha, said this in a telephone interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recently in Abuja.

NAN reports that Nigeria's total debt stock as at June is N103 billion.

Oniha, however, insisted that there was urgent need to boost the country's revenue to further ameliorate the debt

burden.

She suggested an efficient tax administration that would ensure greater compliance to remittances, and devoid of all forms of evasions in the system.

According to her, most countries place more emphasis on taxation as a principal source of funding for the government.

She advised that new borrowings should be tied to projects that would generate commensurate revenues to service loans used to finance

them.

She also said that physical assets such as idle or under-utilised properties could be redeveloped for commercialisation to generate revenue.

According to Oniha, the current revenue problem is compounded by leakages like oil theft and petrol subsidy.

"These have significantly reduced the revenue from crude oil sales that used to account for the bulk of government revenue," she said.

She said that the outlooks of both the local and international markets were becoming tighter with rising interest rate.

She called for moderation in new borrowings and accelerated revenue growth to shore up non-oil revenue.

She, however, said that the country's total public debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio was still within reasonable limits.

She said that debt service-to-revenue was high, adding that urgent steps needed to be taken to boost revenue and further enhance public debt sustainability.

"Nigeria's public debt stock has grown consistently over the past decades and even faster in recent years, and debt service has continued to grow.

"The country's low revenue base compounded by dependence on crude oil

receipts resulted in budget deficits over the past decades.

"Efforts at increasing non-oil revenue are, however, yielding positive results," she said.

According to her, with a low debt-to-GDP ratio, the debt service-to-revenue ratio would have been low if revenue were strong.

She said that Nigeria was deploying debt management tools of the World Bank and IMF to ensure debt sustainability.

"These tools include an annual Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) and a Medium Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS) every four years," she said.

Oniha listed other initiatives to ensure debt sustainability as the Presidential Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF), Infrastructure for Tax Credit, Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria Limited (InfraCorp) and Off Balance Sheet Financing.

"InfraCorp is a Public Private Partnership promoted by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) and NSIA, to catalyse and accelerate investment in Nigeria's Infrastructure sector.

"InfraCorp has a seed funding of One trillion Naira as equity from the promoters," she said. (NAN)



**Oniha**





## Business & Economy

### Non-implementation of CDAs: Mining host communities loss

**Wherever any company operates, there is always a community development agreement between the host community and the company. But over the years, mining host communities have not ceased to decry their neglect by mining companies; BENJAMIN UMUTEME reports.**

THE British colonial government created the Mineral Survey of the Northern Protectorates in 1903 with the Southern Protectorates following soon after.

Nigeria started major production of coal, tin and columbite by the 1940s. In 1956 when oil was discovered, the mineral industries suffered when the focus shifted to mining oil. In the 1960s the Civil War led to expat mining experts leaving the country and mines being abandoned.

Mining regulations drastically changed and productivity declined. In the late 1990s the government started selling government-owned mining companies to private investors.

Despite massive mineral wealth, the Nigerian mining industry is vastly underdeveloped and only accounts for 0.3 per cent of the country's GDP – and this is due to oil resources. The underdevelopment is resulting in Nigeria having to import processed minerals, even though it could be locally produced.

Much of the debate in Africa with regard to mining has been on the question on whether or not mining is good for development. While some analysts agree that mining is indeed good for development, others have argued that the structural constraints found in many developing nations render mining almost untenable. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has been suggested as one of the ways through which the difficulties associated with mining can be ameliorated.

In Nigeria, environmental issues continue to weigh heavily in the activities of mining companies as the companies and environmental rights activists have not ceased to dry about the negative impact of mining companies on host communities.

For instance, Plateau State environmental officials have severally expressed concern with the high number of mines that were abandoned after the mining boom of the 1960s.

According to their research these mines are posing a serious risk to millions of people residing in the area. There have been reports of radioactive shale from the mines from the districts of Riyom, Bassa, Bukur, Jos and Barikin-Ladi.

That is just one state out of many states in the country where host communities have had to live with the dangers posed by abandoned mines.

A trip to mining host communities would reveal one thing—mining communities' bearing the brunt of neglect by companies.

In this regard, the Federation of Nigerian Mining Host Communities (FNMHC), have not failed to at every opportunity cry out about their plight to the listening world.

In a communiqué, FNMHC lamented alleged neglect by government and mining companies operating in their areas.

It indicated that, "The Nigerian constitution mandates in Section 17 (2)(d) that the "exploitation of human or natural resources in any form whatsoever for the reasons,



**Adegbite**

other than the good of the community shall be prevented.

"While mining holds the potential of prospering their host communities when done in a sustainable manner, Nigeria's extractive industry is froth with numerous problems including fiscal injustice, environmental degradation, proliferation of abandoned open mining pits, consequences of climate change, security challenges, the vulnerabilities of women, children and disabled persons to rights violation, water and air pollution, negative impacts on traditional livelihoods, destruction of ecosystems and water stress, and others."

It added, "Concerned that the disconnect between the mining companies and their host communities, on one hand, the government, on the other hand, has led to miscommunication of intentions, corruption, poverty, and lack of effective monitoring of mining activities, thereby putting the environment and health of the people in jeopardy, and negatively impacting livelihoods.

"Shrinking freshwater resources is fast assuming a crisis dimension in most mining host communities across Nigeria and that water is at the nerve of the existence of mining host communities, and yet, mining is a water-dependent resource.

"It acknowledges that artisanal mining consists of more than 80 per cent of all forms of mining in Nigeria, and are as environmentally destructive as large mining companies.

"It's aware that a vast majority of mining host communities like their hydrocarbon counterparts are marked by poverty and underdevelopment, while the potentials for development continues to go unrealised.

"It acknowledges the testimonials of mining host communities' representatives from Ebonyi, Gombe, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Osun, Plateau, Taraba, and the Zamfara states as being accurate accounts the mining contexts of mining host communities across Nigeria.

They further pointed out that, "These problems are exacerbated by gaps in the laws governing mining in Nigeria, failure of investors to comply with laws and regulations, lack of inter-ministerial coordination, lack of technical-know-how by artisanal miners, and failure to respect the rights of mining communities to free, prior and informed consent as prescribed by the ECOWAS mining directive by which Nigeria is bound."

Global Rights Nigeria, a non-profit organisation, last week, lamented that despite having Community Development Agreements (CDAs) in place, mining companies continue to make the environment safe for host communities.

Globa Rights' executive director, Abiodun Baiyewu, speaking at the 2022 West African Mining Host Communities INDABA, held in Abuja, noted that the activities of artisanal and illegal miners have over the years created serious health and environmental hazards to the lives and livelihood of host communities in West Africa.

She added that laws protecting host communities exist, but most members of these host communities are half-educated or uneducated.

"As such it is our collective responsibility to educate members of these mining host communities about the relevant provisions of these laws. The insensitivity of mining companies and its consequential effects on host communities," she said.

procreation in our community. Our men and women are not fertile anymore. We have lead substances in our blood, even me, I am not healthy, I have disease in my body, and our people are sick with no help in sight.

"We have approached the company several times but no response. It is owned by Indians. Meanwhile we have reported their activities to the government, but no action has been taken.

"We have also written to the National Assembly to summon the company but failed to appear before the National Assembly upon which the company was asked to pay N1.5 billion to our community for damages, but never paid us the money."

Even Okobo, a community in Kogi state, is not spared of this horror also. Over a decade coal has been mined in the community, indigenes have not known real peace.

This is despite the community signing a Community Development Agreement (CDA) with the mining firm.

An indigene, Maryam Alidu, who said she has been suffering from chest pains due to the mining activities in the community, volunteered that they now have other sources of water as the company uses the tap water. As a result of the health challenge, according to her, it has been very difficult for her to get water, as she has to rely on people's goodwill.

"We rely on water flowing on the red earth when miners use their tap water and collect it from a grassy marsh at the roadside from where we fill up our buckets to use for domestic purposes,"

For those staying in Okobo, they have had to stop drinking the water and only use it to do their laundry and bath.

"In the river, we find coal particles flowing into the water. The company gives us water in a tanker truck once a week, which is not enough," said Fatima Ogwu, a farmer in the community.

**Source: Blueprint**

**“For instance, Plateau State environmental officials have severally expressed concern with the high number of mines that were abandoned after the mining boom of the 1960s. According to their research these mines are posing a serious risk to millions of people residing in the area. There have been reports of radioactive shale from the mines from the districts of Riyom, Bassa, Bukur, Jos and Barikin-Ladi. That is just one state out of many states in the country where host communities have had to live with the dangers posed by abandoned mines.”**



## Politics

# INEC begins PVC distribution December 12

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has fixed Monday 12 December 2022 to Sunday 22 January 2023 as the dates for the collection of the Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) in all the 774 local government offices of the commission across the country.

Festus Okoye, INEC National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee said this in a statement in Abuja recently.

"The Commission has fixed Monday 12 December 2022 to Sunday 22 January 2023 as the dates for the collection of PVCs in all the 774 local government offices of the commission throughout the Federation. "The commission also resolved to devolve PVC collection to the 8,809 registration areas/wards from Friday 6th to Sunday 15th January 2023," Okoye said.

He said that those that are unable to collect their PVCs at the local government offices of the commission can do so at the registration areas/electoral wards. He also said that after the 15th of January 2023, the exercise will revert to the local government offices of the commission until 22nd January 2023.

The commissioner urged all eligible and valid



**Okoye**

registrants to collect their PVCs from 9.00am to 3.00pm daily, including Saturdays and Sundays.

"All the RECs and Electoral Officers (EOs) have been directed to convene a meeting with critical stakeholders in their states and local government areas, including traditional and religious leaders, civil society groups, community-based organisations and the media to brief them on the modalities for the collection of the PVCs in order to sensitise the public and ensure a seamless exercise. "Similarly, RECs and EOs

have also been directed to set up help desks to assist registrants with complaints about their PVCs or with the PVC collection procedure for immediate redress," he said.

Okoye commended the patience and understanding of Nigerians, especially those who registered as voters or applied for transfer/replacement of their cards from January to July 2022.

He assured that in making the cards available for collection, the commission is also working to ensure that the process is simple and hitch-free for Nigerians.

UNIVERSITY don, Prof. Jeremiah Shola Omotola, has called on Nigerian legislators at the national and State Assemblies to always consider the nation first and remain focused on their cardinal mandate of Legislation, oversight and representation.

Prof. Omotola who is also of the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti made the call in a lecture organised for Federal University Lokoja PhD Course 1 Class at the end of their Academic Guided Tour in Lokoja.

The tour and lecture were part of the requirements of the Federal University Lokoja Postgraduate School and the Institute of Governance and Development Studies for the programme.

In the lecture titled: "Legislative Influencing in Nigeria: Significance, Issues, Challenges and Selected Cases", the lecturer described the Legislature as a strategic institution of governance with key roles.

He said that the Legislature remained the only organ of government vested with the powers of Legislation, oversight and representation in every democratic process but its effectiveness in Nigeria had been encumbered by a lot of challenges.

He identified some of the challenges militating against optimal and efficient performance of the Legislature to include overbearing and too strong executive, vested with veto power.

## Put Nigeria first in law making- Don

*From  
AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja*

Omotola queried the form, character and procedure of elections into legislative houses at all levels saying that in most cases, the Executive determine the contestants from the conduct of congresses and party primaries.

The Professor of Political Science said it was time the legislative institutions began to set agenda for policies formulation in the country through their legislations.

"Agenda setting is about what issues make it onto the policy agenda and which ones are neglected. And policy formulation concerns the development of new or the revision of existing policies", he said.

He urged the legislature as a body to look inwards and reflect on some of those things that have been hindering their effective performance, to proffer feasible solutions.

"Legislature is about representing your people, it is about making laws for

national development, it is about putting your best into the work to hold government institutions and players accountable.

"My appeal to them is that they should make those three or four responsibilities their primary focus. And of course, once they do that very well, other benefits will accrue to them.

"But first and foremost, they should see Nigeria first and push every other consideration to the background.

"Nigerians are asking for redistribution of resources in such a way that every segment of the society can benefit", he said.

Omotola decried the high premium placed on political offices and their holders, making the cost of governance high and struggle for elective and appointive offices a "do or die" thing.

"The thinking of some people out there is that there is too high premium placed on political offices and they are asking for effective performance with less emphasis on reward and money", he added.

## Lawmaker empowers constituents

SENATOR Barr. I. D. Gyang, the Senator representing Plateau North has empowered his constituents with post-harvest training for youths and women through the Federal College of Horticulture, Dadin Kowa, Gombe State and agricultural value chain training by the National Women Centre, Abuja. The two session twin trainings took place recently at the Elim Suits Rayfield, Jos.

This was contained in a statement by Precious K. Nyako, Special Assistant on

*From  
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja*

Media to the Senator.

The statement said that "this is the second batch of beneficiaries to partake in the training which aims to teach participants how to retain colour, texture, flavour, and nutrient value of crops as well as marketing skills for agro-produce."

A total of about 900 constituents have so far benefited from agro related trainings by the Senator.

Recall also that 2 months

ago, Artisanal Miners in Plateau North underwent training and Capacity Building by the National Institute of Mining and Geosciences, facilitated by Senator Gyang.

This is in addition to a long list of other empowerment programmes which include:

-Solar Energy training for about 400 constituents with start-up funds and tools.

-Training and skills acquisition in leather works for 30 youths.

-Water Pumps for irrigation farming, fertilizers and other farm inputs.

-Funds to support over 500 widows in petty trading. -etc.

Speaking at the event, Senator Gyang reaffirmed his commitment to delivering quality representation to his constituents till the very end of his stay in office.

He urged the beneficiaries to profitably deploy the financial empowerment and knowledge acquired.

Mrs. Fatima Sura and Mr. Ceaser Payi who spoke on behalf of the women and youths both eulogized the Senator for giving them the opportunity to partake in the training which they described as eye-opening and greatly inspiring. They also commended the resource persons for delivering quality knowledge on the subject matter.

The PDP Chairman of Plateau North, Hon. Davou Mang said Senator Gyang has distinguished himself creditably and delivered on the Plateau North mandate very effectively and successfully. He also urged the participants to put to good use the gains of the training and the financial empowerment.

## Peter Obi releases manifesto, lists seven priority areas

THE Labour Party has finally released its manifesto for the 2023 elections.

The party's presidential candidate for the general election, Peter Obi, released the long-awaited manifesto on Saturday.

It contained seven critical areas of priority to be delivered by Obi's administration if elected president in 2023.

The 62-page manifesto was titled: "Our Pact with Nigerians: Creating a New Nigeria."

Among the areas of focus listed in the document are a promise to secure Nigeria, end banditry and insurgency and unite the nation.

It also promised to manage the country's diversity such that no one is

left behind.

Others are to "shift emphasis from consumption to production by running a production-centred economy that is driven by an agrarian revolution and export-oriented industrialisation.

It said: "Restructure the polity through effective legal and institutional reforms to entrench the rule of law, aggressively fight corruption, reduce cost of governance, and establish an honest and efficient civil service.

"Leapfrog Nigeria into the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), through the application of scientific and technological innovations to create digital economy.

"Build expansive and

world-class infrastructure for efficient power supply, rail, road and air transportation, and pipeline network, through integrated public-private partnerships, and entrepreneurial public sector governance.

"Enhance the human capital of Nigerian youth for productivity and global competitiveness through investment in world-class scholarship and research, quality healthcare, and entrepreneurship education conduct an afro-centric diplomacy that protects the rights of Nigerian citizens abroad and advance the economic interests of Nigerians and Nigerian businesses in a changing world."



**Lawan**



**Gyang**



## Politics

# 2023: Violence, fake news top INEC's worries

A series of recent attacks on its facilities and the spate of fake news are major headaches facing the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) ahead of the 2023 general elections, which is about 80 days away.

Several INEC offices have been attacked in recent months, with many ballot boxes, voting cubicles, and Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs), among others destroyed.

Last week, its offices in Izzi Local Government Area (LGA) of Ebonyi State and Orlu LGA in Imo State were set ablaze.

"The persistent attacks on our facilities nationwide is a big source of concern; damage to physical infrastructure, election materials, and the threat to the safety and security of our personnel worry us a lot," Mahmood Yakubu, chairman of INEC, said on Friday at a strategic interactive meeting with line editors in Lagos.

In the last four months, five of the commission's LGA offices were attacked, comprising two in Enugu and one each in Ogun, Osun, and Ebonyi, he said.

He said: "And they don't appear to be isolated cases; apparently, they were targeted. In spite of the financial challenges that we are facing, we try as much as possible to renovate these LGA offices and we have 774 of them nationwide. So, the resources available may not be adequate for us to renovate all of them at a time.

"Now, we have assured Nigerians that we will keep replacing lost or damaged items but with less than three months to the election, we can't continue to replace those lost or damaged items, our ability to do so has a limit."

Yakubu appealed to the security agencies, community leaders, and all well-meaning Nigerians to join the commission, "so that we don't create the impression that saboteurs and arsonists can go scot-free in our country."

He also expressed concern over some campaign activities of political parties and their supporters, which he described as a bad omen.

"We have seen a lot of negative mobilisation and even violence," he said. "As at November 9, barely two months into the five-month campaign period, we tracked 52 incidents involving the use of abusive, inciting language; denial of access to public facilities to opposition parties for their campaigns; destruction of campaign materials; and even physical attacks resulting in fatalities.

Yakubu recalled saying at a recent emergency meeting with the security agencies that a peaceful campaign heralds a peaceful election.

"I am glad that immediately after the meeting, the inspector general of police invited the leaders of political parties, as agreed at the meeting, and addressed them. But we also agreed that beyond appealing to them to be of good behaviour, what is paramount is enforcement of the laws against violations," he said.

He said hate or incendiary speech or any form of violence must be seen to be apprehended and prosecuted as provided by law.

The INEC boss appealed to the media for their continued



**Yakubu**

cooperation and support to tackle the menace of misinformation, disinformation and fake news.

He said: "Often, the intention of the purveyors of such news is to impugn the credibility of the election management body or its officials or to delegitimise elections.

"The media has a big role to play. For our part, we will continue to be open and transparent; INEC does not believe in censorship. We have said consistently that the best antidote to fake news is greater openness and transparency."

Yakubu said there was an online report that quoted the chairman of

the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) as saying something at the meeting of resident electoral commissioners in Lagos on Thursday, even though the EFCC boss was neither at the event nor invited.

He also cited a news report that said a court of law ordered the commission to resume voter registration.

"So, we will continue to partner with you in countering this mischievous misinformation, disinformation, and fake news," he told the editors.

## House committee on information parleys MDAs

**By PAULINE DALLONG**

The Plateau State House of Assembly Committee on Information recently held a parley with all MDAs under its purview, in preparatory to the 2023 budget defense scheduled to commence next week.

Chairman of the committee who is also the House Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency, Hon. Naalong Gapyil Daniel said reshuffling in the House standing committees and change in leadership also necessitated the meeting.

He said, "it is very important for the committee to interact with MDAs in preparation for the budget defense, to familiarize with each other, know the challenges faced and for them to have a pre knowledge of what to expect during the exercise.

The state Ministry of Information and Communication, represented by the Permanent Secretary Mr. Sunday Davou Dung noted that the primary responsibility of the ministry was to inform the public on the activities of government, especially on the area of development which the present administration has made significant impact on.

Highlighting some of the achievements recorded so far, he disclosed that the ministry generated about 1.6m naira out of the 2m naira target for the year 2022 and is hoping to make up the remaining amount before the year ends.

He also revealed that for better performance in the coming year, the ministry has set up a tax team which has been able to

identify possible avenues of revenue generation, adding that it is also looking at collaborating with the state Board of Internal Revenue in that regard.

On his part, General Manager of the Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), publishers of the Nigeria and Sunday Standard newspapers, Dr. Boniface Gwotbit who enumerated some of the challenges faced, said the corporation has never had it this bad.

He attributed the poor performance being experienced to lack of funds, particularly the issue of non releases of approved funds which he said is crippling performances, adding that nothing can be achieved without funds.

The general manager outlined other challenges to include lack of manpower, stating that adhoc staff employed by the corporation



**Daniel**

THE Plateau State House of Assembly, has passed a Bill for a Law to Establish the Plateau State Erosion and Watershed Management Agency (PSEWMA).

The passage, followed a report of the House Committee on Environment and Solid Minerals, presented by the Committee Chairman. Hon Pirfa Tyem.

The house also at Tuesday's Plenary passed for second reading the 2023 appropriation Bill and subsequently committed the bill to house Committee on Appropriation for further inputs by the various house Committee.

Presenting an overview of the 2023 Appropriation bill, the house Majority leader. Hon Naanlong Daniel, noted that, base on the components and sectorial allocation, the budget when carefully implemented is going to be realistic.

Speaker presiding, Rt Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, urged the various house Committees to ensure strict and due process in their Legislative assignments.

Also at plenary. A Bill for a Law to Establish the Plateau State Performance Management Office, standing in the name of the house Majority leader Hon Naanlong Daniel, passed its first reading.

A motion of matter of Urgent Public Importance, was raised by member representing Bokkoss Constituency. Hon Amurudu Useini, calling on the State Ministry of Health to deploy health personnels to the Completed, Comprehensive Hospital, at Siken, Kulere Chiefdom.

## PLHA passes Bill to establish the PSEWMA

**By PAULINE DALLONG**

He noted that, since the completion of the health Facility, more than a year, by the Sustainable Development Goal, no active medical activities has taken place, as the people within the Communities are in dire need of Medical attention.

The house member noted that, members of the community have to track for more than 40 Kilometers to access health Care Services, couple with the poor road network, to the Local Government Headquarters, which he observed is on call for.

Amurudu, while appealing to the house to undertake an assessment visit to the

facility, equally urged the State Ministry of Health to deploy its Medical Personnels to man the hospital, adding that the facility has 12 Wards, Surgical Unit, an Ambulance and other Medical equipments.

Speaker of the house, Rt Hon Yakubu Yackson Sanda, while summing-up the resolution of members, mandated the house Committee on Health to investigate the matter, including other health facilities with similar challenges and report back to the house with their findings in two weeks time.

Meanwhile the house has adopted its house standing Committees, with some minor changes.



**Sanda**

Jephtha Jackden said revenue performance has declined greatly due to the present economic situation faced not only in the country but all over the world.

According to him, if broadcast equipment are not replaced from time to time, they become obsolete and out of use as is the case with the Shendam and Mangun booster stations, stating that if the challenges are met, things will be different.

Other MDAs present at the parley who presented their case include the State

Library Board and Plateau State Printing Press while other members of the committee present are Hons. Livinus James Kwapfuan and Mohammad Ballo representing Shendam and Qua'an Pan South constituency.

Chairman of the committee, Hon

Naalong Gapyil Daniel on behalf of other members assured MDAs that all the issues raised would be looked at and tabled before the state executive governor.

## INEC Plateau receives another batch of PVCs

**By EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

PLATEAU State Department of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has received another batch of the Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) amounting to over three hundred and sixty-two thousand, four hundred and sixty-five (362,465) for distribution soon.

The Plateau State Resident Commissioner of INEC, Dr. Oliver Tersoo Agundu, disclosed this Monday, while addressing Journalists at a press briefing organised by INEC at the INEC Secretariat in Jos.

He said, "let me at this juncture inform you that we have just taken delivery of another batch of PVCs totalling three hundred and sixty two thousand, four hundred and sixty five (362,365) of those that registered newly this year

as well as cases of transfers and replacement.

"As announced by the headquarters few days ago, there shall by nationwide commencement of PVC collection from Monday December 12 to Monday January 23, 2023 in all the headquarters of the 774 Local Government Areas across the country.

"The Commission has also announced that PVCs collections will be devoid to 8,809 Registrations Areas/Wards from Friday January 6 to Sunday 15, 2023. I hereby invite you once again to help us create more awareness in this regard especially here in Plateau State", he appealed.

The REC also disclosed that Plateau would receive the share of BVAS before the end of the week as the most critical component of the

electoral saying, "let me also bring to your notice that there is no going back on the use of BVAS for the 2023 general election.

"Candidates should not deceive themselves but concentrate their energy on campaigns within the provisions of the electoral act to canvass for votes, as everything will be transparent and in fairness to all parties. It is thus, from the foregoing, that I wish to draw your attention to the Electoral Act, which has also come to stay," Agundu advised.

Responding on behalf of Journalists on the Plateau, the State Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Mr. Paul Jatau, assured the REC of doing justice to report and called on the him to synergize with the Union by ensuring that journalists are protected during and after



## IMAGES

(Repeat)

### LALONG PRESENTS 2023 BUDGET

Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong (CON) recently presented the 2023 Appropriation budget to the Plateau State House of Assembly



Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong reading the 2023 budget at the PLHA



Plateau House of Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda delivering his speech after the Governor presented the budget



Hon. Philip Peter Dasun, member, representing, Pankshin North (left) and other honorable members listening to the Governor



One time Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Isa Chungwom Song (right) flanked by former Speakers listening with rapt attention



From left are, President Customary Court of Appeal, Justice Blessing Lyop Dalyop, APC Governorship candidate, Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe and APC State Chairman, Hon. Rufus Bature



Deputy Speaker, House of Reps, Rt. Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase (right) with Deputy Governor, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden, member, representing PKK, Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi and Grand khadi of Sharia Court of Appeal, Justice Umar Abdullahi Ibrahim



Minority Leader, PLHA, Hon. Peter Gyendyeng making comments



PLHA, Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong (right) in a handshake with the former, Deputy Speaker, now member, House of Reps, Rt. Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi

Photo: DANLADI DUK



Politics

# How drop in female candidates slows gender inclusion

***The alarming drop in the number of female candidates in Nigeria ahead of the 2023 general elections has become a source of concern to political stakeholders and observers. Experts say the situation is slowing down gender inclusion in Nigeria's politics, especially efforts to address the violence and patriarchy women experience in political parties over the years in Africa's biggest economy, IWOK INIOBONG writes.***

THIS situation, unfortunately, exists despite the fact that women constitute the bulk of the voting population in Nigeria.

Only one woman is listed by the INEC as a party candidate that will contest the presidential election in 2023, Chichi Ojei of the Allied People's Movement (APM).

In the 2019 general election, 47.14 percent (39,598,645 million), of the voting population were women and it was seen that women across all ages turned out enthusiastically to vote for their preferred candidates at all levels.

Ahead of next year's polls, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) recorded a higher number of female registrants compared to male after the completion of the one year exercise.

Although the number of women in elective positions in Nigeria has been on the steady decline in the last one and half decade, however, new figures released ahead of the 2023 polls, suggest that the situation has assumed an alarming proportion.

According to a new report by the United Nations Women Office in Nigeria released last week, only 10percent of candidates for the 2023 polls in Nigeria are women.

The global agency stated that only 1,553 of the total 15,307 candidates who would be participating in the 2023 general elections are women. The figure amounts to only 10.1 percent of the total figure. This is a little far cry from the 2019 general election, where only 13 percent (3,163) of candidates that vied for different positions were women.

In recent years, there has been a wave of optimism among some stakeholders that the situation would change this time around before going into the primaries for the 2023 polls.

The optimism came amid demands by women groups and feminist: in recent years; that women in Nigeria are subjected to inhuman treatment and not given enough space to contribute to national development.

They say that despite the invaluable contribution of women to Nigeria's electoral process the system has not given them their fair share of reward and recognition that they deserve.

Similarly, before the party primaries earlier in the year, there were agitations from women groups, top female politicians and civil society for a 40 percent quota system strictly for women across the 18 accredited political parties for the 2023 general elections.

They also demanded female inclusion urgently, and adoption of gender equality across all spheres in Nigeria.

The recently released data by the UN agency revealed that it was a pipe dream.

So, as gender issues and women's political and economic empowerment take centre stage on the global arena, Nigeria appears intent on maintaining its position at the bottom of the ladder of women's political empowerment.



Ojei

Alarmed by the low number of women elected into elective positions after the 2019 general election, The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) made some recommendations which it hoped would help bridge the gap, part of which has been done.

The recommendations included "Amendment of the Electoral Act to address gaps in the provisions for campaign financing, to strengthen mechanisms for campaign finance monitoring and compliance;

"Immediate publication of the report on 2019 general election campaign finance monitoring; and engagement with IPAC, party leaders and relevant stakeholders to promote inclusivity and popular participation especially for women, youth and people with disabilities."

Chiedo Nwankwor, expert on gender studies and identity politics in Africa, said that women recognise that political parties are often the strongest obstacle they face to gaining access to political power. They have, therefore, invested much energy and efforts into trying to get party leaders to give consideration and concessions to women in the processes and structures of party politics.

According to her, "For example, women members of the All Peoples Congress (APC) have expressed their displeasure and disappointment with the APC leadership's lack of gender-sensitivity.

Women were not given any concession in the cost of nomination forms, a whopping N45 million for presidential aspirants, N22.5 million for governorship aspirants, N7 million for Senate and N3 million for House of Representatives, effectively barring the majority of women from entering the contests.

"The PDP, on the other hand, conceded a 50 percent reduction in the cost of nomination form to women across the board".

UN Women Programme Manager in the country, Desmond Osemhenjie speaking on the report, noted that the current situation was worse when compared with the 3,163 female candidates that participated in the elections in 2019.

Figures released by the agency shows that only one female candidate is contesting for the position of president in next year's election, while there is no vice-presidential candidate from the 18 political parties.

For the governorship elections, the report noted that 25 of the 419 candidates are women, while 92 of 1,101 candidates for the senate elections are women, amounting to only eight percent.

"For the House of Representatives, 286 of 3,107 are women, while the State Houses of Assembly only

1,046 out of 10,225 candidates are women, amounting to 10 per cent of the total figure," the official said.

Meanwhile, the report further shows that Lagos State leads with the highest number of female candidates for the 2023 general election.

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) has 102 female candidates. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has 72 female candidates.

Osemhenjie predicted that there is the likelihood that Lagos will produce a greater number of female elected members in the 2023 elections.

The UN Country Representative in Nigeria, Beatrice Eyong, urged the media to support the women in their aspirations for leadership offices in the country.

He pointed out that the reality has shown that women are almost adequately being featured by the media houses, saying there cannot be sustainable development and peace without women sitting at the table.

"Statistics have shown that nations where women are relegated have had to pay for it with poor development indices including cases of malnutrition, among other challenges.

"If women don't sit at the table, we will never have sustainable development and sustainable peace. Therefore, we must be deliberate about our actions and efforts to empower women," Osemhenjie said.

Tope Musowo, public policy expert, lamented that despite a drastic shift in the patriarchal culture in some African countries, Nigeria was still lagging behind.

He stressed that with the current situation, Nigeria would lag behind in those things that women are passionate about; such as health, education etc.

According to him, "We are in a patriarchal society where women are only to be seen and not heard, unfortunately, this is still the truth about Nigeria society.

"Interestingly, the trend is changing in some African countries like Rwanda, Senegal and so on. Not to talk of the Scandinavian countries where the ratio of male representation and female representation in government are equal.

"But unfortunately, we are still

very far in Nigeria, the level of women participation in government is still abysmally low, it is of course a cultural and religious issue.

"The implication of this is that we will continue to rob our society of those things that women are passionate about. Women are passionate about education, health, and peace building. When you have a good number of women in the parliament, they will always push for bills relating to all these.

"Except we put into our governance gender quota backed with a legal framework, like Rwanda, we may not get there soon."

Kayode Kehinde, gender studies expert, said the implication of the current system is that men would continue to dominate the Nigerian political system with no improvement for an inclusive democracy in the next four years.

She noted that it was obvious that Nigeria is not ready to change the status quo.

According to Kehinde, "The implication for this abysmal outcome is that for the next four years we will continue to run a system of men dominating the Nigerian political system with no improvement for an inclusive democracy.

"This also implies that we will continue to have a setback to many important agendas that speak directly to women's and girls' welfare in Nigeria.

"The truth is if we keep up with this same system of doing things the same way, we cannot have a different result.

"Let us ask ourselves these honest questions, have there been changes to how political parties choose their flag bearers? Have we been able to push laws that champion women's equal representation (like the quota system, for example).

"Have we created enabling environments for women to contest for political offices, and to what extent have we improved on changing the misconception about electing women into political offices?

"If the answer to these questions remains a no, then we are indeed not ready as a country to increase women's political representation".

***"The truth is if we keep up with this same system of doing things the same way, we cannot have a different result. Let us ask ourselves these honest questions, have there been changes to how political parties choose their flag bearers? Have we been able to push laws that champion women's equal representation (like the quota system, for example). Have we created enabling environments for women to contest for political offices, and to what extent have we improved on changing the misconception about electing women into political offices? If the answer to these questions remains a no, then we are indeed not ready as a country to increase women's political representation".***



NEWS

CAS charges NAF on discipline

From  
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Oladayo Amao has charged personnel of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) to maintain high level of discipline, sustain regimentation and remain apolitical as the nation heads towards the 2023 General Elections.

The CAS stated this on 2 December 2022 during a retreat with Air Warrant Officers (AWOs) and Regimental Sergeant Majors (RSMs) of all NAF Units including tri-service institutions held at the Headquarters, NAF Abuja.

In his remarks, the CAS stated that the meeting was aimed at enabling the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers have robust and frank discussion with the highest echelon of the service on issues affecting the service for enhanced operational efficiency. Speaking further, the CAS stated that the NAF has recorded significant successes in the fight against insurgency and terrorism in various theatres of operation across the country, which he attributed to the sacrifices of personnel at the front lines and the commitment of the Federal Government in equipping the service.

While reminding them of their role as the link between the officers' cadre and other ranks, Air Marshal Amao stated that the NAF is expecting delivery of additional platforms to complement existing ones which he said would improve the capability of the service in the ongoing counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations.

He enjoined them to continue to provide necessary feedback to their various Commanders with a view to enhancing policy implementation as well as consolidating on the advancement of the service. On cases of indiscipline occasioned by Absent without Leave (AWOL) and desertions, the CAS told the AWOs and RSMs to caution their personnel to follow the laid down rules and regulations as regards separation from service as specified in the Terms and Conditions of Service (TACOS). While maintaining that the NAF would not deny any personnel his or her right to separation as long as it is in accordance with the TACOS. It, it will also not hesitate to take appropriate disciplinary measures against such personnel no matter how long it takes.

On the upcoming 2023 general elections, the CAS charged personnel to remain apolitical while noting that in as much as it remains their inalienable rights to vote for whosoever they choose, they should not be seen to be directly engaged or involved



Amao

in any form of political campaigns or activities.

On welfare of personnel, the CAS assured them that the NAF would not relent in ensuring that all personnel are properly accommodated, medically attended to and provided with needed resources to do their jobs effectively while their various entitlements would continue to be given to them as at when due.

The meeting, which had

about 9 AWOs and 120 RSMs in attendance, afforded the attendees the opportunity to brief the CAS on their activities and the challenges in their various Commands and Units. During the interactive session, they also had the opportunity of asking questions, making useful contributions and comments on how to move the Service forward to perform its constitutional role of defending the territorial integrity of the country.

Naval headquarters frowns at news report

From  
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

THE attention of the Naval Headquarters, Abuja has been drawn to a publication in a national daily of 4 December 2022 with the heading, 'NNPC Not Sincere about Oil Theft, Exaggerating Figures-Navy'.

The said statement that was signed by AO Ayo-Vaughan Commodore Director of Information was purportedly made at an interactive hearing before the Senate Committee on Economic

and Financial Crimes during which the relevant agencies implementing the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and management) Act, 2022 briefed the committee at the National Assembly.

The report indicated that the chairman of the committee, demanded explanations on why the country continued to experience cases of oil theft if the waterways were secured.

The statement stated that the distinguished Senator had queried that, "the oil theft issue has been a very



Amosun

From  
AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Security Trust Fund, has donated several motorcycles to the local hunters group as part of government's effort to ensure safer environment in the state.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony on Saturday in Lokoja, the Chairman of the Trust Fund, Mr Samari Teina Abdulmalik, said the procurement is aimed to boost security in the state. According to him, the motorcycles would assist unconventional security outfits such as local hunters to conduct surveillance and intelligence gathering that would facilitate the work of security agencies in the state.

Abdulmalik added that the motorcycles were tailored towards assisting members of the hunters group reach difficult terrains.

He commended the leadership of the vigilante groups for their sacrifices, commitment and support to the security agencies in the state.

The security trust fund boss called for sustained collaboration and synergy among stakeholders in the security sector for optimal services delivery.

He stressed that the

Trust fund provides motorcycles to hunters



Alkali

initiative would also help the hunters to reach out to security agencies for support whenever the need arises.

He, therefore tasked the local hunters and other related agencies to use the opportunity to enhance collaboration with security agencies at the grassroots and community levels.

Abdulmalik also cautioned unconventional security outfits in the state to ensure that their operational conduct is guided by security agencies in the state at all times.

The chairman urged the beneficiaries to put the bikes to good use.

Abdulmalik called on corporate bodies and public-spirited individuals to team up with the security fund to procure more equipment for security agencies in the overall interest of the people

He commended Governor Yahaya Bello for the sustained support, saying that it would go a long way in preventing crimes and enhancing security as well as safety of residents.

to steal and move 100,000 barrels per day out of the creeks. The Navy representative at the Senate hearing repeatedly mentioned that the Navy is not indicting the NNPC in any way and has been working with the National Oil Giant to curb the menace of crude oil theft since the 1 April 2022 when Operation DAKATAR DA BARAWO (OPDDB) was launched in Onne, Rivers State as a mutual effort and synergy between the Navy and NNPC to address issues of crude oil theft, rampant illegal artisan refineries and illegal oil bunkering amongst other criminalities in the creeks.

The statement further explained that at the strategic level, almost daily and regular consultations, engagements and meetings hold between the Navy and NNPC to review the situation, appraise the approach to curb the menace and proffer ways forward. Pertinently, to attempt to imply otherwise will be a gross misrepresentation of the cordial and mutual working relationship between the 2 organizations.

The said allegation of insincerity and exaggeration by NNPC as captured by the journalist of the Daily is not therefore a fair wording of the actual discourse that transpired because what was said and

what was meant was inaccurately captured particularly in the wording of the heading of the report. Again, for the avoidance of doubt, the Nigerian Navy under the able leadership of Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo CFR has been and will continue to work with NNPC to fashion out solutions and remedies to the challenges in Nigeria's Maritime Environment as concerning the Oil Industry for the overall good of Nigeria and indeed for all well-meaning Nigerians.

Foremost of these mutual efforts is the planned return of the 'Fiscalisation' process, which was stopped in the late 1980s, whereby personnel of the Navy as at then, will now again be present at offshore oil terminals/platform to physically sight the meter loading at the point of loading of crude oil to tanker at sea.

The first set of naval personnel to soon commence this task were sponsored by NNPC and trained in the UAE and at Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State. There is thus a harmonious working relationship between the NN and NNPC.

The general public is thus requested to disregard the misrepresented report.



News

# FG designates Bauchi as Centre of Excellence

From  
**ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

FOLLOWING the discovery of oil in Bauchi and Gombe States, the Minister of State for Science, Technology and Innovation, Chief Henry Ikechukwu, has announced that the Federal Government has stationed Bauchi, as the North East Centre of Excellence, as the Oil and Gas Institute already situated in Alkaleri LGA of the state would commence operations early next year.

The minister gave the breaking news recently when he paid a courtesy visit to the state Governor Bala Mohammed at the Government House Bauchi, during a two-day dialogue on the implementation of Presidential Order Number 5, where he explained that the dialogue held with government and private sector is aimed at training the youths to make the Boko Haram issue a thing of the past.

"His Excellency, Mr. President has taken the bull by the horn by even going further to begin to think how the oil discovered in Bauchi and Gombe will be more beneficial. We have a College of Oil and Gas now in Alkaleri. Federal Government is going to support the state by making sure the Centre of Excellence that is in the North East will be situated in Bauchi particularly", he said.

Chief Henry Ikechukwu noted with concern that most of the jobs Nigerian middle class are supposed to be doing are being done by foreigners, particularly in the oil and gas sector, attributable to non-certification, a serious situation that has been creating multi-dimensional problems all over the country.

Ikechukwu who noted that Nigerian youths are losing confidence in its leadership, stressed the need for the Federal Government to be working in synergy with the state and local governments in bringing succor to the youths by training them on means of livelihood.

"Besides Executive Order Number 5 which we are going to certify the welder, we are going to bring Innoson Motors, which is an indigenous motor company production to Bauchi to train the youths, at least 100 per year in making sure that what the country is today producing locally we are able to service it".

Ikechukwu added, "I'm not too old as a minister, but we are looking for low hanging fruit which we must run with to leave a legacy. You don't need to be a minister for 100 years before you do something. In this our administration, as a Minister of State, Science, Technology and Innovation, there must be some hanging fruits I'm going to leave behind in Bauchi State".

In his reaction, Governor Bala Mohammed described the decision as a Nigerian



**Ikechukwu**

patriot who was burning with a passion to work for the country. He described him as articulated and accomplished man ready to defy all stumbling blocks to make sure he leaves legacies and landmarks.

The Governor while noting that Sir Henry Ikechukwu is one of those persons Nigeria needs, said Executive Order 5 is one of the best things President Buhari has done for Nigeria to make sure Nigerians look inward and ensure that projects and contracts at federal and state levels are given local content attention where the youths and citizens generally would find ways and means of livelihood.

Senator Bala Mohammed expressed optimism that the dialogue would be useful in repositioning the zone and Bauchi in particular to put it in a position to maximally benefit from what the Federal Government is doing, saying "There can't be local contents

without skills acquisition and that's why the state is establishing the Alkaleri Oil and Gas Skills Acquisition Centre".

To this end, he said, the state is getting a lot of support from the Federal Government and other big-timers with a campus already established for it in one of the polytechnics in Bauchi, and curricula and everything all out with the first engagement to be made before this year runs out, so that training would commence in welding, machinery and all the required skills areas to put the youths on right tracks.

He therefore called on his colleagues in the Northeast geopolitical zone through the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to partner with the company in terms of humanitarian crisis, insecurity, infrastructural gaps, to assist in the implementation and institutionalization of the ministry's vision.

## Karu Chairman moves to woo investors

From  
**DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

IN his quest to woo investors and extend his bilateral partnership between Karu LGA, and international organizations, the Executive Chairman of Karu Local Government Council, Hon James Thomas, has met with the Country Director of Republic of Qatar, Mr Hamdi at the Qatar Embassy in Abuja.

He said " I have come to appreciate your support to Karu LGA and also to foster cordial relationship between Karu Local Government Council and the good people of

Qatar.

We will be glad if you could render the needed support to our Internally Displaced Persons ( IDPs ) camp situated in Karu where many people from different places in Nigeria are situated, and people leaving with disabilities need the support of foreign organizations to survive. Government alone cannot afford to satisfy all their needs.

We seek for a Collaborative partnership with you in the areas of farming and Industrial training to create job opportunities for our teaming youth," he noted.



**Thomas**



## Turning Nigeria's killing fields into agric hubs

The North Eastern part of the country has since the return to democracy not known peace and had become the killing fields of the country. Insurgency and religious bigotry had manifested themselves to the extent that citizens became targets and had to leave the area in droves. This led to the destruction of a once fertile and agricultural region making it dependent on other areas for its food supply. Lately, however, government forces have been able to turn the tide around and have forced the insurgents not only to flee but surrender and change their ways. How government has mustered

its way to ensure victory in a hitherto hopeless situation is not only commendable but worthy of praise. It shows that having the determination to deal with a situation is as important as having the wherewithal to engage not only the insurgents but giving government's security agencies the will and encouragement to fight on behalf of the rest of the citizenry. Now that the tides are changing, government needs to quickly refocus and begin to develop infrastructure that would support the redevelopment of the region. This is because of the serious harm and destruction that the insurgency did to the infrastructure of the region. For instance, road infrastructure in that region was greatly destroyed and if not fixed cannot support growth and development. As a start point too, those who left the region for dear life must be encouraged to return as a morale booster for others. Government must do everything in its power to ensure that religious bigotry and other forms of fundamentalism are curbed to the barest minimum. And, that anyone who flouts the right of anyone to practice his or her faith is not allowed to go scot-free.

It would mean too that apart from rebuilding confidence, railway lines that would convey goods and services to the area must be rebuilt. The outmoded rail lines that cannot carry modern carriages should be quickly replaced and more modern rail infrastructure built. This would allow for faster trains to ply the region and deliver goods and services in very short time. But just like other regions of the country, infrastructural development must be given new fillip. There is nowhere you go in this country that the infrastructure is not yearning for attention. Roads in all parts of the country where they exist are nightmares. Travel times are increased because the roads are basically non-existent. To make matters worse, hoodlums have taken advantage of the bad nature of the roads to perpetuate all manner of crimes and criminality. The excuse for turning to this way of life is often pointed at our leaders who steal from the public till to feather their lifestyles. Until something is done to change this narrative, a majority of the population will continue to suffer and crimes would continue to be perpetrated in even more dangerous dimensions than what is currently being experienced.

“**It would mean too that apart from rebuilding confidence, railway lines that would convey goods and services to the area must be rebuilt. The outmoded rail lines that cannot carry modern carriages should be quickly replaced and more modern rail infrastructure built. This would allow for faster trains to ply the region and deliver goods and services in very short time.**”

On the whole, therefore, government's approach to infrastructural development must change. Deliberate measures must be put in place to ensure not only the maintenance of these infrastructure but means must be sought to ensure their expansion and growth. This would mean too that the citizenry will have an important role to play in ensuring that foresighted and the right people are engaged to run the machinery of state not the present contraption where governance has become an all-comers affair. Mentoring and deliberate grooming of leaders must be done in such a manner that leadership would be seen within the prism of service and not what is obtainable in our society at the moment.

In the past, agriculture and agribusiness used to form the major stay of our economy. The regions used to compete amongst themselves and grow not only what they eat but also what they export. With the discovery of oil however, agriculture was jettisoned and the black gold became the mainstay of the economy. With the recent move away from fossils and the adoption of green and efficient alternatives plus the application of artificial intelligence, Nigeria seem not have a choice but to go back to the drawing board and reinvent itself.

We must do everything possible to ensure agriculture and agric-business becomes the centrifugal propellant to drive our economy and lead in changing the complexion of our country. With determination, drive and focus, this and more can be achieved. As a matter of fact, there already exists models that our leaders can copy and learn from and bring out something that is unique and can work for us as a country. If we are able to turn our agriculture around, we are likely to begin to get our vibes back and act like the true giant we should be on the African continent.



## News

# Airtel, UNICEF to promote digital learning in schools

From DOSRCAS PANKYES, Abuja

AIRTEL has announced that it has joined hands with UNICEF under the Reimagine Education Initiative and will be connecting 620 primary schools in Nigeria to digital learning in the coming three months.

According to a statement by UNICEF recently yesterday in Abuja, the partnership is expected to benefit 300,000 students across the country with access to the internet and devices.

The statement stated that in the first year of the five-year partnership, Airtel and UNICEF will provide all the resources for digital learning to the 620 identified schools including reliable broadband connectivity and free access to a world class curriculum through the Nigeria Learning Passport (NLP).

NLP, developed by the Federal Ministry of Education, UNICEF, and Microsoft, is an e-learning platform with online and offline capability that enables continuous access to quality education. Airtel's support will benefit students with uninterrupted access to quality learning materials. Airtel is also providing free access for any Airtel subscriber to Youth Agency Market Place (YOMA), a UNICEF digital platform for skilling, upskilling and encouraging young people's engagement. Currently, YOMA has 115,000 users in Nigeria. This number is expected to grow with Airtel support, especially for young people living in hard-to-reach areas with no or low access to data or connectivity.

In an MoU signing ceremony to flag-off the initiative today in Lagos, Airtel said it has completed the process of providing free access to the two digital platforms for the targeted beneficiaries. Airtel has committed US\$1.3m worth of complimentary data for the two platforms and data provision for learners in the first year alone.

Twenty schools in Lagos and Kano will be connected in December 2022, while the connection of the remaining 600 schools will be concluded before the end of February 2023.

Speaking at the launch, the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Airtel in Nigeria, Surendran Chemmenkotil, said, "Education, especially digital learning, forms a significant part of the company's sustainability agenda for Nigeria and it will stop at nothing to bridge the huge digital gap that currently exists in mostly rural primary schools across the country".

"With this programme and partnership, we are providing both world class education and digital inclusion for thousands of underprivileged children and our goal is to connect, empower and



Surendran

transform as many children and young people as possible. Education is power, and connectivity provides the leverage to become unstoppable. At Airtel, we are confident that this investment will not just transform lives but will create a wonderful future for millions of Nigerian children and young people," he said.

The UNICEF's Country Representative in Nigeria, Cristian Munduate said, "This is an important milestone and a step closer in reducing the digital divide in Nigeria. Quality digital learning is the fastest route to improving learning and equipping children and young people with the 21st century skills needed to fulfil their potential

and to live their dreams. We are delighted that Airtel Nigeria shares UNICEF's vision and will help in driving the process to scale-up access to digital learning for children and young people across these schools."

The Re-imagine education project is a five-year partnership between Airtel and UNICEF to help accelerate the roll-out of digital learning by connecting schools to the internet and ensuring free access to learning platforms across 13 countries. By providing equal access to quality digital learning, particularly for the most vulnerable children, the partnership will help to ensure that every child reaches his/her full potential.

## N1.4b Fraud: EFCC arraigns Assembly candidate, 2 others

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Monday arraigned Kogi State House of Assembly candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) for Ankpa II Constituency, Ismaila Yusuf Atumeyi, Ngene Joshua Dominic and Abdulmalik Salau before the Federal High Court, Lagos in connection with an alleged N1,403,343,400.00 hacking fraud.

The EFCC, through its counsel, Mr. Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, preferred an 18-count charge bordering on concealment of proceeds of fraud, money laundering and cybercrime against the defendants before Justice Tijjani Ringim.

Oyedepo told the court in a charge numbered FHC/L/651C/2022, that the defendants committed the alleged offences between August and October, 2022 in Lagos

He said they conspired to "directly conceal" the N1.4billion in the account of Fav Oil and Gas Limited, "which sum you reasonably ought to have known forms part of the proceeds of your unlawful activity and you thereby committed an offence contrary to sections 18 (a), 15 (2) (a) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011 as amended and punishable

under section 15 (3) of the same Act.

The defendants were accused of laundering the sum in tranches of N100million, \$480,000, N12.5million, N7million, N9million, N7m, N12m, N8m, \$140,000 and N326,400,000.

Specifically, they were alleged to have acquired a N12.5m black Mercedes Benz C300, N7m BMW 3



Bawa

# Lalong tasks church leaders on politics

By DUMAH RANDONG

fight undesirable elements within who wanted to thwart the unity in the Church noting that the task of taking the gospel to the unreached could only be achieved a united and one body christ.

According to him, those who still believe in glocalistic ideology embedded in tribalism, selfishness, greed and egocentrism should be considered as a fresh field of evangelism within the Church as these sectional interests were cancerous to the Christian faith.

The COCIN President who spoke on national issues bothering on security and the church, expressed disappointment over the failure of the Government to protect

its citizens even as he said recent attacks in Bokkos which resulted in the dead of many people and properties without a single wrestleaves much to be desired.

He advised Christians to defend themselves within the provision of the law while also urging them to be prayerful and watchful.

Mozho said the church in this season of politics and election plays a vital role and called on denominational leaders, national and state Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN to be careful and listen to God clearly and emphatically by doing what desires as individual Christian and Iell as church denomination so the tragedies that have befallen the church in Nigeria in recent times doesn't repeat itself.

On evangelism and mission



Lalong

which was the core task of the church, the COCIN President said all hands must be on deck to ensure that the mandate given by God was fully adhered to.

He frowned at the rivalries between Pastors especially in Pieteritzburg and Mpumalanga, South Africa Mission Fields while in Malawi and Uganda, there was a steady growth adding that in the United Kingdom, there was a need for the church to serve on the Diaspora Mobilisation which will deepen its involvement with pioneers and open more doors for synergy.

He disclosed that efforts have reached advanced stages begin academic activities at Karl Kumm University second campus Gindiri starting with the Faculty of Science and Computing next year.

Also on fraudulent transaction carried out by some FCMB staff on gratuity account belonging to the church to the tune of 57169557.25million, Mozho said were able to recover through the efforts of police, EFCC and Court.

In their Goodwill messages, the Agwom Izere, Rev Isaac Wakili and the Attah Atten of Ganawuri, Yakubu Chaimang commended the Church for its vision and evangelism.

The Royal fathers advised the government to be proactive in protecting citizens and consoles the church for the Lost of members who died as a result of insecurity as well as the need to be cautious in issuing Certificate of Occupancy to people with questionable character.

Series, N9million Black Range Rover, N7m Toyota Hilux 2014 upgraded to 2021, N12m Black BMW SURXI 2016 and N8m White Toyota Hilux 2010 and N10million White Toyota Hilux.

The court also heard that they allegedly directly transferred N80million to Frank Maya Integrated Ventures, acquired a property known as No.8, Grace Crescent, EFAB Queens Estate, Gwarimpa, Abuja, concealed \$140,000 and N326,400,000 in a Black Escalade SUV. Oyedepo, who prayed for accelerated hearing of the case, said the anti-graft agency intends to call 6 witnesses against the defendants. Each defendant pleaded not guilty.

After taking bail applications by their counsel, Mr. Bolaji Ayorinde, SAN, and counter arguments by Oyedepo, Justice Ringim adjourned till Tuesday for ruling.



## Feature

### Challenges of sustainable conservation of historical Museum building

**Museum of Traditional Nigeria architecture (MOTNA) is located in National Museum Jos, with life size replicas of variety of traditional and historical buildings, well represented from each geographical zone of Nigeria. MOTNA is an eco-museum and is a miniature map of Nigeria which using beautiful scenario as each building was constructed to show case the rich Nigeria architecture. Write ALUFOHAI SAMUEL EGERUAN, SUNDAY ADAH EBEKWU.**



MOTNA is an open-air museum which foundation was laid in 1972 on a 64 acres of land allocated for the construction of 48 ethnic structure of monument and historical buildings which are to be replicated, showing the different traditional architectural building from different geo-political zone in Nigeria. MOTNA which is possibly one of its kind in black Africa is aimed to preserve the diverse traditional Nigeria architecture. MOTNA has to its credit the exact replicas of variety of building from Kastina Emir's Palace, Kano City wall and gate, Zaria Friday Mosque, Ilorin Mosque, Tiv compound and Rukuba compound among others which are constructed in MOTNA.

These historical buildings are designed and supervised by chief architect Zbigniere Dmochowski. MOTNA which houses historical buildings across Nigeria geo-political zone which has undergone server deterioration due to its response to climate, local and modern technology and socioeconomic milieu, as its face serious conservation problem.

The level of deterioration of historical buildings in MOTNA is in a bad conservation state and urgent intervention is needed to salvage the situation. Historical buildings like Kano City Wall and

gate, Kastina Emir's Palace, Zaria Friday mosque have almost collapsed, dilapidated and in bad condition, though other buildings such as Ilorin mosque, Tiv Compound, Mbari compound etc. are in fair conservation state. With all these aforementioned challenges, there is need for sustainable conservation for these historic buildings to remain relevant.

Conservation means to keep in safety or preserving state of a heritage (resource) from destruction or change, that is the action taken to prevent decay and to prolong life. The general concept of conservation implies various types of treatments aimed at safeguarding buildings, site or monuments, artifacts and other cultural resources whether directly on the object or acting around it. These include maintenance, repair, consolidation, reinforcement etc.

The primary aim of conservation is to preserve the authenticity (originality) and integrity of the cultural heritage. The International Council of Museum (ICOM) defines conservation as all the measure and action aimed at safeguarding tangible cultural heritage which will be ensuring access to preservation for future generation. While Sustainable is

described as efficiency with a conscience. A key aspect of sustainability is the ability to use limited resources to achieve maximum possible impact. it means that as we use our resources, we must be conscious that we do not produce any permanent damage to the environment.

Koster and Baumon define sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future to meet their own need. This means that as we use resources, we must have future in mind.

Conservation practice for sustainable management of heritage resources requires a more comprehensive approach which includes strengthening the organization with technical capabilities from the communities as well as engendering support for sustainable resources management. Since sustainable resource development provides for the preservation of existing resource. It also provides the active protection of historical buildings and its sustainable management.

Despite the challenges facing the conservation of MOTNA and its current level of deterioration the dream and purpose of the open air museum can still be realized if

suitable sustainable conservation approach is adopted.

The challenges posed to it by both the environmental and climate factors can be overcome with the approach of community collaboration and a well-designed conservation management plan for the holistic restoration and preservation of the various historical buildings in MOTNA so that it can retain its cultural relevance and values to the society. It is important to note that conservation survey is also a very good strategic approach for sustainable conservation of traditional buildings in MOTNA.

Conservation survey which is a systematic inspection and evaluation of a museum collections and the wider environment in which the object exist deals with through checking of the surrounding of the object before treatment. Presently in MOTNA, the surface and the general portions of the traditional buildings have deteriorated at a very high speed virtually all the building have exhibited a high level of degradation. However, proper and strategic sustainable conservation interventions must be embarked upon to safeguard MOTNA from Intruders and all other factors posing great threats on the historical buildings. When

these heritage proprieties are properly conserved it will be of great benefits to the future generation. Another dimension of sustainability is that everybody in the society should benefits from whatever program that is been planned. This mean that for sustainable conservation of traditional buildings in MOTNA there must be a sustainable plan to put together the potentials in MOTNA when trying to conserve the historical buildings. This will have implied that a proper conservation is necessary so that the historical buildings in MOTNA can serve it purpose.

Sustainable conservation, show that any positive way in which sustainable development is achieved that will yield a lasting cooperation among organization / communities, in order to achieve sustainable development every organization /communities has a duty to integrate different ideas in the conservation of historical buildings so as to portray the local builders' expertise, aesthetic, historic and religious value among others. Despite series of pervious intervention effort by museum of traditional Nigeria architecture (MOTNA).

For sustainable conservation of traditional buildings in MOTNA there must be a deliberate effort of encourage participation and collaboration in it activities for its conservation. Therefore, there is the need for urgent intervention to safeguard MOTNA from total collapse and deterioration, hence an advocacy for sustainable conservation approach such as community collaboration and the designing of sustainable conservation management plan, for this will inculcates inclusive construction approach such as collaboration to sustain these cultural heritages from total decay and deterioration.

To maximize the approach for sustainable conservation of the historical buildings in MOTNA, there must be a deliberate collaboration effort between the communities who are the owners of the historical buildings present in MOTNA, there is the need to involve the communists both in the concept and approach of maintaining the participation in the decision making process and in the evaluation, monitoring and management of the historic buildings, these is crucial, because this inclusiveness will bring about good conservation ethics where the people understand the need for the preservation of their historical buildings for posterity and also there communities must be passionate about their heritage resources, so that they can interpret and understand better the meaning and relevance of the historical buildings than anyone else.

**Egeruan is of Institute of Archaeology and Museum Studies, Jos. Ebekwu is of Centre for Earth Construction Technology; National Museum Jos.**



## Foreign News

### Ukraine: Russian missile force power shutdowns

UKRAINE is switching to emergency shutdowns to stabilise its power grid after Monday's Russian missile attacks, President Volodymyr Zelensky has said.

He said many regions were affected, and the local authorities warned that about half of the Kyiv region would remain without electricity in the coming days.

Overnight, more missiles hit critical infrastructure and residential houses near the southern city of Zaporizhzhia, regional officials said.

No casualties were reported. Four people were killed in Monday's attacks.

Ukraine's energy minister said he hoped to significantly reduce the power deficit caused by the latest strikes by Tuesday evening, bringing nuclear power stations back onto the grid.

The country is now seeing snow and sub-zero temperatures in many regions, and millions are without electricity and running water. There are fears that a number of people may die of hypothermia.

In a separate development on Tuesday, the governor of Russia's Kursk region said a drone attack on an airfield set an oil storage tank alight.

There were no casualties, said Roman Starovoyt, but two local schools were closed for the day. He did not say who could be behind the attack in the region that borders Ukraine.

The Russian defence ministry, meanwhile, said it hit all 17 of its intended targets during its "massive strike using high-precision weapons".

Mr Zelensky said "the biggest number of shutdowns is in Vinnytsia, Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Khmelnytskyi and Cherkasy regions", referring to the regions spanning the length and breadth of the country.

The assault eventually arrived just hours after a series of explosions at two military airfields deep inside Russia, which Moscow blamed on Ukrainian drones intercepted by Russian air-defences.

Three servicemen were killed and two aircraft were lightly damaged at the airfields in the Ryazan and Saratov region, the Russian



Zelensky

defence ministry said. Ukraine has not publicly commented on the issue.

The two airfields - hundreds of kilometres from Ukraine's border - house Russian strategic bombers that have been used to carry out missile attacks since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began on 24 February.

President Vladimir Putin chaired a meeting of Russia's Security Council on Tuesday - a meeting that usually

happens on Fridays.

State TV showed a clip from his opening remarks, in which the Kremlin leader said the

A court in Chad has handed out jail terms of between two and three years to more than 260 people arrested after anti-government protests in October, while defence lawyers have argued that the trial was "illegal".

A total of 401 people were put on mass trial in Koro Toro prison, a high-security jail located in the desert 600km (375 miles) from the capital N'Djamena last week.

Speaking at a news conference on Monday, public prosecutor Moussa Wade Djibrine said that 262 people were given jail sentences, 80 were given suspended terms and 59 were acquitted.

The trial ended on Friday after four days, with only state TV having the right to provide coverage, and the sentences were announced on Monday after the prosecutor returned to the capital.

The defendants were charged with taking part in an unauthorised gathering, destroying belongings, arson and disturbing public order.

Approximately 50 people, including 10 members of the security forces, died when police opened fire on demonstrators in N'Djamena and several other cities on October 20, according to an official toll.

But opposition groups say the real count was much higher, and allege unarmed civilians were subject to a mass killing.

Local and international NGOs, the European Union and the African Union condemned the bloody crackdown and the use of violence against civilians.

Chadian lawyers boycotted the proceedings on the grounds of the "illegal" transfer far from the public gaze for the trial. Many stopped working during and after the trial, with the Chad Bar Association calling it a "parody of justice" as the defendants were "kidnapped" and

### Chad jails protesters



Mahamat

"deported" to Koro Toro.

The bar said it would appeal the court's decision.

The protests had been called to mark the date when Chad's ruling military had initially promised to cede power - a timeline that has now been extended by two years.

Strongman General Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno accused the demonstrators of "insurrection" and attempting to stage a coup.

Deby, aged 38, took power when his father, Idriss Deby Itno, who had ruled the arid Sahel state for 30 years, died during an operation against rebels in April 2021.

The authorities had previously said that 601 people, including 83 minors, were arrested in the N'Djamena area alone and taken to Koro Toro.

About 80 minors held there have been taken back to N'Djamena, where they will remain in a prison before appearing in a special juvenile court, the prosecutor said.

### Indonesia bans extra-marital sex, restrict political freedom

INDONESIA'S parliament has approved a new criminal code that bans anyone in the country from having extramarital sex and restricts political freedoms.

Sex outside marriage will carry a jail term of up to a year under the new laws, which take effect in three years.

The raft of changes come after a rise in religious conservatism in the Muslim-majority country.

Critics see the laws as a "disaster" for human rights, and a potential blow to tourism and investment.

Several groups of mainly young people protested against the

legislation outside parliament in Jakarta this week. It's expected the new laws will be challenged in court.

They apply equally to locals and to foreigners living in Indonesia, or visiting holiday destinations such as Bali. Under the laws unmarried couples caught having sex can be jailed for up to a year.

They are also banned from living together - an act for which people could be jailed for up to six months. Adultery will also be an offence for which people can be jailed.

Ajeng, a 28-year-old Muslim woman living in the West Java city of Depok, said she was now at risk for living with her partner for the past five years.

She said she had joined the nationwide protests in 2019 when the law had first been broached. She took the sign: "For the right to cuddle, I took to the streets."

However on Tuesday, parliament unanimously approved the new code of over 600 articles.

Rights groups say the new provisions disproportionately affect women, LGBT people and ethnic minorities.

Many businesses had also been opposed to the legislation, saying it discouraged visitors and investment. But lawmakers have celebrated overhauling laws dating back to Dutch colonial rule.

The new legislation contains scores of new clauses criminalising immorality and blasphemy and restricting political and religious expression.

The group's Jakarta-based researcher, Andreas Harsano, said there were millions of couples in Indonesia without marriage certificates "especially among Indigenous peoples or Muslims in rural areas" who had married in specific religious ceremonies.

He added that research from Gulf states, where there are similar laws governing sex and relationships, showed women were punished and targeted by such morality laws more than men.

There are now also six blasphemy laws in the code, including apostasy - renouncing a religion. For the first time since its independence, Indonesia will make it illegal to persuade someone to be a non-believer.

New defamation articles also make it illegal for people to insult the president or criticise state ideology.

However legislators said they had added defences for free speech and protests made in the "public interest".

Indonesia is not a secular state. Atheism is unacceptable - technically you need to follow one of six prescribed religions. So it is a multi-religious state with an official ideology, Pancasila, which prioritises no faith over any other. That was Indonesia's post-independence leader Sukarno's idea, to discourage large parts of the archipelago where Muslims are not a majority from breaking away.

But since the fall of his successor Suharto - who ruthlessly suppressed political Islamic groups.

Current leader Joko Widodo is from the syncretic Javanese tradition that adheres to a more flexible form of Islam, but his main preoccupation is his legacy of economic development rather than tolerance and liberal values. He has shown, for example in the jailing of former Jakarta governor Ahok on blasphemy charges, that he's willing to give headline Muslims some of what they want.

By the time the new code comes into effect, Jokowi will have left office at the end of his second term.

Since Indonesia's democratic transition in 1998, strict religion-based laws on sex and relationships have been introduced in some parts of the country of 267 million people.

The province of Aceh already enforces strict Islamic law and has punished people for gambling, drinking alcohol and meeting members of the opposite sex.

Many Islamic civil groups in Indonesia have been pushing for more influence in shaping public policy in recent years.

A previous draft of the code was set to be passed in 2019 but sparked nationwide protests with tens of thousands taking part in demonstrations.

Many, including students, took to the streets and there were clashes with police in Jakarta.

Ajeng said many Indonesians who were not affected by the law had also protested in 2019 because "people don't want their taxes to be used to send people to jail just for sex".

"People are angry that their liberty is being taken. Indonesia has plenty of problems like poverty, climate change and corruption, but instead of solving a problem they've created a bill that only adds to the problem."



There were protests against the new code

### Protests erupt in Greece over teenager's shooting

VIOLENT protests have broken out in Greece's second-largest city over the police shooting of a Roma boy after he allegedly filled his vehicle at a petrol station and drove off without paying.

The 16-year-old was being treated in critical condition at a Thessaloniki hospital. The officer who allegedly shot him in the head was arrested and suspended from duty, police in the northern city

said.

The Greek police department said the youth had tried to ram officers in pursuit on motorbikes in his attempt to evade arrest.

About 1,500 people took part in a protest march organised by left-wing and anarchist groups in central Thessaloniki on Monday night.

Some smashed shops and threw Molotov cocktails at police, who

responded with tear gas and stun grenades.

Police detained six people after the end of the march. Before that protest, about 100 Roma men set up barricades, blocking the main road outside the hospital where the boy was being treated, and set fire to rubbish cans.

Several hundred people also took part in a peaceful protest march in central Athens over the teen's shooting as well as a past incident in which a Roma man also was shot during a police chase.

The demonstrators in Greece's capital had a banner reading: "They shot them because they were Roma."

Earlier in the day, protesters and members of the teenager's family had thrown rocks at riot police outside the hospital where the boy is receiving treatment before police responded by firing tear gas.

Members of the Roma community in Greece and human rights activists frequently accuse

Greek authorities of discriminating against Roma.

Several Roma men have been fatally shot or injured in recent years during confrontations with police while allegedly seeking to evade arrest for breaches of the law.

The youth injured on Monday was not named but was identified by relatives as a member of the Roma minority.

Police said the 34-year-old officer arrested on suspicion of shooting the teenager was suspended and an internal investigation was under way. The incident occurred outside Thessaloniki before dawn on Monday.

Officers from a motorcycle patrol chased the teenager's pickup truck after a petrol station employee reported an unpaid bill of 20 euros (\$21).

The arrested officer was due to appear before a public prosecutor on Tuesday on charges of attempted manslaughter.

Asked to comment on the shooting, government spokesman Giannis Oikonomou said: "The value of a human life can never be measured by any amount of



Protests in Greece



## Feature

# Understanding traditional dance as intangible heritage

**Intangible heritage is the practice, expression, knowledge and skills that communities, groups and sometimes individuals recognize as part of the cultural heritage. These include oral tradition, performing arts, local knowledge and traditional skills. OKAPU REGINA AMAKA writes.**

SOME other experts have argued, that firstly it is traditional, contemporary and living at the same time intangible heritage does not only represent inherited traditions from the past but also contemporary, rural and urban practice which diverse cultural groups take part in. This can be seen in various cultural festivals in Nigeria. This can be also seen in different dance force.

Secondly, it is inclusive, it is possible to share expressions of tangible cultural heritage that are similar to those practiced by others. Whether they are from the neighbouring village or from a city in the appropriate side of the world or have been adapted by people who have migrated and settled in different regions, they are all intangible heritage. They have passed from one generation to another, have evolved in response to their environment and they contribute to giving in a sense of identity and continuity, providing a link from our past and into the future.

Intangible cultural heritage therefore does not give rise to questions of whether or not certain practices are specific to a culture. It contributes to social cohesion, encouraging a sense of identity and responsibility which helps individuals to feel part of one or different communities and to feel part of the society at large.

Thirdly, intangible cultural heritage is not merely valued as a cultural good, on a competitive basis for its exclusivity or its exceptional value, however, it thrives on the basis of community and depends on those whose knowledge of traditional skills and customs are passed to the rest of the community from one generation to the next.

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) can only be heritage when it is recognized as such by the community, group or individual that create, maintain and transmit it. Without their recognition nobody can decide from them that a given expression or practice is their heritage.

Our understanding of tangible heritage can further be enhanced in the specific, domains in which cultural heritage are manifested. These include:

- Oral tradition: These are the richest most emotive and most attentive source of knowledge, (Konar; 1986) they include legends, folktales, myths and expressions including language.

- Performing Arts: Arts, music, dance, drama.

- Social practices, ritual and festive events.

- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and environment

- Traditional craftsmanship (UNESCO Convention, 2003).

Our values norms, customs are



inarticulately interviewed with or language, music, oral traditions, dresses, dances, when different people around the world have different intangible cultural heritage, which is manifested in different ways, therefore giving us an identity. And this intangible cultural heritage that is called identity is just as important for individuals as it is for families, communities and nations.

As a universal phenomenon dance has a biological base. The possibility it gives to man for both physical relaxation and psychic or emotional release engaged the attention of scientists who have demonstrated that movement is essential to both human beings and animals for release of emotional tensions caused by both joyful and painful events. However, in dance man acquires a new function of expressing abstract ideas, which of course gives him identity and becomes his intangible heritage.

Because man is superior to animals in capacity for conceptual thought, his movement conveys sophisticated meanings in a more compact and rapid

manner than speech.

Dance, therefore serves as a vital function in human society to achieve social cohesion or togetherness, causing them to feel a deep sense of communion with each other. As a result, people are liberated from the bonds of individualism. This function of dance is however de-emphasized in technological advanced countries of the west which regard extreme individualism as a social-political value.

The traditional dance in Nigeria has remained a vital and dynamic art form because it has been allowed to thrive in a predominantly rural event, giving the communities a distinct identity, which has become part of their heritage, needing preservation. Fortunately, the great majority of rural and urban Nigerians even in this age 21<sup>st</sup> century practice and still practice their dances with minimal interferences or hindrance from modernization and, or globalization. Hence it could be argued that traditional Nigeria dance as intangible heritage has been passed down from past generation to this present one and this sequence seems likely to continue even in the nearest future.

The centre of the dynamic Nigeria dance is the indigenous community, where dance has a social significance, because of its religious, symbolic and semiotic values. Dance tends to endow social acts with legal significance and meaning, especially when such acts are connected with initiations, marriages and funerals all entwined to their intangible cultural heritage.

The traditional Nigeria dance as an aspect of intangible heritage as magical and mystical values. It is used to secure and increase fertility and good luck and to chase away evil influences and powers. In many cases traditional Nigeria dance as intangible heritage is related to masking which has formidable mystical qualities. This practice is highly common among all

tribes in Nigeria even in the far "Moslem" North.

In recent times dance promotes the social life of Nigerians. Not only does it offer young men and women opportunities to show themselves through encouraging courtship, it provides training for work and combat. A good example is the Nkwa Umu Agboho and Ibwa war dance in Afikpo, Ebonyi state and Ninzam of southern Kaduna state respectively.

The Nigerian traditional dance as an aspect of intangible cultural heritage should be preserved, because, in this form of dance the Nigerian expresses himself even to show off and to identify himself with his people and to communicate in ways not related or using any form of tangible heritage. Here males usually dance to express their manhood, while women perform in order to exhibit their beauty. In general, they all express the life force in an intangible way.

The traditional Nigeria dance is characterized by a formalized rapport between musician and dances, and as Harper (1991), rightly observed "that there is in all forms of dance a close relationship" between the rhythmic patterns of the dance and rhythms accompanying music or song.

In conclusion, our dances are an integral aspect of our intangible heritage. They tell stories of wars, folks' tales, fortunes, misfortunes, famines, death, funerals, worships, marriages and many more forms of our cultural heritage worth preserving through dance. Therefore, the beauty of the Nigerian dance lies in its combination of purposiveness and aesthetic concerns, its celebration and reflection of communal life and value, its seeking to unite the dancer with the dance, its embodiment of collective beliefs and symbols which constitutes both the structure and content of the art and its "ideal frankness and intensify of expression.

***The Nigerian traditional dance as an aspect intangible cultural heritage should be preserved, because, in this form of dance the Nigerian expresses himself even to show off and to identify himself with his people and to course communicates in ways not related or using any form of tangible heritage. Here males usually dance to expresses their manhood, while women perform in order to exhibit their beauty. In general, they all express the life force in an intangible way. The traditional Nigeria dance is characterized by a formalized rapport between musician and dances, and as Harper (1991), rightly observed "that there is in all forms of dance a close relationship" between the rhythmic patterns of the dance and rhythms accompanying music or song.***



# Is turmeric good for you?

**Source: Patient.info.com.**





# EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

### Set healthy boundaries to preserve emotional well-being

BOUNDARIES are not just a critical component of self care—they're also the cornerstone of any healthy relationship, including those you have with even your closest of friends. Often, boundaries are built into a friendship at its foundation, but sometimes, new boundaries are required as the relationship progresses over time. This is when things get tricky, because it typically means that one friend is asking another to change something about their established dynamic. That's not an easy thing to do, but it can be critical for preserving the emotional well-being of one or both parties.

Before you jump to cutting problematic individuals out of your life, testing out new boundaries may work to mend what ails. "Having boundaries in a friendship is not just about saying 'no'," "It's about managing walls, but also managing doors and windows—essentially navigating the space between you and another person."

In \*normal\* times, you might have one or two friends in need of support at any given moment. These days, however, it can feel more like everyone you know is in need of help—all while you're likely struggling, too. This can be tricky to navigate, as you don't want to tell a dear friend you can't deal with them right now, even if you have very good reasons for feeling as though you can't. But sometimes you truly do not have the bandwidth to take on someone else's struggles, in which case you have no choice but to prioritize your own needs first.

#### **Your availability has changed**

Even when the world isn't in utter chaos, sometimes a friend can ask more of you than what you're able to give or have been able to give in the

past. For example, if you're at a certain life stage wherein other demands are exhausting your bandwidth—e.g. kids—you might not be able to devote the same amount of time or resources to your friend as you did in your pre-motherhood life.

#### **The relationship is too one-sided**

It's common, for friendships to require new boundaries when they're out of balance. "When one person is giving so much more than the other person, there can be a desire to set a boundary so that one person doesn't feel like they're under-benefiting in the friendship," says Dr. Franco. The goal of such a boundary, would be to ensure a mutually-beneficial relationship.

#### **You don't feel safe to share**

"Boundaries around trust are probably the most foundational to a friendship," You have to be able to trust that you can be vulnerable and that what you share with your friend is not going to go further than the ears you intended to hear it. Often, friendships are predicated on this innate trust; however, if the trust has been broken, it may be necessary to establish boundaries around what you are willing to share moving forward, or what your expectations are around sharing confidences in the future.

#### **You find their politics difficult to stomach**

This is a tricky one; given the current climate, some people are opting out of friendships with people who hold certain political perspectives, full stop. If you feel you want to keep the friendship, however, but find it difficult to do so peaceably when politics come up in conversation, Franco says you may want to set a boundary around those



discussions—as in, ask for certain topics to be off limits.

Alternatively, you may want to set boundaries around interactions with your friend that are contingent upon them compromising.

#### **You don't appreciate their teasing**

Sometimes friendships can be so close that one party loses sight of the other party's sensitivities. This may force you to set boundaries around teasing or jokes at your expense, says.

#### **You have different communication styles**

Not everyone feels comfortable communicating in the same manner when they're not in a shared space. Some people prefer texting, while others may be more comfortable with calls, for example. Whichever camp you're in, it might make sense to set a boundary if you find yourself stressed by the type of communication you're being consistently asked to engage in.

#### **You feel like you're always on call**

You might also need to set a boundary around how available you are by text or phone. If you feel that someone has an expectation that you'll always pick up or respond immediately, it might make sense to overtly reset that expectation.

#### **How to set boundaries with a friend Open a dialogue**

Dr. Franco recommends opening a dialogue with your friend about the relationship dynamic. She suggests explaining to your friend what it is that's bothering you and how you would want it to change, and then asking the friend for their thoughts.

#### **Be explicit**

"To set solid boundaries, you have to be able to explain what the problem clinical psychologist Aimee Daramus" I need you to stop acting like everything is about you' doesn't give them anyplace to go with it. 'I need you to listen to me more often instead of doing all the talking' gives them something to work with."

#### **Nip the problematic behavior in the bud as early as possible**

"Start setting boundaries when you first notice a problem instead of waiting until you're ready to explode.

#### **Emphasize the value of your friendship**

No matter how you frame it, boundary setting can still feel hurtful, especially when the friendship has had a long run. To soften the blow, Hill recommends emphasizing how important the relationship is to you, and that you're having this boundaries conversation specifically because of how much you value the friendship. If you didn't care, after all, you might prefer to walk away rather than engage in difficult conversations.

#### **Offer alternatives**

You may also be able to sweeten the new deal by offering an alternative to whatever you were offering the friendship before that you no longer feel you can give to it.

#### **Consider a compromise**

Sometimes, you may need to meet your friend in the middle, as they could have a boundary that is in direct opposition to yours.

#### **Be assertive**

While you want to be kind, and ensure the focus is on your feelings and not blaming the other person, you also want to make sure they know you're serious about the boundaries you're trying to set, says Hill. "If you're minimizing your need for the boundary, you're setting a weak boundary which means you're probably going to spend more time reinforcing it, or you're going to end up frustrated that it's not being honored," she explains.

**Source: Talkingcircle therapy.**





## Editorial

### As FG plans to mop up illegal weapons

**THE** most recent proclamation by the Federal Government that it would mop up illicit small arms and light weapons nationwide ahead of 2023 general elections is quite commendable looking at how such dangerous weapons find their way into the hands of criminally minded individuals. This positive declaration was made through the National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, (NCCSALW) after recovering and destroying over 3,000 illegal arms across the country.

**CONCERNED** about this upsurge in crime and criminality, the South West coordinator of the centre, Ben Sola Akinlade lamented the influx of small arms on the country's porous borders and 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.

**EVEN** though we know that the search light over illegal weapons discovery should be intensified both before, during and after the general elections to reduce the bitter experiences of what Nigerians are facing in the hands of organized crime syndicates, anything short of this will end up a disaster for the nation. This is because, it is no longer an over exaggeration that some politicians miss-use such opportunities and begrime their hands acquiring these illegal arms just to recruit jobless, agile youths, as thugs to dance to their tune.

**AS** we continue lamentation on this unabated predicament, several questions are being asked on how these weapons get into the hands of individuals with impunity. Investigations have revealed that some of these weapons like pistols, rifles, grenades launchers, machine guns and others are captured from enemies during fighting, soldiers defecting from armed groups. Some of them are stolen from peace keeping stocks, purchased through the open market or inherited from family and relations or friends.

**IT** is on record that on May 22, 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari signed an executive order to remove, revoke and banish all firearms certificates and licenses throughout the country. The order attracted widespread condemnation especially among the elites. The president refused to revoke it as requested by some members of the parliament as it is argued to undergo constitutional review before it becomes effective.

**PRESIDENT** Buhari signed the order in response to threats by some Niger Delta militants to declare a Niger Delta Republic and secede from Nigeria. The order was possibly issued as part of strategy to ameliorate the insecurity ravaging the country. Be that as it may, that has made little or no impact as armed bandits, kidnappers and hoodlums are having a field day with these weapons.

**IT** is against this backdrop that government needs to be hard on anyone who is found in possession of small and light weapons. Nigerians must also be sincere in reporting such cases to appropriate authority without indicting anyone.

**ON** the other hand, politicians in Nigeria need to be sincere and transparent with the process. They must be willing to accept defeat where victory is not guaranteed. It is frightening to note that politics has created an arena of war among desperate individuals who do not mean well for the development of the country.

DRUG abuse is said to be the excessive, adaptive or addictive use of drugs for non-medical purposes, despite social, psychological and physical problem that may arise from such use.

However, some of the major contributing factors includes bad peer influence, curiosity depression, inadequate, or lack of family care, broken homes etc.

Furthermore, bad peer influence has indeed caused lots of hazards to the future of our youths. I therefore admonish the general public to be tentative of the kind of friends they associate with, for our future is in our hands. For it is proverbially said "Birds of the same feather flock together?"

It implies that people of the same kind seek each others company. Curiosity and exploration also triggers ones tendency on use of hard drugs, whereby individuals involve into such act for the feeling of ecstasy.

Due to the economic instability of the country and the high rate of unemployment on the general public to be precise, the youths, have become depressed and much suicidal. Research has been

conducted on drug abuse and drug addicts that most of such behavioural act yield as a result of depression, financial issues etc, some say drugs makes them forget their sorrows.

However, drugs only destroys ones destiny and has lots of negative effects.

Due to the high intake rate of drugs, it has made students in both tertiary and secondary schools to be unconcentrated on their studies however

## The menace of drug abuse in the society

making them lazy and involve in examination malpractices, drugs makes one to make irrational decisions, which include extreme quest for without considering the implications of such act.

Public relation practitioners are therefore admonished to set up conferences, seminars or workshops in secondary and tertiary institutions to enlighten members of the public to desist from such act.

Most of these drug addicts, hoodlums are drop outs in both secondary and tertiary institutions, unemployed and also graduates of prestigious universities, therefore the



government, Non-Governmental Organizations ought to assists in providing empowering skills for drug addicts to acquire and be independent, thereby useful to themselves, and the society at large.

In addition Vox-Pop (Voice of the people) should be encouraged in radio stations in order to listen and tackle the issue at hand, through public opinions.

I therefore appeal to the government, Non-Governmental Organizations to offer loans and set up a small scale business to individuals for a stipulated

period of times.

Entrepreneurship as a course should be mandatory in tertiary and secondary schools for students to be self-reliant and thereby improving the standard of living.

In conclusion, I therefore appeal to the government to build more rehabilitation centres in the communities to help drug addicts, psychological, and also improve on their mental well being.

**Jonathan Rabo Gammo is a student of Mass Communication from Plateau State Polytechnic, Jos.**

## The role of government in youth empowerment

**THE** role of youth in the political, economic and social growth of any country across the globe cannot be over-emphasised. The definition of youth varies from one country to another, depending on its peculiarities. According to Nigeria National Youth Policy (2009) the youth comprise all individual, males and female between the ages of 18 and 35 who are citizens of Federal Republic of Nigeria. In Nigeria the youths constitute a significant percentage of country's population.

Therefore, the continuous increase in unemployment in Nigeria is very alarming. The unemployment rate put at 27 per cent has a direct link with the poor standard of living of, a mere significant percentage of the unemployed and under-employed population in Nigeria today are the youth. Being economically active population some of the factors responsible for this situation are over population. Lack of political will, lack of basic social amenities especially in rural areas, poor quality of education, and lack of

employable skills, all combined to make the situation worst.

Furthermore, the continuous unemployment has lured several youths into engaging in activities that appear to them to be the easiest source of livelihood and means of satisfying their wants. This anomic situation is usually as a result of their inability to meet their basic needs through legitimate means.

The present administration

needs to review its current empowerment programmes targeted at reducing unemployment among youth. The government should involve the youth in redesigning the programmes prioritizing areas of intervention based on needs assessment, development measureable indicators and putting in place mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of the

programmes. It is imperative to acknowledge government's effort in addressing the unemployment problem in Nigeria through the implementation of different social intervention programmes. Some of these programmes include youth enterprise with innovation in Nigeria (youth).

**Abdul Azeez Abubakar is an IT student from Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi.**

## The need for child protection

**IT** is no longer news hearing or seeing our children being violated or their rights being denied on a daily basis in our society today. In crisis situation, children are mostly affected.

Today, there are many cases of children being abused, some are forced into early marriage by their parents and guardians, while others are indiscriminately and badly handled by the society.

Therefore, I want to use this medium of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** to appeal to the Plateau State government to come into the issue of child protection in the state by

addressing child protection issue in Plateau State.

This is aimed at working in the interest of children and protecting their interest on the Plateau. Here, the government, civil society and community fused together should initiate this programme on the need to act to prevent abuse, violence and exploitation of children in Plateau State, thus sharing roles and responsibility of a network for and to develop short term action plan.

The society knows that taking alcohol and smoking in the presence of the children is a

harmful exposure for the child.

This is because children look up to their parents as their mentors and so exposing the child to such habits is harmful.

Also, when the society takes advantage of a child or overindulged, accessively use a child to earn income or rather use of power over a child to gain and benefit such as, child labour, trafficking and slavery. Such persons will be brought before the court of law by the government.

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

## Standard Cartoon





## Opinion

# Prolonged strike: Why ASUU should share some blame

By ALIKOR VICTOR

ACADEMIC activities in public universities in Nigeria have been shut down since February 14, 2022, as university lecturers have withdrawn their services over what they termed as continuous neglect and gross insincerity from the government.

The government has been accused of dishonesty in honouring the 2009 agreement with the union, with less than 20 percent of the agreement yet to be fulfilled. The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has embarked on its 16th industrial strike since 1999. ASUU continues to argue that the strike was in the best interest of the education sector in the long run. The demands are genuine and justifiable, but certain underlying issues require public scrutiny and analysis. While it is important to acknowledge the carefree attitude and lack of seriousness on the part of the government to improve Nigeria's education sector, ASUU has some blame to share in the recent strike.

Since 2007 till date, the eminent personalities of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and Professor Yemi Osibanjo, former members of ASUU, have been president and vice president of Nigeria respectively. Yet, there has been no sustainable solution to the challenges bedeviling the education sector.

Presumably, before their emergence in the country's two most influential positions of

authority, they once criticised the government for handling the education sector or probably canvassed for transforming the education sector in their manifestos. They knew the challenges faced by universities more than anyone but failed to address the issues prompting the strike actions. If two academic dons who were former members of ASUU have not been able to address ASUU's demands as president and vice presidents, I wonder what could be their excuses?

There have been examples of professors who were governors and ministers with no clear legacies or blueprint in the education sector. When academic dons become politicians, they become distracted; they sometimes act like politicians rather than real experts with a penchant for a sustainable solution.

From 1960 to date, Nigeria has had 51 ministers of education and ministers of state for education. Interestingly, 23 of these were teachers at different levels before their appointment; 15 read educational courses in the university and colleges of education, while 11 have been seasoned educational administrators or university dons (professors or senior lecturers).

Professors and lecturers are used as returning officers during

general elections at the national, state, zonal and local government levels. However, few have been accused and caught indulging in electoral malpractice to favour politicians. ASUU members have aided in enthroning Nigeria's current crop of bad leaders, which is largely responsible for these leaders' inability to honour agreements with ASUU. There has been a growing disdain for the ASUU strike recently. ASUU has lost public support each time they chose to embark on a strike, only to call off the strike after a few billions have been released for their earned academic allowance (EAA). At the same time, others remain a promise for the future that the government may never fulfill.

There have been cases of university lecturers who trade grades for sex. While some award undeserving grades to students in exchange for money, with multiple examples on many

campuses in Nigeria. The government, addressing the genuine funding and welfare needs of university lecturers will not end this ugly trend. Many university vice-chancellors have their children in foreign universities and have failed to give valid accounts for the little sum of money from the government and internally generated revenue. Accusations and counter-accusations of corruption and financial recklessness have come against university administrators who are equal members of ASUU. Several university managements in Nigeria have banned or "killed" student union activities that have the responsibility to protect their students' interests. At the same time, ASUU remains a formidable force that fights to protect the welfare of lecturers in Nigeria.

While all the demands of ASUU in 2009 and the MOU of 2013 are

very genuine and essential, there is a need for the union to internally re-evaluate its actions and contribution to Nigeria's education sector's decay. There might be a need for some selected student leaders to be at the negotiation table and observe proceedings and understand the actual position of things. A multi-sourced financing system remains the only sustainable solution to end the incessant ASUU strike and ensure Nigerian universities have access to more funds to become globally competitive. The government must show a high level of sincerity and do all that should be done to get our universities to a world-class standard and ensure students concentrate into school without interruption.

**Alikor Victor is a development economist & policy analyst at the Nextier Group**

***There might be a need for some selected student leaders to be at the negotiation table and observe proceedings and understand the actual position of things. A multi-sourced financing system remains the only sustainable solution to end the incessant ASUU strike and ensure Nigerian universities have access to more funds to become globally competitive. The government must show a high level of sincerity and do all that should be done to get our universities to a world-class standard and ensure students concentrate into school without interruption.***

## Medical tourism in Nigeria a cause for concern

By TIMOTHY JOSEPH

MEDICAL Tourism occurs when people travel outside their country of residence for the purpose of receiving medical care. Originally, the term referred to the travel of patients from less developed countries to developed nations in pursuit of the treatments not available on their homeland. In the past, people travelled from less developed countries to seek health care in developed countries in Europe and America, but in recent years more people now travel from developed countries to less developed countries for medical treatment as a result of lower costs consideration. For instance, a liver transplant that cost about \$300,000 USD in the United States would generally cost about \$91,000 USD in a country like Taiwan and 78,500 in India.

Globally, medical Tourism has contributed immensely to the growth and development of the health care system and the countries that engaged in it because it attracts people from various parts of the world, thereby adding value to the countries involved. In Nigeria, the story is different, although the health care system is a blend of both public and private players, the recent mass exodus of Nigerians abroad for treatment is worrisome.

According to price water house coopers (2016) report Nigerians spend \$1 billion annually on medical Tourism with 60% of it on four key specialties namely, Oncology, Nephrology and Cardiology Orthopedics. This is nearly 20% of the total government spending on public sector for the year, including salaries of all public sector doctors, nurses and other health workers in Nigeria alone. Travel to India for health care generated more than US \$ 260 million in 2019. Other notable countries Nigerians travel to include South Africa, Dubai, China, Malaysia, as well as the traditional destinations in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Medical Tourism is fast becoming a culture among many Nigerians due to the deplorable state of the health care system in Nigeria. Every month, almost 6,000 people leave the country for various forms of treatment abroad when such treatments should have been carried out in Nigeria. Billions of dollars is lost

to medical Tourism yearly in Nigeria which could have been invested in the development of the country's health care sector.

The world health organization (WHO) recently ranked Nigeria 187 out of 191 countries in the world while neighboring countries like Ghana, Togo, Niger, Mali and Chad were ranked better than Nigeria.

One of the greatest problems causing medical Tourism in Nigeria and underdevelopment of the health care system is the problem of brain drain. Nigeria is a major health staff exporting country in Africa and this has affected the system. According to Clemens (2007) many health care providers in Nigeria have left the shores of the country in pursuit of greener pastures abroad, incidentally it has been discovered that, some of the best doctors in the world who have made remarkable contributions in the field of medicine are Nigerians.

Another underlying factor causing medical Tourism among Nigerians is the problem of underfunding of the health sector. The way a country finances its health care system is a critical determinant for reaching Universal health coverage because, health care finance determines whether the health services that are available are affordable to those that need them. Despite Nigeria's strategic position as the giant of Africa and her position in the League of nations globally, Nigeria is still under served in the healthcare spheres when compared to other sectors. Health facilities in the country including health professionals and medical equipments are grossly inadequate and when policies are put in place to address all these issues they are barely implemented.

In addition to the above is the problem of dilapidated structures and obsolete medical equipment. Even with the high number of available medical institutions in Nigeria, Nigeria still records below average statistics because of inability to provide quality health

care due to inadequate basic infrastructures and obsolete medical equipment. Many of the hospitals, especially government owned hospitals in and around the country are in bad shape. In many developed countries, Magnetic Resonance Imagin (MRI), computed Tomography (CT) scans and other modern diagnostic procedures are common and affordable but in Nigeria, such procedures are still an exclusive preserve of the rich. Some government owned hospitals for example, still refer patients to private Laboratory and diagnostic centers for their Laboratory examinations and investigations which is as a result of lack of planing, poor funding, and poor regulation.

Furthermore, the incessant industrial action being witnessed in the country in recent years is another major problem causing mass exodus of Nigerians abroad for medical treatment. This has been identified as a major contributor to the country's poor health indices which has brought untold hardship, sufferings and death to many families and patients across the federation. In recent years, the Nigerian health system has experienced numerous strike actions involving doctors, nurses, and allied healthcare workers as a result of various demands on unhealthy rivalry among health professionals in the system, this has negatively impacted on the healthcare system, leading to several avoidable deaths complications and outgoing medical tourism, as the wealthy seek health services abroad while the common man is left with no choice but to lean on faith.

The negative attitude of health professionals among health care workers in the country is alarming. Medical experts believe that adequate healthcare services such as diagnosis treatment, prevention of disease, injury and other physical and mental impairment are essential but negative attitudes occasioned by socio-economic conditions may determine the quality of healthcare delivery in a society. Today the

impact of the negative attitude to work by healthcare providers especially in public hospitals is particularly worrisome.

Its high time for Nigerian government to view health care financing as an investment that requires effective management in form of political or policy commitment for it to be profitable. For service delivery to be realized in Nigeria health system, the sector must be adequately funded. Unfortunately after the Abuja declaration of 15% annual budget on health sector, the Nigerian government is yet to deliver on this promise.

Government and other relevant agencies in Nigeria should as a matter of urgency, address the problem of dilapidated structures and obsolete medical equipments rocking the system if medical Tourism must be discouraged in Nigeria. Government owned hospitals in the country should be fully upgraded to meet the current health challenges of the teeming population. Government tertiary hospitals that attend to special cases should be fully upgraded with update medical facilities so that people can get adequate health services needed for their treatment and therefore discouraged from going abroad for medical treatment.

It has been noted that there are gross disparities and distortions in remuneration packages and schemes of service for health workers at different levels in the public sector packages especially for nurses and midwives. Nigeria health workers salaries and remuneration should be reviewed upwards immediately to reflect what is obtainable in other nations. If health care workers are paid adequately compared to what is obtainable in the places where they migrate to, possibly they may not likely migrate. Housing schemes and car loan should also be established for health workers as an inalienable rights, at all levels so that they will be motivated and give their best humanitarian and professional services to the country rather than serving other countries.



Change of Name					
<b>JOSEPH</b> I, formerly known as <b>MUSA LYDIA JOHNSON</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOSEPH LYDIA</b> . Corredt date of birth is 27/12/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>KOPDI</b> I, formerly known a <b>LEDED BALA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KOPDI TANKO DARSHAK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>SOJA</b> I, formerly known as <b>NWANSE FWANGSHAK HEZEKIAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SOJA FWANGSHAK HEZEKIAH</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>NAOMI</b> I, formerly known as <b>AYOMIKE EFEMENA NAOMI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NAOMI JACKSON ANOTE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>ONOME</b> I, formerly known as <b>ONOME PHILOMINA ISA'AC IGARA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>O N O M E BENJAMIN MAILAFIYA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>SULAIMAN</b> I, formerly known as <b>HAMAD HADIZA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SULAIMAN HADIZA HALLIRU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>SIMON</b> I, formerly known as <b>SIMON PANAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SIMON PETER</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>IRMIYA</b> I, formerly known as <b>KUNDAH IRMIYA DOGO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IRMIYA KUNDA DOGO</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>UBUNSHAK</b> I, formerly known as <b>YILSHUNG UBUNCHAK EZEKIEL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UBUNSHAK YILSHUNG EZEKIEL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>SAMAILA</b> I, formerly known as <b>ISMAIL YUSUF</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SAMAILA YUSUF</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>YAKUBU</b> I, formerly known as <b>GANDU PATIENCE YAKUBU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YAKUBU PATIENCE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>KOELOENGWE</b> I, formerly known as <b>KOELOENGWE AFINIKI DANIEL DAMULAK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KOELOENGWE DANIEL DAMULAK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>JOHN</b> I, formerly known as <b>ZINGFA BENARD</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN BENARD ZINGFAT</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>DUNAH</b> I, formerly known as <b>DUNAH EMMANUEL SALEH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DUNAH EMMANUEL SAMUEL</b> . Correct date of birth is 15/10/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>OHALE</b> I, formerly known as <b>QUEEN QUEEN OHALE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OHALE QUEEN IJEOMA</b> . Correct date of birth is 02/09/1997 not 02/09/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>GOSANG</b> I, formerly known as <b>GEORGE NWAHEI MARY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GOSANG MARY GEORGE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>ATTSAR</b> I, formerly known as <b>LAWAN HOOMSUK PERCY</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ATTSAR HOOMSUK PERCY</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>AHMAD</b> I, formerly known as <b>HABIB AMINU MUSA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AHMAD ADAM AHMAD</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>DACHUNG</b> I, formerly known as <b>GYANG LINDA BITRUS.</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DACHUNG LINDA VICTOR</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>JONH</b> I, formerly known as <b>JOHN SUNDAY AJIRI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN SUNDAY AWARI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>DANIANG</b> I, formerly known as <b>PETER SHELA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANIANG SHELA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>WUSONGHA</b> I, formerly known as <b>WUSONGHA KHITAWE PINBE</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>WUSONGHA PHANUEL PINBE</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>EMMANUEL</b> I, formerly known as <b>RUFUS RUFUS AMAGA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EMMANUEL RUFUS AMAGA</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>BALA</b> I, formerly known as <b>TIJJANI LAWAL</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BALA MUSA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>CHIRBAN</b> I, formerly known as <b>VENTIM NIMZE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHIRBAN NIMZE BINCHAK</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>JOHN</b> I, formerly known as <b>JOHN BLESSING GOLKUKAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN BLESSING NENKIMWA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>UMAR</b> I, formerly known as <b>UMAR ALIYU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UMAR ALIYU WOKYIRIM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>YUSUF</b> I, formerly known as <b>YUSUF ZUBAIRU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YUSUF ZUBAIRU WOKYIRIM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>ISMAIL</b> I, formerly known as <b>ISMAIL WOKYIRM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISMAIL ADAMU WOKYIRIM</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>SA'ADATU</b> I, formerly known as <b>SA'ADATU SAFIYANU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SA'ADATU IBRAHIM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>ALAWODE</b> I, formerly known as <b>OWOLABI IDOWU FOLASHADE, ALAWODE IDOWU FOLASHADE, OWOLABI ABIGAIL FOLASHADE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>A L A W O D E A B I G A I L FOLASHADE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>ROBINSON</b> I, formerly known as <b>AKAWU AMENNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ROBINSON AMENNA-DANIELA AKAWU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>ZIH</b> I, formerly known as <b>ZI IBRAHIM YOHANNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ZIH JACOB YOHANNA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>MARY</b> I, formerly known as <b>MARY PETER</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY PHILIP ANTHONY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>JIBRIN</b> I, formerly known as <b>JIBRIN MUSA MOHAMMADU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JIBRIN SALE MOHAMMADU</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>NISHIWE</b> I, formerly known as <b>NISHIWE GOMA GOMAM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NISHIWE KHITGAK KASSEM</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>DALANG</b> I, formerly known a <b>DALANG NANCY</b> . now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DALANG NANCY NA'ANPOEN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>UCHECHUKWU</b> I, formerly known as <b>UCHECHUKWU CHIMEZIE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UCHECHUKWU CHIMEZIE LUCKY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>CHUKWUEMEKA</b> I, formerly known as <b>CHUKWUEMEKA EMMANUEL MBAEZUE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHUKWUEMEKA EMMANUEL-DIO</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>GUSHE</b> I, formerly known as <b>GUSHE SARAH</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GUSHE SARAH STANLEY</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>KASIMU</b> I, formerly known as <b>KASIMU IBRAHIM</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KASIMU IBRAHIM UBANDOMA</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>MRS. OKORO</b> I, formerly known as <b>MISS DIRIBE ANNASTACIA UDOCHUKWU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. OKORO ANNASTACIA UDOCHUKWU</b> . Correct date of birth is 07/03/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>IKU</b> I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY FRANCIS ADILIMI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IKU FRANCIS ADILIMIL</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>SHEKU</b> I, formerly known as <b>DA WALANG NATALIE MAFENG (MISS)</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SHEKU NATALIE MAFENG (MRS.)</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>GARBA</b> I, formerly known as <b>GARBA SALAMATU SAIDU</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GARBA SALAMATU DASHE</b> . Correct date of birth is 16/06/2000 not 13/04/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>NUHU</b> I, formerly known as <b>NUHU GAMBO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NUHU GAMBO YARDA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>DASHE</b> I, formerly known as <b>MERCY PATRICK</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DASHE MERCY PATRIC</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>IBRAHIM</b> I, formerly known as <b>AISHATU IBRAHIM</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IBRAHIM AISHATU GUNJI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>DASHE</b> I, formerly known as <b>AISHA DASHE LOIS</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DASHE LOUIS HAJI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>HARUNA</b> I, formerly known as <b>WOLLUMAI C. HARUNA</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HARUNA WOLLUMAI JONATHAN</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>MARY</b> I, formerly known as <b>MERCY AUGUSTINE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY MARTINE AUGUSTINE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>HURERA</b> I, formerly known as <b>HURERATU ZAKARE</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HURERA USMAN</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>YUSHEU</b> I, formerly known as <b>YAUSHAU DUBAI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YUSHEU SUBAI</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>SEKYEN</b> I, formerly known as <b>ENOK SARAH CALEB</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SEKYEN CALEB LAMERLE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
<b>GIRMA</b> I, formerly known as <b>GIRMA BIRMWA.</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GIRMA BIMMWA'A HAKKIWE</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>DEBORAH</b> I, formerly known as <b>DEBORAH SAMUEL CHAI</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DEBORAH ADU DEME</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>PRAYMORE</b> I, formerly known as <b>SHENI PATRICIA SURKAN</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PRAYMORE PATRICIA</b> . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>MUNDI</b> I, formerly known as <b>SILAS JIRETMUN GUJOR</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUNDI JIRETMUN DADUT</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>ADO</b> I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY NDAYI ADO</b> , now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADO SUNDAY</b> All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	<b>SALE FOR SALE</b>



## News

### Council boss attributes insecurity to poor parenting

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government Shehu Bala Usman has attributed poor parental guidance as major reason for rising cases of insecurity in the country.

The Chairman posited this when he received Course forty-five of the Armed force Command and Staff College Jaji, Kaduna state, led by Brigadier-General Ibrahim Bindul on a study tour at the Council chambers in Jos with the theme "Unemployment and National Security".

Usman commended the sacrifice and gallantry of the Nigeria Armed Forces in ensuring peace and tranquility in the country especially in the war against insurgency.

The Chairman said, inadequate parental values affected the livelihood of children who indulge in crime and substance abuse and appealed to parents and caregivers to minimize the work of the Nigeria Armed Forces by inculcating values and adequate attention to their wards which he noted would ensure a crime free society.

While answering questions from the participants ranging from how the Chairman maintains peace and security of lives in the locality, unemployment and provisions of purposeful governance in the locality. The Chairman told the participants that his administration has cued into the policy direction of Governor Simon Lalong where all tribes and other nationalities are carried along in the scheme of things which he said has restored confidence and trust in the lives of the people which gives birth to the current peace they are enjoying in the locality.

He informed participants that his administration had designed policies and programmes that would continually engage the Youths through job creation and entrepreneurial skills.

In the area of education, the Council Chairman, said so far his administration has recruited teaching and non



Usman

teaching staff of Primary Education to reduce unemployment and minimize rising cases of insecurity in the country.

He explained that his administration has had several engagements with critical stakeholders, civil society organisations, business community and religious leaders on the importance of peace and peaceful coexistence which has now increased socio-economic activities in the area and as well as attracts investors.

Earlier, Director of Joint Studies and Staff College Jaji, Brigadier General Ibrahim

Bindul told the Council Chairman and Management staff that they were in the Council as part of their studies to obtain first hand information and materials on the activities of the Council and the socio-economic and political situation of the area and to give recommendations on the theme of the studies.

He said the participants in the team comprises of the Nigeria Armed Forces as well as others from other parts of the continent of the world.

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Jos North Local Government, Shehu Bala Usman has expressed shock over the demise of an APC stalwart and elder Statesman, Alhaji Lawan Alhassan Mai Warwaro who died on Saturday 3rd December, 2022, after a prolonged illness at the Jos University Teaching Hospital JUTH.

The Chairman in a condolence message, described the deceased as a team player whose contributions and wise counsel helped in stabilizing the APC in Jos North as well as improving the growth of his family.

Usman described late Lawan

### ...Sympathizes with Mai Warwaro family over Warwaro's death

Alhassan Mai Warwaro as a man who dedicated his life to the service of God and humanity.

The Chairman explained that he has had many encounters with the deceased where he encouraged him and provided unflinching support, prayers and guidance to his administration to sustain harmonious co-existence among the inhabitants of the area, devote of sentiments of religion, ethnic and political differences.

The chairman who joined the family in their moment of grief,

stressed that what affects the family invariably affects the Local government Council in its entirety.

While conveying his condolence message to Mai warwaro family on behalf of the Deputy Chairman, Leader and Members of the Legislative and Executive Arm, the APC family in Jos North and beyond, the chairman noted that though death is inevitable to all mortals, he prayed God to comfort the family and grant late Alhaji Alhassan Mai Warwaro Aljannah firdaus.

### Police, CWEENS partner against gender violence

PLATEAU State Police Chief, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka has reassured the commitment of his administration to partner with all meaningful Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as the Christain Women Excellence and Empowerment in Nigeria Society (CWEENS) to tackle gender-based and domestic Voilence (GBDV) in the state and ensure that victims of the cruel act get justice.

CWEENS is an NGO that is committed to the peace and security of women and



Onyeka

girls across the country.

Speaking when the NGO visited him in his office at the state Police Headquarters recently, CP Onyeka told his guests that he has special regards for all well-meaning women group and their programmes.

According to the Police boss, gender-based and domestic violence was a serious crime and there is the need to nip them in the bud. He further assured that the Command under his administration will continue to work hand in glove with the group to enable it achieved, its set objectives.

He also commended CWEENS for embarking on the national project of salvaging victims of domestic crimes from perpetrators, adding that CWEENS is the kind of NGO to partner with.

Earlier in her remarks, the National Coordinator of CWEENS, Prof. Funmi Para-Mallam told the Commissioner of Police that they were in the Command on a familiarity visit and to further refine the existing relationship between the group and the Police.

Prof. Para-mallam who lauded the successes recorded by the Command since the CP took over the business of policing in the State, said that CWEENS is making arrangement for the training of personnel of the Command.

## Plateau Police hosts Military Course 45, Jaji participants

CURTAILING insecurity arising from youths unemployment in Plateau State was the focal point of discussion when participants of the Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji, Course 45 visited the Plateau State Police Command at the end of their study tour recently.

While addressing the participants, the

Commissioner of Police Plateau State Command, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka said that it is a fact of common knowledge that the level of unemployment in the country is high, with the rate factually projected to be about 30% this year.

According to the police boss, pundits have attributed to the high rate of unemployment, to poor

economic policies and world economic meltdown occasioned by the COVID 19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war.

"Available record from Knoema Nigeria reveals that unemployment rate in Plateau State was 26.6% in 2020. With the persisting world economic depression and rising population of youths, the unemployment

rate may not be better in 2022. This has consequences on the efforts by security agencies in curtailing insecurity arising from youth unemployment", he asserted.

He further disclosed that like most states in Nigeria, internet fraud, cultism, thuggery, rape, armed robbery, cattle rustling, car theft, murder, ritual killings, kidnapping, and terrorism among other crimes are the insecurity occasioned by youth unemployment in the state.

The Commissioner of Police opined that curtailing insecurity arising from youth unemployment is an onerous task that requires the collaboration of the state government, the Plateau State Police Command and other stakeholders in security management in the state.

In his response, the team leader of Senior Course 45, Jaji, Brigadier General I.P. Bindul who was visibly impressed with CP's address, said that the purpose of the study tour has been gainfully achieved.

## Thugs attack LP supporters in Lagos

SOME group of armed thugs in Lakowe town area of Lekki, Lagos unleashed terror on some Labour Party supporters who were holding a sensitization rally in the area yesterday.

The incident which caused pandemonium at the area saw people scampering for safety and running for their lives.

According to one of the victims of the attack, Solomon Badeh who was still at the scene when our Correspondent arrived at the area, he blamed the attack on some suspected political thugs sponsored by the All Progressives Congress, (APC) in the area.

"We were marching close to Lakowe junction when all of a sudden, a bus full of political thugs with all kinds of weapons stopped right in front of us and they started attacking us for no reason.

It was as if they were waiting for us. Some of them had cutlasses and majority of them had different objects like sticks and stones and they started attacking us and we all had to run for safety".

Another victim of the attack, Oluwadare Bamidele, who is the Labour Party organizing Secretary in Ibeju-Lekki local Government Area, claimed that the attacks were premeditated.

According to Mr. Oluwadare, the attackers were lying in wait inside the bus at a corner around the junction and emerged from the bus when they saw them at the junction.

Mr. Oluwadare who was obviously still bleeding from the injuries sustained from the attack lamented the incessant attacks members of the Labour Party are getting from suspected thugs sponsored by the APC in Ibeju Lekki.

"We are getting death threats and suffering almost daily attacks from APC thugs warning us to desist from holding walks or rallies for Labour Party here. They claimed that Ibeju-Lekki belongs to the APC but this is not the case.

"They may be the party in power now, but Nigerians are fed up and want change. We are not going to stop until we get change".

Mr. Oluwadare further called on security agencies to protect members of the opposition at this critical time, adding that "the thugs are operating with impunity and about eight members of the Labour Party including myself were injured from this attack and four of our members who were seriously injured have already been rushed to the hospital.

When contacted, the



## PROBATE NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.

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

<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Martin Ja'anbaam Hanglek late of Plateau State died on the December 1, 2019 at JUTH, Zamko.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Martin Naanse Janba'am of St. Augustine Catholic Church Zomo Mikang LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Habibu Musa Ramatu late of Plateau State died on the 3rd October 2020 at Niger State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Musa Habibu & Muhammad Aishatu Musa of No.47/8/Sabon Layi Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Calep Danboyi late of Plateau State died on the 12th February 2011 at Mazat, Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Ufor Calep of Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Nasiru Tahdul Jujini also known as Nasiru Jujina late of Plateau State died on the 14th June 2022 at General Hospital Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Selbyen Nandom & Chalya Nandom Opp. Power & Glory Assembly Church Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widows of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Umaru Ayuba Sule late of Plateau State died on the 1st April 2022 at Jos Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Maisamari Yakubu Sarki Plot 214 Old Lamingo Road Jos NorthLGA, Plateau State. Lawful cousin of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> INSPR. Haziel Stephen late of Adamawa State died on the 23rd December 2020 at Jos Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Zion Haziel & Magdaline Haziel.All of Gombi LGA, Adamawa State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Bitrus Danboyi Bot Zang late of Plateau State died on the 13th January 2021 at Jos.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Alice Bitrus Zang of No.1 Liberty Boulevard Jos Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Margret Bulus late of Plateau State died on the 28th August 2013 at Military Hospital Bassa.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Grant Emmanuel (Menor) Moshi Emmanuel of 3 Armour Division Barracks Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/father of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Simon Iliya Nimmyel late of Plateau State died on the 18th August 2022 at Langtang, North LGA Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Nantip Sylvester Simon of COCIN LCC Keller Pilgani Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Agatha Laankwap late of Plateau State died on the 7th September 2019 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Marcellinus Laankwap Ari of Abattoir Jos, South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Ngulung Danjuma late of Plateau State died on the 17th May 2021 at Qua'an-Pan, LGA Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Danjuma Nanko Ngulung of COCIN Church Pandam, Qua'an-Pan LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Bamanja Hannatu Dagari late of Plateau State died on the 8th November 2021 at JUTH, Plateau.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Dah Timothy Bamanja of Chit Heipang B/Ladi LGA, the lawful Husband of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Lawal Muhammad Jamiu late of Plateau State died on the 17th October 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Lawal Mohammad Bashir House No. 27 Grace Community Dawaki Abuja. Lawful sonof the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Ruth Ishaku Dung late of Plateau State died on the 27th April, at Hwolshe, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Dachomo Samuel Simon of behind First Bank Hwolshe Jos SouthLGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> S a m u e l A g b o n o g a Omosimua late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th Oct, 2019. at Edo State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT(S) FOR GRANTS</b> Stella Omoyeme Omoyesimua & Rhoda Anyia plot 10/11/8th Avenue Federal Lowcost Jos, Plateau State, lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Maji Dauda late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th April, 2019. At Tinjim, Pankshin LGA Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Sunday Yakubu Maji of C/o COCIN LCC, Tinjim Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Acholam Mercy Nwosu Igbo late of Abia State. Died on the 16th Feb, 2021. At JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Nwachukwu Ruth Nkejika of No. 3 Katongora Road Etobaba Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Emmanuel Dennis Dinno Yohanna late of Adamawa State. Died on the 29th November, 2020. At Lagos State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Peter Newton Dennis of House 234, Ahmaed Gambo Saleh Crescent Jahi Abuja. Lawful Brother of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Samuel Buba Ndet late of Plateau State. Died on the 12th March, 2021. At Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Sarah Buba Samuel Jenta-Adamu Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Yacim Benjamin Jiya late of Kogi State. Died on the 12th Dec. 2021. at Gboloko, Bassa LGA Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Yacim Sunday Emmanuel of hwolshe Jos South LGA, Plateau State Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Bitrus Mahanan (Also known as ) Bitrus Mabur Mahanan late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th Oct., 1998. At. JUTH , Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT</b> Lora Ukambong Mahanan, Uren Blessing Mahanan & Bitrus Mahanan Junior All of behind Noble College, Gyero Junction, Bukuru Exp. Rd., Jos South LGA. Lawful son & daughters of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> SGT Yusuf Kutse late of Plateau. Died on the 14th Jan, 2021. at Mangu, LGA Plateau State	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS</b> Kutse Godwin of Kerang Village Mangu LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Golson Lawrence late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd Feb, 2017. At Pankshin.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS</b> Barnabas Lailong Bodang of Vom Jos south LGA, Plateau State, lawful uncle of the said deceased.	<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Jatau Gyang late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th Aug, 2022. at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS</b> Jatau Gyang of Kuru District Jos South LGA. Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON</b> Samson Tali Nanim late of Plateau State. Died on the 3rd April, 2013 at Gen. Hosp. Langtang LGA, Plateau State.	<b>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICAT(S) FOR GRANTS</b> Jana Bilhatu Kakdaka of COCIN II Amper Kanke LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow of the said deceased.	<div style="text-align: right;"> <b>Signed</b>  <b>(ANDRAWUS MAIKAI)</b>  <b>Ag:PROBATE REGISTRAR</b>  <b>PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</b> </div>			

## News

# Education Ministry, others implement GEP3

FEDERAL Ministry of Education, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK, and UNICEF have in response to low levels of participation of girls in schools implemented the Girls' Education Programme Phase 3 (GEP3) across six northern Nigerian states of Katsina, Kano, Niger, Sokoto, Zamfara and Bauchi between 2012 and 2022.

This was disclosed at the closing ceremony of the 10th

**From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

year GEP3 held recently in Abuja, where the partners reported that the programme's investment of \$109 million has yielded fruitful results in enrolling an additional 1.5 million girls into school, a feat that is far exceeding the project's target. It further said that the attendance rate of girls in primary schools in the six Northern states has witnessed improvement from 43% to 70%. while gender parity also

improved from 0.73 to 0.97.

According to the tripartite bodies, GEP3 worked to improve the quality of education for all children and helped girls gain better access to education and economic opportunities, breaking the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.

UNICEF expressed its appreciation to the UK Government for the long-term commitment and funding for girls' access to primary school in northern Nigeria, stressing, "Together there remains much

work to be done to ensure that girls transit to and complete secondary education".

"This is important not only for the economic prosperity and wellbeing of the girl and her family, but to stem the high population growth expected in Nigeria. We see FCDO and the government of Nigeria as steadfast partners in this complex endeavour," added Munduate.

In addition to surpassing its target enrollment figures, GEP3's innovations, policies

and best practices are contributing to improvements in Nigeria's educational sector, as it also built the capacity of Head Teachers and teachers in the management of schools as well as delivery of effective learning for girls.

Celebrants were at the closing ceremony informed that the programme was also instrumental in strengthening non-formal Qur'anic schools through the integration of foundational literacy and numeracy, as it similarly

delivered an early literacy and numeracy intervention, the Reading And Numeracy Activity (RANA).

Putting it all together, the statement signed by Dr. Anam FME, Atinuke Akande – FCDO Nigeria and Sam Kaalu – UNICEF Nigeria, disclosed that GEP 3 programme has trained over 67,000 primary school teachers, including those teaching in Integrated Qur'anic schools to improve their skills and ability to deliver quality education.



**By VICTOR ALI**

WAY back in the year 2019, a strange disease (or is it ailment?) reared its ugly head from far away Wahum in China with devastating consequences for humanity and the entire universe. As a matter of fact, no continent of the world was spared by the monumental damage(s) brought in by the scourge. Corona Virus, diabolically yet beautifully christened Covid-19, put the entire world on the precipice. Many, either out of fear or genuine concern, believed then that, the much talked-about Armageddon had arrived.

So fearsome was the covid-19 pandemic that many analysts postulated that the Human

Immuno Deficiency virus otherwise known as the HIV/AIDS pandemic was a child's play. With no scientific knowledge of its hitherto existence nor any clinical solution to treat the "monster" pandemic, nothing could be farther from the truth for those who believed that comparatively, the HIV/AIDS pandemic was a child's play.

Without any empirically

already bad situation if total cure is not found.

With the advent of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, massive enlightenment campaigns were carried out both in the print and electronic media for people to learn to abstain from indiscriminate sex behavior or in the worst case scenario, use condom as a protective weapon.

## Has Covid-19 gone?

established evidence, some people believed it was the handiwork of some Chinese Scientists in the laboratory to scale down the world's population, while others believe, till this moment that it is simply a mysterious diseases. Whatever be the case, the undeniable fact is that, the origin of the disease is not in doubt-China: Nonetheless the disease knows no borders, hence, it has killed people in their thousands if not millions all over the world.

The African continent nay Nigeria as a nation with their mystique believe also recorded its own share of deaths and is still ongoing. And with all the advances in science and technology, a cure for the disease has proved a mirage. However, in whatever difficult or horrific situation homo sapiens found themselves, there is always a leeway aimed at ameliorating the

Equally too the multiple usage of share objects were frowned at. With the rampaging Covid-19 around the corner, the advocated panacea for now seems to be the Covid-19 protocol –social distancing, use of face mask, personal hygiene via washing of hands amongst others.

The big questions at the moment are What is obtainable now? Are Nigerians observing these protocols? Or is there a tentative pronouncement that Covid-19 has bid us farewell? Is Covid-19 dead and gone? These questions become very pertinent looking at the turn-around attitudes of Nigerians at the moment. A visit to any gathering, whether social, religious or otherwise will give one the impression that the pandemic has faded into oblivion.

Go to stadia, marriages, burials, soccer, viewing centres, churches and mosques, and even banks



behaving or believing that Covid-19 is dead and gone! Yet, every other day, Nigerians are being inundated by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) of new cases of discovery, fatality in deaths and recovery of patients. Who is fooling who? Nigeria and Nigerians should be careful because, caution is the watchword. Needless to say, even with the painstaking update from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), many Nigerians are not only persimists but are fervent by living in self-denial.

**"The big questions at the moment are What is obtainable now? Are Nigerians observing these protocols? Or is there a tentative pronouncement that Covid-19 has bid us farewell? Is Covid-19 dead and gone? These questions become very pertinent looking at the turn-around attitudes of Nigerians at the moment. A visit to any gathering, whether social, religious or otherwise will give one the impression that the pandemic has faded into oblivion."**

**By HOSEA NYAMLONG**

EVERY country's well-being and prosperity are determined by its development which is mostly related to the utilization and harnessing the human and material resources.

Most governments of the world, today, consider the National Population and Housing Census as very important and key indices to modern society by providing comprehensive demographic information on which development planning hinges

on.

The recent approval by the National council of state for the conduct of the 2023 census has given the National Population Commission (NPC), the responsibility for the conduct of the exercise that has left no stone unturned in ensuring that the exercise is credible, reliable, and acceptable by all citizens

The commission is prepared to conduct the best census ever with the aid of modern digital technology called the Personal Digital Assistant (PDA), to collect data from respondents defacto basis.

This time around the method is different from the former way of gathering data by using papers.

In this new method, the questionnaires are going to be in electronic form, and responses to the questions would be imputed electronically and transmitted directly to a

central server in real-time. Storage would be automatically digital and be easily retrieved and used

Notwithstanding, the census is an important issue within the public space and the public deserves to have adequate knowledge and understanding of it.

The commission has succeeded through the Enumeration Area Demarcation (EAD), which is the bedrock of effectively demarcating the country into smaller units, while the second step was the pre-test, a census trial which all has been successfully concluded across the 36 states including Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

Another major component of the commission deployed is sensitization, and advocacy to ensure that the

public is involved through holding town hall meetings with traditional rulers, Religious leaders, stakeholders, community leaders, youth leaders, etc.

Thus, organizing, workshops, summit, and training for stakeholders to get the citizens involved in the process to conduct a credible census next year 2023.

This is to effectively communicate the intense purpose of the commission to achieve the right objective of the census and they have not rested on their oars as they continue to plan on how best to deliver on this enormous national mandate.

Again, census data is imperative for planning and implementation of development programmes, therefore, it requires citizens cooperation, security for the progress of Nigeria.

Despite the security challenges in the country, the commission was able to conduct the trial census without any hitches.

The commission is striving to ensure that census exercise meets International standard by employing more hands (ad hoc staff), during the exercise in April 2023.

The 2023 census ad hoc

Portal for the recruitment exercise is opened to interested and suitable citizens to apply, and vacancies exist in Field Coordinators, Training Center Administrators, Monitoring and Evaluation Officers, Data Policy Managers, Policy Assurance Officers, Supervisor and Enumerators.

The importance of census cannot be over emphasized, because the data is not only important to government alone but also to other private sectors and the general public. This will help the government to know the population size of its citizens in order to plan side by side with its resources.

It is disheartening that some citizens today don't know the importance of the census, census is key to development and the size of population is what defines us as a nation.

To this end, the federal, state, local governments, traditional rulers, religious institutions, stakeholders, community leaders, civil society organizations women and youth groups, academia, private sector and development partners are to ensure NPC achieve its mandate and the result at the end of the day, will provide a pathway for a sustainable development in the country.

## 2023 census: citizens need to own the process

**"The importance of census cannot be over emphasized, because the data is not only important to government alone but also to other private sectors and the general public. This will help the government to know the population size of its citizens in order to plan side by side with its resources."**



BY JIDAUNA DARING

IT has become morally imperative in journalism profession for every practicing journalist to observe the highest professional and ethical standard, since the profession entails a very high degree of public interest, particularly when it comes to information dissemination to the people in the society.

Journalists should on their part know that the people have the right to know actual, accurate, balance and fair reportage. This no doubt remains the main objective of good journalism practice, and also the basis of earning public respect and trust.

Members of this noble profession should also on their part imbibe the spirit of refraining from airing or publish inaccurate and misleading information that can tear people apart in our society.

In fact, to sustain the tenet of this important profession, it therefore, behooves on every journalist to stay away from act that is capable of making them to solicit nor accept bribe and gratification to suppress or publish any misleading information to the public.

However, members of the pen profession on the plateau can attest to the fact that since the inception of Mr. Paul Jatau tenure, he has not left any stone unturned when it comes to training and re-training of its members for better service delivery in their reportage as agenda setters of the society.

Equally too, one may not be astonished with the silent achiever leader and his EXCO who have works and are still working assiduously to ensure that it members remain united irrespective of their chapels.

This good leadership style of Jatau and his EXCO has indicated that Journalists on the plateau did not make mistakes for the choice of its serving EXCO who represent them in different capacities at the council.

It was in view of this that as 2023 general elections draws nearer, Nigeria Union of journalists, (NUJ) Plateau state council thought it very expedient to organize training workshop for its members so as to further equip them with more knowledge or skills on election coverage before, during and after the election.

The importance of this workshop cannot be overemphasized since it was geared towards widening the horizon of members of the pen profession, since they are saddle with the responsibility of keeping people abreast with relevant information.

With this, every journalist should strive to enhance national unity and public good

It was against this background that the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) Plateau State, Oliver Tersoo described Journalists as powerful or critical stakeholders in the electoral

process at any given election in Nigeria.

Tersoo who was represented by the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Head of voters Education, Micheal Otaba stated this at a two day training workshop organized by the Nigeria Union of journalists (NUJ) Plateau State Council for journalists on Election Coverage and Entrepreneurship, held at Hotel

He called on journalists not to relent in their efforts in educating the electorates particularly on election matters through their respective medium.

The commissioner cautioned journalists against zooming into partisan politics which is not the best for anyone who needs to be accorded respect from the people.

## NUJ equips journalists with skills ahead of election



Hon. Dan Manjang and invited guests at the occasion



NUJ chairman, Paul Jatau addressing the gathering



Cross section of participants

Samaritan, Rayfield Jos.

He assured journalists on the Plateau of the commission's readiness to have more trainings and interactions with them as partners in progress in the state.

Tersoo maintained that he would continue to remain media friendly to the members of the Pen Profession at all times. He adjudged the workshop as timely, especially now that the 2023 generation elections is at the corner.

Declaring the training workshop open, commissioner for information and communication Plateau State, Hon. Dan Manjang applauded journalists on the Plateau for always conducting themselves in a professional way or manner.

Manjang added that the present administration in the state has not encountered any challenges with journalists in their reportage since the inception of the administration.

He then challenged journalists to always equip themselves with more skills as watch dog of the society.

In his remarks, NUJ National President, Mr. Chris Isiguzo who was represented by the NUJ National Auditor, Ladi Emmanuel commended the organizers for putting together this training workshop that would further add more knowledge to the journalist on election coverage and entrepreneurship.

Isiguzo urged the participants to make good use of what they

have learnt during the workshop.

Earlier in his remarks, NUJ chairman, Plateau State Council, Mr. Paul Jatau expressed delight with the participants for honouring the invitations given them for the training.

Jatau pointed out that the essence of the workshop was to keep journalists abreast with guidelines on election coverage

for better output ahead of 2023 general elections in the country. He appreciated all the resource persons for coming to do justice to all paper presentations that were billed for the training workshop.

Some of the participants who spoke with our correspondent thanked the NUJ state council for organizing the workshop which they described as very timely as far as the 2023 general elections is concerned particularly in the area of election coverage.

They also appreciated all the resource persons for doing justice to all the papers presented, adding that they have learnt a lot and promised to make good use of what they have been furnished with.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** reports that the training featured paper presentations on electoral Act, guidelines on political broadcast, general election and national security, election coverage for print journalists, the role of journalist in election coverage and electoral offences.



NUJ members in a group photograph with dignitaries



IMAGES

D.P.O's THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The Nassarawa Gwong Divisional Police Officer (DPO) CSP Musa Hassan and family thanksgiving service took place at the COCIN Nassarawa Gwong, Jos North Local Government Area



Leading Pastor of the Church, Rev. Cletus Gwam delivering some remarks



Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Musa Hassan with Ezekiel Gusnung of the University of Jos



Reverends Cletus Gwam, Gyang Dadu and Pastor Christopher Chung Joro praying for CSP Musa Hassan and wife



Cross section of invited guests at the thanksgiving service



From left are, representative of the Commissioner of Police, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Emmanuel Ado, CSP Ishaya Audu and DSP Iwuji Barnabas



Plateau State NAWOJ Chairperson, Nene Dung in a warm embrace with Barr. Mrs. Beatrice C. J. Dakas



Plateau State NUJ Chairman, Paul Jatau making his goodwill message



CSP Musa Hassan in a group photograph with the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) Chairperson and members

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



## Odd World

# Woman faces backlash during wedding

A woman faced a huge backlash from her family after telling her sister that only three of her 10 kids could go to their wedding. The woman took to Reddit to explain that she got married in August and did not want their wedding to be too big so only kept it a small event.

She explained in the post: "We kept it small and simple and didn't want too many guests due to budget, so we only invited close family members and friends."

However, an issue arose over the invites as the bride's sister has 10 children.

"My parents and the rest of my family aren't religious, but my sister and her husband are very hardcore Christians and believe that having lots of children is God's will," explained the woman. "Obviously, inviting all of my nieces and nephews would be quite a cost. My wedding isn't child-free, but my husband and I decided it would be fairest if we only invited her three eldest kids."

The sister was less than impressed and called the bride a 'Bridezilla'.

But the sister was less than impressed to hear this restriction and suggested the bride was being totally unreasonable and even called her a

'Bridezilla'.

"I talked to her about it and explained our reasoning, but she was really offended and said that I'm picking favourites," explained the woman who remained anonymous.

"I told her I'm sorry but 10 kids is a big cost on our wedding budget and that we tried to be as fair as possible."

When it came to the big day, the sister brought her three eldest kids along but had to face questions from the rest of the guests asking where the other kids were.

The newlywed said: "After the wedding, my sister has been very off around me lately. She told me she 'understands how I feel about her babies' and said that I'm a bad sister and a terrible aunt, and has accused me of not respecting her religion and lifestyle."

In response, many have been quick to support the newlywed bride with one person writing: "If your sister was so upset she could've offered to contribute towards the costs. A consequence of having a load of kids is that people aren't going to want to cater to all of them at events because it is a big cost."

While another wrote: "I'm thinking the older children might be happy to attend the wedding where they can enjoy themselves without having to watch over their brothers and sisters."

THE MIRROR



## Is Governor Wike's fear, wisdom beginning?

LIKE him or hate him, Governor Nyeson Ezenwo Wike of Rivers State has completely won the hearts of his people. He has also based on efficient and effective technical capacity contemporarily redefined citizens' perception as to our political leader's role in practicably providing democracy dividends to the citizenry. More realistically, Governor Wike no doubt has continued to ensure the provision of the dividends of good governance through his consistent meritorious service to his people and by extension to humanity. Today, despite the political brouhaha Wike has consistency found himself entangled in this imbroglio has not robbed him of his vibrant title of 'Mr. Talk and Do.' In fact, this man though misunderstood within the realm of the political class has acclimatized in the midst of his people.

For those who have cared to follow the numerous projects the Governor has successfully commissioned in the past few weeks, one would by now have been dazed, left speechless and overwhelmed. Many of us have lost count over the unaccountable number of many infrastructures which have direct bearing on the lives of the people of his state.

Many of these projects stretch from standard roads network penetrating various rural communities, hospitals and schools amongst many other strategic edifices across all the nooks and crannies of Rivers State. Some of these projects fair enough have been given pass mark by several professional bodies within the building sector.

Some months back, I heard Governor Wike unequivocally clear that he would desire a situation where after his tenure, he can comfortably acclimatize, melt and be comfortable in the midst of his people. Wike's pragmatic ideology is that his people who granted him the rare privilege to serve should not regret doing so.

Wike recently stirred the hornet's nest after he called for a proper accountability and justification of the humongous amount of derivation funds given to all oil producing states which has not reflected on the vulnerable people of the area. Statistical report of the 13 percent derivation fund have given to Governors of the region with absolutely nothing to show for it.

According to these figures under the 13 percent fund withdrawn from the ECA without deducting derivation from 2004 to 2019, Abia State received N4.8 billion with outstanding sum of N2.8 billion, Akwa-Ibom received N128 billion with outstanding sum of N77 billion, Bayelsa with N92.2 billion leaving an outstanding of N55 billion.

Cross Rivers got a refund of N1.3 billion with a balance N792 million, Delta State received N110 billion leaving behind a balance of N66.2 billion, Edo received N11.3 billion with a balance of N6.8 billion, Imo N5.5 billion with an outstanding sum of N3.3 billion, Ondo N19.4 billion with an outstanding sum of N11.7 billion while Rivers was paid N103.6 billion with an outstanding balance of N62.3 billion.

On the 13 percent derivation fund on deductions made by NNPC without payment of derivation, nine oil producing states were paid in three installments this year with the remaining 17 instalments

outstanding. Under this category, Abia State received N1.1 billion, Akwa-Ibom, N15 billion, Bayelsa N11.6 billion, Cross River N432 million, Delta N14.8 billion, Edo N2.2 billion, Ondo N3.7 billion and River N12.8 billion. Meanwhile, the benefitting states shared N9.2 billion in three instalments in April, August and November 2022 as refunds on the 13 percent derivation exchange rate differential on withdrawal from the ECA.

While growing up as a teenager, yours sincerely had course to challenge through several write-ups why the unabated unpalatable environmental issues confronting the Niger Delta region had not yet received the desired attention by the federal government. Many had asked why the vehemently impoverished common man there had not been integrated into the system properly.

It was during the tenure of the late President Umaru YarAdua that the central government decided to extend an olive tree to the militant groups in the region. His amnesty programme did not only engage some of these militant groups wooing them back to the negotiations table but also ensured in technical demilitarization the militants that led to massive tension reduction in the region. Many of this non state actors were identified and offered lucrative scholarships and or opportunities to relinquish their acts of criminality and embrace peace as a better option for nation building. After the Niger Delta ministry including other vibrant commissions were created to help empower and integrate the elites of the region into national reckoning, most of these elites threw discipline to the wind and were submerged by cruel acts of personal aggrandizement.

It became more pronounced that the plights of the common man in the region was not on the agenda of the elites. Overwhelmed by greed and self-centeredness, these elites eventually derailed from the fundamental ideology of their founding fathers and quest for equitable and fair distribution of wealth in consideration of their unpleasant disposition in the region.

Consequently, while many billionaires have been created out of the Niger Delta region, no significant change has been recorded in terms of transforming the impoverished areas to become more variable. In other words, a significant percentage of all financial resources allotted to the region had been a colossal waste.

This is perhaps as a result of this sad narrative that Governor Wike is trying to educate citizens of the area to enable them holder their Governors accountable over this significant deliberate act of cruelty and extreme wickedness. Come to think of it, what justification do these political officeholders and their cronies have after failing woefully as regards doing the needful to help liberate their people from the shackles of abject poverty for decades now? Why shouldn't all of these Governors be held to account for allegedly diverting some of these financial resources for private usage rather than for the benefit of all? In the real sense of it, is the fear of Governor Nyeson Ezenwo Wike becoming the beginning of wisdom?



## View Point

# Bauchi Za'ar Day: An event worth celebrating

*Continued from last week*

## Respect for Diversities:

Even within the family, diversities are inherent. We have diversities in terms of opinions, methods and procedures, ideas, dialectical differences, political differences etc. In our desire to achieve development, we must respect each other. In fact, diversities to be harnessed for development and not for disunity, whether you are for Paul or Silas, these disciples worked for Christ. In other words, our differences in terms of procedure, modalities and other areas should not affect our efforts in achieving our goal. Instead of saying this must be the way or the person to achieve this or that, we must rather engage each other in an orderly, constructive and respectful manner on how we can get it. This is what defines our level of education of a society. If education cannot be reflected in the manner we conduct ourselves, then when it comes to worse than lack of it.

**Rumours:** Rumour mongering has done and is still wrecking serious havoc in our efforts to ensure peace, unity and development of Za'ar Land. We recall with utmost regret the effects of falsehood, rumour and blatant lies which were spread late last year when an event meant to garner support and resources for education, empowerment and development of Za'ar land was disrupted due to spread of lies and falsehood against its well-intended purpose, thereby denying our youths, women and other beneficiaries of the golden opportunity to make a difference in their lives. While truth has prevailed over falsehood but we are regrettably licking the wounds of that sad incident, it is believed that lessons learnt will be put to use in future community efforts.

## Wrong use of Social Media:

No doubt, the advent of social media has boosted information dissemination across societies as well as increased social relationships. However, its wrong use, which is prevalent in Za'ar nation has further polarized our people, thereby widening perceived differences among brothers and sisters. Those guilty of this are mostly the youths and supposedly educated in our society. This unfortunate development has further increased our vulnerability both culturally and in terms of security. How can you explain a situation where a kinsman will be beaming an incidence of violence within his own community? Is this civilization or rude ignorance and disservice?

**Education:** Traditionally, our occupation has been farming, but the exigencies of contemporary society had necessitated that education is placed as top priority. Without education, Za'ar sons and



daughters who have made us proud in the national and even global level would not have attained such feat. So, we must not abandoned education, including vocational and skill acquisition and entrepreneurship to meet up with the realities of our time.

**Economic and Financial insecurity:** Indolence, laziness and get-rich-quick syndrome which were never known or respected in our Land are now the order of the day and have contributed in the pauperization of our people, thereby creating economic and financial insecurity among our people. The culture of hard work and honesty must be restored so as to restore our dignity as a people.

Socio-political security, crave for self-determination, self-rule and other related issues have

over the years led to the breach of peace and unity in Za'ar Land. This very issue which has lingered for several years and caused division, hatred, disaffection must be addressed now and by us. What is worrisome now is the intra-tribal conflict arising as a result of this agitations. This has resulted in creating a sharp division in this struggle with the syndrome of "anti-this, anti-that". Gladly, we must appreciate and commend the current administration in the state led by no any person other than the lover of Za'ar People and Land, our Governor, Sen. Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, who has shown in his words and actions that this issue that is at the heart of Za'ar people is resolved once and for all. He has assured the Za'ar people in various fora that he is determined in ensuring that

they achieve their self-determination and self-rule. To add to it, he has set up machinery in motion to have legal instruments necessary for the realization of this desire. What is then required of us as Za'ar people to organize ourselves to ensure peace, unite and support the government to achieve this our long awaited Za'ar Chieftdom. Therein lies the necessity to follow established procedures and rules. Our vision can best be achieved if we are united and peaceful, because united, we are stronger! Even after we realize our desires, laws, rules and procedures must be the established and order to sustain and consolidate on it. We also need to trust the government since the Governor had given assurances and is working

towards its actualization. He would, therefore, expect that as the state government advances in putting administrative and legal instruments and processes towards actualizing the Chieftdom. Elders and opinion leaders of the land should have gone far in brainstorming on issues which will ensure smooth actualization and sustenance of the Chieftdom. Elders of the land must come out from their shelves and speak out while the young should listen to them. The elders and opinion leaders can no longer sit in your comfort zones and expect that the youths alone will do what is right. If you cannot provide a direction for the youth, you should prepare to bear the consequences of wherever the youths will lead you into. For attaining self-rule or the establishment of a Kingdom is in itself not a necessary yardstick for development, but the conscious efforts and decision by the people to unite, support the expected newly established kingdom and work for its development. He added that, beyond all the struggles, we must ensure that we love one another in order to attain developmental heights which we yearned for. As rightly put by Mahatma Gandhi, the famous Indian, anti-colonial Nationalist, Civil Rights and Freedom Advocate, "The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace." Conclusively, the keynote Speaker, Iliya Habila called on all his dear brothers and sisters that are gathered and having various political, ideological and other differences to make a statement before the year runs out, before politics beclouds our sense of reasoning and we get drunk with it in the next year's election and bemisled into other activities that will further injure our togetherness. God forbid! we as Za'ar have the capacity to resolve our differences, unite and forge ahead as a community. Doing otherwise, will portray us as backward and uncivilized before our friends and foes. He ended his keynote remarks by wishing everybody a peaceful, blessed and fruitful celebration and also wish all of us Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in advance as well as peaceful elections next year.

On a personal note, the speech of the keynote speaker has beamed a searchlight on the root causes of the problems bedeviling Za'ar people as a nation and it is worthy of being internalized by all for in it, lies the path to our redemption, "A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE".

## Concluded.

**Jatau can be reached at wulumbailiya4@gmail.com.**





## Memories of 'Cock crow at dawn' as Lalong meets ace Producer Peter Igbo at PLAFEST

THE Maiden edition of the Plateau Festival of Arts and Culture (PLAFEST) 2022, with the theme "Cultural Heritage: A tool for curbing insecurity" which took place at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos on November 29th attracted many cultural enthusiasts and advocates from within and outside Plateau.

Among them was the Director General of The National Council for Arts and Culture, Otumba Olusegun Runsuwe and ace award winning NTA Producer, Peter Igbo who was the brains behind popular programmes like the

TV drama series 'Cock crow at dawn', produced on the hilly terrains of Plateau State in the 80's and 90's.

Runsuwe while speaking at the forum said he is always excited to be on the Plateau and had personally invited Igbo to be a part of PLAFEST because of the historic link he had to the cultural development of Plateau.

Describing Plateau as a peaceful accommodating state with great natural scenic beauty and endowments including over 53 diverse ethnic groups, Runsuwe said Plateau State needs to be made "The Dubai of Nigeria".

He said in the entertainment industry, and other spheres of life, many successful people cannot talk about their success stories without a link to Plateau State.

As he gave a message of goodwill on the podium, Peter Igbo spoke with nostalgia as he remembered his stay at 'Apata Street Jos' and also the moments that gave birth to shooting of the Drama series 'Cock crow at dawn' on the hills and valleys of the Jos Plateau.

Then he announced the cheering news that very will soon, based on popular requests, the program will be revived to hit the TV screens.

Igbo disclosed that although he is retired, the NTA who are the Executive Producers of the Drama series of the favourite TV sitcom of Nigerians in the 80's had 90's had called him back to work on the drama, which was shot and produced on the Plateau.

Describing himself as a son of the soil, Igbo recalled his

nostalgic memories in Plateau State while shooting the favourite sit-com

explaining that he had made the choice of Plateau as location for shooting of the Drama series because of its rich diverse cultures, ethnic groups, values, and peaceful endowments, including the State's hospitality and natural geographical landscapes.

With excitement, he said "Plans are on the way to ensure the drama series is revived. I have been asked to come back to work and bring back 'Cock crow at dawn'".

The award winning producer called on the Plateau State Governor Simon Bako Lalong, Chairman Plateau State traditional Council of Chiefs, the Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, and Director General of National Council of Arts and Culture, Otumba Olusegun Runsuwe, and other stakeholders to give the planned project the necessary support to bring the programme to life.

Chief host and initiator of PLAFEST, Governor Simon Bako Lalong expressed delight with the development and commended Igbo for carving a niche for himself in the world of Television Production.

Lalong promised to be the bedrock for the programme to be revived promising to render all the necessary support.

Since the shooting of the programme will be done in remote communities with access to sites like hills, valleys, rivers, and other natural environments, Lalong called on Local Government Chairman, Traditional rulers and other stakeholders to also render their support for the Drame Series to return to the TV screens.

The Paramount ruler of Jos, the Gbong Gwom, expressed excitement and promised to support the revival of the programme.

He said although stars of the program like Matt Dadze and Sadiz Daba, George Menta are not alive, their great impactful memories still lives on the minds of Nigerians and the whole world.

He gave an assurance promising that as the Chairman of the Plateau Council of Chiefs and Emirs, he will together with other traditional rulers render the required support to start the program.

Member Representing Langtang North, Hon Nanbol Daniel Lipstick and house committee chairman on Tourism called for more investments in tourism on the Plateau.

"Plateau can survive with Tourism and we hope that in the nearest future, a date will be fixed yearly to celebrate PLAFEST".

He also urged government, stakeholders and investors to make the festival a world class event that will attract people from across the world.



## News

### Attah Igala inaugurates committee to revive festival

**From**  
**AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THE Attah Igala and President of Kogi State Council of Chiefs, His Majesty ,Alaji Matthew Opaluwa Oguche Akpa11, has Inaugurated a 15-man committee to organise Igala annual festival, Italo, after eleven years of being put on hold.

The Igala national festival initiated over a century ago for revival of the tribe's cultural values was put at abeyance in 2011 when politicians turned the venue in Anyigba into a theatre of political campaign and violence. Inaugurating the committee in his palace at Idah

, the paramount ruler urged the 15-man committee to ensure that the venue of the cultural renaissance is not turned into an arena for political campaign and violence as experienced over a decade ago.

According to the monarch, members of the committee were not just chosen to reflect the geographical spread of Igalaland, they were also selected based on their character, expertise and ability to deliver on the age-long mandate of Italo. It is an annual assembly of Igala people at home and diaspora, initiated by his forebears to re-evaluate and project culture and language that are being threatened by globalization.

The royal father approved 30th and 31st December,2022 for the festival and maintained that Ayingba would continue to play host to the fiesta to enhance all-inclusive participation.

Ayingba would continue to play host to the fiesta to enhance all-inclusive participation.

He urged the committee to hit the ground running immediately as it has limited time to reach out and organise a successful fiesta.

The members of the committee include Chief (Dr) Jonathan Okpanachi ( Ofu) chairman, Mr Donatus Okpe (Olamaboro), Professor Armstrong Audu( Idah),Mr Salifu Adejo (Igalalamela), Mrs Charity Achimugu (Dekina/Ofu), Mr Barth Ademu( Ankpa), Mr Silas Omale(Dekina) Dr Paul Egwemi( Ibaji), Mrs Agumage Onuche-Adejo ( Igalamela/ Ankpa), Mrs Blessing Ikwuji (Olamaboro),Mr Peter Ebiloma ( Dekina), Hajia Lami Usman ( Dekina),Mall Shaibu Umar Angulu (Bassa) and Alhaji Usman Okolo ( e k i n a )

The Royal father advised the committee to ensure that it is in regular consultation with the four palace chiefs which include former INEC Resident Commissioner in-charge of Niger State, Chief (Dr) Emmanuel Onucheyo(Ohimogbolo Ata), Ajofe Ibrahim Atadoga (Inalogu Ata), Chief Suleiman Igano( Emakoji Ata), Chief Jacob Ocheni (Odoma Ata), Chief Shaibu Iyaji Ogaji ( Onu Ega/ Egene Ata). Chief (Dr) Jonathan Okpanachi is the Chairman, Italo Planning Committee and Mr Donatus Okpe will serve as thePublicity Sub-Committee Chairman.

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has described the media as a viable tool for combating misinformation, fake news and malicious falsehood which deserve its continued partnership with the media as a key stakeholder in the electoral process.,

INEC believes that the only solution to fake news and misinformation is by working closely with the media and availing it of all facts that need to be in the public domain, with immediacy too and strengthening of the media to play its constitutional role in a democratic line.

Barrister Festus Okoye, INEC National Commissioner and Chairman, Information and Voter Education, made this known at a 'Roundtable' programme organized by the Nigeria Union of Journalists on Conflict Sensitive Reporting and the 2023 general election in Bauchi State.

Okoye emphasized on the need for the media to avoid deliberate falsehood aimed at drawing traffic to particular sites which is a huge challenge. In strategic communication, rumors and falsehood are sometimes very difficult to manage.

"The media must avoid the breaking news syndrome. Some of the mainstream media are gradually gravitating towards online journalism with the attendant quest for breaking news, which are sometimes not properly verified and processed".

"The media must be circumspect in casting headlines and the thirst for sensational headlines. Sometimes people look at the headlines and draw conclusions without looking at the

### INEC/ NUJ train journalists in Bauchi

**From**  
**ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

body of the report. The media must find the right balance in casting headlines".

According to the INEC Information and Voter Education Commissioner, the media must hold a balance between all the contending parties, as candidates Section 95(2) of the Electoral Act, 2022 is categorical that state apparatus including the media shall not be employed to the advantage or disadvantage of any political party or candidate at any election.

Barrister Okoye explained that the media and its practitioners must have basic understanding and a working knowledge of the constitutive constitutional legal and regulatory instruments that guide and underpin the work of the electoral commission, having the constitution gone through several amendments.

He said that the conduct of electoral business has national security implications, hence reporting elections needs to be handled with an eye on conflict sensitivity and national peace and cohesion, as one false report that goes viral may have the potential of triggering a breakdown of law and order in a part or the whole of the country.

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) which organized the programme in journalism practice in Nigeria, collaboration with ted by the mass media and civil society. And despite its challenges, democracy has provided

Nigerians with space to freely discuss their affairs.

INEC emphasized that the emergence of our country as a democratic nation in 1999 was a product of collective efforts of Nigerians as represented by the mass media and civil society. And despite its challenges, democracy has provided Nigerians with space to freely discuss their affairs.

The NUJ National President, Chris Isiguzo said that the media is an essential factor in the process of democracy, expected not only to monitor governance and make government accountable, but also help to mobilize the populace to participate in the process of governance and development.

Isiguzo stated that every single day of democratic governance in Nigeria helps further deepen democratic values in the country, assuring that journalists would work towards the advancement of the right of freedom of expression, access to information, freedom of the press, media independence, conflict transformation and peace building as prerequisites for open governance and development.

He added that in order to properly advance public interests, earn public trust and be watchdogs of the society, the pursuit of truth and public good must be the cornerstone of journalism practice in Nigeria, thereby making it obligatory for every journalist to maximally comply with ethical principles and professional standards.



Attah Toala



## Feature

# Benefits of anthropomorphic collection in our society

BY FATILE JONATHAN

**W H A T i s Anthropomorphism?**

Anthropomorphic is the attribution of human trait, emotion, or intention to non-human entities. It is considered to be an innate tendency of human psychology. Anthropomorphism and Anthropomorphization derive from the verb anthropomorphize. Anthropomorphic itself derived from the Greek anthropos and morphe. It is first attested in 1753, originally in reference to the heresy of applying a human form to the Christian God.

Examples in prehistory.

From the beginnings of human behavioural modernity in the upper Paleolithic about 40,000 year ago, example of zoomorphic may represent the earliest known evidence of anthropomorphism. One of the oldest known is Ivory sculpture, the lowenmerisch figurine. Germany, a human-shaped figurine with the head of a lioness or loin determined to be about 32,000 years old.

In religion and mythology

Anthropomorphism is the perception of being or beings in human form or the recognition of human qualities in these beings. Ancient mythologies frequently represented the divine as deities with human form and qualities. They resemble human beings not only in appearance and personality. They exhibited many human behaviours that were used to explain natural phenomena, creation, love, married, had children, fought battle, wielded weapons and rode horses and chariots. They feasted on special food and sometimes required sacrifices of food beverages and sacred objects to be made by human beings. Some anthropomorphic deities represented specific human concepts, such as love, war, fertility, beauty or the seasons. Anthropomorphic deities exhibited human qualities such as beauty, wisdom, power, and sometimes human weakness such as greed, hatred, jealousy and uncontrollable anger. The Greek such as Zeus and Apollo often were depicted in human form exhibiting both commendable and despicable human traits.

From the perspective of adherents to religions in which humans were created in the form of divine, the phenomenon may be considered theomorphism or the giving of divine qualities to human.

It is not possible to say what this prehistoric artwork represents. A more recent example is the sorcerer, an enigmatic cave painting from the Trois-freres cave, Arieg, France, the figures significance is unknown, but is usually interpreted as some kind of Great Spirit or master of the animals. In either case there is an element of anthropomorphism.

This anthropomorphic art has been linked by Archaeologist Steven Mithen with the emergence of more systematic



hunting practices in the upper Paleolithic. He proposes that these are the product of a change in the architecture of the human mind, an increasing fluidity between the natural history and social intelligence, where anthropomorphism allowed hunter to identify emphatically.

**What are the benefits of Anthropomorphism?**

Anthropomorphism refers to the practice in which humans attribute, human emotion and behavioral features to non-human animals and objects. For some people this represents a means to reinforce the human animal connection, display empathy towards their compassion animals and show care and interest in their well-being. However some anthropomorphic behaviours towards pet are often driven by temporary fashions that may have a detrimental effect on

animal welfare, both physically (e.g. dermatological, orthopedic and nutritional diseases) and emotionally (e.g. fear, anxiety, aggressiveness) not less importantly in some cases, they may pose a risk for public health (e.g. the transmission of Zoonotic diseases).

The contemporary use of Anthropomorphism manifest in different ways which includes:

Anthropomorphism in movies and TV show advertising/branding messages and many works of writing. There are many anthropomorphic animals and objects in popular movies and Television shows. Any non-human characters that walk, talk, sing or dance are examples of Anthropomorphism.

Disney animal character like Mikey Mouse, Minie Mouse, Donald Duck, Goofy and many other represents anthropomorphic animal. Fifi the

talking feather duster in the animated version of beauty and the beast is a non-living object with human characteristics.

Anthropomorphism in children books

Alice in wonderland's Cheshire cat, White Rabbit and Caterpillar are anthropomorphic animals.

Thomas the Tank Engine and the other talking train characters from the Thomas & Friend series are vehicles with human characteristics.

**Anthropomorphism in literature and poetry**

There are anthropomorphic character in many books written for and adult audience. The animals in George Orwell's Animal Farm talk to one another and plot against the actual humans.

Homer's epic poems; The odyssey and the Iliad, feature many gods and other non-human figures from Greek mythology exhibiting human behaviours.

In Franz Kafka's; The metamorphosis, the title character starts out human but become a talking cockroach.

Anthropomorphism in Businesses

It is not unusual for businesses to use Anthropomorphism in their branding messages non-human characters that look and act like people make great product mascots and are ideal to feature in animated commercials and other types of promotional messages snuggle fabric softener with its talking teddy bear mascot. Snuggle is counting on customers wanting laundry to feel as snuggly as a beloved plush toy.

Geo-you may wonder what a talking lizard has to do with insurance. Its all about brand recognition when a company chooses a marking mascot.

Anthropomorphism in a sentence

My Sunday school class is studying example of Anthropomorphism in the Bible.

I have to learn how to spell Anthropomorphism for my literature class quiz.

My English professor wrote her Ph.D on the role of Anthropomorphism in fantasy novels.

In conclusion one can say emphatically that Anthropomorphism is not grounded in a specific belief system but rather in interaction. In interaction, a non-human entity assumes a place that generally is attributed to human interlocutor, which means that it is independent of the beliefs that people may have about the nature and feature of the entities that are Anthropomorphized as a believe.

**Chief Museum Education Officer of the National Museum, Esie**





Sports



Samuel Eto'o (left) has attended World Cup matches alongside Fifa president Gianni Infantino (right)

Eto'o lashes out at football fan

A video posted online appears to show former Barcelona and Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o lashing out at a man following a match at the World Cup in Qatar.

The incident occurred outside Stadium 974 in Doha after Monday's last-16 match between Brazil and South Korea, which the South Americans won 4-1.

Eto'o, who is now president of his country's football federation (Fecafoot), posed for several pictures with supporters before getting into an angry altercation with another man with a video camera.

Footage showed Eto'o advancing towards the man before he was restrained by bystanders, but the 41-year-old then broke free and appeared to lash out towards the man with his knee.

The four-time African Footballer of the Year is also an ambassador for Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, which is overseeing the organisation of the World Cup alongside world governing body Fifa.

Fecafoot and the Supreme Committee have been contacted for comment.

Eto'o, who scored 56 goals in 118 games for Cameroon, was elected Fecafoot president in December last year.

He also had playing spells at Real Madrid, Mallorca, Inter Milan, Chelsea and Everton.

By  
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

SPORTING media professionals under the aegis of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) FCT recently rolled out drums to celebrate outstanding personalities within the nation's capital and the country.

Top among those who deserved honour and was dully crowned SWAN Patron is Sir Emeka Offor, Chairman Chrome Group.

The business mogul and well-known philanthropist whose wife Barr. Adaobi Emeka Offor stood in for, in company of AIG Chris Ezike (Rtd), Chief of Staff to Sir Emeka Offor and management staff at the auspicious event, held inside the prestigious Moshood Abiola National stadium Abuja received plaudits by many stakeholders who described him as a unique man who goes about doing good in all facets of the society.

Only recently, the Anambra state-born philanthropic giant under one of his towering establishments - Sir Emeka Offor Foundation reached out to floods victims in Nigeria with cash and relief materials worth millions of naira.

Before then, Sir Offor has been rolling out numerous humanitarian gestures including taking care of the indigent people through regular and robust educational scholarships, free healthcare services and other empowerment programmes.

"As sports Journalists, we have

SWAN dishes out honours



Sir EMEKA OFFOR

about five years ago during a para-sporting event which he fully sponsored in Abuja, and "without any much hassle and protocol which we are use to when seeking for sponsorship or support, Sir Emeka Offor granted us audience, and before you know it, he welcomed us wholeheartedly.

"His kind of personality is rare in Nigeria. And that is more reason why we didn't ponder so much in conferring him as our Patron."

Responding shortly after, the elated Sir Offor expressed satisfaction with the laudable membership welfare approach SWAN FCT has been known for in recent times and assured of continuous and increased partnership with the media.

He also promised to host champions of the 2022 SWAN week competitions as well as SWAN FCT leadership on a soon to be announced date and venue.

Sir Emeka Offor Foundation before this year's football competition begun, donated another trophy, backed with prize money.

The Foundation had in 2019 given the professional association its first trophy and cash which was later retired after the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) won the trophy a record three times.

Incidentally, NTA at the end of this year's competition won the new trophy after defeating News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on penalties.

Voice of Nigeria (VON) beat Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) in third-place match to emerged third best.

During an evening of honour and prize given ceremony, each member of the winning teams received medals just as the overall winners, second and third best sides smiled home with trophies and cash prizes.

SWAN FCT also honoured some deserving Sports personalities including former Super Eagles coach Samson Siasia, President of Nigeria Volleyball Federation Engr. Musa Nimrod and Nigeria Pillar of Sports Chief Donatus Agu-Ejideke.

Others are former Super Eagles coordinator Mr. Emmanuel Attah, CBN Director Corporate Communications Mr. Osita Nwanisobi, Chairman Mark Mentors Mr. Igoche Mark, FCT Chairman Nigeria Taekwondo Association Grand Master Anthony Anafulu, Super Eagles coordinator Mr. Patrick Pascal and Special Adviser on Media to Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Mrs. Nneka Ikem Anibeze.

Okonofua emerges winner of CBN Governor's Cup

ISAIAH Okonofua has emerged overall winner of the 2022 Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor's Cup in Abuja.

The annual golf competition staged inside the IBB International Golf and Country Club, Abuja, witnessed intense competition by no fewer than 160 participants.

Okonofua, playing off

From  
DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

handicap 14 with a gross score of 81 and a net of 67, finished as the overall winner of the cup competition.

Mohammed Suleiman playing off handicap 4 with a net of 79 emerged as men's gross winner.

He was closely followed by

Julius Fadairo who played with a handicap of 7 to finish as first runner-up with a net of 85.

V.O Adedipe won the men's division 1 (handicap 0-10) category after playing 9 handicap with 81 gross and an impressive 72 net.

S.O. Sanya finished as first runner-up in the category playing off handicap 6 with 81 gross and 75 net.

Speaking to the overall

winner, he said,"I thank God who made it possible for me to be a celebrated champion today. I have been hoping for a day like this for four years now since I started playing golf, even though I have not been playing regularly."

Okonofua said "It was a major challenge not playing always because each time I come back from wherever I have travelled to, it's like

starting all over again. The game of golf needs you to be consistent, otherwise you will be left behind.

"This win will motivate and inspire me to do greater things and win more trophies in future," an excited Okonofua said.

In the CBN Staff category, R. Uje-Eje, playing off handicap 30 with a gross score of 90 and net 69.

Brazil puts down the biggest marker at Qatar tournament

BRAZIL coach Tite did not produce the night's smoothest moves but the sight of the sober-suited elder statesman gyrating with his players on the touchline epitomised this football carnival.

Tite cut a somewhat incongruous figure but he simply could not resist joining a communal samba as Brazil put down the biggest marker at this World Cup with a dazzling victory over South Korea that sets up a quarter-final against Croatia on Friday.

And what a moment it was that inspired Tite, 61, to let it all hang out, as Brazil produced the tournament's best football in a 4-1 win that had their status as World Cup favourites stamped right through it.

Richarlison had just made his second entry into the showreel for the greatest goals scored in Qatar, delivering Brazil's third

after only 29 minutes of a first half that will live long in the memory.

It was a marvel of pin-point passing around the edge of the area.

The Tottenham forward juggled the ball on his head three times, and once with his foot, then laid it off to Marquinhos.

He delivered to Thiago Silva and his first-time pass slotted in Richarlison on the run to give the move the finish it deserved past South Korea keeper Kim Seung-gyu.

If Richarlison's acrobatic bicycle kick against Serbia was magical, this may just have surpassed it - a glorious mixture of individual brilliance and passing perfection.

It was, like pretty much all of Brazil's first-half football, poetry in motion. It said: "We are here. Can you stop us?"

All this and the return of Neymar, too.

Brazil could not be in better shape going into the last eight, despite the loss of Gabriel Jesus and Alex Telles to injury.

Neymar was the headline act as he made his comeback after an ankle problem but he had to share top billing here with his attacking team-mates Richarlison and Vinicius Jr.

Vinicius showed his class when putting Brazil ahead after only seven minutes, and then Neymar got in the act from the spot - his 'Riverdance' footwork on his stuttering approach embellishing the penalty. It leaves him one behind Pele's all-time record of 77 goals for his country.

West Ham United's Lucas Paqueta volleyed a sumptuous fourth from Vinicius' cross before half-time, allowing Brazil from then on to preserve energy for Croatia.

Brazil have been easing their way into this World Cup, even losing to Cameroon in the group stage, but the first 45 minutes was an outstanding side on full power, sending a message to their rivals about what they would have to equal - at least - to win the trophy.

This was not simply a performance - it was an outpouring of Brazilian joy. Football such as this is their national emblem.

They could even give their outstanding goalkeeper Alisson 10 minutes off as Tite sent on third-choice Weverton to get in on the action - meaning Brazil became the first team to use all 26 players at

this World Cup.

And it even allowed for dad dancing from their veteran coach, although the pre-rehearsed moves following goals went on so long that many observers questioned whether they amounted to a show of disrespect for their opponents.

The opposite view is that Brazil

played with such freedom of expression, in the very finest traditions of their country, that their elation was purely natural.

Whether it was the corner flag or Tite, Brazil's players were so locked into their own elation they were happy to take anything as a dance partner.

NSF: Team Plateau move up

From  
Andre D. Bisyyit, Asaba

AS the National Sports Festival gathers momentum on day 5, Plateau state clinched 3 more medals to reposition themselves on the medals table.

The latest results came from Powerlifting, Scrabble and Para Table tennis.

In Powerlifting, Punshak Istifanus secured Gold In the 49kg weight category to hand Plateau her first Gold in the current campaign.

Joy Ola settled for bronze in the Scrabble single ladies event, as Lurwanu Audu, in the Para table tennis class 7, was handed the bronze after losing 1- 2 in the semi finals to Abia.

In one of the biggest surprises of the Festival, Naomi Monday caused a major offset in Scrabble by defeating the International and Nigeria's number one, Ofowowo Toritsemuwa, from Delta on the board 2 match to move to the next round. This heroic feat makes her a big threat as she sends shivers to her potential contestants.

In other results, Plateau female Hockey played 1-1, as Yobe managed to salvage the draw in the

dying minutes of the game.

In Tennis, both Walid Lawal and Ramond Lumas in a separate singles event, brushed aside their opponents from Enugu and Niger respectively to advance into the next round.

It was a disappointing outing for Golf as the quartet of Friday Peter, Celina Ringsum, Eunice Pam and Pam Chollom, all lost in their various events.

Similarly, our Cycling team were edged out of the medals table in the 160km cycling race, while Weng Chollom was brought to her knees in the quater finals, by her Oyo opponent in the Taekwondo - 62kg female light weight bout.

More contests will continue tomorrow in Teakwondo, Powerlifting, Hockey, Handball, Para table tennis, Tennis as Athletics, Volleyball, Gymnastic will start tomorrow at the various venues.

So far Plateau has won gold and 3bronze medals in the ongoing Festival.



Pele scored 77 goals in 92 appearances for Brazil



## Sports

### Team Nasarawa highly motivated for NSF

From Andre D. Bisyt

AMB. Lucky Isaac Yargwa, Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development of the State disclosed that while interacting with journalists at the Stephen Keshi Stadium in Asaba, recently.

He maintained that the State have the largest contingents to the Festival, comprising of 181 athletes, 33 coaches, 8 referees, 27 sports secretaries, 20 accompanying officials, 2 medical personnel and 6 securities, to participate in 27 sporting events.

"In the 2021 edition in Edo State, Team Nasarawa won a total of 22 medals, which include 5 gold, four

silver and 13 bronze medals to finished 18th out of 36 States and FCT, Abuja, on the medals' table and in the entire 19 Northern States and FCT, Abuja, only Kano, Plateau, Kwara and FCT Abuja, did better than us, even though we went with fewer sports events," he said.

Amb Yargwa maintained that the state prepared of tournament and were among the first States to arrive Asaba and took part in the opening ceremony.

"Our athletes and coaches are more than motivated to deliver results. Nobody is owed any dime. The State Government, through the Ministry of Youth and Sports

Development made every necessary and adequate provision for each member of the contingent," the Commissioner said.

He further said that government had redeemed the 16.5 million pledge made to athletes who won medals at last year's Festival in Edo State, in order to motivate to do better in Delta.

"Our Governor is a firm believer of hard work and graciously rewards excellence, no matter where it is coming from. As a government, we prioritize the welfare of our people and we will continue to improve it to meet acceptable global standard.

"We are deliberate in building sports infrastructure and supporting human resource development for optimum performance and healthy competition wherever we find ourselves," he ended.

TEAM Delta has proved to be unstoppable after just day six of the ongoing 21st National Sports Festival tagged Delta 2022 with 80 medals leaving second placed on the log, Team Ogun on a distance 18 medals.

Team Delta has won 43 Gold, 22 Silver and 15 Bronze medals so far.

Second on the medals log Team Ogun has 7 Gold, 5 Silver and 6 Bronze. While

### 2022: Team Delta wins 80 medals in Day 6

Oyo state has 6 Gold, 8 silver and 6 Bronze a total of 20 medals to sit on the 3rd position.

State that were expected to give Team Delta a good challenge are Team Edo, Bayelsa and Lagos but the are currently laying on 5th to 7th position respectively with the later of 4 Gold each and 3 Gold.

As the Nigeria Olympics games enters Day 7, the medal table is expected to change as over taking is allowed.

Over 13 state are yet to win a single medal as at the time of this report, these include Team Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Enugu, Kebbi, Zamfara, Kaduna, Yobe, Gombe, Kogi, Cross-River, Ebonyi and Niger State.

However, the Delta state commission for information Charles Aniagwu has continue to urge other state to give Team Delta a good fight but under the watch of the Chairman of Delta state sports Commission who doubles as President Athletic Federation of Nigeria, AFN, Chief Tonobok Okowa, it seems impossible for any state to dethrone the 6 times consecutive champion.



Team Delta

### NSF: More medals roll in for team Plateau

From Andre D. Bisyt, Asaba

PLATEAU performance at the National Sports Festival begins to heat up in Asaba with mixed results for the state.

As the state celebrated 6 more medals comprising 2 gold 2silver and 2 bronze on day 6 of the sports fiesta, disappointments from poor results also trail the celebration.

The latest results showed 2gold medals were won in Powerlifting and Para athletics.

Recalled that just last night, it was reported that Punshak Istifanus of the 49kg Powerlifting, secured Silver, it was later announced that the silver was upgraded to Gold after reconsideration, it was

confirmed that he got the highest score to warrant the gold medal.

Ayuba Kadiya scooped the second Gold medal for the state in Para athletics of the Short put F 53 class, with a 6.75 throw.

Again, in Powerlifting, Rose Dung grabbed the silver medal in the 67 kg class while Deborah Pam settled for bronze in the 73kg class to make Powerlifting the highest medal winning sports for the state so far.

Nanlop Danladi became the second fastest lady in the Athletics Walk race event, with a silver medal to show for her efforts.

After a disappointing outing for Plateau Golfers in the days past,



Amb. Lucky Yargwa, Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development, Nasarawa State

SL	STATES	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	Delta	43	22	15	80
2	Ogun	7	5	6	18
3	Oyo	6	8	6	20
4	Abia	5	1	5	11
5	Edo	4	10	17	31
6	Bayelsa	4	4	7	15
7	Lagos	3	11	9	23
8	Imo	3	1	6	10
9	Kano	2	4	7	13
10	Bivers	1	2	8	11
11	Kwara	1	1	12	14
12	Plateau	1	0	3	4
13	Benue	1	0	1	2
14	Ouan	0	3	2	5
15	FCT	0	2	2	4
16	Ondo	0	1	9	10
17	Nasarawa	0	1	2	3
18	Jigawa	0	1	1	2
19	Sokoto	0	1	0	1
20	Katsina	0	0	3	3
21	Akwa Ibom	0	0	1	1
22	Anambra	0	0	1	1
23	Ekiti	0	0	1	1
24	Taraba	0	0	1	1
25	Adamawa	0	0	0	0
26	Bauchi	0	0	0	0
27	Borno	0	0	0	0
28	Cross River	0	0	0	0
29	Ebonyi	0	0	0	0
30	Enugu	0	0	0	0
31	Gombe	0	0	0	0
32	Kaduna	0	0	0	0
33	Kebbi	0	0	0	0
34	Kogi	0	0	0	0
35	Niger	0	0	0	0
36	Yobe	0	0	0	0
37	Zamfara	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	81	76	127	284

Date: Sunday, 4th Dec. 2022  
Time: 5:38 pm



### Our athletes are ready to compete -Abdul

PRESIDENT of Nigeria Weightlifting Federation Dr Ibrahim Abdul has given insight into what to expect from the weightlifting sports of the ongoing National Sports Festival Delta 2022 kicking off tomorrow.

Speaking to press men this afternoon inside the Stephen Keshi Stadium Asaba, the weightlifting boss maintained that the athletes are excited coming into this year's National Sports Festival.

"I want to tell you that our athletes have put in so many preparations before coming into Asaba and they want to showcase what they have been doing which I can

assure you that people would be wowed with the results that will be coming



Buhari

out from the sport"

The former Nigeria Teqball federation Vice President

heaped praises on Delta State Government for the good works they put in place in organizing the Sports Festival.

"You know Delta in this country is for me the No.1 sports state. This is not the first time they are doing this and you can see that they are not going to beg for people to come to watch but their people have come all out to watch different sports across all the event centers and I must tell you that we need to congratulate them for the work so far as this can compete with several international championships".

George Paul narrowed the disappointment to the bronze medal he won in the Stableford play, amateur event.

In Hockey, the female team suffered a shock defeat to their less fancied Imo ladies. They will be playing Edo next in a make or mar match.

Similarly our volleyball male team suffered two consecutive defeats in the hands of the Premier league champions, Kano pillars 1-3, and the star studded Kaduna side 3-2, to pile pressure on them to win the two remaining matches and

hope that other results favours them.

Chess and Scrabble are still pushing for places in the medal stage as Judo has been eliminated from the games.

Medals tally for Plateau has reached 9 comprising of 2gold, 2silver and 5bronze.

More will continue tomorrow in Cycling, Powerlifting, Tarkwondo, Athletics, Handball, Chess and scrabble while Squash, Karate, Weightlifting, Badminton and Kungfu will join the fray.





**Quest**



**writer**

**Polycarp Dama Datau, Esq.**

# Notes on electoral offences in Electoral Act, 2022

*Continued from last week*

(3) Media time shall be allocated equally among the political parties or candidates at similar hours of the day.

(4) At any public electronic media, equal airtime shall be allotted to all political parties or candidates during prime times at similar hours each day, subject to the payment of appropriate fees.

(5) At any public print media, equal coverage and visibility shall be allotted to all political parties.

(6) Any person who contravenes subsections (3) and (4) commits an offence and is liable on conviction, in a case of –

(a) a public media, to a fine of N2,000,000 in the first instance and N5,000,000 for subsequent conviction; and

(b) principal officers and other officers of the media house, to a fine of N1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of six months.

On Campaign based on religion or tribe, section 97 of the Electoral Act, 2022 provides thus:

(1) A candidate, person or association who engages in campaigning or broadcasting based on religious, tribal, or sectional reason for the purpose of promoting or opposing a particular political party or the election of a particular candidate, commits an offence under this Act and is liable on conviction –

(a) to a maximum fine of N1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months or both; and

(b) in the case of political party to a maximum fine of N10,000,000.

It is sad that a cursory survey of all media platforms across the country will show that the above cited provision of prohibition of campaign based on religion or tribe is flouted with impunity. Many candidates, political parties and social media handlers are in perpetual breach of this clear provision and ought to be arrested and docked.

## ARREST, INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

It cannot be overstated that legal and institutional frameworks provide for oversight and enforcement of election laws to make perpetrators face the full wrath of the law as well as make prosecutors, administrators and participants accountable. Continuous policing, oversight, and adjudication of the process by both internal and external mechanisms can help preempt, detect, prevent offences, challenges and problems in the system and identify the groups or individuals responsible for appropriate sanctions.

Enforcement activities are a deterrent to those contemplating illegal or unethical behaviour, and serve to penalize those who have broken the law. Otherwise, a sense of impunity and lack of enforcement can encourage a climate of corruption, violence and mediocre performance. Ongoing enforcement is a priority in rooting out corruption from the



**Journalists were part of seminar participants on election coverage recently held in Jos**

election process, bringing those responsible to justice, and maintaining a sense of trust in the system.

Breaches and violations of these provisions often attract penalties, which upon conviction would attract fines, terms of imprisonment, or both. The Police are saddled with the responsibility of arrests and investigation whilst INEC has the responsibility of prosecuting electoral offenders. The Electoral Act, 2022 empowers INEC to prosecute electoral offenders through its legal officers or any legal practitioner appointed by it without the powers to arrest and investigate thus depending on the police for this purpose.

Section 145 of the Electoral Act, 2022 provides thus:

(1) An offence committed under this Act shall be triable in a Magistrate Court or a High Court of a State in which the offence is committed, or the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

(2) A prosecution under this Act shall be undertaken by legal officers of the Commission or any legal practitioner appointed by it.

Of late, arguments, for and against, the creation of Electoral Offences commission and Electoral Offences commission have taken centre stage as the need to create a consistent and systematic enforcement of sanctions and discourage impunity heightens.

## CHALLENGES

Reports over the years have shown that no fewer than over 800,000 alleged electoral offences are committed at general elections since 2011 without arrest, investigation or prosecution; yet the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has been unable to prosecute up to one per cent of these figures. The electoral umpire has consistently stated that it is incapacitated to prosecute electoral offenders because it is overburdened with other responsibilities.

It is in this vein, amongst many other reasons, that the need for an electoral commission for the prosecution of electoral offenders

was highlighted in the recommendations of the Electoral Reform Committee (the Uwais Report) of 2008 and of the Sheikh Ahmed Lemu Committee following the post-election violence of 2011; and the Senator Ken Nnamani Committee on Constitutional and Electoral Reform in 2017. Other recommendations are contained in reports of Police investigations, INEC administrative reviews, court judgments, and reports by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), media editorials as well as several accredited election observers reports.

It is necessary to bring to the fore a contrary and differing opinion as expressed recently. The National Assembly had sprung into action with a bill in this regard but the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has opposed the bill for the creation of an electoral offences commission. The commission believes that the offences contained in the proposed bill are those that the Police, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the EFCC, the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) and even INEC (in Section 145 of the Electoral Act, 2022) are empowered to investigate and prosecute. The EFCC thinks there is no need to create an agency solely for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting electoral offences, especially when the electoral process is seasonal in nature with elections held once in four years.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), on the other hand had urged the National Assembly and other stakeholders to expedite action on the bill to establish the National Electoral Offences Commission/Tribunal. The Commission disclosed that it recorded 1,080 cases of electoral offences during the 2015 general elections and subsequent bye-elections. The INEC Chairman, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, stated these in a memorandum he submitted to the Senate joint committee on INEC and

the Judiciary. The Chairman said that 124 of the cases were filed and 60 convictions secured in various courts across the country. This figure pales into insignificance when compared with the many incidents and electoral violence across the country during general elections.

Some of the challenges as captured in reports and submissions are adumbrated hereunder, in no particular order, viz:

1- Reports of the Electoral Reform Committee (the Uwais Report) of 2008 and the Post-election Violence (Lemu Report) 2011 have been left to unimplemented. The two reports recommended the establishment of the Electoral Offences Commission/Tribunal to address all forms of electoral violence and impunity that had continued to undermine the stability of the nation's democracy.

2- The failure to systematically and consistently enforce sanctions has encouraged impunity and the violence that often characterized electoral contest in the country, thereby subverting the will of the people and undermining the nation's electoral democracy.

3- The impunity with which electoral related offences are committed is on an astronomical rise. This cannot easily be detached from the fact that most offenders are left to go scot free. These offenders are most often than not sponsored by politicians in very high positions who in the attempt to retain power will go to any length.

4- There is also the issue of a crippled, compromised and corrupt judiciary. Those in the corridors of power and affluence have occasionally been reported to have openly or secretly, frustrated the prosecution of electoral offenders who most times work for them.

5- A culture of bribery and corruption, furtherance of personal interest, as opposed to the interest of the public and suppression of evidence has continued to reign unabated.

6- Political interference is also

## FRAGMENT

*It cannot be overstated that legal and institutional frameworks provide for oversight and enforcement of election laws to make perpetrators face the full wrath of the law as well as make prosecutors, administrators and participants accountable. Continuous policing, oversight, and adjudication of the process by both internal and external mechanisms can help preempt, detect, prevent offences, challenges and problems in the system and identify the groups or individuals responsible for appropriate sanctions. Enforcement activities are a deterrent to those contemplating illegal or unethical behaviour, and serve to penalize those who have broken the law. Otherwise, a sense of impunity and lack of enforcement can encourage a climate of corruption, violence and mediocre performance. Ongoing enforcement is a priority in rooting out corruption from the election process, bringing those responsible to justice, and maintaining a sense of trust in the system.*

**POLYCARP DAMA DATAU, Esq**

a factor such as instances where an Attorney-General files Nolle Prosequi for such cases, rendering the electoral commission powerless.

7- INEC who have been vested with the power to prosecute electoral offences is limited in terms of man-power and material resources. The commission lacks the capacity in terms of resources and personnel to prosecute offences in over 180,000 polling units; 8,809 wards, 360 federal constituencies, 109 senatorial districts and 774 local government areas.

## SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Many suggestions and recommendations have been made over the years, relevant ones, for the purpose of this discourse, include that:

1- An Electoral offences Commission should be established to relieve the burden of the INEC in prosecuting Election matters and allow her focus on her core function of conducting election.

2- The function of arrest and investigation of Electoral offence should be bestowed on the Electoral Offences Commission, just like the EFCC, and not only on the police as is the present case.

3- The Constitution should be amended to create Electoral Offences Tribunal with timelines for prosecution of offenders.

4- If INEC must retain the power to prosecute, there is the need to grant the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) the power to investigate electoral offences, as allowing the police to investigate electoral offences while restricting INEC to prosecution has not achieved much. The commission should also be re-equipped with additional manpower, training and requisite infrastructure.

5- The power of the Attorney General, should be constitutionally delimited in filing Nolle Prosequi; it should be curbed where it deals with electoral offences so that political interference will be limited in prosecuting electoral offences.

6- The Electoral Act, 2022 should be amended to provide for sanctions and penalties for some of the electoral offences as well as increase penalties for some. Some of the sanctions and fines appear to be only a slap on the wrist.

7- Adequate voter education and enlightenment should be given to the electorate as to what constitute electoral offences by all voter enlightenment stakeholders in the electoral process.

## Concluded.

**Polycarp Dama Datau, Esq. (BSC, LL.M; Polycarp is a private legal practitioner and an electoral administration expert based in Jos; 08037009616, polycarpdama@gmail.com)**