Impose taxes on tobacco to P 10 reduce consumption -CISLAC



Fintiri of PDP wins Adamawa supplementary election- INEC Page 2

Terrorists kill scores of residents in fresh attack on communities Page 2

FG to host International Energy Summit

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VOL. 13 NO. 799

WEDNESDAY, April 19, 2023

Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

Cholera outbreak: Nigeria registers 79 deaths, 1336 suspected cases often mild or without country included Abia, males and females all cumulativecases he Nigeria Centre epidemiological report.

for Disease and registered 79 deaths diarrhea illness caused by cholera in the country so bacteria. far in 2023.

Control (NCDC) has that cholera is an acute life-threatening. suspected cases of with Vibrio cholera

The NCDC, via its official they swallow food or water ratio of 5.9 per cent. website, said this in its contaminated with cholera

The agency said that 12

and a total of 1,336 infection of the intestine states across 43 local Zamfara. government areas reported the suspected People can get sick when cases, with a case fatality It said that the 12 states

latest cholera situation bacteria. The infection is reporting cases in the

The News Agency of symptoms, but can Bauchi, Bayelsa, Cross respectively. Prevention Nigeria (NAN) reported sometimes be severe and River, Ebonyi, Kano, It said that of all states Ebonyi (4), Cross Osun, Sokoto, and cent were males and 47

According to it, of the

per cent were females.

beginning of the year, age cases), Abia (72 cases), groups 15-24 and >45 Niger (38 cases), and affected age groups for account for 96 per cent of

"Fifteen LGAs across nine

Katsina, Niger, Ondo, suspected cases, 53 per River (3), Ondo (2), Bayelsa (1), Abia (1), Katsina (1), Sokoto (1) Niger (1) and Six states, Cross River Zamfara (1), reported more suspected cases since the (647 cases), Ebonyi (97 than 5 cases each this year,' it said.

The NCDC said it would years were the most Zamfara (28 cases) continue training on cholera Continued on page 2

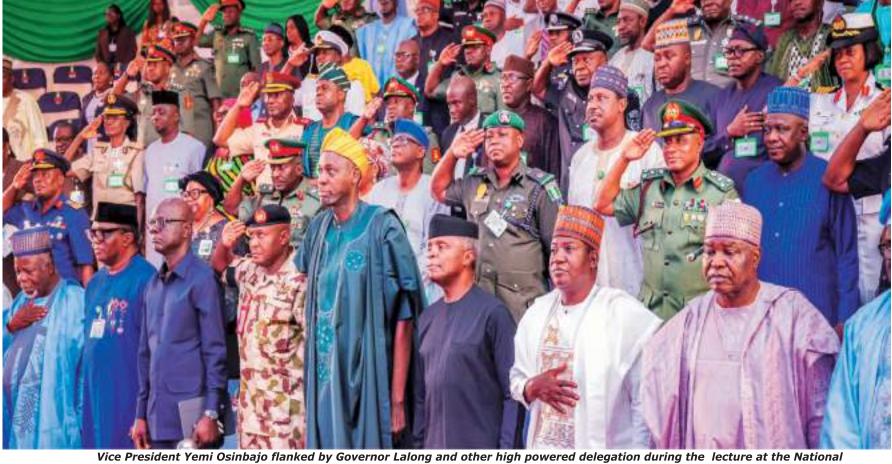


Photo: DANLADI DIIK Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru, Jos-Plateau State.

Ethnic, religious bigotry played during 23 elections

By PALANG KASMI V Osinbajo has said that religious profiling and country's development. bigotry played out influencing the decision of voters.

He also warned that such

Osinbajo raised these State.

2023 while delivering an which is "Creating a Participants to interface Inaugural lecture series for Homeland for All: Nation with intellectuals from

ice President Yemi politicians and elites in Participants at the National their quest for power only Institute for Policy and during Nigeria's 2023 promotes divisive rhetoric Strategic Studies (NIPSS) general elections, ethnic, and setback in the Kuru, Jos South Local Government of Plateau

acts, spearheaded by Executive Course 45 Building in a Diverse Democracy" is part of the Policy Making and Good Governance Lecture Series initiated by the NIPSS Management which seeks to provide a platform for issues Monday, April 17, The topic of the lecture the 97 Executive Course 45

various backgrounds. Osinbajo said just to to address how Nigeria secure power, elites and should harness its ethnic politicians used ethnic and diversity for development religious profiling by urged for caution from the criminising the acts of key players so as not to particular tribes and take Nigeria back to its past dangerous trend.

religions, but it is a bloody experiences of the first and second republic, Continued on page 2

-Osinbaio

Covid - 19 CASE UPDATE; 41 NEW CASES CONFIRMED; 4.00 p.m. April 5, 2023 TOTAL CONFIRMED: 225,255 . DISCHARGED: 259,643 . DEATHS: 3,155; NCDCToll-free Number: 080097000010

The paper which strived

Cholera outbreak: Nigeria registers 79 deaths. 1336 suspected cases Continued from page 1

surveillance, hotspot low or inter-epidemic mapping, state-level transmission periods, preparedness and therefore this number response plans.

Meanwhile, according to months to come. the World Health In Nigeria, cholera is an Organisation, at least 24 endemic and seasonal countries continue to disease, occurring report cholera cases.

seasonality, large parts of sanitation.

the world are currently in could increase in the

annually mostly during the Regarding historical rainy season and more transmission patterns and often in areas with poor

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has declared Gov. Ahmadu Fintiri of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) as the winner of the governorship supplementary election in Adamawa.

Fintiri polled 430,788 votes to defeat his closest opponent, Sen. Aishatu Binani, of the All Progressives Congress, APC who scored 398,788

deteriorated over the years

particularly within our

democratic experience

continues to impact

negatively on the slow level

of development in virtually

Lalong pointed out that

'It is sad to note that rather

than focus on sustaining

good policies that drive

national agenda and

strengthen the Nigerian

State, many office holders

sacrifice this virtue on the

altar of politics which is

sometimes motivated by

parochial considerations

driven by ethno-religious

considerations among

He said his

administration among

some of its policies

focused on continuity and

implementation of projects

abandoned and inherited

by past governments

rather than jettison such

projects due to party

differences and parochial

reasons so as not to waste

Lalong said the good

governance lecture is a

well-conceived idea and

the theme is apt adding

that President Buhari has in

his 8-year rule built great

policies that the country

has benefitted from and

said there are high

expectations on the

President Elect Asiwaju

Bola Tinubu to deliver the

laudable policies enshrined

in his manifesto "Renewed

Director General (DG) of

NIPSS Prof. Ayo Omotayo

said the lecture series is

another initiative of

Institute aimed at

generating discourse on

critical issues such as

policy-making and good

governance which are key

to attaining Nigeria's

In a goodwill message

Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob

Gyang Buba also

commended NIPSS for

sustaining the culture of

research and policy

incubation which has been

very useful for the nation's

nation's highest think-tank

and policy making

institution in his domain

has been of immense

benefit to the state and

country at large.

national aspirations.

growth.

Hope".

public resources.

all sectors".

others".

Ethnic, religious bigotry played during 2023 elections-Osinbajo



Osinbajo at NIPS

Continued from page 1 or the bitter experiences of Rwanda due to ethnic and religious bigotry.

The paper x-rayed how politicians can do so.

"The country can only where they will be. grow with unity, stability, if professionalism not ethnic Simon Bako Lalong at the or religious bigotry is forum said the Lecture prioritised. Nigeria must Series is a well-conceived prioritise its unity, idea that addresses the cohesion and progress by long standing challenge of doing away with prejudices policy-making and delivery that have impeded the of people-centred nation's growth".

peaceful coexistence a lies with both the citizens the concept of the "general and the Government which good". is expected to drive reforms and enforce the "We have witnessed time rule of law at all times".

to be mindful of the kind of narrative it spearheads in executed in Nigeria on the a multi-ethnic society like basis of politics and other Nigeria, VP Osinbajo called considerations that do not for an Ethnic Integration reflect the general Policy like the one adopted interest". in Singapore and Rwanda

which taught children and people to first identify as Singaporeans, and Rwandans for unity.

The Lecture however the elites of Tanzania, noted that Nigerians are Singapore, and Rwanda changing, while the youths came together to bring out are mingling through policies for unity, peaceful technologies and social coexistence and pointed integration, that is why in out that the Nigerian the recent elections, they joined hands to choose

Plateau State Governor

governance in Nigeria. "Elites and governments He said "Policies are should deliberately make ordinarily supposed to be formulated on the basis of part of its policies. The task national or State of changing the situation aspirations and driven by

Unfortunately he said and again where good While urging the media policies have been either jettisoned or poorly

"This situation which has

Fintiri of PDP wins Adamawa supplementary election-INEC

votes. Announcing the result on

Tuesday in Yola, the Returning Officer, Prof. Mohammed Mele, said that the supplementary poll was conducted in 69 Polling Units across 20 local government areas of the state.

"Ahmadu Fintiri of the PDP, having satisfied the requirements of the law and scored the highest number of votes in the election is hereby declared the winner and returned elected," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that INEC had fixed April 15 for supplementary governorship poll following the declaration of the March 18 election inconclusive in the state.

However, controversy trailed the purported declaration of the APC's Binani as the winner of the supplementary poll by the INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner. The commission,

thereafter, declared the pronouncement null and void.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has announced Ahmadu Fintiri as the winner of the governorship election in Adamawa State.

INEC, in its declaration on Tuesday, announced Fintiri as Adamawa's Governor-elect as announced by Prof Mohammed Mele as the Returning Officer in the state.

Fintiri emerged winner having secured 430,861 votes.

PDP NWC voids hisclose opponent. purported suspension of Sekibo, Opara



Alkali

Scores of residents have He said hosting the been killed by gunmen who invaded at least four communities in Mangu and Bokkos Local Government Areas of Plateau State.

According to reports,



Fintiri

to plea bargaining -Counsel

insecurity

to know about Fintiri:

2019. of the Adamawa State being inconclusive. House of Assembly and Assembly.

October 2014.

Fintiri emerged as the March 2023. governor with the highest 2019.

was declared inconclusive as the winner. because the number of cancelled votes was today, made Fintiri emerge

Mbah not a convict, party he was declared the winner have three children (NAN)

wave of violence.

several residents were peacebuilding and believed to have died in the reconciliation," the attack.

The Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong, with those who lost their has directed security lives and properties, the forces to identify those Governor directed the responsible for the attacks. Peace Building Agency and Monday, Makut Macham, Management Agency to Lalong's press and public immediately reach out to affairs director, quoted the the victims with support." governor as saying the Meanwhile, TheCable attackers must be Index in a review of the "brought to justice without killings and kidnappings in delay".

communities.

of the by-election having secured 376,552 votes to Aregbesola rolls out five- defeat incumbent Bindo year plan to tackle Jibrilla of the All Progressives Congress who Here is some information polled 336,386 votes.

The governorship election Ahmadu Fintiri is the which took place in the incumbent Governor of country on 11th March Adamawa State since 2023 was suspended and postponed in Adamawa by He served as a member INEC on the grounds of

The supplementary also as the Speaker of the election was held on 15th March but in what seemed He became the acting like a de javu, the now governor of Adamawa suspended-Adamawa REC, State following the Hudu Yunusa Ari declared impeachment of Governor the All Progressives Murtala Nyako in July Congress (APC) candidate, 2014, serving until 1 Aishat Binani as the Governor-elect on 16th

INEC headquarters number of votes after an rejected the result that election held on 9th March declared Binani as Governor-elect, and on The election, however, Tuesday announced Fintiri

The announcement greater than the margin as governor and defeat APC between the winner and twice through supplementary elections.

In the early hours of Fintiri is married to Lami Friday 29th March 2019, Ahmadu Fintiri and they

Terrorists kill scores of residents in fresh attack on communities suspected bandits stormed "The attacks are another

the communities on attempt to reintroduce the Sunday night, unleashing a era of violence and crises which have been largely Although the exact contained due to the number of casualties has government's huge yet to be determined, investment in security,

governor said. "While commiserating In a statement on the State Emergency

2022 that Plateau, along He said the swift with Niger, Zamfara, intervention of security Kaduna, and Benue, agencies has doused the accounted for 40% of the tension in the 4,545 people killed during the year.



CBN and the imperative of brand damage control

In his executive summary of what constitutes strong brands, a global business consultant, Nick Cober, says such brands focus on their niche, remain consistent, reflect the communities they serve, create excellent products and services and have strong and authentic personalities. It is debatable to ascribe these attributes to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in recent times. SOLA ONI writes.

WHEN the incumbent governor of the CBN, Godwin Emefiele, announced the plan and justification by the apex Bank to redesign some of the Naira notes on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, he never envisaged that he had unwittingly set up a booby trap that will later plunge the innocent Nigerians into an unprecedented fit of rage to withdrawal their money from deposit banks.

Communication strategy is critical to the success of any initiative at individual or corporate level. In the public relations parlance, it is said that brand communication, brand image and brand trust are antecedents of brand loyalty.

The whole world is watching with shock and disbelief why redesigning of a country's currencies has led to loss of lives, protest in many states of the federation, wanton destruction of property, recourse to the use of CFA franc- currency used in the Francophone countries, by Nigerians in the land borders following scarcity of new Naira notes. In some places, trade by batter has been adopted.

The Central Bank's poor stakeholder engagement became public knowledge when the announcement of the new currency redesign was faulted by the Minister of Finance, Mrs. was not consulted.

The failure of the apex bank to bank. consult the key stakeholders, In the early hours of Thursday, including the legislators to work February 16, the expectation was determination of the substantive of further reduction in the reputational damage. The Bank out the impact analysis of the high that President Mohammadu suit filled by some states. But the inflation rate, the Nigerian should embark on a gradual project ahead of implementation Buhari's nationwide broadcast broadcast was a misplaced inflation rate in January inched phase-out of the old notes, an was in itself a public relations would douse tension as he shall optimism as President Buhari up to 21.82 percent from 21.34 indication of obeying the blunder. There are other announce the CBN's compliance said only N200 note would percent in the prior month. Supreme Court order. instances of gross abuse of public with the ruling of the Supreme remain legal tender for 60 days. relations practices by the apex Court that the old Naira notes

Zainab Ahmed that her Ministry Read also: Heap of CBN loans to FG defies naira redesign logic

system.

"Unfortunately, due to bad planning and poor timing, the objectives of the new Naira notes are far from being achieved. Against the market expectations of further reduction in the inflation rate, the Nigerian inflation rate in January inched up to 21.82 percent from 21.34 percent in the prior month. Similarly, the country's foreign reserve has dipped further to \$37. 1 Billion on January 30, 2023, from \$ 37.8 Billion in **December 2022. Other objectives of the** court order by President Buhari, For the apex bank to remain economy, new Naira notes are more of wrong permutations by the apex bank. Nigerians have lost confidence in the financial system. There is a trust deficit already. The apex bank's brand value has lost steam. Many investors would rather prefer to be on the sidelines until after the general election. This is understandable in view of the uncertainty in the country."

should remain legal tender are far from being achieved. tips as brand recovery strategies alongside the new ones until the Against the market expectations for the apex bank to address its protests in many states of the 2023, from \$ 37.8 Billion in massive production of the new federation as people could not December 2022. withdraw their money and they

his condemnation of the abuse of country. saving he was misadvised.

personality of the CBN.

Unfortunately, due to bad policy choices. planning and poor timing, the The Nigeria Economic Summit subtle invitation to anarchy. objectives of the new Naira notes Group (NESG), has offered some Source: Business Day

Similarly, the country's foreign

desperately need cash. As of Naira notes are more of wrong Nigerians on the substance and today, the Nigerian economy is permutations by the apex bank. essence of redesigning some predominantly cash-based. The Nigerians have lost confidence in Naira notes. Federal Government's disregard the financial system. There is a to the Supreme court order is a trust deficit already. The apex undertaken immediately by the mockery of the Nigerian legal bank's brand value has lost CBN's High Priest of Image steam. Many investors would Makers, Osita Nwanisobi and his With all his strong campaign for rather prefer to be on the team. The apex bank should lead the All Progressive Congress sidelines until after the general the campaign for the federal (APC), Festus Keyamo, the election. This is understandable government's investment in Party's Spokesman could not hide in view of the uncertainty in the critical infrastructure for a

relevant, it is now a game of areas. Who are those misadvising the brand recovery. The Central Bank As the Presidential Election is at President and what is the motive? shall be more effective and the back of the corner, President What does it cost the CBN to trusted if Nigerians perceive it as Buhari must disprove the comply with the court directive transparent. One of the lessons insinuations making rounds that which would have calmed the from the global financial crisis of the ongoing confusion is to frayed nerves? Hopefully, 2008 is the obligation of every scuttle the election and Emefiele shall one day tell his central bank to deploy effective constitute an interim story and unveil the cabals that communication with all its government. He should direct the have messed him up as the brand stakeholders to reduce CBN to obey the Supreme Court uncertainty and enhance better order and thereby reverse the

It should take advantage of a The brazen disregard for the reserve has dipped further to gradual phase-out of the old Supreme Court ruling elicited \$37 1 Billion on January 30, Naira notes to commence ones. The bank should embark on Other objectives of the new renewed public enlightenment of

> These assignments should be seamless transition to a cashless especially in rura

> abuse of executive power, a

Page 4



'Sustain Buhari's policy on food production'

THE Rice Processors Association of Nigeria (RIPAN) has called on the President-elect, Sen. Bola Tinubu, to sustain ongoing initiatives on food production for economic development.

The Director-General of RIPAN, Mr Andy Ekwelem, made the call recently in Abuja at a news conference.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the theme of the conference was "Strategies for Deepening and Strengthening the Nigeria Rice Sub-Sector towards More Sustainable Development.

According to Ekwelem, RIPAN is an association of investors in integrated rice processing, formed as a direct response to the Federal Government of Nigeria's deliberate initiative to grow local capacity in rice.

"Members of the association and indeed other actors in the rice processing and milling sub-sector are presently key players and major contributors to the growth of the Nigerian economy.

"Our processing and milling country between 2010 and 2014," activities contribute several he said thousands of direct employments and millions of indirect his various initiatives to encourage employments to the various consumption of locally produced stakeholders in the rice value rice. chain and other complementary sectors, "he said.

°To

he said.

Foreign Exchange Window.

"To further protect and

manner of items and food stocks,

"Fortunately, with the Border

"As a matter of fact, over 1,2

tonnes between January and

"Also, the volume of Thai rice

The dividend of all these was

causing an increase in both the

According to him, in 2020 during

Even as the borders were

closed and COVID Pandemic raged

He, however, said that the

weapons into Nigeria.

the end of 2021.

the

the

He said that the rice industry was international trade malpractice do the single largest employer of not affect the huge private-sector labour in Nigeria, providing jobs investments as well as the various or over 13 million people. programmes of government, the "These include direct staff, CBN placed restrictions on for over 13 million people.

casual worker, haulage service importation of food items providers, agrochemical and input including rice. suppliers and of course millions of small holder rural farmers who are categorising them as not valid for made up of majorly youths and foreign exchange from the CBN's women," he said.

According to him, the Nigeria rice industry has enjoyed strengthen the industry, considerable support from the administration introduced administration of President Border Restriction Policy of 2020," Muhammadu Buhari.

"Before the current He said that before the border administration, Nigeria officially restriction policy, there was a allowed imported rice into the maddening proliferation of all country.

"As at the last quarter of 2014, even light arms and small official rice import into Nigeria from Thailand was about 1.24 million tonnes of rice; by the end of Restriction Policy of the Buhari 2015, these imports had dropped administration, the menace was to about 644,131meric tonnes, effectively stemmed between the and by the end of 2016, it dropped period starting August 2020 and to 58,260 metric tonnes.

"In 2017, the imports further dropped to 23,192 metric tonnes million metric tonnes of rice but by 2022, it dropped to an all- imported to Benin from India and time minimal of 438MT. Thailand between May 2019 and August 2019, became trapped in

"The reason for the drops – which to us at RIPAN is a very Benin. positive development - is nothing more than Mr President's hard from India to Benin to drop from a stand approach against food monthly average of 75,000 metric importation," he said. He commended Buhari for his September 2019 to less than

agricultural development 2,000 metric tonnes in the last initiatives that had boosted food quarter of 2019. production over the years.

"Recall that President Buhari is a imported to Benin Republic fell strong advocate of "grow what you from a monthly average of eat and eat what you can grow". 100,000MT to 5,000MT tons by eat and eat what you can grow". 100,000MT to 5 "To ensure that he walked his November 2019.

talk, through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), he launched that the demand for Nigeria various programmes that home grown and locally processed encouraged local production and rice increased quite immensely, processing of rice.

" Programme such as the Anchor production of paddy rice as well as Borrowers' Programme, the Paddy rice processing facility, "he said. Aggregation Scheme, the Private Sector-Led Accelerated the COVID era, Nigerian farmers Agriculture Development Scheme produced as much as 8.2 million and the Real Sector Support metric tonnes of paddy rice and another 8.4 million tonnes in Facility (RSSF) were floated.

They where deliberate 2021 strategies that encouraged "At the time, all of the paddy indigenous and foreign business produced were off taken by the concerns to invest massively in the rice processors/ millers who rice value chain. processed them and supplied "Today, Nigeria boasts of over good quality finished rice to

100 large-scale integrated rice Nigerians. processing facilities scattered across the country.

"This is more than 700 per cent on, Nigeria did not suffer lack of increase from the mere 13 food, particularly rice," he said.



integrated mills operating in the situation began to deteriorate again after the borders were

reopened. He also commended Buhari for He called on the incoming Tinubu's administration to emulate some of the laudable Engineering Company-CFHEC policies of the Buhari Consortia were announced as the policies of the Buhari ensure that product administration to boost food dumping and other forms of production.

The numbers in metric tonnes of paddy rice produced by Nigerian farmers began to decline after the borders were reopened in 2022.

"Smuggling also commenced again in earnest, causing a drop in "The apex bank did that by the volume of paddy offtake by the rice processors/millers. "Indeed, it is on record that

from meagerly monthly average of 5,000 MT in 2019 to a monthly average of 26,861MT in 2022.

"RIPAN hopes that the incoming administration will follow through some of the laudable policies of the current administration as well as design and launch new ones to further strengthen and sustain the Nigeria Rice Industry,' Ekwelem said, On prices, he said that Nigerian

rice were most affordable, adding that the expensive rice were the

THE Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, recently announced that the \$2.8bn Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano natural gas pipeline project being constructed by the Federal Government through the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited and its partners, is now 43 per cent completed.

project would help in generating 3.6 gigawatts (3,600 megawatts) of electricity, adding that the AKK pipeline was a major project of the regime of the President Muhammadu Buhari.

Osinbajo spoke at the opening ceremony of the 6th Nigeria International Energy Summit in Abuja. He was represented at the event by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha.

pipeline project in July 2020, where it was announced that the Bank of China and Sinosure, a Chinese export and credit insurance corporation, were to fund the \$2.8bn facility

at the Ajaokuta and Kaduna camp sites simultaneously.

and Oilserve/China First Highway Engineering Procurement and Construction contractors for the contract

sector, and was 43 per cent completed.

cubic feet of gas a day from various gas gathering projects.

"It will help to generate 3.6 gigawatts of power and support gas based industries along the route when completed. At present, the 614km gas pipeline is 43 per cent completed."

generated by the Federal Government from the 2020 Marginal Fields bid round that was

\$2.8bn gas pipeline ready to power 3,600MW plants

He also revealed that the

Buhari inaugurated the AKK

Buhari had through a virtual conference, flagged-off the commencement of the construction work on the project

Brentex/China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau-CPP Consortia

Speaking on some of the accomplishments of the current government, which winds down in May, Osinbajo said the AKK May, Osinbajo said the AKK project was one of the government's giant strides, particularly in the oil and gas

"Indeed, it is on record that He said, "We've made giant upon the reopening of our strides in infrastructure. We kickborders, official rice import to started the \$2.8bn Ajaokuta-Benin republic from Thailand rose Kaduna-Kano natural gas pipeline project. The AKK project will transport up to 3,500 million

He also mentioned the revenue

concluded last year. "No Nigerian rice costs more than N31,000 ex factory price, " resulted in the award of he said.(NAN)(



Abubakar

161 successful firms with the Federal Government raking in about N200bn, as well as \$7m from the process," the Vice President stated.

"We have also reinvigorated the private sector in the industry. We ensured an attractive framework for the indigenous companies to take advantage of divestments by

international oil companies. "This will ensure that the indigenous companies grew their capacities tremendously, as they are now accountable for about 30 per cent of national oil and gas production, as from just two per cent in 2010," he stated.

In his speech, which was made available to our correspondent in Abuja, the Group Chief Executive Officer, NNPC Ltd, Mele Kyari, said oil and gas remained a significant component of the global energy

mix "Therefore we are unlocking more opportunities across both the oil and gas value chain spanning from supply and infrastructure to the markets.

"For instance, NNPC Ltd is actively supporting the Federal Government towards the realisation of key initiatives such as the Decade of Gas and the National Gas Expansion Programme," Kyaristated.

He said the initiatives sought "to deepen natural gas utilisation as an alternative transportation fuel,

virtual gas supply to off-pipeline grid gas customers and gas utilisation as feedstock for the development of gas-based ndustries "

He added, "This is evident in the definite actions taken to utilise CNG and LNG (Compressed Natural Gas and Liquefied Natural Gas) to power vehicles, buildings and power plants.'

He said NNPC Ltd was also investing heavily in critical gas infrastructure such as the AKK gas pipeline and the OB3 gas interconnector to support five billion standard cubic feet/day of of domestic gas utilisation, including 5GW of power generation capacity by developing power plant projects along the AKK pipeline corridor and across the country.

"For the gas export market, the ongoing NLNG Train 7 will expand Nigeria's LNG production capacity to about 30 million tonnes per annum. This is in addition to the planned Nigeria-Morocco and the Trans-Sahara Gas Pipeline projects which will supply gas to sub-regional African countries and subsequently Europe," Kyari stated.

The oil firm's boss said the company was deepening exploration activities of the nation's frontier basins, as this was already yielding results such as the oil discovery in Kolmani, adding that "we are hopeful that the recent spud-in of the EBENYI – A in Nasarawa State will yield positive

E-payments rise to N49trn over Naira crisis

THE new industry statistics from the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS) showed that Nigerians used electronic gateways 1.35 billion times in March, 448.54 million times more than the 901.46 million times they did in February.

The NIBSS records cashless transactions from the Nigeria Instant Payment System and Point of Sales terminals. The value of total instant payment in March was N48 ? terminals recorded N1.15tn in total transactions in the month.

More Nigerians are depending on mobile devices for transactions as their usage increased by 106.93 per cent month-on-month allowing for a 61.99 per cent increase in transaction value from N2 56tn in February to N4.14tn in March.

N87.49tn in the corresponding period of 2022.

suggests that the country's



banking infrastructure is Bank of Nigeria's naira redesign

impacted the ability of electronic forms of payment, customers to rely on cashless the volume of cashless transactions in the country has transactions

Since a now postponed Central grown. Despite this growth, failed

ransactions are still a common sight in the country's payment landscape. On Easter Sunday, customers of Guaranty Trust Bank Plc were unable to access the bank's digital channels until the atter part of the day, leaving many stranded.

Recently, the Instant Payment channel of the NIBSS suffered a glitch that lasted for about four ours, throwing many Nigerians nto confusion in the process.

On Monday, Cowrywise, a intech, explained to its customers that intermittent downtimes with a couple of banks as well as the entral processor of electronic payments in the country were affecting its ability to serve them well.

It said, "There have been ntermittent downtimes with a couple of banks as well as the central processor of electronic payments, resulting in substantial delays with transfers.

"We apologise for any delays shaking off glitches that initially policy forced many Nigerians to that you may have encountered and can assure you that steps are being taken to ensure that any potential future delays are kept to a minimum."

Cashless transactions grew by 44.84 per cent to N126.73tn in first quarter of 2023 from

Data from the NIBSS



RS' N10.1 trillion collection – major matters arising

FIRST off, our Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) - soon to be known as Nigeria Revenue Service to capture the fact that revenue everywhere including online (not only inland) must be captured – must be commended on their unprecedented and superlative achievement of N10.1 Trillion collection for the year 2022. Honestly, in our country, replete with bad news, this is one news that gladdened my heart and for which I have heard or read little commentary since announced, writes TOPE FASUA.

THE Muhammad Nami-led service bested itself in a performance that is also reflective of the ongoing economic recovery, after the second slump due to COVID-19 under President Buhari's leadership since 2015. We had never neared that double digit in the trillions of Naira.

Let us do a quick rundown of our revenue performance over the vears since the year 2000. In that year as the civilians settled into government, the FIRS collected a total of N455 billion across the board. By 2001, this increased to N587 billion. In 2002, collections dipped to N434 billion. But in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006, the numbers increased to N703 billion, N1.19 trillion, N1.7 trillion and N1.87 trillion respectively, before we saw another slight dip in 2007 to N1.85 trillion. Due to the performance of the crude oil sector, the FIRS witnessed a leap in collections in 2008 when it hauled in N2.97 trillion.

But a dip occurred in 2009, when collections slumped to N2.2 trillion. The growth trajectory was resumed the year after and maintained for another two years when in 2010, 2011 and 2012, the FIRS collected the sums of N2.8 trillion, N4.62 trillion and N5.007 trillion respectively, before another dip to N4.8 trillion and N4.7 trillion in 2013 and 2014 respectively. The year 2015 was a transition year, and it witnessed underperformance by the FIRS when collections slumped to N3.7 trillion. An economic recession would follow in 2016 which further collapsed collections to N3.3 trillion (by then the lowest collection in seven years).

Luckily, revenue collections improved the year after, when the FIRS collected N4.03 trillion, increasing in 2018 to N5.3 trillion, and dipping slightly to N5.26 trillion and N4.9 trillion in 2019 and 2020 (the COVID-19 year). Global economic recovery and resilience on the part of the service saw to an increase in collections to N6.45 trillion in 2021 and now, a superlative performance of N10.1 trillion in 2022. A graphical representation of the journey is presented below:

Matters Arising

Growths in collection 1. must be discounted for inflation and devaluation.

Whereas I will commend the FIRS Chairman and his team for being focused and having ploughed through a very difficult time (COVID-19), we all must note that the growing figures must be discounted for yearly inflation and devaluation. Just as the Naira gets eaker and weaker in the hands of the common man, so also is it getting weaker in terms of the public goods it can procure for the masses. Indeed, it may be prudent to represent these numbers in dollar terms, since our economy is quite externalised and linked to the dollar. If we do this, the excitement may wane. It must however be noticed that despite inflation and devaluation, the period of 2014 to 2017 were years of decreased revenue even in absolute terms.

That meant inefficiency and low value for Nigerians. This collection of N10.1 trillion happened in a year that we didn't have shocking



devaluation - at least not officially. time. We should be optimising both Therefore, it passes the test for good performance. But we must keep challenging ourselves. Rather than the political capture and we know when we are making real progress

Non-oil sector is here to 2. stay

been very deliberate about the need revenues and insisted that what Nigeria 2000s. In the year 2011, non-oil oil sector contribution of N3.071 trillion (almost double). 2022 January: performance shows that non-oil can walk and chew gum at the same what we did last year ... We appeal to

sectors - oil and non-oil. Silo mentality affecting 3.

Nigeria verv adverselv It must be said that silo mentality and executive tardiness that has held ego trips among government Nigeria down so far, a more functionaries was a major problem. This articulate and focused approach is more so under the Buhari could lead to significant leaps in administration. I wrote about that FIRS collections. I see that figure recently when the suggestion (indeed hitting N20 Trillion soon. Customs the recommendation per the 2022 collections, which is part of what Finance Act), of an introduction of 5% FIRS accounts for, is impacted by tax on telecommunications was stepped Naira devaluation, and must be down ostensibly on the orders of, or benchmarked appropriately so that with the influence of the Minister for Communications and Digital Economy. I felt this was an overkill and powerplay by Sheikh Isa Pantami and an embarrassment to Dr Zainab Ahmed The Nigerian government has who had agonized for too long about low

for the economy to be diversified. It has is a revenue problem more than was however impossible to achieve anything else. There she was, trying to this under the Obasanjo do something about it with what could administration and it remained a be considered a good tax - easy to pay, struggle throughout the Yar'Adua may not be felt, and easy to collect and Jonathan administrations. We and being shut down summarily on could however say this is now a national TV. This time, the FIRS reality given that we are seeing a Chairman could not help but express his reversal of fortunes so to speak. The frustration at some of what he had oil sector used to contribute almost experienced so far, including the 65% of FIRS collections in the early tendency for agencies of government to sue each other and to compete for what contributed N1.56 trillion as against is beyond their remit. Hear him as quoted in ThisDay newspaper of 24

"We would have actually done better, collections have now surpassed but for several issues, some of which what accrues from oil. Oil sector in are political and very sensitive to 2022 contributed N4.09 trillion, discuss in the public domain... But the while non-oil accounted for N5.96 most important one is distractions from trillion (59%). This is good if it certain interests within the federal and FIRS's ingenuousness in going doing – in other words, those that want However, it also may belie the fact FIRS of assessing, collecting, and that Nigeria really lost grounds in accounting for taxes in Nigeria... These the oil sector in 2022 and for some are not just mere issues but people years now, with production dipping instituting legal actions against FIRS to to somewhere below 1,000,000 further distract us. People instituting, barrels per day as against our OPEC even federal agencies instituting legal quota of at least 1.6 million barrels a actions against laws that have been day. Thankfully, with the passed by the National Assembly and contracting of Tompolo's Tantita signed into law by Mr. President So, Security Services company, we now these challenges impacted negatively, understand that crude oil because you see on so many occasions production has ramped up people writing in to find out that 'tax A, considerably. With some luck, we are confused, we don't know who to production from the Gombe/Bauchi pay to now, that there's a court ruling to axis may weigh in and 2023 should restrict you from collecting such taxes'. tell a different story, for good. We So, this really impacted negatively on

them to continue to invest the little we are generating judiciously so that they are able to encourage taxpayers to continue to comply and pay more so that together we are able to fix Nigeria.

I totally agree with Nami. The dysfunction in the current administration is very sad to watch. Who knows how many billions Nigerian masses lost to some fat cat somewhere as a result of infighting? Nami also stated briefly that N1.8 Trillion of waivers under several arrangements, were granted in the year. 4. Waivers, concessions and forbearances need to be

curbed Flowing from 3 above, it will be good for government to have a relook at the system of waivers because this nation with a huge debt overhang - can ill afford them. We cannot be servicing debts with over 90% of our revenue and be gifting some away at will for any reason. Personally, I think the idea of exempting companies with turnover of less than N25 million and below from all forms of taxes is preposterous and needs to be reviewed Nigeria is an open sesame and companies are thriving here. Even if it was minimum taxation, I believe we should get. There is a strong correlation or even causation between tax responsibility and economic development. Indeed, I am proposing that we start to operate as they do in the UK and UAE (countries in which I have done business corporately).

In these countries, they don't joke with their taxes. The UAE is even introducing company income tax by June 2023. That is an Arabic country reforming. In these two countries anyway, no company can depicts the seriousness of our government itself and the sub-nationals do any business or even operate a bank economic diversification efforts, or people who want to do what FIRS is account in any given year except they file company returns. And the company after those who should pay taxes. to perform the statutory functions of house (like our own Corporate Affairs Commission) will not collect your returns unless you show evidence of tax payment - including remittance of your staff PAYE and National Insurance. Note that the idea of Annual Returns also has security implications as it is primarily meant to be an update of company address and director or circumstance change in a given year. This is precious data. And data is king today. Anyway, in both countries that I've mentioned, as it also happens in every serious country, your bank will close down your company account if you don't supply your annual return after a deadline every year. This is what happened to Peter Obi's Next International UK Limited If Nigeria could country.

effect this policy, company income tax collection will explode. Are Nigerians paying too 5.

much taxes already?

There's also this argument flowing from five above, about whether Nigerians are already overtaxed as a result of multiple agencies and even non-state actors shaking everybody down. There was recently a short clip of a transporter of farm products in my Ondo State, who had to pay dues to about 60 agencies to do his business. There is also the popular knowledge that 'agberos', or those who work for transport unions around Nigeria, rake in billions of Naira daily. I want to add that I disagree though, with Messrs Taiwo Ovedele, Andrew Nevin, and others who believe that Nigerians are already overtaxed. Whereas we could define 'taxes' as every statutory payment that Nigerians are obliged to pay to government - including rents, rates, dues, duties, fees, levies, fines and others - I believe that it is dangerous to sell the idea to our publics that they are overtaxed already. Not many people are subjected to the multiple taxes that we complain about. And Nigerians do not pay anything near what people pay abroad. Dr Nevin argues that because Nigerians have to build their own infrastructure, we are already overtaxed. However, the idea of obligations to the state is about promoting responsible citizenship. We cannot shorty-circuit that process. Most developed countries are where they are because their citizens feel obliged to support government - to a good degree - by contributing their quotas by way of those taxes, fees, fines, duties etc., and thereby promoting collective development. Our intellectuals should try to take a long view and not discourage that larger, noble objective.

The truth is that most Nigerians pay nothing. Most companies underpay taxes. Most people underpay. Even those charged with enforcement are more sympathetic with payers than being strict with their jobs. It is a fact that our governments have disappointed the people for too long with their ostentation and wrong choices. Still, we should not give up on our nation, promote the disconnection of the citizens from the country, and the eventual disintegration of our

Politics

Kogi guber: Braimoh emerges AA flag bearer

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

who announced the result of were accredited to vote with for giving him their manuate, unity of our party and the respect to the party's saying he would not disappoint prospect of winning the constitution. Komolafe, who doubles as the state's secretary of the state's secretary of the state's secretary of the state the only other work of a winning the state in party and the state's secretary of the state in party and the state in party is a state in party and the state in party is a state in party and the state in party is a state in party is a

of the party as well as day. supporters for the confidence "Dr Omale has therefore if given the mandate.

"My victory is the beginning stepped down," he said.

BY GYANG PAM

candidate unopposed. An Abuja based real estate Committee of Kogi YPP Primary was the will of God. developer, Mr. Olayinka Governorship election, David Akubo thanked the INEC state describing his victory as

party, said that the only other Kogi of a visionary leadership, " The primary that threw up

reposed in him, assuring that been unanimously elected ventures. he will live up to expectations unopposed by the delegates He restated that Kogi woeful Sen. Abdul Ningi since the other aspirant has resources would be well Congress Committee,

of a journey to wealth creation The state's chairman of the infrastructure development, Senator Dino Melaye's and adequate attention to the party, Dr Victor Akubo, better welfare, and enablers within the Party

on Monday in Lokoja, in the winner, and urged him to make leader in me," Omale said.

adopted as the YPP's sole fearing, transparent, accountable and competent The Chairman Screening man, saying his emergence Candidate for the November

Braimoh has emerged the flag Komolafe, said Omale had officials for their presence to state describing his victory as bearer of the Action Alliance been duly screened and maritar the aversion state or private a private or the averse state of the screened and maritar the screened area and maritar the screened and the screen beamon has enclose and and beam of the Action Alliance been duly screened and monitor the exercise, saying it (AA) for the November 11th certified okay to pick the was a free, fair, credible and the former deputy governor to be former deputy governor to be a statement by the former deputy governor to be statement by the former deputy governor to be a statement by

Committee, James Benebe government areas of Kogi and the entire party members portends great danger to the were accredited to vote with for giving him their mandate, unity of our party and the

 101 votes.
 party, said that the only other

 In his acceptance speech, aspirant, Mrs Funmilayo
 Braimoh thanked God, Olumodeji voluntarily stepped down for Omale earlier in the party as well as day.
 Kogi of a visionary leadership, The primary that the only other distance speech, aspirant, Mrs Funmilayo

 of the party as well as day.
 Gody
 Melaye

to viable and profitable Congress of the 29th March

YPP) in Kogi. "To gift any aspirant, a total The election was conducted candidate for emerging leadership. Expect a servant of 158 votes in a contest for merging leadership. Expect a servant of 230 votes in a contest for presence of INEC officials' led the party and state proud Omale urged the people to aspirants is not a fair contest.

FORMER Kogi Deputy Governor and Guber aspirant under the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Abayomi Awoniyi has faulted the emergence of Sen.

From AMEDU JOSEPH,

Lokoja

guber polls in Kogi State. The Chairman of Kogi State Action Alliance Electoral delegates from the 21 local Omale thanked the delegates Mus d free, fair, data which was made available to Journalists in Lokoja on Monday, "This victory

2023 were replaced by the

"To gift any aspirant, a total 739 votes involving 8

Former deputy governor/guber aspirant faults Dino's emergence



a fraudulent primary.

harnessed with improved working in concert with me mention just a few of the delegates Congress of the 29th welfare of the people of Kogiⁿ Similarly, Dr Samson Omale, has emerged winner of the governorship primary election of the Young Progressive Party (YPP) in Kogi. by Mr Egbeye Olagoke. Our correspondent reports that Dr Omale was unanimously affirmed and by Mr Egbeye Olagoke. Our correspondent reports that Dr Omale was He described the have their interest at heart, governor. Credible leaders that would unanimously affirmed and Credible leaders such a man. Credible leaders that mould because it confers undue advantage on the favoured Credible leaders that would because it confers undue for the primary elections. In Ogwuche. But you cannot put Ijumu, Senator Melaye's LGA, a veneer of integrity on a Ahmed Makarfi, a fine upright

aspirant. Sen Dino Melaye won and all the other aspirants. Not one voice controverted my

"To throw some light on the statement. If the delegate list corrupted delegates list, let which came from the Ad-hoc grave anomalies therein. March 2023 had been used for Firstly, one of the 'delegates' the Primary of the 16th April different from where his name accepted the outcome of the emerged. 62 of the 158 election, which was very well delegates imported come conducted under the 29 of the 46 delegates were cesspool of fraud. What we the beneficiaries of the discontent within the PDP rank

"This pyrrhic victory may

Chairman, some stakeholders From the forgoing, it may Dino Melaye for where we find

0 0 The state APC Chairman, the final results for the rectification of these ton. Rufus Bature, senatorial district and also anomalies were simply paid lip Hon. Rufus Bature, senatorial district and also anomalies were simply paid lip congratulated Hon. commended the APC family in service. The PDP at the DiketPlang, and praised him the state for their patience national level, seem not to

being given that the primary

THE Tension was high and checkmated by the service least. everyone could feel it because chiefs but ignorance was what Spokesman of the REC. protesters and D-G. Meanwhile people are still in gentleman with impeccable look like a fait accompli, but already, the rumors had been they displayed. in place even before the so- On Monday, there was mass Adamawa South Fintiri for shock at what is happening in credentials, who was brought the dust is unlikely to settle

Commissioner Barrister Hudu

Ari. the governorship election, there was the rumor that there was going to be a verdict for inconclusive PLATEAU State Chapter of last week in Pankshin LGA.

with collation from the remaining ten local government areas where the elections were conducted.

The REC on Sunday morning, did not wait for the arrival of results but went ahead to declare Senator Aishatu Ahmed Binani winner. What really angered the Adamawa people was the lie that collation will commence Sunday by 11:00am but unfortunately the REC went against the norms of the electoral law.

How Barrister Hudu Ari smuggled himself into the centre at about one o'clock just after midnight to throw sand into garri with service chiefs looking on passively. People expected that the

Bature

rerun as INEC finally and State capital Sunday shortly the Plateau State House of ourselves today. BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA rightfully declared him winner after the declaration by the Assembly, former elected "He needs to search his heart Returning Officer, Dr. Jima Lar Local Government Chairman, to see if he has behaved well,

stituents. during and after the party. We wait to see what "As a former member of announcement of the results. happens in the days ahead.

became imminent. Central Zone Senatorial Sylvanus Namang, and made However, 'him whom the Candidate, Hon. DiketPlang, available to THE NIGERIA the results announced by the gods want to destroy, he first for emerging as Senator-elect make that person mad. in the recently concluded Sunday was full of tension when instead of continuing

the Labour Party who polled the needful by concluding the "All entreaties made to the electoral process of declaring NWC of the party for the 36, 510 votes. standoff lasted. "Hon. by one of the opposition DiketPlang's emergence as parties in the state in respect Distinguished Senator-elect of the Plateau Central for Plateau Central Construction and propaganda known to them in Abuja, on the state chapters and expect to win elections. This statement is being model. Distinguished Senator-elect of the Plateau Central for Plateau Central Senatorial Senatorial District to correct the impression District is most well-electionresults.

verdict for inconclusive PLATEAU State Chapter of the week in a management of a second verdication of the celestial, election and true to that the All Progressive Congress allegation, the allegations (APC), has congratulated its statement signed by the party headquarters Pankshin on Plateau State amongst many which he claims to be. But I became imminent. Central Zone Senatorial Sylvanus Namang, and made The statement stated that, responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities he held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities held in the "It is natural for anyone to the responsibilities held in the the term of the responsibilities held in the term of the responsibilities held in the term of term of the term of term

over his maturity, patience inspite of all forms of have learnt anything. They and resilience while the provocation and propaganda continue to foist persons, only

deserved as he is a grassroots He also expressed gratitude was a free and fair process. It mobiliser who has great to security agencies in the was not. This has led to the confidence in his capacity and state who ensured the PDP, in Kogi State, fluffing a abilities to deliver the provision of security and great opportunity of winning dividends of democracy to his maintenance of peace before, back the state from the ruling

Votes to defeat his closest rivals, YohannaGotom of the Bature, however, praised the detriment of the common PDP who scored 127,022 Battire, however, praised th votes and Barr GarbaPwul of the poorful by concluding the

'But for God, Adamawa would have been engulfed' switched. I stood to be one of have today in Kogi State, is arrogance displayed by Hudu bearing, Hudu should be the next three days until the delisted delegates. I made the and file, and some measure of s h o u l d h a v e b e e n jailed and prosecuted at the INEC in Abuja takes a firm assertion above, at a meeting elation within the other decision on the Adamawa held at the instance of H.E. political party. called inconclusive election as protest by hundreds of PDP Governor Chief Felix Adamawa State and in to chair the Primary even beyond the 11th

claimed by the Adamawa supporters at the INEC Tangwani told newsmen that continually hoping that the Election. Present at the November 2023 governorship State Resident Electoral collation centre with placards the protests will take place for State should not be engulfed meeting, were the State Party election. in crisis. Ari. On March 18th shortly after APC congratulates Plang for victory as senator-elect necessarily blame Senator

Politics

Women breaking barriers in male-dominated political landscape

That the Nigerian political scene has historically been dominated by men is not in doubt with its attendant and ceaseless advocacy by pro-women groups for a better deal in political and governmental affairs. Despite these obstacles, there have been exceptional women who have stood tall, shattering boundaries to assert their pedigree, MUAWIYYAH YUSUF MUYE writes.

THESE women have proven themselves intellectually and politically astute, with their achievements being the result of hard work and grace. Celebrating them to inspire the womenfolk has become imperative.

Senator Aisha Dahiru Binani

Senator Aisha Dahiru Binani is a politician, businesswoman, and founder of Binani Group which houses Binani Printing Press and Binani Air among others. She obtained her Higher National Diploma in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southampton. She was a member of the green chamber representing Yola North/Yola South/Girei federal constituency, as the Senator Representing Adamawa Central and APC Gubernatorial Candidate. She is known for her industriousness as well as her humility. I have been around her on several occasions, and you will hardly even feel like you are in the presence of a public figure.

Her philanthropic activities in her home state of Adamawa State are well documented, making her a beloved figure. Sen. Binani won her Senatorial Seat in 2019, against all odds and is poised to become the first elected female Governor in not only the North but in the whole of Nigeria, a feat that will undoubtedly serve as a source of inspiration and make her a beacon of hope not only to Northern Women but to women in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu

Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu, a certified Urban and Regional Planner from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, has gained a lot of popularity in Nigeria's political arena in recent years. Fondly called "The Amazon" by her supporters, RTA has a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Ph.D. in Security and Strategic Studies from the Nasarawa State University, Keffi. She also earned an Honorary Ph.D. in Public Administration from Commonwealth University, London, and a Certificate in Leadership Skills from Abbey College, London. In 2021. Dr. Ramatu Tijjani Aliyu became an Envoy Extraordinaire of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners EEO. NITP.

Dr. Aliyu's career trajectory has been fascinating. She has worked in the private sector in a civil engineering firm, serving as one of the Managing Directors of the firm, which made her a practicing town planner as well. She adroitly held several high profile offices from the defunct ANPP to the current APC where her contributions tremendously helped her Party towards resounding successes in 2015 and 2019. She was then appointed the Minister of State for FCT, a role she has been discharging to the admiration of many.

The politician in Dr. Ramatu Tijiani Alivu is always visible, like the saying, "A Gold Fish has no hidden place". This evident in the just concluded 2023 general elections, through the group Nigerians Unite for Tinubu/Shettima (NUFTS), her project for the Tinubu/Shettima Campaign. She held several positions during the electioneering campaign, including Chairman of APC FCT Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), Co-Coordinator of FCT APC PCC, Coordinator of the PCC Women Wing, Matron of Tinubu Support Organization, and several other Tinubu Support Groups. She played a significant role in the campaigns across the FCT and Kogi State. APC made tremendous progress in the FCT Winning 1 House of Representatives





Balarabe



Garba

seat, a position formerly occupied by PDP going into the election. She is no doubt one of the top politicians to watch out for going forward.

Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe

Dr. Hadiza Sabuwa Balarabe is the Deputy Governor of Kaduna State. In the 2019 governorship election, Governor El-Rufai who was facing the baggage of the unpopular revolutionary reforms and policies of his administration, as well as the backlash from Southern Kaduna Christians for daring to jettison the Muslim/Christian ticket decided to risk his re-election bid by nominating Dr. Sabuwa Balarabe as his running mate breaking the norm in Northern Nigeria by choosing a woman as his running mate and his unwavering faith in her paid off, she became the first female to be elected to that office in the state.

Like myself, Dr. Balarabe is a graduate of the University of Maiduguri, where she received training as a surgeon with over two decades of experience in public health. She served as the Director of Public Health in the FCT in 2014 and held the position until February 2016 when Governor El-Rufai appointed her as the Executive Secretary of the Kaduna State Primary Health Care Development Agency, she was renominated as the Deputy to the Kaduna State Governor-elect, Senator Uba Sani in the 2023 election. She has fortified her

position as one of those exceeding boundaries set for women in a maledominated field of politics. Hadiza Bala Usman

Hadiza Bala Usman's impressive career path has made her a source of inspiration for many. She attended Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She later went on to receive a Master's Degree in Developmental Studies from the University of Leeds in the UK. As the former Chief of Staff to the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Mal. Elrufai, Her appointment to this position was a clear indication of her intellectual Capacity, brilliance, and competence. Her rise to the top was not surprising given her previous role as one of the strongest policy drivers of the APC Campaign in 2015.

Ms. Bala Usman's tenure as the Managing Director (MD) of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) was a vindication of the faith placed in her for such a position. She implemented innovative policies that led to the overhaul of the entire port authority. She fearlessly tackled the challenges in her job even if it meant stepping on toes. Her exploits propelled her to the top echelon of the leadership ladder and won her the admiration of many Nigerians, In 2023, Ms. Usman was appointed Deputy DG (Admin) of the APC Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council. She continues to inspire young women to strive for excellence in all their endeavors.

Senator Binta Masi Garba

Senator Binta Masi Garba is a



Usman remarkable advocate for women's rights. She attended Kaduna Polytechnic, where she obtained Higher National Diploma (HND) in Marketing. In addition, she attended the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and earned a Certificate in Public Financial Management. She began her professional career as an advert officer at New Nigeria Newspapers. Senator Garba was elected to represent the people of Kaduna South Federal Constituency at the green chambers in 1999, at the time, she was the youngest Federal legislator in Nigeria. She contested for the same House of Representatives in her home state of Adamawa State, representing Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency, and won, making her the first politician to represent two different Federal Constituencies at different times. When the All Progressives Congress (APC) was formed, she became the first and only Female State Party Chairperson to date. Few individuals, regardless of gender, can achieve this feat. In the 2015 elections, she was the only female Senator Elected in all 19

Northern States of Nigeria. Late Senator Aisha Al-Hassan This write-up will not be complete without the Honourable mention of Late Hajiya Jummai Alhassan. She defeated the then-incumbent Senator, former Ambassador Manzo Anthony in Taraba North Senatorial Primaries. She then went on to defeat a former governor in the



Aliyu

general elections. A trained lawyer. she became the first female to be appointed Taraba State AG and Commissioner of Justice. She was also the first woman to be appointed Secretary FCT judicial council and later appointed Chief Registrar of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, She contested for the Taraba State Gubernatorial seat in the 2015 and 2019 elections under the Platform of the All Progressive Congress (APC) and UDP but lost the former to the candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Darius Ishaku under controversial circumstances, her enigmatic cult following earned her the name 'Mama Taraba.".

President Buhari, however, appointed her as Minister of Women Affairs in 2015.

IMAGES

PROF. OSINBAJO DELIVERS LECTURE

Nigeria's Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo on Monday delivered lecture titled, "Creating Homeland for All: Nation Building in a Diverse Democracy is part of Policy Making and Good Governance lecture series initiated by the National Instituted for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru, Jos for the SEC 45 participants



Governor Simon Bako Lalong, CON, Director General, NIPSS, Prof. Ayo Omotayo and others waiting to receive the VP, Prof. Osinbajo at the Aiport



NIPSS Directors of Studies, Prof. Funmi Josephine Para-Mallam and Prof. Dung Pam Sha, Director of Research at the Yakubu Gowon Airport



Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN with Governor Lalong, CON and the DG NIPSS, Prof. Omotayo



President, Plateau State Traditional Council, and the Gbong Gwom Jos, His Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, CFR delivering his remarks



From left are, CP Bartholomew Oyeka, Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet and Major-General Ali Ibrahim



Governor Simon Bako Lalong (2nd right) introducing to the VP. Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, PLHA Deputy Speaker, APC Chairman and Secretary to Government of the State



Cross section of NIPSS Directing Staff listening to speeches



Commissioners for Information and Communictions, Hon. Dan Manjang (right) with his colleague, Women Affairs and Social Development, Hon. Rebecca Sambo Adar

Politics

Peter Obi, Obidients are on the right path

Mr. Peter Gregory Obi, a former governor of Anambra State, is not an unknown political quantity. It was he, who used the judicial means to retrieve his stolen political mandate, and went ahead to rule Anambra State for eight years, recording unprecedented giant strides in diverse areas like education, agriculture, security, economy, infrastructural development, and others. His belief that he possesses leadership qualities, probity, fealty, political cum economic ideologies, and courage motivated him to contest Nigeria's 2023 presidential election, CHIEDU UCHE OKOYE writes.

IT was on the political platform of the Labour Party that he vied for the most exalted political diadem in Nigeria in February 2023 after he had defected from the troubled PDP.

His membership of the Labour Party caused that political party to undergo positive metamorphosis: it transformed from being a small and unpopular political party to being a big and popular political party.

Peter Obi was able to wrought that change in the Labour Party owing to his achievements in the area of political leadership and his possession of charisma, knowledge, moral scruples, political cum economic ideologies, political vision and sagacity, and courage.

More so, before the conduct of our 2023 presidential election, Mr Peter Obi's rhetoric and electioneering speeches found resonance with millions of Nigerians, especially the youthful demographic of the population. Those young Nigerians, who are disillusioned, dispossessed, and disenchanted with the uply status quo ante in Nigeria, perceive Mr. Peter Obi as an anti-thesis and foil character of the quintessential Nigerian politicians, who are corrupt, unscrupulous, unknowledgeable, and unpatriotic.

While other presidential candidates utilized the factors of money, religion, and ethnicity to woo the people, Peter Obi, who is passionate about re-making Nigeria, espoused his plans about transforming our economy from being consumptive to being productive. And it is evident to us that he is not predisposed to condoning any acts of corruption, which will be committed by politicians if the baton of leadership is thrust in his hands. So the army of obidients- the followers of Mr. Peter Obi- came into being owing to the people's disillusionment and disenchantment with the lackluster, uninspiring, visionless, and punitive government of President Muhammadu Buhari. But those dispossessed and underprivileged Nigerians repose



Obi trust in Mr. Peter Obi. And they

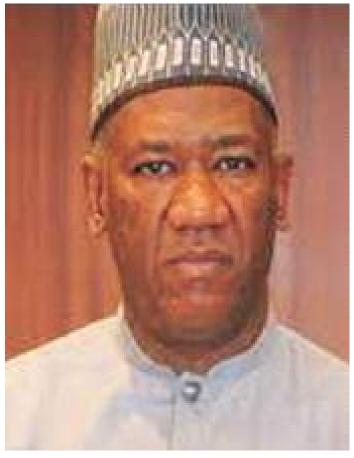
believe that he is the political Messiah, who can right the wrongs in our body politic and set our country on the path of irreversible and sustainable economic and technological development.

But the obidients have been described as an irreverent, violent, and unthinking horde of young people, who are given to impulsive actions. And it is said that the obidients are intolerant of opinions that are critical of Mr. Peter Obi, that they are uncouth, and that they have fascist tendencies. Those unflattering characterizations and portrayals of the obidients are not wholly true, though they have their failings, failures, and shortcomings.

But the fact is this, members of the obidient movement want a change for the better in Nigeria. And they have stood

the aftermath of the 2023 presidential election, which was deeply flawed, because Mr. Peter Obi is symbolic of the change they earnestly desire. They have made condemnatory comments regarding that presidential election, which was characterized by massive rigging. Both foreign and local election observer teams gave thumbs down to the presidential election, too, because it didn't pass muster. And it fell far below the acceptable global standards.

So have Mr. Peter Obi, and his running mate, Baba Ahmed-Datti, done any wrong by criticising and faulting the electoral processes that threw up Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the winner of the Nigeria's 2023 presidential election? They have done no wrong. Rather, they are exercising their right to the freedom of expression, an inalienable fundamental human right, which is enshrined in our constitution.



Ahmed-Datti

That is why the punishment meted out to the television station that granted an interview to Baba Ahmed-Datti should be condemned. That action of our government is emblematic of the doings of a fascist government. And it is unbecoming of a government that brands itself a democratic government to engage in deeds that are aimed at muzzling the voices of dissent. So what is happening in Nigeria now is a throwback to happenings during the dark days of the Sani Abacha era.

And it is saddening that the APC panjandrums, who hold the levers of government, cannot make a distinction between comments that border on treasonous offences and the ones that do not border on treasonable felony. So the APC attack dogs like Bayo Onanuga, Festus Keyamo, Dele Alake, and others have gone for broke, framing Mr. Peter Obi and Baba Ahmed-Datti for treasonable felony offence. And they are relentlessly dishing out be Rather, they are the falsehoods to the people so as to present the duo in bad light and bring them to the obloquy.

But it should be noted that when the Abacha junta maintained an asphyxiating stranglehold on us, the activists at that time- Bayo Onanuga included- fought Sani Abacha with everything in their arsenal. Thankfully, today, the military had returned to the barracks. And we have been enjoying democratic governance, uninterruptedly, for twenty four years.

But it is inconceivable, incredible, and ironic that some of those activists of yore, who made names for themselves by fighting the Abacha military junta are, today, defending the 2023 presidential election, which was characterized by violence and electoral malpractice. So I would like us to answer these pertinent questions: are those asserting that the Nigeria's 2023 presidential election was free and fair true democrats and activists? Or are they pretentious and hypocritical myrmidons, who are motivated and swayed by pecuniary, religious, and ethnic considerations?

In conclusion, I would like to state it emphatically that members of the obidient movement are not fascists, as they are alleged to be; neither are they the unruly partisans people are making them out to disgruntled and dispossessed Nigerians, who are shortchanged in our scheme of things. That's why they are fighting to reclaim their country from the jaws of destruction and underdevelopment.

So Mr peter Obi, Baba Ahmed-Datti, and the obidients are doing the right thing, which every patriotic Nigerian ought to do. They are on the right path; and they deserve commendations, and not condemnations.

solidly behind Mr. Peter Obi in But the fact is this, members of the obidient movement want a change for the better in Nigeria. And they have stood solidly behind Mr. Peter Obi in the aftermath of the 2023 presidential election, which was deeply flawed, because Mr. Peter Obi is symbolic of the change they earnestly desire. They have made condemnatory comments regarding that presidential election,

which was characterized by massive rigging. Both foreign and

local election observer teams gave thumbs down to the

presidential election, too, because it didn't pass muster. And it fell

far below the acceptable global standards.

Federal University Gashua matriculates 1,872 students From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

FEDERAL University, Gashua in Yobe State, has on Saturday matriculated 1, 872 newly admitted students into various disciplines for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 academic year. In a press release made available to our correspondent in Gombe by the university's Head of Information and Protocol Unit, Mallam Adamu Saleh, it disclosed that the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Professor Maimuna Waziri, made the disclosure at the occasion of the university's 8th matriculation ceremony.

According to Waziri, the university has a name to protect, as such, it has zero tolerance for cultism. examination malpractice, indecent dressing, demonstration, corruption, thuggery, harassment, all forms of Adamu

students' attention to the character principle. success.

admitted for the she said. 2021/2022 and She also stated that the authority.

sessions. She stressed that based pointed out that, "I from the Faculty of on the summary of the therefore urge you to work Agriculture, 95 students admissions for the two hard and avoid any act from the Faculty of Art, 741 sets, the institution has that is not in conformity students from the Faculty of admitted students from 34 with the university's rules Management and Social states of the federation and regulations as well as Sciences and a total of 837 and Abuja. The VC added societal norms, because students from the Faculty of *Adamu*



Sen. Dino Melaye has won the People's Democratic Party Governorship ticket for Kogi State.

Sen. Melaye in a congress held at Kefas Multipurpose Hall, pulled over fifty percent of the votes cast.

Sen. Melaye pulled over 300 votes to beat his closest rival, Barr. Kabiru Usman who had over 100 votes.

In a tension soaked election, with protest leading to the crisis over the delegates list, the process however, went on smoothly, with the supervision of the Independent National Electoral Commission.

Kogi PDP Primaries: Dino Melaye wins



Kogi APC guber candidate predicts victory at polls

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja THE All Progressive Congress (APC), Kogi State governorship

candidate, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo has predicted governorship polls. Ododo noted that the task overwhelming victory for the party come November

of leading his party to victory in the next governorship election is a herculean one, but it is a task that must be accomplished by the grace of God.

Delivering his acceptance speech after being declared winner of the APC governorship primary, Ododo, the former Auditor General of Local Government in Kogi State, said that all the aspirants are eminently qualified to fly the flag of the party, but only one person can do so at a time.

To the glory of God Almighty and with the utmost sense of responsibility, I accept the challenge to be the flag bearer of our great party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the November 2023 governorship election in Kogi Štate.

congratulate all my brothers and sisters who are all aspired to lead the party but in the next governorship election. You have all demonstrated a rare featt in party loyalty, respect for the system, and believe in the spirit of a united APC family in Kogi State. We are all winners because we are in this race

together as one family I call on all of you, my brothers and sisters, and all our teeming supporters to let us unite solidly behind the ticket and work for the victory of the party come November 2023. With your support, our great party will be victorious in the next governorship election and we shall consolidate on the gains of the New Direction agenda in the state. May I at this juncture most respectfully express my

Kogi State, the Governor of K Alnaji Bello for believing in me and for effectively leading us through a smooth and rancour-free process that has victory for all our party men and women in the state.

I want to also use this medium and singular opportunity to specially and most profoundly appreciate the relentless efforts of the state party chairman, Alhaji Abdullahi Bello. Today, the party has spoken; the system is wórking and the APĆ shall be victorious and we shall retain power in Kogi State

a buse, stealing, that the admission of anyone found guilty shall be hooliganism and other students from various made to face the wrath of forms of social vices states indicates a good the law". While administering the

capable of disrupting mixture based on federal pursuit of their academic "You should note that newly admitted students,

FUGA is not a dumping the university Registrar, Dr. A breakdown of the ground for admission Abubaka Mamuda, said that admitted students seekers but a place where any student involved in any indicated that a total of all students would be form of misconduct in the 1,669 were admitted judged based on the course of their academic through UTME while 203 quality of our programmes pursuit should consider his DE students were and their performance," or her admission

2022/2023 academic hallmark of FUGA is

terminated by the school

matriculation oath to the

The matriculants were Science.

Impose taxes on tobacco to reduce consumption - CISLAC

As a frontline measure in From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe improving its public health, the Civil Society Legislative State Government to tobacco products. Constitutional jurisdiction of tobacco control in Gombe tobacco retailers, tobacco products. State Government to retailers to bacco retailers and tobacco products.



constitutional jurisdiction on tobacco control in Gombe that allows it to license

According to CISLAC's a framework that allows it state to place levies and policy brief on Financing for to license tobacco retailers fines on people health through taxation, a and distributors that are in contravening the case study for tobacco the state to place levies and framework if they are taxation in Nigeria, 2021, fines on people eventually put in place. there is a heavy burden on contravening the "By so doing, it will also the use of tobacco thus, framework.

reaching high epidemic He explained that at the tax measures for tobacco new proportions , it a major national level, the tobacco control in the State. And global public health tax reforms programme not just doing that, there is challenge.

Health Organization WHO, will ultimately translate to revenue through this kind today culminated in this which estimates about 13 reduce affordability of the of measures. So it's a winmillion smokers in Nigeria in product and improve win situation for public 2012, with over 16,000 health. health and public finance", deaths attributable to "But in Gombe State now, he emphasized.

smoking. being that the state does With the scaring indices, not collect excise taxes, meeting expressed delight Solomon Adoga, Senior there are also other forms and interest to go all out to Programme Officer of of taxation that are within create awareness and CISLAC in Abuja, during a the jurisdiction of the state. advocate for the tobacco one day stakeholders "For instance, the state tax reforms in Gombe come November 2023.

impose taxes within its engagement for CSOs on can create a framework

contribute to the price and leader and architect of the aims to increase excise also a viable opportunity CISLAC quoted the World rates on tobacco taxes that for the state to increase its

Participants at the State.

academic excellence and comprised of 199 students

FG to host International <u>En</u>ergy Summit

By JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

AGAIN, the Federal Government is ready to host the World to the 6th edition of the Nigeria International Energy Summit (NINE2023) scheduled to commence from 16th to 20th April at the International Conference Centre Abuja (ICC).

The summit co-hosted by the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited has its theme as, "Global Perspective for a sustainable energy future". The NIES 2023 that is

Buhari primed to be the most

significant date and the Muhammad Buhari as the exhibit their products and valedictory edition of Mr. Special Guest of Honour. It is services to major decision president's administrations, is also expected to feature high- makers. said to provide a platform for profile attendance by industry this administration to present leaders, policy makers and summit, visit the event its scorecard in the energy stakeholders from both public w e b s i t e sector as well as offer and private sectors.

dministration. opportunities for companies to J a m e s S h i n d i o n This year's NIES will grace showcase their expertise and james@brevityanderson.com. the presence of President

For further inquiry on the o n www.nigeriaenergysummit.co roadmap for the incoming The summit will also provide m or the event consultant,

Iam not working against my deputy's aspiration

From JIDAUNA YANUNG Abuja

administration.

Representative said he was aspiration of my deputy, Rt. aspirations of his deputy, Ahmed IdrisWase and other Iawmakers who want to succeed him.

declared their interest for the fifting of the Speaker my party's interest and office of the Speaker.

The Speaker in a statement position.

13, 2023, a national daily – GBAJIAMILA carried a cover story in which it THE Speaker of the House of reported that I was against the party comes up with its

succeed him. Gbajabiamila who made this clarification on Thursday while reactingto a cover story in one of the national dailies, said he has not declared support for any of his colleagues who has declared their interest. I have made my position and new members and new members aneed to wait for the party. There is a need to wait for the party to complete work against Meanwhile, a coalition of returning and new members elect from all political parties that won seats in the House of the majority party, APC are for zoning of the speaker and Deputy Speaker seats. The coalition place place the data

"I am aproduct of APC's leadership of the House in line on his verified Twitter handle "I am aproduct of APC's leadership of the House in line @femigbija said: "Today, April adhere to that anytime the practices. The coalition.

The coalition also pledged to uphold the decision of the opposition parties on minority adhere to that anytime the practices. The coalition, known as the "Joint Task – 10" Assembly" comprises 283 members - elect for the APC, the People Democratic Party (PDP), the LabourParty (LP), the New Nigeria People Party (NNP), the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), African Democratic Congress (ADC) and the Young Progressive Party (YPP).

The chairman and co chairman of the group, Usman Bello Kumo (APC, Gombe) Kingsley Chinda (PDP, Rivers) disclosed this in a statement on Thursday.

"The main focus of the coalition is to promote the independence of the Legislature; the interdependence of the legislature and other Arms of Government to legislate for good governance and grass roots impact; constituency outreach; equity and fairness among members -elect as well as well as unity, equity and fairness in the emergence of presiding and principal Officers in line with best parliamentary practice", the statement reads in parts.



Pain as part of our existence

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To be sure, it is

time to take back

Nigeria from those

who have held it

captive and are

struggling to kill

and bury it. That is

unacceptable and

should not be

allowed to happen.

We owe our

children and those

unborn the

responsibility of

leaving a virile and

strong country for

them given the

kind of resources at

our disposal. Like

our singers have

often said, Nigeria

go survive, ours is

to make sure that

happens.

"

Since the return to leadership recruitment take charge of our democracy, the country process. Whoever wants destiny is here. In a few has grappled wih so to be given a leadership days, the Presidential many of these challenges must be schooled in such and national assembly and it has shaped the a manner that he would elections will be held. It experiences of leaders see the country as first is up to us to take up the variously. We have not minding where he gauntlet and change the struggled through the comes from. Unless we narratives. We have Niger Delta militancy to remove our attachments choices to make which the demonstrations in to some of our primordial would either mar or the Western part of the sentiments, we might make our society. The country. Also, the Central not be able to build a choice is ours to make. If part of Nigeria has not strong and virile country. we want to repair our been spared the wrath of We must endeavour to fractured society, here is land grabbers nor has the demonstrate the the opportunity, if not it North East and North Nigerianess in us by is all in our hands. We Western Nigeria been serving faithfully and must look beyond our free of the activities of being just and truthful in enclosures to find insurgents who have all we do. revolted against the Unless we begin to see the general good not State first to protest ourselves as one people those who would service against perceived with shared destiny, we themselves and their injustices and later as a are not likely to move own. way of enforcing their forward. When we We must resolve to end

religious beliefs. become increasingly unsafe. The country seems to be on the precipice and something needs to be done fast to redeem it. We have been witnesses to the devastation done in other climes by nature but in our own case, we

have been our own catastrophe. We havedemonstrated annoying lack of capacity to run our affairs even when we claim to have some of the best brains in the world. Our citizens are found everywhere in the world and in every profession yet we cannot translate what we give out there into tangibles at home. We compete with the best, yet wejapa at any given opportunity and leave the country expecting someone else to come and fix it for us. What can be done to redeem our self- inflicted curse?

leaders who can work for

reduce everything to our insurgency. Respect the In the midst of all these, small localities, we will mass who are the the country has not been continue to be local employers of the spared other equally champions. Our society politicians and ensure devastating catastrophe. is over ripe to start they are held to account Fuel scarcity has churning out leaders who when they veer off the remained a constant with can be trusted to deliver mark. No more region, the people. So too has the goods. If we can only no more religion, no been the challenge of replicate the good things more tribe and more insecurity. Our we see outside our who you know or don't infrastructure are failing shores at home, we will know. All we need now is as our roads and other build beyond the equal opportunities, means of travels have imagination of our capacity, ability and the

drive to do that which is right. If we field the best in our society, we are sure to have quality results not what we have seen since the return to democracy in 1999 where rogues and loquacious characters have been occupying the political space and messing everyone else. To be sure, it is time to

take back Nigeria from those who have held it captive and are struggling to kill and bury it. That is unacceptable and should not be allowed to happen. We owe our children and those unborn the responsibility of leaving a virile and strong country for them given the kind of resources at our disposal. Like our singers have often said, Nigeria go survive, ours is to make sure that happens.



Gbajiamila



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World Health Day: WHO celebrates 75 year anniversary

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE worldwide age long health organisation popularly recognized as World Health Organisation (WHO), has celebrated its 75 years of existence in promoting good health, disease prevention and controlling mortality rate for vulnerable people, ensuing the highest level of health and well-being.

This took place on the occasion marking the 2023 World Health Day in Jos, the Plateau State capital Monday, starting with a press briefing organised by the Plateau State Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO and other partners who graced the occasion.

Addressing journalists at the conference hall of the Plateau State Primary Health Care Board Jos, the state Commissioner Of Health, Dr. Nimkong Lar Ndam, said, "the World Health Day is held every year on the 17 April and it marks the anniversary of the founding of World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1948".

"This year's celebration focuses on " Health For All" while also celebrating 75 years of its formation. There has been a lot of progress in protecting people from diseases including smallpox eradication, reducing the incidence of polio by 99%, saving millions of lives through childhood immunization, decline in maternal mortality, responding to various disaster and health events and improving health well-being for millions more.

"These 75 years shows that it is possible for us to come together for a common Bauchi Local Government purpose. As a government, we will continue to take action to protect, support and expand the health workforce as a strategic priority. Investments, education, skills and decent jobs for health need has been prioritized to meet the rapidly growing demand for upgrade of various tertiary health schools in the state aimed at reducing the shortage in health workforce by 2030", he assured.

Ndam, disclosed that in a deliberate attempt to ensure health for all which is the universal health coverage, the Plateau State Government under the leadership of Governor Simon BakoLalong, training is the fifth of its kind established the Health being sponsored by Insurance Scheme BalaWunti. "We lack words to (PLASCHEMA) to reduce the express our gratitude to the catastrophic out of pocket health expenditure.

According to him, "It has also established the Drugs Hospital Equipment Management Agency to ensure availability of quality and affordable drugs Islamic Aids members who and strengthening the Primary HealthCare System which is the closest healthcare system to the majority of people living in the state".

The occasion climaxed with commissioner and other key complement the efforts of



and a glorious match past to check- ups and treatment for the Secretariat Junction Jos. There were free medical

From ABBAS GUNGURA,

Bauchi

people who witnessed the occasion.

THOUSANDS of Shiites faithful last Friday matched through the major streets of Bauchi metropolis and staged a peaceful demonstration against the Israelites expansionist tendencies in

the Middle-East. The demonstration started from the Ajiya Adamu Friday Mosque in the heart of Bauchi metropolis, spanning various streets in the city chanting supportive songs for the Palestinians and condenming the Israeilites policy of oppression against Muslims.

The peaceful demonstration was led by one Malam Ahmed Yusuf Yashi following the call by the Iranian Islamic leader, Ayyatullahi Imam Ebrahim Raisi for the Shiite disciples to use last Friday of the Ramadan month as remembrance day for the occupation of Palestinians in the Middle-East by the Israelites.

Malam Ahmed Yashi drew the attention of the Muslims Ummah globally to understand that Palestinians issue is not about the struggle for their emancipation from the domination by Israelites,

Shiites faithful stage peaceful protest

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi



Mohammed

tendencies in the Middle-East. He stressed the need for all encompassing global Muslims

delight with the contributions

of BalaWunti towards the

promotion and propagation of

the religion of Islam in the

state, as well as his

philanthropic gesture to

humanity such as building of

mosques in Bauchi metropolis

and helping the needy in the

covered the occasion reports

that at the end of the

programme, the participants

went home with bags of rice

and clothing materials as

Our correspondent who

society.

Ramadan gift.

but the Israelites expansionist support to curb the negative tendencies of the Israelites against the Ummah generally. Yashi stated, "The Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Middle-East is

the third most significant Islamic Mosque in the world now under the occupation of Israel, hence it becomes very imperative to retrieve it back to the Muslim Ummah"

He explained that the Shi'ates sect set aside last Friday of the Ramadan month to commemorate the oppression of the weak globally especially the Palestinians of the Middle-East by the Israelites.

Malam Yashi pointed out that the struggle is not for the Palestinians alone, but for the entire global Muslims against the Israelites planned occupation of the Middle-East to include countries like Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, among others, as demonstrated in the year 1967.

"The Israelites have the tendency to occupy the entire Middle-East originally of the Muslims domain under the project code-named 'Bigger Israel'. And that apart from the above listed countries, Madinais included. They arguably say was confiscated from them by Prophet Muhammad (SAW)".

Yashi therefore stressed the need for the Muslims Ummah globally to be on their salvation toes as, according to him, the issue at stake is not specifically for the Palestinians Ummah globally irrespective

"Our call on this last Friday of (MBPD) 1.60, NGN: USD the Ramadan month as commemoration day is for The Hon. Commissioner each and every Islamic sect to the Israelites expansionist tendencies in the Middle-

> Bauchi Shi'ates disciples also urged for global Muslims the Palestinians being saying, 'By God's grace victory is on Palestinians side".

Foundation trains Islamic aid groups on traffic control Safety Commission (FRSC), Petroleum Investment occasion, an Islamic cleric, the Red Cross operatives and Management Services Sheikh Bala Isa expressed other sister/voluntary

ABAUCHI-based nongovernmental organisation, known as Wunti Al-Khair Foundation has trained members of joint Islamic Aid organizations (security volunteers) on basic and technical skills on crowd and traffic management, emergency response to ensure orderliness and freeflow of traffic during the Eid-el

fitr celebration in Bauchi State. A well knownphilanthropist and patriotic indigene of Area, AlhajiBalaWunti shouldered the volunteers' two-day training that was held at the Bauchi Central Mosque Jama'atulNasril Islam (JNI) Conference Hall which ended Sunday.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the training, the Director National Aid Group of Jama'atuNasril Islam (JNI) Alh. Bala Ibrahim Sani, recalled that the foundation chairman has for years been shouldering such Islamic promotional activities by giving volunteers the desired knowledge to carry out the rewarding duties.

He explained that the founder of the foundation other than pray for bountiful rewards from Allah".

Sani who is also the Lifidin Bauchi, disclosed that the foundation trained 150 can also step it down to other volunteers towards making the forthcoming Ei-del Fitr celebration smooth, orderly and accident-free.

Lifidin Bauchi noted with the cutting of the 75th delight that the trained Anniversary cake by the volunteers would partners, group photographs corps of the Federal Road organisations for a peaceful (NAPIMS), said the exercise Ei-del fitr celebration. was informed by the He also spoke of the need for foundation's determination to the foundation's leader to ensure that the thousands of Muslim faithful going to

further assist with the provision of some ambulance various Eid Grounds are vehicles for needful medical properly guided and services during such voluntary activities.

The foundation chairman, Alh. BalaWunti said that the training of the 'Yan Agaji is geared towards easing the conduct and celebration of Eidel fitr by the Muslims Ummah slated for next week. Wunti, who is the Group activities or exercises.

General Manager, National

NGSG earmarks N478m to end insecurity

From MATHEW JWANTU,

Minna As part of efforts to curtail the high security challenges N238,924,457,782.47 estimated 2023 budget to at N238,924,457,782.47, strengthen the state internal which according to him security. Н 0 n

made the disclosure at a respectively vernment House, Minna

security is paramount. purchase security gadgets education, health, water, for vigilante corps, installation of CCTV surveillance system around Minna, mitigation and response in 25 LGAs and budget is underpinned by across the state.

is aimed at consolidating the Fiscal Strategy Paper (EFU-

administration.

protected.

government has earmarked 2023 proposed budget of said the budget is estimated comprises N91,044,745,351.31 Commissioner/Deputy (38.11%) and Chairman, Niger State N147,879,712,431.16 Planning Commission, (61.89%) recurrent and Malam ZakariAbubakar capital estimates

press briefing held at "The budget is aimed at completion of projects that Niger State recently, saying are at advanced stages of completion. It focuses on: Hon. Zakari explained that Security, agriculture, the money was meant to infrastructural development, sanitation and people with special needs", he explained On revenue, Zakari said the year 2023 proposed other security activities the Medium Term Fiscal Framework (MTEF); The 2023 proposed budget Economic Fiscal Update and achievements of this FSP) 2023-25 which is the

The Hon. Commissioner revenue in Niger State, the state while breaking down the N238,924,457,782.47 N478,956,614.44, out of the consolidation and transition derived from the following

seven years and laying a provides for annual solid foundation for the next plans/budgets. The total estimated

of according to him, was revenue sources: Statutory Allocation (SA), Value Added Tax (VAT), Internally Generated Revenue, Capital Receipt (CR).

"Other revenue include efunds-N61,094,737,097.00 (25.57%) estimated as Statutory Allocation (SA) was arrived at using the alone, but the entire Muslims following indices: Inflation 17.16%, GDP - 3.75%, Oil of sect differentiation. Production Benchmark exchange rate 435.57".

put the breakdown of other come out in condemnation of revenue estimates as follows: VAT = N35,616,260,802.00 East". (14.91%), IGR =N22,519,483 (9.43%), Capital Receipt Ummah unalloyed support for =N115,436,249.753.47 (48.31%). Others include oppressed by the Israelites, refunds N4,257,726,144.00 (1.78%).

Also speaking at the administration in the past three year plan that normally

KabiruGarbaAminu, who

represented BalaWunti at the

occasion, opined that the

training among the various

religious associations would

promote cooperation and

better understanding in

undertaking religious

Foreign Commentary

Shadow of Saddam's dictatorship in Iraq

The political elite continues to use Saddam Hussein's repressive tactics in dealing with dissent and opposition. **ALFADHEL AHMAD** writes.

TWENTY years have passed since the US-led invasion of Iraq toppled Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. The political class that assumed power in Iraq on a promise to do away with the Baathist regime's authoritarianism and uphold democratic values has failed to deliver.

In fact, it has used the same oppressive tactics deployed by Saddam to protect the ethnosectarian power-sharing system, known as "muhasasa ta'ifia", which was established after 2003 and protects its narrow political and economic interests.

The biggest challenge to this system came in 2019 when Iraqis took to the streets en masse to demand political and economic change reflecting the promises they were given in the 2000s. The response from the political class was merciless. It has unleashed a deadly wave of violence and, under the current government, has sought to use all legal and legislative means to further entrench its repressive grip on power and quash dissent.

The US-led invasion of Iraq was premised on the idea that deposing Saddam would allow democracy to flourish and human and civil rights to be upheld. Yet even the 2005 constitution, written by exiled Iraqi politicians and foreign allies who made these promises, southern Iraq. Hundreds of were able to exploit certain criticising Abu Mahdi alcontains vague wording, which thousands of people constitutional provisions to gain allows for the easy abuse of civil demonstrated for weeks on end, rights.

For example, it says freedom of life but also an overhaul of the expression is guaranteed but country's failed political system. only if it does not infringe on The protests also brought to the "morality" or "public order". This, fore the issues of freedom of of course, has allowed the speech and human rights, raising arbitrary and indiscriminate use awareness of their critical of this provision to muzzle the importance. Iraqi media and government Despite deadly violence critics.

The silencing of critical voices by state and non-state actors, along with the deployment of demonstrations persisted. The political violence has allowed the nationwide solidarity they Iragi political elite to rule as it received delivered a major blow pleases and enrich itself on the to the political elite, which thrives backs of the Iraqi people.

another is not something the also led in 2021 to an electoral Iraqi people have been willing to <u>defeat</u> of the parties that incited accept. As early as 2011 when the violence against the their opinions on social or in and the status quo. the whole of the Middle East was protesters. in upheaval, trying to do away The political forces that were with dictatorships and punished by Iraqi voters in the allows Iraqi authorities to oppression, Iragis took to the last parliamentary elections for streets against their new rulers' their corruption and participation the government", "military failure to provide basic services in the crackdown on the 2019 forces" or "semi-official Penal Code, which relates to and a reasonable standard of protests came back with a living.

continued as the political and as the Shia Coordination these articles have recently been economic situation in the country Framework, (SCF) and after the misused is the case of activist worsened.

In October 2019, years of built- Muqtada al-Sadr's bloc from up anger erupted into mass parliament, which had won the



Iraqi President Rashid

demanding not just a dignified

unleashed against the protests on sowing division and

vengeance last year.

In the following years, protests They formed a coalition known withdrawal of Shia leader protests across central and largest number of votes, they

power.

The SCF allied with Sunni parties and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to form the State Administration Coalition and control the parliament. Since then, the group has launched what can only be described as a "counterrevolution" against important gains made after the October 2019 protests.

The SCF-led government has restricted the space for free speech and criticism. Articles 225-227 of the Penal Code, which were frequently used by But changing one oppressor for maintaining a culture of fear. It the Baathist regime, have been used to target civil rights of silenced public figures who activists simply for expressing dare criticise the political elite traditional media. They contain In addition, the Ministry of the prosecute anyone who "insults agencies" and sentence them to

up to seven years in prison. One notable example of how Haider al-Zaidi. He was sentenced in December to three years in prison for a tweet

Muhandis, the late head of the Popular Mobilization Forces, who was assassinated in a US drone strike in January 2020 along with Qassem Soleimani, head of the Quds Force in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp.

In March, political analyst Mohammed Na'naa' was arrested for criticising Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, while journalist Qudus al-Samaraie was sentenced to one year in prison for defamation after a senior military officer filed a lawsuit against her. These are just a few examples of a growing number

vague and broad language that Interior has also established a committee to punish anyone who posts "indecent content" online under Article 403 of the another vague term – "public morals". As a result of this article, individuals may be sentenced to up to two years in prison for violating a standard that is determined solely by the ministry's subjective view of morality.

In February, more than 10

people were arrested based on Article 403, including social media influencers such as Aboud Skaiba, who was later released after a public outcry, and Assal Hossam, who was handed a twovear prison sentence.

The Supreme Judicial Council, a supposedly independent legal body, has recently come out in support of the interior ministry's recent push to prosecute individuals for "insulting state institutions".

One of the most significant gains the 2019 protests managed to achieve was the adoption of a new electoral law. It enabled the new political forces to organise and challenge the status quo, and as a result, about 30 candidates representing these groups entered parliament.

The political elite saw this as a threat to its monopoly on power. After forming a new government, the SCF pushed for amendments to the electoral law, bringing back a method of calculating electoral votes that favours the parties of the established political class. There was so much opposition to this reform that the parliament had to vote on it overnight and security forces removed lawmakers who were protesting against it.

In empowering the dominant ethno-sectarian parties, the amended law solidifies the current failed political system and undermines Iraq's democratic path. It also goes against the shared national identity, which the 2019 protests rallied behind.

Although it has been 20 years since the end of Saddam's regime, the path to democracy in Iraq remains elusive. Yet it is very much worth fighting for Although they have suffered many setbacks and face a formidable enemy - a political class that clings to power by any means - Iraqis must keep up their struggle. The 2019 protests and the gains that were achieved - albeit short-lived - have shown the way.

The Iraqi people must continue to push for civil rights, such as freedom of speech, fair elections and accountability and must keep these issues in the public eye to serve as a deterrent to those who seek to establish a new dictatorship. Even if progress is slow or meets with resistance, Iraqis should not lose hope. Change is possible and inevitable. And this time, it will not be exiled Iraqi politicians and their foreign allies leading it, but young Iraqis and civil society activists.

Source:Jazeera

Foreign News



US President Joe Biden meets with Egypt's Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt on November 11, 2022

Egypt agrees on Ukraine arms supply

officials, The Washington Post region. has reported, citing leaked intelligence documents.

week that Egyptian President Lloyd Austin, who met with el-Abdel Fattah el-Sisi secretly Sisi in March. planned to produce 40,000 early March.

Eqypt also approved the sale after the meeting. of artillery ammunition to the diplomatic win" for President assistance in the world. Joe Biden's administration.

a close US ally, has previously conditions on US aid to Egypt Kirby said last week. denied plans to produce rockets for Russian forces, stressing that it is pursuing a policy of "noninvolvement" in Russia's war in Ukraine.

Last week, US authorities arrested an Air Force National Guard member, accusing him of posting online secret documents meant for top Pentagon officials.

The files, which first from each other. appeared on the social media collected from allied states.

present a very serious risk to national security" and appear Passover and Easter have fallen to be real, though in some cases altered.

Al Jazeera has not seen the danger and despair. documents concerning Egypt. against Moscow.

EGYPT was planning to the US has seen "no indication manufacture rockets for that Egypt is providing lethal Russia but then suspended weaponry capabilities to of the aid to Egypt last year, it with Mr Putin's words "coming that effort and decided to Russia", stressing that Cairo still approved a \$2.5bn arms up" removed. supply ammunition to Ukraine remains a "significant deal with the country despite after talks with United States security partner" in the rights concerns.

Several US officials have The Post had reported last including Defense Secretary

rockets for Russia. But in a updates on Russia's declared "no more blank opinion on how the situation is new report on Thursday – unprovoked war of cheques" for el-Sisi, who developing, to listen to you, to based on leaked Pentagon aggression against Ukraine, came to power in a 2013 exchange information". files that had been circulating its global economic online – the newspaper said consequences, and the threat Cairo suspended that push in that this conflict poses to the rules-based international The Washington Post said order," the Pentagon said

With more than \$1bn in calling the shift an "apparent top recipients of US military

But Biden has been facing

to push el-Sisi's government to improve its human rights record.

Although the US Department of State held onto a small part website has since been edited,

human rights in US foreign of Mariupol in March. visited Egypt this year, policy early in his White House tenure.

predecessor, Donald Trump, from their duties, "it is "He [Austin] provided Biden – as a candidate – important for me to hear your military coup that overthrew President Mohamed Morsi.

his administration has had managed to capture since regularly praised the Egyptian Moscow invaded Ukraine in government, including for its February 2022. efforts to act as a mediator US "for transfer to Ukraine", annual aid, Egypt is one of the between Israel and Palestinian remains under Russian control. groups.

useful role in terms of some of Zelensky on Tuesday visited the Egypt, which enjoys warm pressure from progressives the negotiations that have frontline town of Avdiivka in the ties with Russia despite being and rights advocates to place been going on in the region," Donetsk region.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has visited Moscowcontrolled parts of Ukraine's southern Kherson region, the Kremlin says.

It says he attended a meeting to hear reports from military commanders. Mr Putin also reportedly visited Ukraine's Luhansk

region. Russia claims to have annexed both regions, but does not fully control either. The BBC has verified that Mr Putin visited Kherson's coastal

Henichensk area - but it is still unclear when. Mr Putin's spokesman Dmitry

Peskov said the visit took place on 17 April. However, footage initially posted on the Kremlin's website contradicts this statement.

In the clip released by Mr Putin's press office, the Russian president can be clearly heard saying that the Easter holiday is "coming up".

Orthodox Easter was celebrated in Russia on 16 April, the day before the date claimed by Mr Peskov.

The video on the Kremlin Such trips by the Russian

leader are rare, although he Biden had vowed to centre made a surprise visit to the city Mr Putin told the military

meeting in Kherson that, while Signalling a break from his he did not want to distract them

Russian troops retreated from the city of Kherson late last year, Still, since Biden took office, losing the only regional capital it

However, some of the region

... As Putin visits occupied Kherson

the town from Russian attacks.

Responding to reports of Mr Putin's visits, Mykhailo presents what is reported to be Podolyak, an adviser to Mr a copy of an icon he says Zelensky's office, tweeted that belonged to "one of the most the Russian leader was touring decorated defence ministers of "the occupied and ruined the Russian Army in the 19th territories" of Ukraine "to enjoy the crimes of his minions for the last time".

"Putin's degradation is impressive," he said.

In the video released by the Kremlin of the trip to Ukraine, Mr Putin is seen stepping out of a helicopter in a field before he is greeted by a man, thought to be military commander Col Gen Oleg Makarevich.

He is then filmed speaking in a control room, sat between Col into a bunker and speaking with Gen Makarevich and the head of Col Gen Alexander Lapin, chief Russia's airborne forces, Col Gen Mikhail Teplinsky.

Col Gen Teplinsky returned to being removed in January, British intelligence have reported.

few senior Russian generals and Chief of the General Staff widely respected by the rankand-file," the UK Ministry of Defence wrote on social media trip as it was a "big risk" for on Sunday.

suggests intense tensions lines.

where Mr Zelensky is seen between factions within the handing awards to soldiers, who Russian General Staff about have for months been defending Russia's military approach in Ukraine."

Later in the video, Mr Putin Century".

We see a road sign reading "see you later in the Kherson region" next to a hotel that has been verified by the BBC as being in the Kherson region. There are then aerial shots taken over a coastal village in the same area.

Afterwards, Mr Putin is seen getting out of a helicopter once again and is then shown in different clothes being taken of staff of Russia's ground forces.

The Kremlin says Mr Putin the front line after allegedly visited the Vostok headquarters, which belongs to American military experts and Russia's National Guard, in occupied Luhansk.

It has also said that Russian . Teplinsky is likely one of the Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu Valery Gerasimov did not accompany the president on the Russia's top commanders to be "His recent turbulent career in one place so close to the front



Vladimir Putin with Col Gen Mikhail Teplinsky (left) and His office published a video **Col Gen Oleg Makarevich (right)**

Israel, Palestinians: Between hope and reality

project during an unseasonable Swathes of Palestinian land have storm that was battering the been confiscated to widen and West Bank with wind sheeting straighten the road, and to rain. Pockets of thick fog along connect it to an ever-growing the road could not obscure the network of bypasses linking latest advances in Israel's settlements with each other and massive and single-minded project to settle Jews on land Palestinians want for a state. I could just as easily have seen the same kind of evidence if I had driven north or east from Jerusalem rather than south.

In the years since first I travelled between Jerusalem and Hebron, the journey and the land either side of it has been transformed. Early in the 1990s it was a country road. A few another military operation in the Jewish settlements were occupation of the West Bank that the road.

and sliced up by a huge My drive was an unscientific expansion of settlements. Jerusalem. Cuttings for the new roads have been gouged out of the hills. This week the Jerusalem-Hebron road was jammed with traffic. Many of the cars had Israeli number plates, reflecting the big increase in the Jewish population in the area's settlements.

As the rain lashed down, about a dozen saturated Israeli soldiers in full combat gear were noticeably spilling down from has so far lasted 56 years, with the hills, especially south of no sign of ending. They were Bethlehem, the first Palestinian close to the Israeli army town the road passes as it watchtower that looms over the leaves Jerusalem. But most of entrance to Beit Ummar, a small the land along the road was Palestinian town whose open fields that had been inhabitants mostly rely on terraced and cultivated by agriculture to make a living. Beit generations of Palestinian Ummar, like many other towns farmers. Some of them used to and villages on the West Bank, travel to work riding on donkeys has lost a lot of land to that plodded along the verges of settlements and roads. The occupation, and the desire to Farmers still grow crops, but resist it, have generated their fields have been reduced repeated violence over the years.

JERUSALEM is a holy city of Aqsa Mosque, where Muslims tension and violence since the here. true believers. The atmosphere believe the prophet Mohammed last Gaza war have shown that

here crackles loudest when the faithful celebrate their religious holidays, especially in the walled Old City where the Christian, Jewish and Islamic holy sites are minutes away

Religion has a significance and support to Ukraine, about more than just faith. In information about Russia's Jerusalem it is linked war effort and intelligence inextricably with Palestinian and Israeli nationalism. Religion, US officials have not denied politics and identity feed off the validity of the documents, each other. The rivals venerate Lebanese militia Hezbollah Palestine alongside Israel would acknowledging that they the sanctity of Jerusalem and fought Israel to a standstill in create a way for the two peoples claim it as their canital

> at the same time. They have also coincided with accelerating

Two years ago, heavy-handed The Biden administration policing by Israel of Palestinians has been trying to rally allies during Ramadan was one of the to Ukraine's aid, warning sparks for a short and deadly countries across the world war in and around Gaza against assisting Russia's war between the Israelis and efforts or violating Hamas, the Palestinian group Washington's sanctions whose name is an acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement

Palestinians who had locked the European Union, among themselves into a prayer hall. Video of heavily armed police belief that the only real chance beating Palestinians caused for peace is the "two-state outrage across the Middle East solution". A generation ago it and beyond, including in the looked like a realistic way to end website Discord, included power here that is hard to Arab states that have normalised more than a century of conflict details of Western military exaggerate. That is because it is relations with Israel. A volley of between Jews and Arabs for rockets came into Israel from control of the land that lies Lebanon, most likely from between the River Jordan and Palestinian groups, causing the the Mediterranean. The two-

> 2006. In the days since that raid on But "two states" has become al-Aqsa all sides have pulled an empty slogan. Its supporters back from the brink of another wring their hands but have explosive confrontation, but the given up trying to make it into a

reasons why they reached that reality. point still exist.

made to get Palestinians and why. Israelis to discuss the future, Getting into a car and driving together or apart. Long periods down that road, as I've done of uneasy calm persuaded Israeli many times since the 1990s, leaders, especially the long- showed yet again that the size serving prime minister, of the gulf between Last week, White House It looked as if it might happen Benjamin Netanyahu, that the international aspirations about national security again this month when Israeli conflict could be managed, not the future of this land and the

ascended to heaven. Police used to be an illusion. brutal tactics to eject The UN Security Council and many others, still repeat their most dangerous moment on the state solution was the idea that heavily armed border since the establishing an independent to co-exist peacefully.

I went for a drive from It has been more than 10 years Jerusalem to Hebron to remind since a meaningful attempt was myself of some of the reasons

spokesperson John Kirby said security forces broke into the al- settled. Two years of growing reality for the people who live

In a separate development, "Egypt has helped play a Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Feature

National grid collapse, one too many

The National electricity grid has collapsed again, throwing the country in to total blackout the fifth time in 2022, the grid broke down on Sunday 12, June around 6:49 pm leading to shutdown of the outgoing electricity feeders of some distribution companies. You recalled Nigeria's power grid collapsed twice in March and twice in April this year, making the power generation on the system to fluctuate due to various concerns such as gas constraint, water management challenges, gas pipeline vandalism among others. TIMOTHY JOSEPH, writes.

THE power outages prevented people from meeting routine businesses and household needs, resulting in huge economic and social cost.

"We regret to inform you that the power outage being experience in our franchise is due to system collapse of the national grid. The collapse of the national grid occurred at about 18:47 pm in the evening hence the loss of supply on all our outgoing feeders," Kaduna Electricity announced on Sunday evening. "Power supply shall be restored as soon as the national grid is powered back", the statement added.

Eko Electricity in its own statement said, " we regret to inform you of the ongoing system collapse on the national grid. This has affected our entire network and has impacted our ability to deliver optimum service". In its own statement, Abuja Electricity said, " The current power outage is due to system Failure collapse from the national grid, the system collapsed at about 6.49 pm today,12 June, 2022 causing the outage currently being experience we appeal for your understanding as all stakeholders are working hard to restore normal supply. "

While Head, corporate communications, Enugu **Electricity Distribution Company** (EECD), Emeka Ezeh, said the grid collapse has thrown five states under the Discos franchise area in to total blackout. Also "The management of Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JED), wishes to inform the general public that the current outage being experience is as a result of system collapse", Head corporate communications, Friday Elijah said.

Some experts have advocated for decentralized transmission system like that of the united states' in order to end the preponderance of grid collapse in the country. Others believe Nigeria should continue with the centralized grid system like that of the United Kingdom. Reports revealed that the U.S multiple system is divided into many parts comprising of eastern and western grid system, and other grid systems that are all the challenges of power supply synchronized. The country across the country. He stated consist of 120,000 miles (190 km) of lines operated by 5 $_{0}$ $_{0}$ earmarked \$550 million for the companies. Nigeria, like U.K, its provision of 20,000 standalone former colonial master has a $3\ 3\ 0$ solar system (SHs) and solar kilovolt and 132 kilovolt Hybrid mini-grid in at least 250 transmission lines and sub- locations across the country. stations spanning over 2 ${\tt 0}$, 0 ${\tt 0}$ Available statistics from the km of transmission lines, independent system operator according to the Transmission (ISO), a section of the Company of Nigeria, TCN.

decentralization of the national grid in the long run, national national grid system has



president of Nigeria Institute of Power Engineer (NIPE), Engr. Israel Abraham, said the transmission system should be decentralized across regions and that Discos should be expanded from the current 11 units to 37, serving each State and the FCT to address the prevalent system of collapses. Others suggested that there is need for arid monitoring tools as the federal government through the Ministry's statement admitted the lack of them, especially the supervisory control and Data

Acquisition System (SCADA) to quickly isolate Nationwide outages. The various advocates for the decentralization of electricity system in Nigeria might not be far from reach if anything is to go by what President Buhari said recently, in an interview with Bloomberg News. According to the President the federal government has commenced the decentralization of the national grid to address that "government had

Transmission Company of Supporting the Nigeria, TCN, shows that in nine years (from 2013 to 2022), the

recorded 115 system collapses. This was the period when the power sector utilities have been privatized. Random picks shows that there were 42 of such collapses in just a year (2010) and over 10 events every year until 2020.

Further analysis however indicate that the system or grid collapsed has declined in the last few years as only four collapses occured in 2020, while two were recorded in 2021, being the lowest so far. However, three have been recorded already in less than a year, between March and june this year, mostly as a result of poor gas to Gencos, in the first instance while the second collapse was traced to the vandalism of power transmission tower in Benin, Edo state, and the third in Oku Iboku in Akwa Ibom State.

The Electricity sector is causing more problems for investors in this economy, already, they have enough problems they have been contending with, such as forex, logistics, credit and insecurity issues. If on top of all that we are faced with energy crisis, then this might be the worst time to experience system collapse because it is simply unbearable. This is even more critical for businesses that are energy intensive, mostly those in production, IT, Telecoms and banks, it's a major issue for the economy and the welfare of Nigerians.

Consumers must not be made about \$29 billion annually due to

to bear for the inefficiency of the Discos, consumers must be compensated for loss of electricity over the decline in power services as there is a conditions of Nigerians. At the contract due to the service moment, the national base tariff, which means that consumers should pay only for what they get. With all the contractual failure by the power sector value chain to give powers to Nigerian consumers, there is still no compensation to consumers for poor services. Customers are being illegally migrated from Band C and Band D to Band A and B and B Nationwide, even with the failure to deliver on the contract/service based tariff, Customers are mechanically configured and shortchange.

According to my findings, no customer of electricity distribution companies (Discos) had been getting 22/16 hours of electricity and steady 10 hours attached to each of the tariff bands. All the considerations and key indicators have failed roundly due to gas constraints, grid constraints, vandalism of gas to power infrastructure and vandalism of critical electricity arid value chain infrastructure, among others. In the face of all these, customers billing classifications are illegally being jerked up.

A world Bank sponsored report in 2021 showed that 85 million Nigerians are not connected to the grid, and that Nigeria losses

erratic power supply. This is a significant amount of money which could be used to improve the economy and enhance living transmission grid is owned and managed by government through the TCN. Government needs to invest in modern technology for surveillance and monitoring of the grid and to safeguard it against vandalism. Government and the power operators, residents and security operatives should deepen synergy to intercept vandals before they execute their acts.

The transmission company of Nigeria can upgrade and increase transformer capacity which will reduce the issue of load rejections, the Nigeria lawmakers had earlier supported the constitutional amendment bill to allow state governments to generate and transmit their own electricity, this will present an opportunity to investors and industries to participate in the Nigerian energy market. Also the states or businesses can transmit excess supply to the national grid, modern smart grid would allow data to flow between consumers and electricity retailers, this will enable grid operators to match electricity supply with demand, understand consumer behavior and plan grid expansion.

Timothy Joseph is of the Ministry of Information and Communication



Simple ways to detox your liver

THE liver may not be the CEO of the body, but it is still sitting in one of the corner offices. For an organ that measures just two to four inches and weighs two to three pounds, the liver has two titles (organ, gland) and more than 500 roles to carry out on a day-to-day basis.

As the second largest organ (after the skin), the liver has some weighty responsibilities that can't be delegated. The liver is also the only organ that can lose up to 75 percent of its mass and still regrow back to full size! While most people are aware that over-use of alcohol can cause damage to the liver, this is far from the only way the liver sustains damage.

When the liver becomes damaged or compromised, it can't do its job of detoxing the body as well. When this occurs, the liver needs help. These simple ways to detox your liver can help your liver get back on its feet, so to speak, so it can do its job to keep you healthy. Remember, if you are under a doctor's care for the management of any health issues or are taking any required medications, always talk with your doctor before changing your daily diet or health routine.

Drink more water. Simple liver detox remedies can often seem, well, simplistic. But here, the simple truth is that water helps the liver move toxins through its own cellular systems and speed them on their way out of your body. But not just any water will do to have the full detoxifying benefit. Drink filtered tap water at room temperature at specific intervals of the day (aka., upon awakening, in between meals, early evening; not while eating and not too much 2 hours before bed).

Add a tiny pinch of salt and the spice turmeric to your water in order to accelerate its effectiveness. A good general rule of thumb is to aim for 4 liters of water per day. Stay away from carbonated water or water in plastic beverage containers. Sweat, sweat, sweat. Depending on where you live, you may be able to accomplish this simply by walking outside! But this isn't the optimal method to use sweat as a liver detox.



its own detoxifying benefits, system that works alongside the pushing couch potato toxins up liver while you are asleep to send out of their comfy seats and toxins packing while also restoring moving them out of the body cognitive, physical, and behavior along with the sweat. Hot yoga, a nice jog, HIT workouts, or a sauna focus, and endurance. session are great ways to sweat after sweating. Don't skimp on the zzzs.

Science is finally starting to just being still. Sleep is offat. detoxifying! Sleep is a vital restoring, and detoxifying.

Sweat induced by exercise has The lymphatic system is the body functions which improved mood,

Choose anti-inflammatory foods. out toxins. Just make sure to wipe Certain foods are naturally away sweat as soon as possible supportive of optimal liver function. with a toxin in order to prevent Learning about these foods and reabsorption of toxin back into adding them into a regular daily body, and take a cool shower right rotation can help support the liver in doing its best work. As a side bonus, eating foods with natural antiinflammatory benefits can lessen understand why human beings the risk for fatty liver disease, a need at least eight hours of rest disease that basically means the time every night where they are liver has taken on an undue amount

Over time and with continued component of regulating damage, fatty liver disease can turn metabolism as well as targeting into cirrhosis, a condition that brain and neurological toxins and produces permanent scars and moving them out of the liver. prevents liver regeneration. The Sleep shuts off non-essential good news here is, a liver-healthy physical functions so the body can diet is also a diet that will naturally redirect its energy resources promote weight loss or weight towards processing, healing, maintenance, improved energy



levels, better sleep and a more youthful appearance. Foods with natural inflammation-repelling properties include all foods grown above ground such as green vegetables, beans, grains, and mushrooms. These plant-based foods do direct photosynthesis rich in water, oxygen, and nutrients which are cells depend on to maintain all its function. The exception would be GMO crops they are extremely damaging for pickles. the liver with any level of consumption. remove toxins from your daily routine.

This tends to be the part of the enthusiastic about. Yet the simple damaged. truth is that the more toxins successful liver detox! Reducing or the liver detox! eliminating all animal protein,

alcohol, sugar, wheat, corn, soy, tobacco, processed foods, caffeine, and nuts will give your liver a muchneeded break to do some longoverdue house cleaning.

Give the digestive system some helpers. The more effective your digestive system is at eliminating toxins, the less work it will then pass along to the liver. One of the best helpers a digestive system can ever get is probiotics. These tiny beneficial wheat, corn, soy, alfalfa, canola bacteria get right to work shifting the and items sprayed heavily with the balance of power in the gut from dangerous pesticide Roundup harmful bacteria back towards (i.e., dairy products, eggs, healthy flora and fauna. Probiotics poultry, red meat, pork, fish, are readily available in fermented sweet potatoes, potatoes, beets, foods like small beans cooked over 3 sugar cane, coffee, nuts) since days, sauerkraut, kimchi, and

Consume in small amounts once Reduce or during the day. Fermented items such as kombucha, miso, and kefir should be rarely consumed since they can easily overload the liver function liver cleanse routine no one is too especially when it is already

Many people initially feel hesitant or introduced into the body system resistant to attempt a liver detox equals the more toxins the liver because the whole process just then has to move back out again. sounds unfamiliar and perhaps Increasing the burden on the liver complicated. But as these six tips is never a good recipe for a show, it is actually quite easy to help

Source: Medicalnews.com





Relationship

Consider these questions before throwing in the towel

ANGELA THOMPSON

RELATIONSHIPS are tough, and marriages probably even more so because if you decide a relationship isn't working and that it's best to end it, then although it's not a pleasant experience, it's generally easier to walk away from in terms of the practical aspects such as not needing to speak to an attorney from McCarthy Law PLC.

However, just as some people perhaps rush their way down the aisle when deciding to get married, many more rush their way to the lawyers to sign divorce papers when perhaps there are other things they could have tried before throwing in the towel.

Sometimes a marriage just isn't working and if that's the case then letting it go may be the best thing for all involved, but to help you decide what the right option is for you, then we've put this post together with some things that you might want to consider before throwing in the towel on your marriage so that you can perhaps avoid making a decision in the moment that you may not be able to go back on and will regret later down the road.

Are there still feelings involved?

It's quite unusual for a divorce to come about because someone fell out of love - that's not to say it doesn't happen, but it's rare. Love certainly changes throughout a relationship, but if anything it becomes stronger and deeper, and less like the lust that's typical of the early days. When thinking of getting

divorced, it's important to try and remember the reasons you got married and see if those feelings are still there and if perhaps something like speaking with a marriage counselor to see if maybe the issues you're dealing with can be overcome through some healthy communication and understanding. It would be truly unfortunate if you threw a marriage away when there's still feelings involved that could be fixed. However, sometimes even when there are feelings this isn't a reason

healthy or working out. your marriage?

this is not something that will regret. work unless the dynamic Are you basing this on changes. This wouldn't work emotion or careful for any relationship - whether consideration? professional or personal, but it Just like getting married is a

reaction?

ways.



have and be able to know that of an argument we can find emotion involved and really something that's just not reaction. This often stems from a feeling of not being heard and What was the dynamic of needing to show that we're right or show the other person what Is your marriage one that they could be losing by not about divorce for a long time or does it feel more like you're difficult to see this behavior things aren't getting better in expected to take care of your pattern in the moment, it's spouse without getting much important to not throw words in return. If your marriage is like divorce around just to get a one in which one party is doing reaction if you don't really mean all the giving while the other it because it can and does have just takes all the time, then consequences that you may

most certainly won't work in a big choice that has to be marriage, and if this isn't going carefully considered, so is to change anytime soon, then getting a divorce, and often we it's probably best to think do things based on an emotional about going your separate reaction to the situation rather than taking time to really Do you want a divorce or a carefully consider if this is what we truly want or not. Before

logical perspective. What's motivating this through.

decision? Have you been thinking

to stay in a marriage, and Every marriage has making such a huge decision on children, but if you know the sometimes it's important to arguments and sometimes it's important to take the time steps to take to help them look beyond the feelings you what when we're in the middle away from the heat of the through it and deal with it in a healthy way, then it really doesn't it's time to walk away from ourselves saying things to get a look at it from a calm and have to be a traumatic experience for them to get

> Have you thought about the future communication?

When going through a divorce, you feel like you're both equals giving in. Although it can be because you just feel like even if it was a mutual choice,



your marriage or is this something that's perhaps coming from a feeling of frustration. Whilst there's no right or wrong answer when it comes to divorce and only you can know what the right important to really look at the reasons behind your decision so you can determine if this is something you really want or think is the best choice.

Have you considered the full picture?

When considering whether or not to put an end to your marriage, there may be other aspects to consider. Sometimes there are other people to consider, such as children. Although staying in an unhappy marriage is never something you should do because you think it's better for children, they should also be considered when making your decision because divorce can and does have an impact than the other.

people's egos sometimes tend to take over the logical side of their brains, and this is something that can last for years after the event. If you have children together, then it's highly possible that decision is for you, it's you're going to need to maintain some kind of contact or communication with your spouse in the future, so if you're seriously considering going for divorce, then you need to be prepared to put aside any personal issues and behave in a mature and adult way when communicating with them when it relates to your children in the future.

> Of course this can be difficult depending on the reasons for the divorce, but even if you feel like you can't stand the person you used to be married to, it's important to remember that your child loves them and that they should never be put in a position where they feel like they have to show loyalty to one parent more



Vigeria 😻 Standard

Editorial

Reviewing the recent supplementary elections

- NIGERIA has been enmeshed in a show of shame due to the irregularities recorded during the just definitions, peer group can concluded supplementary elections. Activities of be agents of corruption thugs in some pockets of places, vote buying and bribery and corruption, violence witnessed in spite of means the process whereby security presence, to put it mildly, was very disappointing.
- **IT** is guite disheartening that the rerun of the elections in Akwa Ibom Ikonu/Ini Federal Constituency had to be cancelled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) due to violence. The state INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) Dr Cyryl Omorogbe disclosed that the elections were cancelled in the 17 Polling units as a result of reported snatching of election materials including Bi-Modal Voters Accreditation Machine System (BVAS) and other items. As a result of this, election did not hold in some areas, necessitating the cancellation.
- **IN** the light of resources expended, tax payers' money wasted for the second time and still counting, this is very inconsiderate and insensitive
- IN Edo State, Chairman of Labour Party, Kelly Ogbaloi has rejected outrightly, the rerun elections in the state. He based his argument on the fact that the about committing murder, elections were marred by irregularities and violence by thugs suspected to be loyal to People's Democratic Party (PDP), in the state.
- OGBALOI alleged that some of their members. including a candidate were beaten up and chased away from polling units, denying them of exercising their franchise. LP is calling on INEC to cancel the election and fix another date for the elections.
- WE condemn in strong terms any form of intimidation, violence, infringement on rights or denial of one's right to vote any candidate or any party of one's choice or inducement in any form to vote any party. It should be sounded loud and clear that this is not the drugs only help a carrier to transmitted. This stone age where jungle justice was the order of the live longer. day. There are rules governing every activity which should be respected by all and sundry.
- THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arrested 12 persons for alleged vote- buying in the just concluded supplementary elections in Kano and Kaduna States. The EFCC Zonal Commander, Faruk Dagondaji revealed that the suspects were arrested with N1. 5 million cash in Kano and Katsina States. He explained that ten were apprehended with N1, 377,500 million in Doguwa LGA, while 2 suspects were arrested with N242, 000 in Kankia LGA.
- **UNFORTUNATELY**, 3 persons were killed and 3 houses set ablaze during a clash between residents and thugs one of these ways: Sexual may look like those of who invaded Wudil LGC. The residents withstood the intercourse with an infected common illnesses. The thugs when they realised they wanted to disrupt the persons, sharing of polls. The action of the residents deserves commendation even though some of them paid the supreme price with their lives in the process of defending their votes. Where were the security operatives at that crucial time?
- ANOTHER man lost his life in Kebbi State as he attempted snatching a ballot box from officials of INEC. Thankfully, there was security presence who ended his mission.
- WE view with concern the unfolding of the supplementary elections in Adamawa and Kebbi States. The worst case scenerio is Adamawa State, where the REC decided to announce Binani of the APC as the winner of the election even before all results were collated. The REC usurped the power of the Returning Officer whose responsibility is to announce results. As a consequence, the collation of results was suspended and the REC called to order.
- FROM the foregoing, it is a clear indication that only experienced hands who have grown through the ranks in INEC should be engaged from now henceforth. And even so, those with clean records, whose antecedents don't raise eyebrows.
- WE call on the Federal Government to deal decisively with election offenders to serve as a deterrent to others. The situation seems to be going from bad to worse and only stiffer penalties would discourage that.

THE concept "Peer Group" is defined in many ways. The Oxford Learners Dictionary defines it as " a group of people of the same age and disobeying the school social status". The dictionary also defines "corruption" as, "The act or effect of making somebody change from a moral to an immoral standard of behavior".

Based on the above among students which a group of students with the same motive affect members negatively in the cause for concern among school environment and the larger society.

Although per group is seen an agent of socialization that is socializing their members on how to behave in a manner acceptable in the society, but in today's acts, because the students society, peer group has are influence by each other turned out to be a major agent of corruption among nonsense and scarcely have members especially in our secondary and tertiary institutions.

peer group now turn out to comes as 'expo' in the be cult group and they go examination hall.

and indulging drinking blood, taking oaths, drugs, harassing the opposite sexes , insulting and authority and later graduating into robbery, kidnapping, banditry and other social vices which also relates to violence and killing of their fellow school mates. Such practices are also becoming serious



THE NIGERIA STANDARD, Wednesday, April 19, 2023

group: An agent of Peer corruption or socialization

the students and school authority. This rendered our tertiary and secondary institutions useless.

In the area of examination malpractice, peer groups are primarily the unlawful in terms of doing all sorts of time to read and prepare for examination: Certainly such students will look for In today's universities most one help or the other which

dreadful monster out of our or company their children the students have fiends we keep and being children. focused in our own goals in future.

students on what to do and educational institutions' ready to be punished or expel recalcitrant students.

educational institutions, are keeping and should not "spare the rod and spoil the important role to play in the child". Parents should be area of choosing the type of ready to punish defaulting

Certainly, if above measures are taken, peer Secondly, the school groups will turn out to authority must be vigilant become agents of enough to enact rules and socialization rather than regulations to guide the corrupting students in our

Raphael Peace Victoria, is an IT Thirdly, the parents have a *students of united* greater role to play in science and technology, ensuring the kind of friends Bidabidi, Gamajigo, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

In order to pursue this Youths require regular HIV/AIDS screening

AIDS is an acronym for contaminated needles or Acquired Immune other skin piercing Deficiency Syndrome, it is instrument such as knives, a deadly disease but the razors and needles, blood cure has not been known transfusions, sharing of scientists have made some tooth brushes and clippers researches to find out its and infected mother to her cure but have not baby during succeeded. They have come and at birth. out with what is known as antiretroviral drugs. These virus cannot be

The epidemic of the disease in Nigeria and the world as a shake or hugging, whole makes it a serious coughing and sneezing, health problem. water or food, sharing of Traditionally and ignorantlt clothing plates and cups. people believed that AIDS is Signs and symptoms of cause by witchcrafts. According to Igwo (2004), HIV which carries AIDS could be spread through blood, semen and vaginal fluid. He went on to say that the virus enters the body in from person to person, but

pregnancy There are ways that the

according to Achalu (1993), includes hands AIDS.

People infected with the virus will initially not notice it until it is full blown. The symptoms according to Igwe (2004) may vary sign can be classified into major and minor signs and they include. Prolonged unexplained

- fatigue Fever lasting more
- than one month Persistent severe
- diarrhea longer that one month
- Cold all over the body
- Unexplained
- weightloss. Prevention of this

scourge. One medically sure way of preventing it is to avoid sex before marriage, and then after marriage with only one faithful partner. Correct information should be given to both young and old on the transmission of this disease.

In my opinion, the best way to prevent AIDS is abstinence staying away

from multiple sex partners. It is noted that the youth constitute a greater percentage of HIV/AIDS carriers in the country.

My advice to the youths is that they should forget about premarital sex, sugar mummies, sugar daddies and frivolities of life which may make them to contact HIV/AIDS. They should focus their attention on their education.

AIDS is real! Beware! Abstain from premarital sex; protect your future, protect your life.

By RAPHAEL PEACE VICTORIA, Mass Communication department IT students from United School of Science and Technology Bidabidi, Gamajigo Jos Plateau State, Nigeria.

STANDARD CARTOON



BEFORE It became known as Correctional Centres, if anyone was incarcerated in any erstwhile Nigeria Prison Service, it was usually understood that the person had been confined to eternal damnation until when events showed that rather than being the most dreaded place, prisons (now called Correctional Centres) are actually reformation centres, especially judging by its name.

The wrong perception was so because in the past, anyone who once went into the prison, but was lucky to come out safely, had one debilitating story or another to tell; however, recently all that seemed like mysteries.

A fortnight ago, during the 11th convocation ceremony of the National Open University of Nigeria, (NOUN), its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Olufemi Peters, announced that 25 inmates from across Correctional Centres in the country were part of the graduates. The announcement was taken like a pinch of salt until he further gave details. Giving a breakdown, Prof Peters said, out of the said 25 in number, one of them was a post-graduate student with a master's degree while the rest were first degree holders.

Prof. Peters said, "We went out of our ways to provide learning tools for those willing to study in those Corrections Centres in line with our mandate of breaking every barrier against education. Detention is not a barrier and thank God these Correctional Centres provided the platform for us to do that."

That was not all; not too long ago, a viral video of a young lady, Chidinma Ojukwu, took over the social media when she was shown participating in a beauty pageant parade at the Kirikiri Prison in Lagos

NIGERIA'S highway experiences are a particular example of the rot that typifies the country's black-uniformed system.

The primary role of the police is to ensure strict compliance with existing laws and the maintenance of social order within a community. In this wise, the police reserve the authority by law to exert force in ensuring that the laws of the land are adhered to and that communal existence remains peaceful.

Also, the Police Force is expected to serve as agent of comfort and defence to the vulnerable members of the society who are susceptible to crimes, insecurity, brutality and denial of due process and human rights. However, the Nigerian experience with the police system generally has been chaotic, often characterised by several cases of human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, bullying, hooliganism, destruction of properties, aiding and abetting heinous crimes in various forms and degrees, and extortion, among others.

This is not to say that there aren't a few cases of right-doing by the police force. Rather, the negative experiences far outweigh the few good ones; many documented cases describe the impunityladen system that characterises the force, and Nigerians have prayed to the government to reform the entire police structure, but this has fallen on deaf ears over and again.

Nigeria's highway experiences are a particular example of the rot that typifies the country's black-uniformed system. Motorists travelling on the highways across the country have recounted tales of woes regarding their experiences with the Nigerian Police Force? (NPF). Many a time, barbaric experiences have been proved to result from a coordinated effort by officers of the NPF with armed criminals or from

Opinion Are correctional centres death or reformation homes?

By ELEOJO IDACHABA

as against what most people thought are the peculiarities of prison life.

Chidinma, who was implicated in the death of Super TV boss, Michael Ataga, and sent to prison was recently crowned Miss Cell 2022 as part of events to mark the 2022 International Women's Day. Whoever saw the video would never have imagined that the beauty pageant was actually held within the four walls of Kirikiri Prison, but that was it. Although counter reactions trailed the viral picture/video, especially as it concerns the feeling of the deceased's family, the video portrayed Correctional Centres as another world of its own where reformation of characters takes place.

When former President Olusegun Obasanjo came out of prison in 1998, he told the entire whole world while interacting with some officials of the Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) that he became a regenerated human being while in prison. Recounting his experiences. the former president said, "I met Christ while I was in prison. There, the only companion I had was my Bible and old newspapers plus frequent visits from prison evangelists. That was how I gave my life to Christ."

Obasanio is not alone in this as a former Governor of Abia State, Orji Uzor Kalu, once admitted shortly after his release from Kuje Correctional Centre Abuja in 2020 that he met God while in prison. According to him, even though he was treated as an 'executive inmate, his experiences showed that detention centres are also reformatory centres for anyone willing to live a better life after the confinement.

Corroborating this, a former Deputy Comptroller General of Prison, Uche Kalu said that it was a wrong perception held by many that whenever anyone is held in any of the confinement centres; that is the end of life.

"During my years in service, we made it a matter of policy to ensure that even though most prisons were old in outlook, we ensured that inmates undergo proper reformation programmes in order to avoid being a nuisance when they come into the society. A badly/poorly treated inmate is a potential danger to society if eventually such comes out of confinement. That is why I am happy that today the name now reflects the mandate. Oftentimes, that was part of the memo we presented before the board and graciously the board gave approval even with the limited resources at government disposal," he said.

When asked if the quality of infrastructure in the country was anything compared to what obtains in other developed countries, he said, "Although one cannot compare the quality of amenities in overseas prisons with Nigeria, we were also mindful of minimum standards in line with available resources."

A former inmate of Lafia Prison, now a furniture maker in Kugbo, Abuja, Adindu Adinuba, told this reporter that there is a difference between police detention cells and

what is known as conventional prisons. He said so in his capacity as someone who had experienced both.

He said, "In 2007, I was implicated in an incident involving burglary at a tyre depot in Mararaba and arrested by the police. Initially, I was locked up at Uke Police Station, but was later charged to court and later sentenced to prison. For the three months that I was in the police cell, life was hell. That was when some human right crusaders who heard about our case insisted that we be charged to court. That was how I ended in Lafia Prison.

"In prison, we had food; we were trained on various crafts like carpentry, roofing and tailoring apart from going regularly to the prison farm where we also learnt how to cultivate certain crops. I chose carpentry because I was actually interested in it before I got implicated. Luckily in 2014, having found nothing wrong in my case file. the former Chief Justice of the state released me and other inmates, but before then, I already learnt carpentry, so it was not too difficult for me to adjust when I came out. There is a difference between police station detention and prison."

A prison Evangelist, Pastor Celestine Mathew, in his view, said contrary to what people think is the state of inmates in prisons, it is actually a reformation centre spiritually and otherwise.

"I have been a prison evangelist since 2007 after the Lord told me that I should close my church in Benin and move to Abuja. Since then, I have been on missionary and evangelical visits to many

prisons around Abuja like Kuje Suleja, Lafia, Koton Karfe and Kabba.

"I discovered that even the prison authorities have a liberal policy of allowing us to visit the inmates with the word of God be and so because of that, I have firsthand knowledge of how inmates are treated. Many of those who later left prisons are preachers today. Some are good members of the society while some are even part of our evangelical team to other prisoners whenever we visit them. Even though I do not pray for anyone to be confined before one can learn, life in prison is not a death sentence, but reformatory," he said.

According to a development architect, Olarewaju Osho, architect. happenings in Correctional Services are shielded from most Nigerians.

He said, "Most Nigerians don't bother about it until they have a reason to pay a visit to any prison across the country.

"Even as a visitor, you can only see a tip of the iceberg. It is difficult to see or know many of the things going on behind the walls unless one is an inmate or a staff member. One of the other ways to know the truth about the state of affairs is to speak with an inmate or a staff member

"Nigeria Prisons can truly become Correctional Centres where the return rate of offenders is drastically reduced to the lowest level possible. They can become nurseries of destiny transformation where people go in as offenders but come out as agents of change. To achieve this would never be business as usual. The time to try and force change is now."

The story of the 25 inmate graduates of NOUN and Miss Ojukwu may have changed the citizens' perception of Correctional Centres across the country.

Notoriety of Nigeria's highway policing

By IFEOLUWA OGUNRINOLA

in-house mischief-making by the officers themselves.

Travelling from Lagos to Benin City late last month, I can recount a remarkable but unnecessary experience with the NPF. Somewhere around Okada, just after Igbinedion University, some officers ordered the vehicle conveying myself and some friends to park. Some other cars were ordered to do the same. About six in number, these officers were not looking like sane human beings. The man who ordered us to stop just kept commanding us at the top of his voice as he kept wiping salty sweat off his black and disfigured face. Another tall and dark officer holding a rifle and a stick similar to what herders use to direct their cattle kept shouting. He also ordered us to remove our bags and move to a nearby shed for searching. These officers looked dirty, smelly, and unkempt, and they also looked like armed robbers.

Best to me, authorities of the NPF have discontinuance of the checkpoint and roadblock activities throughout the the police. country, Various Inspector Generals (IG) given the order to cease all roadblock and checkpoint activities throughout the

forcefully.

While in shock and quite hesitant, the tall, dark policeman with a rifle and herder-looking stick charged towards me with cars that refuse to stop for them. and threatened a strike if I refused to carry of about four vehicles carrying up to 20 questioned about our profession and where we were heading as they searched every pocket in our bags. We did not argue with them. When other travellers attempted to argue with them, they were dealt with. Phones were smashed, slaps dished out, and the officers violently issued death threats. We left the scene as soon as we were over with the search.

We drove past several roadblocks often manned by uniformed policemen without name tags who often bullied anyone they stopped. Also, several other law enforcement officers filled the roads as they mounted their respective roadblocks most horrific experiences occurred with

men order a stop-and-search protocol and improper parking of vehicles. They as you can afford.

also contribute to road accidents and avoidable deaths by commanding vehicles to stop suddenly or dragging the wheels

Several tales of intentional extrajudicial my belongings and head towards the killings and deaths by the irresponsible nearby shed for a search. This was the fate discharge of bullets abound, and the offending officers usually find their way travellers. My colleagues and I got out of the situation. Also, no justice is usually served to favour the affected victims or their families. No wonder the famous #EndSARS movement struck an unforgettable chord both within and outside Nigeria, but the world seems to have reverted to its initial equilibrium, and the struggle against police brutality continues Many Nigerians now go on long-distance travel by road only when it is extremely necessary and inescapable. Motorists also prepare for encounters with police officers by ensuring that they have several wads of cash on standby in N100 and N200 denominations to avoid unnecessary delays and drama.

Clearly, the entire police structure intending to extort and intimidate requires reform. Reforms that address passers-by There was the presence of the recruitment structure, rules of decried the stop-and-search routine by Nigerian Army, the NPF, the road safety engagement with the public, bearing and corps and the Customs. However, the use of weapons, welfare for employed officers and their families, correctional measures for erring individuals within the Usually, the sight of the police should force, and many other areas of structural of Police have in their respective times, bring a feeling of relief and safety to consideration should be consciously travellers on the road. Still, in today's prioritised. Without these effectively put in Nigeria, the reverse is the case. People place, then it should be highly noted that country: IG Mohammed Abubakar in now experience an unprofessional display the Nigerian Police is not your friend, and 2012; IG Idris Kpotum Ibrahim in 2017, to of force by these officers who shoot your contact with them must be mention a few. With this in my mind, I was innocent people in a show of violent documented and shared with the public, quite shocked to have these untagged, aggression, extort for self-gain, and cause while your manner of approach and unnumbered and unverified uniformed road menace through illegal roadblocks rapport with these officers must be as civil

Feature Towards building an ideal world

By AYUBA YILGAK'HA,

IDEALS are perfect conditions, methods or systems. In the real world, they are believed to be utopian dreams which are outside the realm of practical attainment. However, the drive of every human society is conditioned upon the necessity and desire to attain the highest possible state of civilisation where opportunities for growth, sustained and holistic development are available to all.

We live in a world where there are so much nightmares than dreams. While men desire peace as benefit of life; trouble has come be a recurrent decimal in the land of the living. There is no better time to admit Ecclesiastes' value judgement which says happiest are those who never experience birth for they shall never live to battle the woes of life. I can smell rat in the world but who is listening to who? We complaint or blame each other everyday but do not listen to share the cares and worries of one another.

In today's life, I do not know who is right or who is wrong in the scheme of things but something wrong is definitely going on in the world on a scale unheard of in human's chequered history. The scale, level of complexity and speed with which the odds of life unfold most times leave men perplexed and practically confused. However, when we are transfixed or overwhelmed with so much doubt or lack of it, in a matter involving two persons (corporate world), the way to go is to be neutral in judgement until a point is proven, that is, we are convinced or otherwise. Matters of justice, judgement or decisions in life are not absolutes; they occur arbitrarily and, can only be settled from the stand point of facts dictated by the power of loaic.

We see and interprete the world differently. It is our right to do so but, most times, some views are denied expression either because they are perceived wrong, lethal or even unfavourable to those who have the power to pass judgement(s) or influence decisions apart from us (third parties). Borrowing from basic knowledge of law is important here and needs to be heard. There are always two sides to a case (story), hence, the legal maxim, "Audi alteram partem" which means that both sides deserve an opportunity to be listened to before passing a judgement. And, also, depending on which legal approach is adopted, the burden of proof of rightness or wrongness in any case is often imposed on either of these two: The accused or the accuser.

When the burden of proof in a case is on the accused, the order is that such accused person is assumed guilty until he has proven his contradictions facing us today since person is an index or catalyst for daring to be resourceful and that waste can, possibly, be a waste accusers otherwise. This is the volucan be virtually are peace. subsisting system of legal administration United States of Address burden of prove is on the accurer, then, an accused person is presumed innocent until proven guilty by the accuser. Here, the burden of proof is entirely on the accuser. This is the approach or protocol which the Nigerian legal system practices.

Justice is about fact(s) not morality. on the other hand, morality is about conscience and popular norms not fact. In civilised climes, matters are treated based on context. This means that for one to draw conclusion on any matter, the context has to clearly defined and convincinaly presented. This benefit does not exist in crude (uncivilised) communities or climes. This



disasters.

one another, the opportunity to listen jungles! and understand each other is freely For the avoidance of doubt, while happen! created and the community as a social intelligence has to do with the To build and nurture a civilised and whole will be happy for it. As a ability to consciously maintain cordial functional society takes conscious opportunities because there are people, therefore, we must learned relationships with people; emotional effort and time not mere wishes. In many coming, does not deserve any to listen to one another. This is intelligence is someone's capacity to order to overcome the nightmares of further chance because there is no necessary towards building successfully manage his emotions everyday life, each community guarantee such will utilise the next consensus around the way forward under every given circumstance(s). A member or citizen (if you like) must one that could come. With persons on inherent life and community socially and emotionally stable be willing to pay the price, that is, like this, comes the stand-off law you can be victim tomorrow if you are peace.

Addressing recurrent issues of beings are social as well as emotional Learning recreates. Learning This piece is not a monologue but America uses. Conversely, when the inequality (in the areas of gender, beings. When the social and mobilises. Learning empowers. intended to be a dialogue. I'm talking race, social status and economic); emotional nature of man is properly Learning violent extremism (terrorism, nurtured, mobilised and cultivated, transgenerational basis. With drop my pen, I expect you to react insurgency), arson and wars; crime the society thrives but this can only learning, the mistakes of the past can after reading so that our and criminality(drug trafficking, happen at a price. For the social and be corrected in the present to prepare conversation will start. This lead human trafficking and robbery); emotional nature of man to be people for the opportunities of the natural epidemics, pandemics and profitably appreciated and cultivated, future which are limitless! catastrophes (missles, covid-19, intellectual and adversity intelligence Things we did not get it right corruption, electoral malpractices, developed. strategies and not blame game.

explained why, while there is peace them is nothing to write home about and cultivated adversity intelligence a man is nothing but failure to learn and tranquility in civilised societies and everybody is getting better. When intellectual and rancour in uncivilised ones even but when hope elludes us also, then, a way of reinforcing social and when there are limited or no natural there is big problem. We need peace emotional intelligencies.

nations, communities and individuals stock and or flow of cognitive greatest possibility life, time and forward. Resolving the knowledge one has about how chance offers to man is that whatever contradictions of our world requires systems and processes work in the was not achieved yesterday can be world. Adversity intelligence quotient achieved with greater ease today or Humanity has been altered and is the unique and deliberate ability to in the future when lessons are there are abnormalities everywhere withstand and overcome difficulties learned and strategies developed in our world but the quality of the or adverse situations (viscissitutes) from lapses (mistakes) of the past. conversations towards resolving of life. Stoic philosophers understood The worst thing that can happen to

but how, one may ask? Building any Where there is sustained interaction The point is that corporate peace conversation for peace and conflict and smooth blending of social, and stability is not rocket science but resolution around impulse or emotional, intelligence and adversity a product of mutual understanding emotional outbursts will not help any quotients, then, strong and beneficial build on critical mix of legality and community of people but creative character is molded in men. morality. What makes a man right or rationality which has to do with Conseversely, when there are wrong can only be determined in an conscious and sustained state of distortion(s) in the cultivation and atmosphere of open mindedness being willing to understanding the development of any or all of these within the context of law and other person It is always deliberately useful quotients in a person (or morality, on the one hand; love and cultivated on the soil of social and sizeable number of persons) in a charity, on the other. When people emotional intelligences which are society, then, such society is are mutually open minded towards often missing in chaotic animal doomed: Seating on time bomb or become an accident waiting to opportunities because many more

> responsible in character and when opportunities are carelessly It should be noted that human continuous learning Learning builds. allowed to slip! transforms

ebola, earthquakes), institutional must be diligently sought and yesterday, are not a guarantee that we cannot get it right tomorrow as etc, is necessary to move the world, Intellectual intelligence is about the some will want us to believe. The

anything from past mistake(s) such except where there is natural disinchabted, angry and unhappy adversity quotients are sought, that so continue to repeat them catastrophy; there is chaos and Peace seems to be elluding the world nurtured and appropriated, they have From our failures as humans come From our failures as humans come boundless opportunities to make pearls and phoenixes out of our lives. From waste comes wealth. This is true with opportunities too. This is a relatively novel philosophy but an anti-thesis of waste is waste paradigm of yesterday!

In today's knowledge and strategy driven world, only death is the limit of man. In other words, as long as men live, opportunities shall always come. The caveat and warning, however is: Do not waste today's are coming tomorrow. Anyone who wastes an opportunity or

on to someone out there and when I discussion is not tight to any particular issue but can be applied any case because it is rooted in philosophy with the aim that it will stimulate conversations that could midwife the process of building an ideal, peaceful and egalitarian world where no voice can be undully silenced or any opportunity missed. Together, we can resolve our manifest contractions whether at individual, community and national levels to be happy together!

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Feature

Elections: Bane of Nigeria's existence

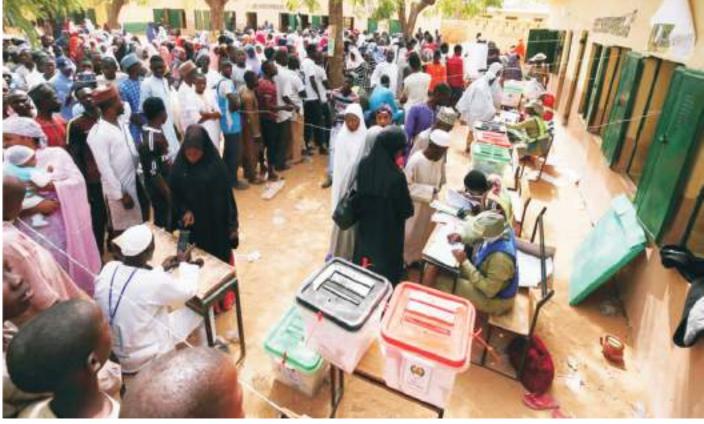
By DORCAS ETTANG

THE bright light in all of this is the commitment of the Nigerian people to the elections process.

As long as elections are not conducted as fairly as possible in their entirety: involving a process where citizens decide who to vote for without manipulation, fear or force, Nigeria's false democracy will become the reality for many years to come. Elections should be simply what they are: that people vote, and their choices serve them. They should not be spaces for haggling, disruption, chaos, triviality, and further corruption.

Elections contribute to the success of a democracy because they allow people to choose who they want to serve them - not to rule over, oppress or exploit them. But elections are also a persistent feature in false democracies: they are riddled with irregularities, inaccuracies, and hiccups, all held together by the corruption that is built into such systems. Nigeria is a case in point. The latest elections present some familiar characteristics from previous elections in the country. These characteristics include:

Corruption: As with every election in Nigeria, corruption rears its ugly head through the disbursement of funds to key individuals who have the primaries make it difficult for access to votes and can manipulate honest candidates to emerge. In the it is to pillage resources, sit at the and alter the numbers and cause recent elections, electoral observers not about improving the country in massive delays, and allegations of fraud. The insecurity. This is also evident in the noted the manipulation of votes on a not about improving the economic, underdevelopment and poverty. In practice of vote buying includes bribery for votes. An article in 2016 large scale, the compromise of the political, and security situations of by Gram Matenga shows that in new electronic voting system – the the country. This form of elitism is Nigerians", Lekan Sote describes the to be used by someone else on Nigeria, only 6% of citizens believe Bimodal Voter Accreditation System when the ordinary people cannot vote that there is no bribing for votes in (BVAS), long delays in counting the for whom they want, but the elite consensus in Nigeria as voting day, the selling of empty voter "conspiracy against the interest of the registration cards to politicians from the country. The practice of vote- votes, and photographic proofs of decide using their resources, poor masses and the most cunning opposition parties and the use of buying in Nigeria is not new, as vote counts having major networks, and actions to influence scheme to convert the funds (alleged to be ranging from voters have been offered food intervented to be ranging from the voting process.) voters have been offered food, irregularities. Fact checking the voting process. The constant clothing and jobs in return for their organisation, Africa check, noted crossing across party lines and votes. Vote-buying also occurs that information from the ground defections by the political elite is very throughout the electoral cycle, from showed polling results from a unit in common, and in many instances they nominations, campaigns, and even another unit in Rivers State. The but personal interests and ambitions from voting using thus and even another unit in Rivers State. The but personal interests and ambitions from voting using thus and even another unit in Rivers State. on the election day. On election days, switching of results was also for power. In 2021, the defections of politicians conspire with elections reported in units in Imo, Lagos, and political elites like the Governor of and agents are hired at key voting **Elitistism:** Alliances are made for Niger Delta Affairs, Godswill material An article by The Stations is determined by and the stations in the stations is determined by and the stations is determined by and the stations is determined by a station of the stations in the stations is determined by a station of the stations is determined by a station of the stations in the stations is determined by a station of the stati stations to determine how people between various elites to toss the Akpabio; Senator Elisha Abbo; vote, and they compensate them for country around amongst each other former governor of Oyo State, this. The public and private every eight years or so, as they see destruction of legitimate votes, ballot fit. Adekunle Adekoya notes how governor of Bayelsa State, Timipre snatching, the "creation" of new political parties are 'special purpose Sylva; and current Edo State votes from non-existent individuals, vehicles' where these elite alliances governor, Mr Godwin Obaseki, from are all part of these corrupt practices. congregate to accumulate political In days preceding the 2023 power and access the resources of politics in Nigeria. According to Ayo elections, reports and accusations of the nation. Politicians therefore Olukotun, these defectors switch corruption between political campaign and win on a specific party parties in order to be awarded key candidates increased significantly, platform, and after completing their political appointments or to forestall outcome. The ECOWAGE Flatter but shedding light on the operation of the shedding light on the shedding light on the operation of the shedding light on the thus shedding light on the engrained terms, they defect to other parties or, culture of corruption, even by these in some instances, create their own individuals when in political office. parties. They fail to engage with the Commission. According to Emelike The head of the local chapter of general population, except when Transparency International, Auwal their votes are needed. These elitist existence, the elite in Nigeria protect Rafsanjani, notes that party pacts overpower the voices of the make promises but fail to keep them from Channels News provide first- sites and paying whatever amount is primaries presented clear cases of many others who face very difficult make promises but fail to keep them. corruption, where vote-buying and conditions every day. Because of bribing were common. The practice this, elections are about whose turn the divvying up of Nigeria's resources of 'hijacking and commercialising'



Christopher Alao Akala; a former the PDP to the APC, shows the elitist the Economic and Financial Crimes and Iniobong, in their many years of This elitist approach is seen through

advantage of a few".

participating fully in elections. This is switching can be deemed as an sector personnel to terrify them off, or retention the of power, thus it is a unnecessary delays at voting highly common practice during Magazine on 1 March highlighted the be carried out in dishonest, elitist, strategy and structure of violence and and exclusionary manners - all of theft in Nigeria's elections. According which are the antitheses of true to the Head of a women's rights non- democracy and fair elections. It is profit organisation called TechHerNG, almost as if the expectation and the who has been monitoring Nigeria's resulting action is that political elections since 2011, this strategy parties, along with their party and structure of violence and theft were also evident in the recent outcome. The ECOWAS Electoral become a regular way of practicing their prosecution or persecution by Observer Mission reported the late politics in the country. For the most arrival of polling officials, delay in part, Nigeria's elections have always delivery of voting materials and delivered on reports of elections delivery of the wrong voting materials rigging, manipulation of votes, at various polling stations. Reports threatening and disruptions of voting hand accounts of armed men needed to shift the votes to favour shooting in the air in an active voting the highest "bidder". ward and burning ballot boxes, which means that some votes were not commitment of the Nigerian people counted. News reports by Africa News to the elections process. This was episodes of violence at various polling ever and their efforts, commitment, efforts to disrupt the process and waiting to vote for hours on end and According to political analysts, there waiting to see the votes counted and

> characteristics have become well- manipulate, rig and win the captured by the "winner-takes-all" mentality that defines Nigeria's or regard for the elections process their resources and networks to win so loudly in public. candidates, their supporters, to choose if: campaigns and voting sites. All of

> and sharing positions among Nigeria's elections since 1999 have themselves, while leaving the rest of been characterised by violence, his work, "Elite conspiracy against buying voter cards from individuals commonwealth of the country to the \$16 million to \$25 million) in buying votes, as was the case during the Exclusion: Citizens are cut off from 2015 primaries. The practice of party representatives and constituents, will continue to engage in elections fraud and rigging because it has

The bright light in all of this is the men stealing ballot boxes in permanent voter cards (PVC) What is most alarming is that these aggressively and at all costs to "others" show they have no respect

through physical attacks on party true reflection of the people's ability

"The bright light in all of this is the commitment of the and DW News present scattered evident in the longest voter turnout Nigerian people to the elections process. This was evident in stations across the country, with and peer support in obtaining their the longest voter turnout ever and their efforts, commitment, and peer support in obtaining their permanent voter cards prevent people from voting in spite of violent disruptions, (PVC), waiting to vote for hours on end and in spite of violent have been disruptions like these but loudly questioning every dishonest disruptions, waiting to see the votes counted and loudly on a larger scale in previous action or activity. They have to contend with "those" who work questioning every dishonest action or activity. They have to contend with "those" who work aggressively and at all costs established norms. These norms are elections, no matter what. These to manipulate, rig and win the elections, no matter what. These "others" show they have no respect or regard for the elections, where individuals use all and for the democracy they promote elections process and for the democracy they promote so by all means, and violence is used Elections can be an important and loudly in public."

Feature

Condemning voter suppression, ethnic profiling during elections

Yemi Osinbajo, has condemned division and polarization are incidents of voter suppression and harnessed for the sake of electoral ethnic profiling in some parts of the gain, the venom of such devices country during the just concluded remains and continues to poison general elections.

against political actors exploiting the have witnessed the catastrophic anxieties in the polity, said it was consequences of the political wrong to deny Nigerians their weaponisation of prejudice in places constitutional right to vote.

statement, said Vice President elites, Prof. Osinbajo asserted that Osinbajo spoke at the maiden Policy "elites have a responsibility to Making and Good Governance discipline themselves in the pursuit Lecture Series of the National of their political ambitions and Institute of Policy and Strategic exercise of power to ensure that the Studies State.

Osinbajo said in the contest for power, leadership elites must not toy responsibly and moderately, they with prejudices that alienate or foster a sense that everything goes, divide any section of the country.

conduct themselves with a high time again in our history. A model of sense of responsibility in order to competition that recognises no build a new Nigeria where there is ethical limits or boundaries is a justice, equity and shared threat to our democracy. It is prosperity.

deliberate efforts have to be taken to responsibly." deal with ethnic profiling and Urging Nigerians to learn from the prejudices before they influence Rwandan genocide, which claimed political contests.

exploitation by political actors of the lost in Nigeria's civil war, which he fears and anxieties of people about observed was fuelled by bigotry, so-called outsiders. Any attempts to what he called the "exploitation of deny people the right to vote in any prejudice and the incitement of locality on the basis that they do not hatred against ethnic communities." belong in that place is condemnable He stated that "We talk about the in the strongest possible terms," the civil war, but we seem to ignore the Vice President said in his speech.

religious prejudices are weaponised eventually boiled over into that for political purposes, we are tragedy. The demons released by confronted with a lethal potentially that bloody conflict among brothers destructive situation.

patriotic elites all recognise that, daily. This is not a chapter of our beyond what the letter of the law history that we should ever allow to asserts, there are lines that cannot repeat itself." be crossed in the pursuit of political power.

exploitation of sectional sentiments steps must be taken by the country's institutions. and the invocation of ethnic elites and citizens to avoid the antipathies to mobilise a political tragedies fuelled by bigotry and unique nor exceptional on account of peaceful coexistence is sacrificed on constituency. It is dangerous prejudices. because it is an attempt that seeks to mobilise by fostering division and laws to safeguard society from the problematizes our country's hatred "

the way forward in building a new Rwandese took deliberate steps to flaw is one with which I differ observed that "in the 21st century, Nigeria, the Vice President noted ensure that tragedy would never be that "the most prosperous places are repeated, including even a memorial countries that have learned to to the dead. harness diversity while building ever more inclusive institutions."

against people on the basis of their rhetoric, and a raft of laws that prosperity," identity is explicitly condemned by criminalize divisive attitudes and Constitution

pelong to different tribes and profess people. diverse creeds, we are bound, above He also observed that "people do hope, by our common humanity as during elections. Nigerians, and a supreme faith in the possibility of our country."

of discrimination, the VP noted that antipathies exist, lurking beneath "if we are truly committed to the surface. As we reflect on the prejudices in our society. economic growth, then we must also takeaways from this election cycle be committed to creating inclusive going forward, we must also social cohesion. Put another way, the profiling and other forms of day-tojustice, healing, and a stronger Prof. Osinbajo noted that the countries. commitment to the ideals of country's diversities should be integration are so important.

NIGERIA'S Vice President, Prof "Where the forces of primordial communal relations, setting The Vice President, who frowned neighbour against neighbour. We such as Rwanda.'

His media aide, Laolu Akande, in a Emphasising the role of political (NIPSS), Kuru, Plateau fabric of our communities is not rent asunder.

"When elites fail to compete which breeds instability. We have He noted that the elites should seen this dynamic play out time and incumbent upon politicians to act Vice-President Osinbajo said and conduct their competition

about a million lives, the Vice These elections witnessed the President also pointed out the lives

fact that it is the manipulation of He also noted that "when ethnic or ethnoreligious sentiment that are yet to be fully caged, and we pay "Historically conscious and the price of that healing process

Emphasising the need for inclusion and unity across tribes and political "One of such lines is the willful divides, Prof. Osinbajo said urgent

dangerous manipulation of ethnic profusion of ethnicities and religions between a country's diversity and In a speech that also addressed sentiments, the VP noted that "the and characterizes it as a profound shared prosperity, the Vice President

"But more importantly, the strict He observed that "discrimination of ethnically or religiously charged we may speak different languages, unifying dealings amongst our he said

all else, by the language of a shared not suddenly start hating each other as Singapore, Tanzania and Rwanda, capital it can attract and the richer

ethnic or sectional sentiments in an Speaking further against any form election, these social and cultural

harnessed for good and not for



Osinbajo

political gains and selfish motives. sociocultural diversity, while being a pursued. This is the challenge of fact of life, is neither a weapon nor a leadership in our country. Elites have weakness. The most prosperous a responsibility to discipline places are countries that have themselves in the pursuit of their learned to harness diversity while political ambitions and their exercise building even more inclusive of power to ensure that the fabric of

"I believe that Nigeria is neither her diversity. The genre of the altar of partisan politics, then all Proposing the implementation of scholarship and public polemic that will be lost." strongly. Our diversity is neither a the true wealth of nations is human liability nor a curse; it is, in fact, a capital. blessing and an asset," he said.

enforcement of laws against the use just, and more inclusive society, most diverse pool of skilled human noting that "inclusion is essential to resources are easily winning the

"So, is it possible to conquer ethnic most legal codes, including our own behaviour. We also must do the hard or religious prejudice and build a diversity "also provides a broad work of providing and implementing unified nation? Yes, it is, but it is a range of cultural, philosophical, and "Let us never forget that although a framework for fair, just, and journey, not an event, and it is intellectual approaches for solving perhaps the most important issue in problems. nation-building," he buttressed.

which have tackled and overcome the human capital pool at its "While political actors may invoke national prejudices, noting that disposal, the more taxes it can Nigeria can equally do the same to harvest to fund governance and address the underlying challenges social services. In this scenario, the brought about by all forms of politics of division and tribalism will

been critical in all the countries that state desperately needs for growth." communities and strengthening consider the prevalence of ethnic have been relatively successful in the journey to overcoming prejudice. only thing that grows in a climate of day discrimination that occur." He highlighted particularly the justice were crucial elements in tribal hatred is poverty. This is why Highlighting Nigeria's uniqueness, conduct of the elites of these moving the country forward.

recognized that cohesion and Vice President also called on the

peaceful coexistence have to be 'There is a recognition that intentionally prioritized and our communities is not rent asunder.

"We must recognise that if

Exploring further, the nexus

This means that places that have Prof. Osinbajo then called for a fair, learned to attract and retain the race for success."

Prof. Osinbajo submitted that

"A state's chances of growth will The VP referenced countries such depend upon how much qualitative breed poverty because it can only According to him, "Leadership has alienate the human capital that a

Proffering solutions, the Vice President noted that fairness and

Aside from the responsibility of the "The elites of both countries political elite in fostering unity, the

media and civil society to act responsibly in projecting particular narratives.

"That burden is also on civil society, including and perhaps, especially the media. The media has a twofold responsibility. As an institution that is uniquely influential in shaping public perceptions and attitudes, it has to be extremely mindful of what sort of narratives it is projecting and how it frames disputes, especially in our multicultural and heterogeneous contexts," he stated.

Prof. Osinbajo recalled the surgery on his right femur in July 2022, in a Nigerian hospital to buttress his point.

He explained: "On the 16th of July 2022, I went in for surgery on my right femur at a hospital in Lagos. Of course, as I lay on the operating bed and I was about to be anaesthetised, a thought crossed my mind that I would be absolutely at the mercy of the surgeons, the paramedics and the anesthesiologist. I had to trust them with my life

"One was from the South East, the head of the team was from Delta State, some were Muslims, some were Christians. In fact, I suspect one did not even believe in God. Yet it didn't seem to matter. They were the experts.

When we make the decisions that affect our lives and those of our children the most, somehow, we are able to ignore tribal or religious prejudices. This is the attitude we must adopt always to build the nation of our dreams."

During the interactive session with the NIPSS faculty and course participants, Prof. Osinbajo answered questions posed by participants about curbing ethnic and religious biases, ensuring policy continuity, and the imperative of building a new Nigeria, among others.

In separate remarks, Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong, and the Gbong Gwom Jos, HRM, Jacob Gyang Buba, thanked the Vice President for his steadfastness and interest in the upliftment of academic standards at the National Institute, noting that since his assumption to office as VP, the institution has grown in leaps and bounds.

On his part, the Director General of NIPSS, Prof. Ayo Omotayo, said the inaugural Policy Making and Good Governance Lecture Series is one of the many innovations of the institute that is inspired by Prof. Osinbajo's visionary leadership and useful recommendations.

He assured the Vice President of the management's commitment to always maintain the high standards set before them, especially in making the institute Nigeria and Africa's foremost think-tank

After the lecture, the Vice President, accompanied by other dignitaries, inaugurated the newly built quarters for Nigeria Army participants at the Institute.

Also present at the event were the Deputy Governor of Plateau, Prof. Sonni Tyoden; the Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Yakubu Sanda; the Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, Prof. Tanko Ishaya, and the General Officer Commanding, 3 Armoured Division, Nigeria Army, Maj. Gen. Abdul Khalifa Ibrahim, who represented the Chief of Defence Staff, among others.



VICTOR ALI

IT need to be stated from the set here that Nigeria has virtually everything in abundance. The abundance of its God-given resources is fantastically amazing. In all sectors of human socioeconomic endeavour, Nigeria can hold its head high. Hence the quoloqual saying that "Naija no dey chop last" is a truism. What about its cashcow, petroleum? Think about myriad mineral resources under its earth? What about its seemingly unhindered agricultural exploits? And fancy the many tourists sites that adorn the length and breadth of the country then you are already in paradise.

In spite of all these potentials, Nigeria is a paradox. For instance, with its vast landmass and the farm produce therein, food shortages have been the

country's difficulty and where decided to release water available, the exorbitant through its pipes perhaps prices of the food items are after two or three months, the prohibitive to the common residents scavenge as if it is man. Eating thrice a day is not the same water board that out of the menu affirmed "water is life." And arrangements in majority of the committing repercussion homes in Nigeria. Hence, of not having a clean, safe families now adopt the eating drinking water is certainly the



Nigeria as Federal Republic of scarcity

formular we used in the outbreak of diseases. university over three decades Petroleum and its other ago -101,110,011. It is so sister products have remained sad, indeed.

get the piece of the action.

One is talking from a Needless to say, the prices of nothing bad about the policy implementation. The latest position of a participant commodities and services are of rebranding and redesign of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) observer. Since money is closely tied to the prices and the Naira as it is in conformity Naira rebranding and involved it is alleged that availability of petrol and its with international best redesign has provided a those who do not have the sister products in the market. cash often resort to stream Whenever there is hike in the time that the country had shame. And of course, policy and polluted rivers nearly for price of petrol, certainty, embarked on this policy. What somersault is not a good cooking, washing and bathing there would be a spiral effect went wrong this time around? image for any country under in their households. on other goods and services. Was the Central Bank of the sun! Whenever the water board Alas, the poor masses on the

the live-wire of the nation's naira scarcity. In organized It is disheartening that Water they say is life . In my economy since independence. and decent climes, the depositors cannot have neighbourhood and environs, The persistent and consistent country's currency is a thing access to their monies. water scarcity has become a scarcity of the product over of pride. Periodic branding Imagine a situation like this: dreadful nightmare to the years has had and redesign of such You have in your account one residents. Simply put, monumental negative effects currencies is therefore in line hundred thousand naira and residents rely on water on the lives and well-being of with global financial best you are confronted with a vendors whose sources are the people. Virtually all practices. However, the serious problem of fifty quiet questionable. Or sectors of the economy Nigerian experience recently thousand naira. You go to the boreholes where such exists. depends on the petroleum proved a disaster. To say that bank and you are told you can Even at this commotion and sub-sector, therefore, the Nigerians suffered with the only access twenty thousand confusion that usually ensure stability of that sector is of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) naira only. For crying out loud, calls for concern. For the paramount importance, policy of Naira rebranding and how are you going to solve the water vendors one has to give However, the vulnerability of redesign under the problem? Rationing naira for advance booking in most the sector is all too discerning. governorship of Mr. Godwin depositors as a result of cash instances. And for the Scarcity of petroleum and Emefiele is a n crunch? What a shame! borehole whose price is petroleum products in Nigeria understatement. Indeed, It is high time government relatively cheaper, one has to has constituted a big dent on Nigerians are still licking their puts its acts together, look at wake up as early as 4:00 a.m. the image of the country. Sad, indeed!

Social Media and a divisive Nigeria

suffocating condition.

Then, enter the almighty sabotage along the way? wounds.

practices. This is not the first monumental disaster and

streets must groan under the Nigeria really prepared for the exercise? Or was there

the pros and cons of its As stated earlier, there is intended policies before



By Ezekiel Dontinna

IT first came to us as a new born baby over two decades ago and we so accepted it with brought a new dimension that eased communication and communication net calls in the field. That was the connectivity. At first, there were no smart phones and it where notwork is particulated battle held. That was the communication not only in beginning of throwing cities but even in rural areas missiles at each other up till somehow regulated the where network is available date. possible excesses of the and they can now use their present days' predicament mobile phones to do many is, how religious leaders also that has to do with internet things including making voice key into this act of character fraud that is causing great calls, sending short assassination that has caused harm to the political journey high level of services like, communities. Religious

It would be recalled that,

the year 2001, took Nigerian the world etc.

Communication Sector to a new dimension after decades fits has also come with its ills of living without global link. that started impacting When the Global Satellite negatively on the overall Mobile Network popularly gains. We are now miss-using known as GSM was GSM and it is impacting introduced, Nigerians negatively on us both embraced it with both hands, politically and otherwise. It because they felt they were has become a practical tool for part of globalized information self-destruction to the point technology.

percentage of Mobile minding the cost implication. Telecommunication subscribers in Nigeria is over the Presidential, National 90% and it proved how much Assembly, Governorship and we have accepted GSM as our State Houses of Elections' way of communication.

positively on the lives of themselves to survive using messages, services and other all forms of unrest in our Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in live events from any part of still and line images, watching supposed to be apolitical now

However, this celebrated that every smart phone user Today, the number of can sit down in his comfort people using smart phones room and cook any fake news, have out weigh those using unguided story and send to the analogue phones and the the open internet space not

When INEC came out with Time Table, all the dried It has no doubt impacted leaves from the desert forced

The most worrisome of it all transmitting and receiving leaders who by right are

use the internet to sent mindsets on celebrating bad messages that are unguided news than the good one's and and misleading or fake it has denied us the information.

we know nothing about. It was rooms. for this reason that President and character assassination excesses of those who pour using the internet against out inciting words causing former President Goodluck disaffection among people? Jonathan.

same train and tools used arrest those causing against GEJ resurfaced and all disharmony among us? This through his tenure, the good question needs to be intention he might have had answered to give Nigerians for Nigerians was distracted hope that the future is safe. with volumes of unpalatable The 10th National Assembly

drain without anything sponsored and passed into reasonable. Whether it is for law to address the ills in it this the good and development of internet misuse for us to nip in citizens, no reasonable the bud. We have no any consideration was given to Country or home than Nigeria change our suffering.

deliberately positioned our May God save Nigeria!

opportunity to see things from It is quite unfortunate that positive perspectives than the display of our shameless just hearsays and has affected extremism in everything has the mindsets of so called been what denied us the respected personalities who opportunity to logically think have gone through the peak of before rushing to publish what the four corners of class

In fact, right thinking minds Muhammadu Buhari, was keep asking questions if there brought on board because of were any regulatory structure the series of hate speeches in Nigeria that monitors the Could it be that the regulatory Unfortunately for PMB, the body is part of it and cannot

condemnations and his 8 should swing into action and years in office went down the ensure that a Special Bill is and if we destroy it, it will not There is no denying the fact only affect our generation, but that, more of this ugly incident generation to come and we will continue because we have may not be safe to contain it.

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By BULUS GAMBO

diligently served Him and transits of Education, (GCE). back home for eternal rest when After her secondary School she served as a senior Matron. In with here on earth.

Based on this premise, it is the desire of any Christian to ensure that he or she ends this salvation journey well even as we continue to work out our salvation under the grace of God as Christ tarries. Therefore, anytime death comes calling for the prepared, there is areat jov knowing guite too well that our efforts shall never go unrewarded both here on earth and the great beyond. Despite this extensive optimism in Christ, the author and finisher of our faith, the death of a loved one is always regarded as an uncompressible tragedy.

Though the general consolation in Christendom is the practical perception that to die in Christ is a tremendous gain, accepting the reality and consequences of death usually sends shivers down the spine of loved ones. Sometimes, many comforted due take a long time to recover them such a rude stock and its adverse effect on the entire family. This was the exact situation the family of the Justice Sabo Buge of blessed memory found themselves in after the sudden demise of their grandmother, mother and pillar, Mrs. Na'omi Sabo Buge, Nee Atinga who went to be with the Lord her creator last week. Na'omi Buge was not only a pillar to her family and the church but throughout her life affected many souls positively on earth. But again, the deceased's consistent engagements in the Lord's vineyard is a testament of the level of commitment to her creator during her lifetime on earth.

No wonder, the congregational hymn which was hummed during her funeral rites in church "Nearer, my God to thee, nearer to Thee E'en though it be a cross that raised me. Still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to thee. Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer to Thee," holistically depicts the passion the deceased had for Christ. She no doubt had a lifelong experience and comfort in the arms of the Lord Almighty as she had quite an interesting journey where Christ was the center of her existence. This was the kind of life the late Mrs. Naomi Sabo Buge lived and died for, a well principled life full of blessings and tremendous service to humanity.

The late Mrs. Na'omi Sabo Buge was born into the family of Mallam Atinga Deki, one of the

Plateau State on the 3rd registered Nurse in 1977. No December 1953 and the fifth out doubt, the deceased had a THE Holy Bible in Psalm 116:15 of nine children. Much later in life, remarkably fulfilled career as a meaningfully acknowledges the between 1960-1967, the Nurse and picked several other fact that "precious in the sight of deceased enrolled and lucrative appointments in the the Lord is the death of His subsequently obtained her General Hospital Pankshin but in Saints." To further buttress this Primary Seven Certificate from a bid to move closer to her family ultimate datum, it is also a reality Nkie-Chinge Primary School and she came back to the ECWA that Christ does not apprize the proceed to GGSS Shendam Evangel Hospital popularly death of any doubter even as between 1968-1972 where she known as Jan-Kwano now equally heavens rejoice over anyone who obtained her General Certificate known as Bingham University Teaching Hospital in 1981 where

and or after his/her job is done education, she got an admission 1995, Buge took another into the then Jos Nursing and appointment with the Plateau

Poopio & Piacos THE

Na'omi Buge: A faithful servant goes home



the Local Church Council to the District Church Council of the Women Fellowship which includes the first Women Fellowship leader at ECWA Church Hwolshe from 1991 to 1993, Treasurer, ECWA Women Fellowship, LCC Tudun Wada from 1993 to 1997 and the Financial Secretary, ECWA Jos DCC from 1997 to 2004. Invariably, the contributions of the deceased to the growth and development of Jos DCC Women Fellowship and the advisory role she played in the church would forever remain dear to the hearts of many.

As God planned, Na'omi got married to Hon. Justice Sabo Buge of blessed memory on the 24th April 1976 at ECWA Bishara 1 Miango and their marriage was blessed with six children. Among the children are Mr. Esau S. Buge, Mr. Yakubu Buge, Barrister Hannatu Buge, Mrs. Jummai Bitrus, and Engr. Bulus S. Buge. Others are Miss. Esther J. Buge, foster daughter, Mr. Job Buge, foster son, Mrs. Vawa Samuel Buge, Daughter, Mr. Bitrus Pam, son-in-law and Mr. Elijah Bitrus, grandson including sisters, inlaws, friends and many relations. Their marriage was spectacular as both were inseparable who stood by each other through thick and thin until her husband was called to be with the Lord on the 14th October 2015.

In their tribute to Na'omi Buge, the children in laws noted that " you are a great woman, full of strength. If we were given another opportunity, we will choose you over and over, for a mother. You have always been there, you become full cover and did greatly when daddy left us. You never relent, you encouraged us, you provided for us even when there was nothing. Nothing can be compared to the love of a mother. You kept strong faith missed by all following her great contributions to the church and humanity. According to him, the deceased left an exemplary life the bosom of the Lord.



pioneer scholars of Irigwe land in Midwifery School in 1973 and Bassa Local Government Area of subsequently graduated as a

State Specialist deceased's salvation journey Hospital as a started after she accepted Christ Senior Matron and as her savior and was baptized at eventually retired COCIN Church Shendam by a n the year 2000. onetime President, Dr. Alexander During her Lar on the 1st December, 1968. even in tough situations." For Nursing career, She eventually continued to former General Manager of the deceased used participate in numerous activities PRTVC, Bulus Rogo, the late this opportunity to both within and outside the virtuous woman, a grandmother propagate the church though her main and mother would be sorely gospel of Christ constituency was the ECWA reaching out to Women Fellowship. many lost souls for Owing to the fact that she was

Christ. This is completely passionate about the aside her diligence women ministry, Buge was working in the subsequently given the worthy of emulation and prayed lord's vineyard. opportunity to serve in various Interestingly, the leadership capacities right from

THE NIGERIA STANDARD, Wednesday, April 19, 2023

IMAGES

PROF. OSINBAJO DELIVERS LECTURE

Nigeria's Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo on Monday delivered lecture titled, "Creating Homeland for All: Nation Building in a Diverse Democracy is part of Policy Making and Good Governance lecture series initiated by the National Instituted for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru, Jos for the SEC 45 participants



Nigeria's Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, Governor Simon Bako Lalong, CON, his Deputy, Prof. Sonni Gwanle Tyoden and others at the opening of the lecture



Nigeria Labour Congress, Plateau State Chairman, Comrade Manji Eugene with his Vice, Comrade Sunday Akinfolarin



Cross section of Plateau State government officials at the lecture



Cross section Senior Executive Course 45, 2023, NIPSS listening to the lecture by Prof. Osinbajo



Commander, Operation Safe Haven, Major General Ali Ibrahim and GOC 3 Armoured Division with other invited dignitaries



Director General of NIPSS, Prof. Ayo Omotayo (left) presenting sourvenier to the Guest Lecturer, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN while Governor Lalong applauds



His Majesty, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, CFR, Gbong Gwom Jos with others at the maiden lecture



Nigeria's Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN delivering the public lecture

Odd World

People in stitches after pregnancy announcement

simultaneously asking leaving people in "something kinky". her to be godmother, hysterics at her All the while, the friend through an adorable gift comment. that left her friend TikTok user Alexys - speechless with joy and feeling emotional

wracking moment - shared a clip of her best moment on camera. revealing to your best friend opening up her In the comments mate that you're gifts, which included a section, Alexys - a pregnant.

just how important Reaching into the gift bore the words, female friendship is bag once again, the "Spooky Godmother" in after sharing a friend pulled out a black purple glitter heartwarming video of cup wrapped in pink her presenting a gift to tissue paper. She been liked more than her female friend on initially looked stunned, 1.4 million times and Galentine's Day.

traditionally takes place Then she finally opens clip. the day before up the lid, revealing a One follower added: Valentine's Day - and positive pregnancy test "What a sweet best one woman used the inside. day to announce her It was at this moment a p p r o v i n g l y her unborn child.

A woman has opened Hilariously, a waitress completely the wrong

reading a message that left people feeling very The celebration followers couldn't see.

pregnancy while asking that the waitress came commented: "And this her to be godmother to over, getting is why she's the

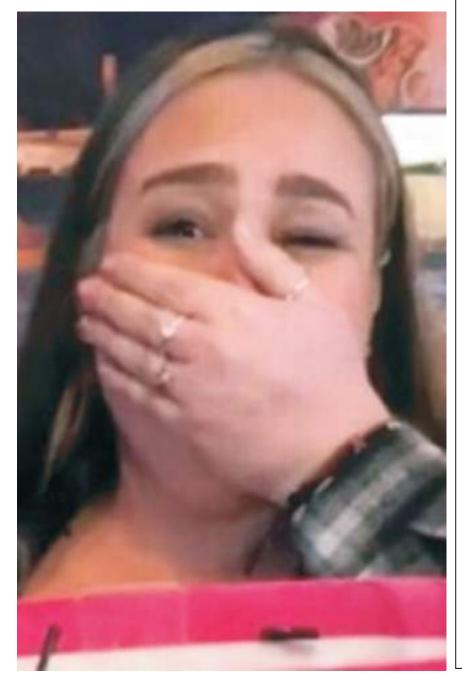
up about how she broke in the restaurant got the end of the stick and - to her pregnancy news to wrong end of the stick their great amusement her best friend while after coming over - - asking if it was

appears to be nearly who goes by the surprise, tearing up as It can be a nerve- username dyslexya - Alexys captured the

cute box of chocolate boudoir photographer -But one woman proved with a cat picture on it. explained that the cup

> The emotional clip has emotional at the sweet

friend!!!" while another godmum".





'Leaders with ideas not in power'

scholars of recent times, Prof. Patrice Emery Lumumba was once quoted as saying, "The tragedy with Africa is that those with ideas are not in power, while those in power have no ideas. When the people have a chance, they still vote for those with no ideas." For many who have followed with keen interest the silhouette criticisms offered by this scholar, it is daunting on us that some African states are far off the track of progress and or systematic integration. Therefore, much needs to be done in terms of implementing strategic polices of good governance to salvage our nation states from plummeting into anarchy, chaos and or total collapse.

During several of his lamentations, Prof. Lumumba always apportioned blames on our leaders who due to acts of administrative ingenuity contributed to the socio-economic and political retardation of this continent. Evidently, the continuous clinching to power of these visionless and corrupt leaders in Africa have but only succeeded in turning back the hands of time.

Some of these leaders who got the opportunity of leading their nations on the platter of gold have regrettably not been able to justify such opportunities. Between the early 1960's to late 70's, successive military takeover of governments across the continent saw the growing number of military dictators which led to the emergence of stooges and evil men of thoughts brutally engaging many democratic oppositionists leading to the death of hundreds of thousands. Few lucky ones were however able to escape into exile after knowing too well that their lives were in danger.

Most of these despots including the late Idi Amin of Uganda, Mubutu Sese Seko, Charles Talyor, Muammar Qadhafi including Joseph Kony, the Ugandan warlord, all never gave a thought about the nation's collective wellbeina.

In fact, Kony was one of the tyrannical warlords who disrupted, dehumanized and terrorized the people of the continent through his brutal leadership style. No doubt, his atrocities left a deep-seated hatred and ethnic divide amongst the citizenry.

Interestingly, Nigeria also experienced such acts of brutality when the military held sway. While several innocent citizens of this country were unjustifiably jailed and or killed, others who escaped these despotic regimes went on exile to save their lives.

In most recent years however, the transition of most of these African nations into democratic nation states have further entrenched democratic governance with great expectations. Many scholars had however hoped at initial stage that the democratization of African nation states would create fundamental stability and add value to the people of the continent. Thus, the coming of democracy to most nations of the continent after so much struggle and sacrifice was initially regarded a great relief to proautonomy and visionary scholars.

While democratic establishments in

ONE of the most respected erudite some countries have led to the actualization of concrete pillars revamping basic institutional structures for greater prospects, some unfortunate nation states have equally been left aloft at the mercy of their corrupt and visionless leaders. Today, many of such emerging leaders based on greed and acts of personal aggrandizement have looted resources meant for the betterment of their citizens. Consequently, while their citizens continue to wallow in dehumanizing abject poverty, they have only concentrated on buying expensive castles abroad and participating neckdeep into more acts of economic sabotage.

In Nigeria, I have taken more time to scrutinize the long list of our leaders who have governed this nation for decades but not made the desired impact. In the midst of both economic and human resources Nigeria is blessed with; more than half of the nation's population is today living far below poverty line. Aside the biting difficulties of unemployment insecurity and economic uncertainly, our educational sector is in total muddle. Just within a month, our national grid failed us twice sending strong signals that all is not well with our power sector.

Aside the rampaging activities of terrorists that have refused to allow us have a sound sleep; hardly a day passesby without any of us being told of one act of kidnapping and or armed robbery in this country. These unpleasant phenomena are completely overwhelming us because of the simple fact that we are yet to put our act together. To say the least, many have attested to the obvious fact that the citizens of this country have not allowed God to bless us with good leaders.

When our founding fathers were struggling to liberate this nation from the claws of colonial subjugation, they dreamed of a nation which after them would navigate itself and become a giant of Africa. Many of these past leaders of ours never anticipated for once that after they had gone, this country would be left fumbling in such an woeful and disgusting manner today.

After Nigeria's independence, the tales of this nation state has frighteningly continued to create an atmosphere of uncertainly as well as bash the hopes and aspirations of many. Today, Nigeria has become a nation state which requires all our prayers for it to overcome these difficult contemporary challenges. Some of these problems bedeviling us as a people were however unfortunately created by us.

Even as many citizens are yet to comprehend where the leaders of the country went wrong for us to deserve these unending calamities, some of them buried under the rubbles of a near failed state do know that only the citizenry can open a new chapter when the needful is done. Therefore, all we need to do to change Nigeria's disgusting narrative is to vote leaders with visions and intellectual capacity. Though it may take a long time to bring the nation back on track, with sincere commitments, sacrifice and total disregard to religious and regional sentiments, we car navigate the nation out of its present predicament for the better.

View Point

Negotiating multifaceted identities for national development in Nigeria

Apart from saying your name, if you were asked, "who are you?" What would be your answer? Would it be about your tribe (e.g. "I am Zaar, Igbo, Fulani"), religion (e.g. "I am a Christian, Muslim, Traditionalist"), region ("I am a Northerner, Southerner, Middle-Belter"), profession ("I am a teacher, nurse, politician"), social status ("I am a king, a governor, a leader"), or nationality ("I am a Nigerian")? As simple as this question may sound, therein lies the root cause of most cases of terrorism, ethno-religious conflicts, favoritism, and nepotism in Nigeria. DOGARA ISHAYA MANOMI, writes.

THIS is a question of social identity. Social identity or group identity simply refers to how you define who you are in relation to your membership of a particular group and the value (e.g. selfesteem, sense of belonging) and emotion (e.g. happiness, hope, comfort) you derive from belonging to that group (Tafjel, 1978). For example, if you are asked, "who are you?" and you say, "I am a Christian," or "I am a Muslim," or "I am Zaar by tribe," you are stating your social identity as opposed to individual identity which would be mainly your name, your gender, or anything peculiar to you alone. Being a communal culture mainly, social identity normally overrides personal identity. This is why a sense of honor and shame (social) rather than guilt and innocence (personal) are the major determinants of people's actions, attitudes, and assessment of right or wrong. It accounts for why people feel less guilty if they can get away with corruption without being caught. Depending on the identity which deserves their externalities contributed more to cardinal virtues provided the expense of the "federal situation and place, we answer the social identity question "who are you (we)?" differently, since we or threat to that social group co-existence or conflicts? The to peaceful co-existence. The belong to different social groups. from outsiders is treated with answer seems obvious, right? Greek cardinal virtues, however, But if you were to re-arrange these multiple social identities, terrorism and ethno-religious conscious Nigeria becomes, the address the peculiarities and which one would be first and which conflicts. one would be last?

IS THERE A "NIGERIAN NATIONAL IDENTITY?"

Is there such a thing as "Nigerian **IDENTITY** National Identity?" An average Nigerian, in my estimation, has at cultural, and secular nation (as identity. least five significant multifaceted Nigeria self-identifies **WAY** yet intertwined (but constitutionally) to foster **DEVELOPING A MORAL** can find expression in each unequal)identities that play out peaceful co-existence, national VISION FOR "THE NIGERIAN religion and ethnicity? In my more in communal or societal life, and which have significant impact on national solidarity, peace, and development. Those five national identity above any other different developed countries control. The National Orientation multifaceted identities include: clan identity (e.g. Nghasiti and Morass among the Zaar people of Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi state), tribal identity (e.g. Ngas, Alago, Ibibio), religious identity (e.g. Christian, Muslim), regional identity (e.g. Northerner, Instead, it places them in their salient identity, and every other are to complement the effort by not promote peace and Southerner, Middle-Belter), and rightful contexts, where they will sense of social identity integrating and inculcating these national identity (e.g. Nigerian). However, two of these identities negatively affecting "the other" service of national identity. school. Religious leaders are to seem to be more prominent and nor disrupting peace and National identity is unmistakably preach and teach it to their salient to many, if not majority, of stability. Promoting national the only umbrella identity that congregations. Musicians, media a "Nigerian national identity," Nigerians, namely, religious and identity as the salient social can promote peace, cross-body personalities, artists, film which is to be encapsulated in a tribal identities. A simple indicator identity would imply conscious solidarity, and national makers and actors, etc. to "national cardinal virtues" of to this fact is that, most cases of efforts in making national development. terrorism and violent conflicts in symbols more conspicuous and NATIONAL CARDINAL vision of national identity in their self-control, which will promote Nigeria are religious and/or ethnic religious and cultural symbol less VIRTUES? A CASE FOR A acts, and so on. In this way, we human flourishing. In this way motivated. For example, the case conspicuous in public spheres. VIRTUE-ORIENTED can imagine and emerge an we can truly imagine and of Boko Haram and the violent While both Christians and NIGERIAN IDENTITY conflicts between Fulani Muslims in Nigeria are actively Developing a national identity, identity that trumps any such that, when you are asked herdsmen and farming tribes like trying to outdo each other in however, requires articulating "negative solidarity" (E. the Tiv, Berom, etc. trope public visibility, evident in the national "cardinal virtues." To Durkheim) and fosters peace,

that terrorism and ethno-religious situated in strategic locations in we can glean wisdom from and development. In this way, conflicts in Nigeria are primarily a cities and towns, worship in ancient Greek philosophers (e.g. Nigerians will learn to be more in religious and ethnic identities), function of "negative solidarity" public spaces are promoted, and Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics) who solidarity with virtue and their that results from a sense of ethnic church worship and Sallah articulated four cardinal virtues nation than with any other sense and religious social identity at the programs are done using loud that would summarize all other of identity. For example, if any expense of national identity. In speakers that compete to out- virtues: wisdom, courage, self- office holder acts unjustly in Manomi, PhD. Lecturer, such a case, people regard their loud others, it is time to pause control, justice. These virtues giving most political Theological College of religious, sectorial, or ethnic and ask ourselves: have were considered necessary for appointments to people from his Northern Nigeria (TCNN). identity as the most salient ourcompeting religious human flourishing. Those tribe, religion, or region at the



solidarity, and national IDENTITY"

absolute loyalty at all costs. As a mutual understanding or rivalry, moral compass that would guide result, any perceived disrespect mutual trust or distrust, peaceful every unit of society to contribute extreme force, leading to The more religious and ethnic- need to be contextualized to more we experience religious quandaries of the Nigerian state. **NEGOTIATING A TAPESTRY** extremism and ethnic bigotry OF IDENTITIES: SALIENCE that promote violence in forms of multifaceted and competing may sound like some utopian AND TROPE OF NATIONAL terrorism and ethno-religious identities and the state of conflicts. This calls for a terrorism and ethno-religious For a multi-religious, multi- renegotiation of our sense of

FORWARD:

In view of the current conflicts in Nigeria, what virtues do you think should be our "national cardinal virtues" that opinion, the following should be development, it is time we From my stay, study, and our "Nigerian cardinal virtues": renegotiate and promote a interactions with people in tolerance, peace, justice, selfidentity, at least in public (Germany, UK, USA, Belgium, Agency and relevant domains. The good news is, among others), I have observed governmental and nonpromoting national identity in that a sense of national identity governmental organizations can public domains above any other has been entrenched in their champion the course of a virtuesense of social identity does not thought-pattern such that oriented national identity and one of "the most religious diminish the value of other social majority of the citizens regard engage in public awareness identities that we hold dearly. their national identity as their campaign. Parents and teachers find utmost expression without contributes or functions in the virtues in children at home and in integrate these virtues and a tolerance, peace, justice, and overarching Nigerian national emerge a Nigeria of our dream, Hence, it is accountable to argue way churches and Mosques are develop national cardinal virtues, patriotism, national solidarity,

character," his own people will not stand in solidarity with him, but with the virtue of justice, and would also lend their voices in protesting and calling him to distribute political appointments justly, in the interest of national peace and development. This imagination, but it is possible. Rwanda is a good example of a nation that (a)rose from the ashes of a deadly ethnicidentity-motivated genocide and promoted national identity above all other identities, which has resulted in sustainable national peace, stability, solidarity, and development. Nigeria can do the same.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, it is time to stop taking pride (and actually be ashamed) in being described as countries in the world," if our religious identity marker does development. Instead, it is time to renegotiate the multifaceted identities and their resultant "negative solidarity," leading to "who are you?" you would be proud to say, first, "I am a Nigerian," or better still, "I am Nigeria" (without relegating your because a nation is its people, and the people are the nation!

Rev. Dogara Ishaya

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THE NIGERIA STANDARD, Wednesday, April 19, 2023



Sunset at noon as Airforce DOPRI Maigida is laid to rest

THIS sad development attracted people from within and outside the state, who converged at St. Stephens Catholic Church Nyak Akikamai, Shendam Local Government Area, to pay their last respect to Late Air Commodore Martin Wapkerem Maigida.

The Late Airforce Officer was until his demise on April 3, 2023 the Director of Press and Information (DOPRI) Nigerian Airforce, and also a nephew to the Plateau Governor, Simon Bako Lalong.

The presence of Airforce officers clad in their ceremonial attires, performing different funeral songs, March pasts and displays was an eminent emotional display of their loss.

The governor who was accompanied to the funeral by his wife Regina, including many top government functionaries, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall Oladayo Amao, other top military officers within and outside the state, class mates of the deceased, members of the traditional council, and well wishers was sad by the loss, especially after burying his father last year.

Governor Lalong, while speaking during the funeral Mass expressed sadness over the demise of his nephew whom he described as a young and hardworking personality.

He said the death of the young Maigida at 49 had deprived Plateau State and indeed Nigeria of a fine Military Officer who had just started advancing to bigger leadership positions, but said everyone must submit to the will of God.

He extolled the virtues of the deceased adding that the family will miss his great contributions, but are comforted by the worth legacies he left hehind

Chief of the Air Staff represented by Air Vice Marshal Paul Masiyer described the deceased as a fine officer who dedicated his life to service of the Nigerian Airforce, while heart-touching tributes also flowed from the deceased classmates, the church and the traditional Institution who all

described Air Commodore Maigidi as a gentle and kind hearted fellow. But earlier, on Thursday April 13, 2023, a wake keep mass was also held to honour the late Airforce Spokesman at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church NAF Base Jos.

The Commander Airforce Base Jos, Air Commodore Gapkwet said he received with shock news of the death of Wapkerem, who was his predecessor in the Airforce Base.

He assured the widow of the deceased that the family will not be abandoned by the Nigerian Airforce.

Towards his sunset, Maigida had assumed the command of 551 Nigerian Airforce Station Jos in 2022 ascending to the post of the 18th DOPRI in early 2023. He was also before his demise the Director Civil Military Operations, Nigerian Airforce Abuja and member of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations.

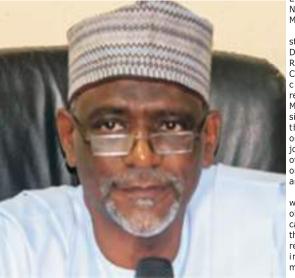
He is survived by his wife Dr. Niavel, 3 children, and relatives. He was interred at his family compound in his hometown at Nyak, Ajikamai.





News

DG, NYSC promises prioritizing members activities



Adamu

Brigadier General Ahmed, in a by paying benefits to families of intervene in executing special NYSC's digitization process," she birector of Press and Public Press and Public Press and Public Press and Public Press P out statutor responsibilities in line with the Memorandum of Understanding it

signed with NYSC. It stated that there is need for the two Simon Bako Lalong has asked organizations to be taking time to security agencies to fish out jointly assess the implementation those behind renewed attacks of the accord from time to time, in in parts of Mangu and Bokkos order to identify and address gray Local Government Areas

He further said that NYSC will never relent in meeting its He also lamoster to the same term. will never relent in meeting its obligations in the partnership, and called on CEAL to equally sustain the tempo at which it promptly responds to issues pertaining to insurances cover for corps members.

In her remarks, the Managing by his administration. Director/Chief Executive Officer of Lalong made the call in a

Relations, Eddy Megwa, applauded CEAL for being consistent in Killings: Don't drag Plateau to dark days - Lalong

By PALANG KASMI

PLATEAU State Governor,

statement Monday. added that the swift he said.

delay".

attempt to reintroduce the support.

era of violence and crises The governor condemned which have been largely the attacks which took place contained due to in Murish, Kumbum District, government's huge Jwak Mai Tumbi in Mangu, investment in security, peace and Marish in Bokkos LGA. He building and reconciliation",

intervention of security While commiserating with agencies ensured that the those who lost their lives and situation did not escalate. properties, the governor "I want all those behind the directed the Peace Building attacks fished out and Agency and the State brought to justice without Emergency Management elay". Agency to immediately reach "The attacks are another out to the victims with trought to related use the out

Sports

Wikki calls for sanctions review



Wikki Tourists

(NPFL) between the club and Bayelsa United FC.

Bayelsa United at Abubakar physically on ground.

the stadium closed to all NPFL and it abruptly stopped. matches.

appeal in an interview over the he said. weekend in Bauchi.

and wins across the board.

penalty for the hosts.

victors with a 2-1 win. The prowess.

He said the IMC accused WIKKI Tourists Football Club He said the IMC accused admitted that the match was (FC) of Bauchi has appealed to Wikki management of not the aggrieved players of Wikki the Interim Management providing adequate security, Committee (IMC) to review the throwing objects in the field, sanctions against the club over and assaulting match officials the 2022/2023 Nigeria of the match between visiting Professional Football League Bayelsa United and Wikki FC. "The management provides

adequate security for the Sporting Tribune reports match in the stadium with over that the Match Day 13 fixtures 40 police personnel, Man between Wikki Tourists FC and O'War, and WAI brigade

"There wasn't any object Tafawa Balewa Stadium "There wasn't any object (ATBS), Bauchi, on April 9, was throwing of such nature, we marred by fans' hooliganism. noticed at the end of the match The IMC in its ruling after a some angry fans started review of the match incident, throwing sachets and plastic imposed a three-point bottles of water at Wikki deduction, goals deduction, players to show their ₩2.5 million fine against Wikki displeasure**Envifitba**he poor Tourists, in addition to having performances of the players

"Similarly, none of the Reacting, Mr. Balarabe match officials, visiting team, Douglas, the Chairman of and players were targeted or Wikki Tourists FC, made the assaulted during the match," Douglas added that they

draw after falling behind

United hosted Enyimba at game was an end-to-end net as the game ended in a

but Enyimba's resilience a draw at home against helped Abia Warriors emerge

drowned Kadiri's first half Nwachukwu's fine 21st game was a tight affair, with

minute strike cancelled out both teams giving it their all.

Football League (NPFL) saw Tornadoes. A second half run.

nine matches played on April double from Idris helped the

16th, with a mixture of draws visitors claw back to earn a

Newsnow said that, Kwara twice before halftime. The

with Enyimba emerging as displaying attacking

United as Chijioke's brace game ending 1-1.

At the Awka City Stadium, Mawuena's opener for Remo

the Kwara State Stadium, affair, with both teams goalless draw.

admitted that the match was FC were protesting peacefully year-old was blacklisted by the seventh of the season after that the Nigerian Federation to the match officials for the NFF after he failed to show up thirteen minutes. cancellation of their earned for last month's U23 second goal pursuant to the internationals versus Guinea. decision of ARI.

the match after a polite Sporting Charleroi and he Onyedika and Antonio Nusa in explanation by the officials on the reason for cancellation

With these explanations, the IMC should reason and review the sanctions because the remained rooted to the bench team respectively. decision reached by the club is for the entirety of the game. not only harsh but worrisome,' he said.

said the club is vet to formally receive the resignation of the club's Technical Adviser, Abdullahi Adamu.

Douglas insisted that he and members of the club's board only saw the resignation letter on social media like other Nigerians.

El Kanemi played host to

Complex, with both teams

In another closely

contested match, two late

Stars with a 2-1 win. The

Plateau United hosted

SUPER Eagles coach Jose Peseiro was on a working visit five Belgian-based players to Belgium this past week and observed at close quarters at least five Nigeria-eligible ayers

allnigeriasoccer.com reports. Peseiro's first port of call was the Ghelamco Arena, where he watched the striker on everyone's lips at the moment, Gift Orban.

The KAA Gent star was close to netting his fifteenth of the season since his transfer to Belgium, but his sensational overhead kick struck the woodwork in a Europa Conference League match against Premier League opponents West Ham United.

It is confirmed that a top staff of the Nigeria Football Federation informed Orban that Peseiro was going to be at the stadium to watch him before he took to the pitch against West Ham United, contrary to fabricated reports the aggrieved players of Wikki in the local media that the 20-Noah Ohio, who netted his interest to Peseiro, considering

The aggrieved players Peserio took in the match would be disappointed not to the goalless affair.

he sanctions because the remained rooted to the bench team espectively. Saint-Gilloise manager Karel for the entirety of the game. Finally, the Super Eagles manager was at the Stade would have been impressed Joseph Marien yesterday for Meanwhile, the chairman with the performance of the Jupiler Pro League match minutes.

Peseiro

former Manchester United and Cilleico et 1970 Manchester City schoolboy Victor Boniface is a player of

confirmed that the Royale On Saturday, Peserio was at rernationals versus Guinea. Het Kuipje for the Jupiler Pro The following day, Friday, League game between KVC Factor providered in the Super Westerlo and Club Brugge, and Last month's 2023 Africa Cup of return for the continuation of between Standard Liege and feasted his eyes on Raphael Nations qualifying matches against Guinea-Bissau.

Peseiro runs rule over

would be disappointed not to run the rule over one-time Flying Eagles central defender, Valentine Ozornwafor, who Saint-Gilloise manager Karel

"Osimhen will not solve all Napoli's problems"

INTER Milan legend Beppe Bergomi believes that the absence of Kim Min-Jae and Zambo Anguissa could affect Napoli despite the return of

NPFL roundup: Enyimba seal away win THE Nigerian Professional 2-2 draw against Niger Continued their unbeaten Stadium, with the home team securing a narrow 1-0 win thanks to Mustapha's 3SC at the El Kanemi Sports 36th-minute penalty. It was a hard-fought victory for failing to find the back of the Plateau United, who held on to the lead till the final whistle.

Bayelsa United secured a Super Eagles striker Victor comfortable 3-0 win over Osimhen. Siasia Stadium. The home while on international duty with chances. Doma United also secured club football.

start to finish.

champions led the visitors at woodwork.



game was fiercely contested, Remo Stars also played out goals from Adejoh Ojonugwa Lobi Stars at the Samson Osimhen sustained an injury proved too much for Kwara Bendel Insurance, with the with Lobi Stars struggling to the setback, he missed the create any clear-cut Partenopeans' first three games after the resumption of

a 2-0 win over Wikki Tourist In his absence, Napoli lost at the Gombe Township two games and won one. Two of Stadium. It was a those losses were against AC

comprehensive victory for Milan. Napoli lost 4-0 to the Doma United, who Rossoneri in the Serie A. Then dominated the game from they succumbed to a 1-0 in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League quarterfinal

and Dakkada match was on Sunday in Napoli's 0-0 draw paused due to weather against Hellas Verona. The . conditions and would be Nigerian striker played 20 completed on Monday minutes in the game, and he Partenopeans. They defeated morning. The reigning almost scored but for the AC Milan earlier in the season, The 24-year-old point man is

Overall, it was an exciting expected to lead the line for day of football in the NPFL, Napoli when they welcome AC with several closely the second leg of their tie. contested matches and However, Luciano Spalletti some impressive would be without two of his performances from the most influential players. Kim Min-Jae and Zambo Anguissa

are suspended for the tie, and Spalletti would have to find alternatives.

"Napoli is well structured regardless of the center forward," Bergomi said per Napoli Magazine.

"Definitely, having Osimhen gives you a sense of security, but you can't think that it will solve all your problems.

"Napoli have two verv important absences with Milan because they lack the two most physical players. Physicality has always been a problem for Napoli, this year they tried to make up for it, but in the past, they suffered.

'Milan are a team that takes you a lot from a physical point of view, on the individual duel and marking."

The tie is a tricky one for the but they have lost the last two meetings.

Osimhen adds a lot of bite to the attack, and his link-up with Kvaratskhelia has been superb this season. That could eventually come into play.

However, Napoli would have to keep it tight at the back if they want to qualify for the next round.





Rangers played out a thrilling to ensure the Benin Arsenal Akwa United at the New Jos

The final match of the day clash between and Rivers United However, Osimhen returned

the time of suspension. home teams.

Osimhen

Sports Which was the most exciting Premier League race?

IT is time for another Match of the Day Top 10 - and this week Gary Lineker, Alan Shearer and Micah Richards will be debating the best title races in Premier League history.

There has been plenty of late-season drama, excitement, delight and heartbreak.

Here are their choices. See what you think, and then pick the order you would rank them in.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City were on 95 points, and Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool on 94, as they went into the 2018-19 finale. On the last day, City travelled to Brighton and the Reds hosted Wolves.

City had won 13 games in a row including a vital late-season victory over Leicester secured by Vincent Kompany long-range winner - while Liverpool were unbeaten in 16 games since losing at Etihad Stadium on 3 January.

A Sadio Mane double earned Klopp's team a 2-0 win, but City recovered from going a goal down at Brighton to win 4-1 and secure the title.

The top two's combined final total of 195 points was the highest ever in an English top-flight season - three points for a win having been introduced in 1981. Runners-up Liverpool's tally of 97 points was, at the time, the thirdhighest in Premier League history.

This was arguably the greatest underdog title triumph in English football history. Leicester, 5,000-1 outsiders at the start of the season as Claudio Ranieri took charge as manager, held off all challengers to win the league for the first time.

With Jamie Vardy scoring in a record 11 consecutive matches, the Foxes were the surprise leaders at Christmas and they followed this up with excellent results early in the new year, including included away wins over Tottenham and Manchester City.

A last-gasp defeat at Arsenal in February threatened to bring the dream to an end - but Leicester did not lose another match all season as the Gunners and Tottenham, their closest challengers, both wilted.

Six wins - all with clean sheets - in a run of seven matches followed; with Spurs dropping points in draws with West Bromwich Albion and Liverpool, Leicester began May needing to win at Manchester United to clinch the title.

They drew 1-1 but it mattered little as the title was sealed the following day as Spurs let a 2-0 lead slip to draw 2-2 at Chelsea. Cue manic celebrations from the Leicester players, who had gathered at Vardy's house to watch the match.

Having finished seventh in 2012-13, Liverpool were not expected to challenge but 31 goals from Luis Suarez put them in contention to claim their first title in 24 years.

The Reds embarked on a 16-game unbeaten run that featured an 11match winning streak, including a 3-2 victory over Manchester City that put the Reds top with four games to play. However, the title race was to feature another twist as Chelsea headed north to Anfield.

Steven Gerrard's infamous slip allowed Demba Ba to score the first goal in a 2-0 home defeat. Then came a remarkable capitulation at Crystal Palace, where Liverpool squandered a 3-0 lead in the final 11 minutes.

Two days later, City beat Aston Villa 4-0 to go two points clear at the top, before Manuel Pellegrini's men clinched the title with a 2-0 triumph at home to West Ham on the final day. Liverpool would have to wait another six years to lift the Premier League trophy.

Manchester City, last champions in 1968, were expected to mount a serious challenge as the 2011-12 campaign dawned, having spent £35m on striker Sergio Aguero in a bid to improve on the previous season's third-place finish.

And at Christmas, Roberto Mancini's side looked well on course, winning 14 of their first 17 games - including a 6-1 thrashing of neighbours Manchester United at Old Trafford - while losing just one.

Then came a spring wobble - a run of one win in five matches, with defeats at



Sergio Aguero, Didier Drogba and Wayne Rooney have all won the Premier League title in dramatic circumstances with Manchester City, Chelsea and Manchester United respectively

Swansea and Arsenal, left them eight United that effectively ended their title points behind United with six games to hopes. play.

"Roberto, is it over now, do you think?" asked Match of the Day's Steve Wilson after the defeat at Emirates Stadium on 8 April.

finished until you have the points to go caretaker boss Avram Grant to stage an on the top.' He was right. Three days later, United

lost at Wigan. Then they drew 4-4 at home to Everton, having been 4-2 up. Then, in a crucial match at the end of April, they were beaten 1-0 at Etihad Stadium - as Vincent Kompany's header handed the initiative back to City.

On the final day, City needed a win at home to struggling QPR to become champions. Simple? Not a bit of it.

Mancini's side, 1-0 up at half-time, trailed 2-1 by the 66th minute. With United winning 1-0 at Sunderland, the title was heading to Old Trafford - and it still was even as Edin Dzeko equalised for City with one minute and 14 seconds of stoppage time played.

Three minutes and 20 seconds into stoppage time, with play finished at Stadium of Light, Sergio Aguero took on Mario Balotelli's pass and lashed in a City winner. A 44-year title wait was over.

United were aiming for a fourth consecutive title but had lost Cristiano Ronaldo and Carlos Tevez in the summer. Chelsea, meanwhile, had new boss Carlo Ancelotti at the helm.

A back-and-forth title race swung decisively in Chelsea's favour after a 2-1 victory over United at Old Trafford in April. Going into the final day, Chelsea held a one-point advantage and only needed to beat Wigan at Stamford Bridge to lift the trophy. They did in emphatic fashion, running out 8-0 winners.

United cr sed to victorv over Old Trafford, but there was never any doubt the Blues would claim their first title since 2006 once Nicolas Anelka had given them a sixth-minute lead. A meeting with Newcastle for the FA Cup, Didier Drogba hat-trick secured him the and a trip to Barcelona to take on Golden Boot and further goals from Anelka, Frank Lampard, Salomon Kalou and Ashley Cole provided a fitting finale to an outstanding campaign for Chelsea.

Having been at the summit for much of the season. Arsenal's challenge faded following a horror injury to striker Eduardo in a 2-2 draw away to Birmingham City in February. That was the start of a run of one win from eight either side of half-time rendered the matches, including a 2-1 defeat by

United, inspired by a Ballon d'Orwinning season from 31-goal Cristiano

Ronaldo, looked well-placed to retain the title. Yet Chelsea would just not go away. Having sacked Jose Mourinho "No," Mancini said. "It's never after a poor start, they rallied under unlikely title challenge off the back of an 18-game unbeaten run.

A 2-1 win against United at Stamford Bridge, courtesy of a Michael Ballack double, blew the title race wide open. Only goal difference separated United from Chelsea before the final weekend. However, United made light work of Wigan to secure a 17th league title, running out 2-0 winners.

The Red Devils went on to pip the Blues to Champions League glory 10 days later, winning on penalties after a 1-1 draw in Moscow

In the summer of 1998, Manchester United looked to reclaim the Premier League title from Arsenal by adding Jesper Blomqvist, Jaap Stam and Aston 'illa striker Dwight Yorke to their squad. At Chelsea, player-manager Gianluca Vialli brought Marcel Desailly to Chelsea after he starred in France's 1998 World Cup triumph.

After losing at Coventry on the opening day, Chelsea went 21 matches unbeaten and led the league at halfway. Dennis Bergkamp's goal ended that run as Arsenal beat Vialli's side 1-0 in January; the Blues' challenge was effectively ended by a run of three consecutive draws in April.

United, meanwhile, had recovered from a wobbly first half of the campaign. After a home defeat by Middlesbrough on 19 December, they would not lose another match all season.

As they entered the season's final lap, Alex Ferguson's players were chasing a historic Treble. They finished with three matches for three trophies - a home game against Tottenham for the Premier League title, a Wembley Bavern Munich in the Champions League final.

United, going into the final day with a one-point league lead over Arsenal, looked well set. But then Les Ferdinand gave Tottenham an unlikely first-half lead at Old Trafford - a goal that did their north London rivals a favour.

Ferguson's side fought back - goals from David Beckham and Andy Cole Gunners' 1-0 win over Aston Villa irrelevant.

It was the start of a huge 11 days for United, Newcastle were beaten. So too. dramatically, were Bayern. In June that year, Ferguson was made a knight.

Arsenal secured their first Premier League title and also won the FA Cup to complete the double. In his first full season as Gunners manager, Arsene Wenger guided them to their first topflight league crown since 1991.

The title charge seemed unlikely at Christmas, but a run of 45 points from a possible 51 between 26 December and 3 May - an 18-game unbeaten streak made them champions.

The title was wrapped up with two games to spare after a 4-0 win over Everton at Highbury, with captain Tony Adams memorably striding through to thump in the fourth, although Arsenal only ended up one point ahead of Manchester United, after finishing with two defeats.

Arsenal's 1-0 win at Old Trafford in March, courtesy of a late Marc Overmars goal, was perhaps the key moment in the title race as Manchester United failed to win the Premier League for only the second time since the competition's inception.

The season began with Alan Hansen proclaiming on Match of the Day that you can't win anything with kids" as a United side that started with four players aged under 21 lost 3-1 at Aston Villa. United had made no major summer signings, had sold the experienced Paul Ince, Mark Hughes and Andrei Kanchelskis, and started the campaign without Eric Cantona. Yet by May, United were celebrating their third title of the Premier League era.

You can't win anything with kids -Hansen

Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United, know as 'The Entertainers' for their free-scoring football, led the league by 12 points with 15 games to go. But United, galvanised by Cantona's return from an eight-month ban for attacking a fan - ate away at that lead. Cantona scored in a 1-0 win at St James' Park on 4 March, and then climbed to the top as Keegan's side lost four times in six matches.

It came after a 1-0 win at Leeds. Keegan was angered by comments from Alex Ferguson that had questioned how committed Leeds would be. The Manchester United manager was also unhappy about the timing of Newcastle's upcoming league trip to Nottingham Forest, less than a week before Keegan was to take a team there for their captain Stuart Pearce's testimonial.

"When you do that with footballers, like he said about Leeds... and when

you do things like that about a man like Stuart Pearce... I've kept really quiet, but I'll tell you something, he went down in my estimation when he said that," a visibly angry Keegan, finger jabbing, said in a live interview with Sky Sports. "We have not resorted to

that. "But I'll tell you... you can tell him now, he'll be watching it ... we're still fighting for this title, and he's got to go to Middlesbrough and get something. And I'll tell you, honestly, I would love it if we beat them. Love it.

Newcastle, though, could only draw at Forest three days later. It meant United held a two-point lead as they travelled to Middlesbrough on the final

David May sent the Red Devils on their way with an early goal, with Andy Cole and Ryan Giggs sealing a 3-0 win as Newcastle's campaign ended in a disappointing 1-1 draw with Tottenham. The Magpies spent 212 days at the summit, the most in Premier League history for a side not crowned as champions.

Blackburn's transformation into the best team in the country under chairman Jack Walker was completed in 1994-95 when they beat Manchester United to the title by one point. It was Rovers' first since 1914 but it so nearly did not happen.

Kenny Dalglish's side were frontrunners for most of the season, inspired by the strike pairing of Alan Shearer and Chris Sutton. They notched 49 league goals between them - including 34 for Shearer on his way to the first of his three successive Golden Boot awards).

United, meanwhile, were weakened by the loss of Eric Cantona to suspension for the rest of the season after a flying kick at a fan during a match at Crystal Palace in January.

Going into the final round of matches, Blackburn were two points clear but faced Liverpool at Anfield in their final game, while Ferguson's side were at West Ham.

Rovers led through a Shearer goal at halfway - but then John Barnes equalised, before Jamie Redknapp's free-kick, with more than three minutes of injury time played, consigned Dalglish's side to a 2-1 defeat.

In the away end, Blackburn's fans looked shocked, with hands on heads. Dalglish watched on, expressionless.

Yet within seconds, they were all beaming News had filtered though that United, despite a glut of secondhalf chances, had only managed a 1-1 draw. Blackburn were champions. Source: BBC SPORT

Sports

Supporters of Crown Football Club of Ogbomoso

are to stay away from the

Soun Township Stadium, Ogbomoso, home ground of

the club for their next three

home matches in the Nigeria

This follows their unruly

behavior and violent conducts

during the match day five (5)

fixture in Southern

Conference B2 tie with

National League (NNL).

of their fans.



Plateau United players

NPFL: Plateau United edge Akwa United Rangers International 2-2

PLATEAU United Football Kwara United 1-2 Enyimba Club of Jos on Sunday beat International FC visiting Akwa United of Uyo 1-0 Abia Warriors 2-1 Sunshine in a 2022/2023 Nigeria Stars Professional Football League match at the New Zaria Road Onyekwere shatters 16-year African record, Amusan impresses Stadium.

decided in the 39th minute.

Ibrahim scored a goal from a superstars. penalty kick.

they wanted.

Ayeni said: "A penalty kick Record shattered was awarded to the hosts and Aside from winning the event they made good use of it.

and re-strategise.

was in the midfield and I told throw. through the midfield.

attack.

work out.

to sustain our position on the two weeks ago measured table.'

Maurice Longmiap, on his part weekend. told newsmen his players were Her new PB surpasses her played the match.

Longmiap said it was difficult Having enjoyed the best of convert their goal scoring chances

He said: "They were told that we needed the three points with many goals and I think that made them to be anxious "Akwa United are a good team that cannot be written off by anyone and they gave a good account of themselves."

results AII Bayelsa United 3-0 Lobi Stars Remo Stars 1-1 Bendel

Insurance Plateau United 1-0 Akwa United

Doma United 2-0 Wikki Tourists

El-Kanemi Warriors 0-0 Shooting Stars

Rivers United 1-0 Dakkada FC (suspended)

The News Agency of Nigeria THE 2023 athletics season is and at the <u>2022</u> also an engineer. reports that the Match Day 14 already looking good on the Commonwealth Games; encounter of the NPFL was horizon, with some becoming the first Nigerian lecided in the 39th minute. breathtaking performances woman in history to do so, competed in her first 100m That was when Mustapha from some of the Nigerian there is optimism that 2023 hurdles race of 2023 at the

This weekend at Oklahoma Akwa United's Chief Coach, Throws Series in Ramona, Ayodeji Ayeni, in his post- Chioma Onyekwere delivered match reaction said his team a stunning performance in the played according to plans even women's discus throw, though it did not end the way achieving a massive personal best (PB) of 64.96m.

"But we will go back home Onyekwere also broke the 16year-old African record set by "After the first half, we South Africa's Elizna Naudé realised that their strength with her massive winning

the players to cut their attack It is equally heartwarming to note that Onyekwere met and "I told them we can get our surpassed the World goals through the counter- Championship qualification

standard with her latest feat "They tried that, but it didn't even though she already has a wildcard to Budapest with her "We are going to work ahead status as an African champion. of our next home game, which Onyekwere's trajectory this is crucial for us so that we can season has been consistently get the three maximum points upward, her opening throw

55.88m, and her subsequent Plateau United's Chief Coach, improvement to 60.79m last

full of anxiety while they previous mark of 63.30m by more than a meter and a half.

to display good football when a outings in 2022, where she belief that the afternoon might conserve energy as they had in a player was anxious and his won gold at the African turn on its head. players could therefore not Championships in Mauritius

will be even better for the Tom Jones Invitational in America-based athlete who is Florida also at the weekend.

Played on Saturday: the NPFL this season.

Niger Tornadoes

United

Tobi Express Elsewhere, Tobiloba Amusan

The Benin Arsenals are yet to

seconds.

Monday Odigie's side will look

with a 12.53s performance

She secured a second-place who later claimed third place finish with a time of 12.59 in the final with a time of 12.64s.

Nia Ali narrowly won the race <u>Amusan</u> was back on the track just hours later to set a Amusan began her journey new personal best in the by winning her heat in 12.74s, women's 100m sprint, outpacing Devynne Charlton, clocking an impressive

11.10s.

Title race is far from over for Arsenal



Nigeria Premier Football League the Nigerian top-flight.

frustration that Arsenal had snatched a second successive draw from the jaws of victory at West Ham, Granit Xhaka was on with her massive throw, hand to add a dose of pragmatism.

"If something is not going well, it is easy to show the finger to someone else," he said of their faltering title push. "We took this challenge up until now and nobody was thinking about this before the season. Let's refresh everything now."

The path towards an extraordinary achievement has narrowed considerably and the be that it did not have to be this mentality after four points were dropped in two games. way. There was a moment not another lesson that Arsenal back into proceedings when the decide when they can cruise. Stadium verged on eerie:

towards a victory of consummate hard not to conclude a measure ease and, in hindsight, perhaps of complacency had set in. they were lulled by the occasion's near-total lack of edge. Neither and their ground is hardly

What happened next was previously.



Onyekwere



annoyance for Mikel Arteta will Granit Xhaka denied there is a problem with Arsenal's

cakewalk at Fulham five weeks

It will exasperate Arteta that, long before they let West Ham have not earned the right to just as Xhaka's set-to with Trent Alexander-Arnold shifted the silence around the London Second-guessing what is going tone a week before, another through a player's mind can be a senior player contrived an Arsenal were passing their way lazy form of analysis but it was avoidable error this time. Thomas Partey is 29 and schooled in Diego Simeone's West Ham are not Liverpool unceasing approach at Atlético Madrid: he should have had no their hosts nor those in the Anfield: perhaps Arsenal would business trying to execute a stands were evincing genuine be able to declare early and difficult flick past Declan Rice, West Ham's best player, deep promptly punished for his hubris. While a young side's callowness in a fight for first place is a go-to explanation for loss of nerve, senior players should set a better tone.

> "It is not about the mentality the bigger picture he is probably right. Arsenal remain top of the Premier League and with the title in their hands. It has been a phenomenal achievement to outpace Manchester City to this point and perhaps the more that, such is the dominance of Pep Guardiola's side, any title race nowadays needs two almost perfect contenders. In a truly healthy league there should be contender that has won 23 matches out of 31 drops its level extent required of champions.

taste defeat after 14 games in drawn seven games this season. club, El-Kanemi Warriors at the Nasarawa United 1-1 Gombe Akwa United, who won the to equal the record by avoiding Benin City, on Sunday. Samuel Ogbernudia Stadium,



match next day .The breach by officials by their supporters. the supporters was against Crown FC trail Ijebu United articles 16:2,4 and 14.1 of the in 3rd place in group B2, Sporting Lagos, Ijebu United In a summary jurisdiction, and Crown have the same Crown shall strictly, play place following goals scored, without their fans in their next while sporting Lagos are in

Bendel Insurance close in on NPFL unbeaten record

pitch of play by its supporters. hours ultimatum to appeal to

8points but Ijebu is in 2nd pole position with a superior

visiting Ijebu United which three home matches. ended 1-1 on Saturday. Pay the sum of N1, +2 goals at the end of the Crown are also to pay 000,000.00 (One Million Naira) NNL first stanza. N2million (N2,000,000.00) for the missiles thrown unto the Crown has been given a 48 for the ungovernable conduct

Another N1, 000,000.00 the summary jurisdiction The disruptive behavior of (One Million Naira), for reeled out. Crown FC supporters deliberate acts of intimidation allegedly, led to the match

governing rules of NNL.

NNL therefore ruled that:

fine on Crown FC commissioner rescheduling the and harassment of match

NNL slams N2million

BENDEL Insurance is only four NPFL title in the 2020/21 defeat in the remaining four games away from equaling the season, holds the record for the longest unbeaten record in the longest unbeaten streak (18) in new record in the NPFL Super

Insurance have won seven and Six.

sufficiently to draw a couple. Arsenal again squandered a

two-goal lead during their latest setback against West Ham. Photograph: Jane Stokes/ProSports/Shutterstock None of that changes the fact Arsenal's two slip-ups have been avoidable; nor does it alter the suspicion there was a mental hangover in east London from the previous week's spiralling.

Arteta did not make such huge strides with this squad in order to throw in the towel by mid-April: as Xhaka suggested, this is the time to reset and work out how best to exploit a still commanding position over the final seven games.

The fact Southampton are their next opponents, visiting the Emirates Stadium on Friday, should mean a few cobwebs are blown away before the pivotal trip to City in nine days' time. Arsenal are desperate to return William Saliba to action at the Etihad Stadium and anyone watching Rob Holding, who can defend a penalty box with the best of them but struggles badly when pulled inside his own half and was around in the channels, attempting to handle Michail Antonio would understand why. Saliba also offers a technical security Arsenal have lacked in his absence and the same goes

for Oleksandr Zinchenko, who missed the West Ham game as a for sure, it is not," Xhaka said. In precaution. While Kieran Tierney would walk into most Premier League lineups, he is manifestly far less comfortable than the Ukrainian in drifting inside to help make the play.

If Saliba and Zinchenko are fully fit, Arsenal have a chance next important observation should be week. But that sentence points to a lack of squad depth, certainly in comparison with that enjoyed by City. They paid for that last year when throwing away a Champions League spot: this time little hand-wringing when a around they have strengthened



DR .YUSUF ABDULLAHI YUSUF

FRAGMENT

"Trading is one of the best worldly works in which people get their livelihoods to cater for themselves, their families and dependents, and also to serve their communities, and what distinguishes the Muslim trader from others is his adherence to the core values of his religion, and his constant trust in his Lord, Allahu Subhanahu Wa-Ta'ala."

Dr. Yusuf Abdullahi Yusuf

Ideal role of Muslim trader before and during Ramadan

ALL thanks and adorations are due to Allah, the Most-High, the Sustainer and Cherisher of the universe. May His bounties and blessings be upon His noble Prophet, Muhammad Sallallahu 'alaihi Wa- Sallam, his households, companions and all that followed his footprints till the day of Resurrection.

Mr. Chairman Sir, invited guests, dignitaries, and members of the general public present here, permit me to join other well-wishers in congratulating the Muslim Ummah for witnessing yet another blessed month of Ramadan.

It indeed gives me pleasure to be here today, not because I am the best, or the best person that can do justice to this topic, but rather to contribute the very little I have in the struggle of redefining and re-awakening the Muslims, traders, businessmen and women.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the topic chosen for today's presentation is timely, taking into consideration the numerous challenges we faced as individuals and communities in the way we conduct ourselves, before, during and after Ramadan. The role and duties or the expectations of a Muslim Muslim trader, rather, it is more (Q 70, 32) trader should not be important than financial wealth overemphasized. We all agree, (cash). His trustworthiness worldly works in which people as individuals and communities shall earn him moral immunity get their livelihoods to cater for that, in some quotas today, all is and an unshakable balance in themselves, their families and not well in terms of the proper his life. An adage says: "He who dependents, and also to serve way of handling or managing our fulfills the trust, shares with their communities, and what businesses.

Mr. Chairman Sir, it is my firm belief that, as Muslims and who lacks trust, even if he has a the core values of his religion, followers of the Sunnah of lot of money, as long as and his constant trust in his Prophet Muhammad SAW we will whoever deals with him is not Lord, Allahu Subhanahu Waget it right, now and forever, safe from treachery or Ta'ala. when we submit totally to the betrayal? And what about his Therefore, it was imperative teachings of Allahu Subhanahu faith and religion: when he for every Muslim trader in this Wa-Ta'ala, and align ourselves prays in a place that does not time to know the morals, with the Sunnah of Prophet belong to him, or performs commandments, and Muhammad Sallallahu 'alaihi ablution with water that he prohibitions that are related to Wa- Sallam, we will overcome does not own, or sleeps while his business. This is due to the these challenges and have a the oppressed is busy spread of taboos, and the large brighter future. This paper shall complaining about him to Allah, number of suspicions that look at Islam and Trade, Ethics the Almighty? Said the Most plague most transactions, that and Characteristics of a Muslim High: Trader.

Ethics and Characteristics of a Muslim trader



people their money".

And those who are faithful to of Allah Subhanahu Wa-Ta'ala,

Trading is one of the best distinguishes the Muslim trader What is the benefit of a trader from others is his adherence to

made some traders and

(jðnçúāáçdeviate from the pure teaching Trust, is the first quality of a their trusts and their covenant and His noble Prophet,

Muhammad Sallallahu 'alaihi a Muslim Trader includes:

Wa-Sallam. Muslim trader is reminded of in of Islam, may the peace of Allah this regard is that his trade be upon him, said: him from remembering Allah, the Almighty, nor from prayer, nor from reciting the Holy trader is with the prophets, the Qur'an, nor from fulfilling truthful ones, and the martyrs". Allah's right to his money (alms (Narrated by Tirmidhi) giving). Allahu Subhanahu Wa-Ta'ala has praised His faithful servants whose trade does not distract them. Said the Most High:

Men whom neither merchandise nor selling diverts and the giving of poor-rate; responded to the Messenger of they fear a day in which the hearts and eyes shall turn looked at him, he said: "On the about. (al-Nur, 37)

are being carried away by their business premises, said the truthful. (Tirmidhy, 1210). Exalted:

9 óäæõÑöÓplæõãõå óßöÆbáæóÃóóß se a var a v

your wealth, or your children, iDaNûşÇæÑ."ÉÜÜDÖÇÜEN aØÏŐÇ divert you from the remembrance of Allah; and whoever does that, these are the losers. (al-Munafigun, 9)

He is the one who asks and investigates not to enter into an unlawful and forbidden transaction, whatever it is, and people with falsehood, and has fully submitted himself to the commandments of his Allah, while He addressed him and savs:

And do not swallow up your ÝÜÍ((C)Ø¢ÇÍÉŇÇÌBÝÈÇÜÍæÜÌÈÇÉ¢Ĭæ property among yourselves by (33?6:a) \tilde{a} false means, neither seek to On the authority of Qais bin 188).

Some of the Characteristics of **To be continued next week**

First: Honesty and One of the first things that a trustworthiness. The Prophet

äŐ ËÜÍ áÇke íÐãÑkÇæÑ ÁÇÏ "The honest and trustworthy

ÌĐ̃ăaÇì&ãaÜÜĐÉ? ÌÕ ÍÜÈCÌÑÎ ÏÜ ¡ŇÇÌĤĨŇÜÜQĹĨĸÇÜĦĬœÚ?ÇŰĬĨĊäţÃŇĹŎ ÇæÚÝNačÜÓŁÚ ? ìð ? áæÜÓČÆEÜÈ äæËÜÜNEÌÆÅ": áCËÅÝã°ÓÑCÕÜEÆ ."ÞÏÕe ¡ÑÜÜÞeìÜÞeãó? ÅÇðÑÉRQÍLLA

Wa-Sallam went out to pray, he from the remembrance of Allah saw people trading, and he and the keeping up of prayer said: "O our traders". So they

Allah, raised their necks and day of Resurrection, And he cautioned those that (merchants (traders, men and women) will be resurrected as businesses to remember Allah ungodly, except for those who and His teachings in their fear Allah, righteous, and are

Second: Keeping away from

O you who believe! let not äÅ ßÜÜÜÈNÇaa BÜÈNÇadi" :aÜGE ?

.äŰ ËÏÍ áÇI On the authority of Abu Muhammad, al-Hassan Bn Ali Bn Abi Talib, May Allah be pleased with them, said: "Leave what makes you doubt for what does not make you doubt, for truthfulness is does not eat the money of the reassurance, and falsehood is distrust", (Tirmidhy, 2442)

Third: Giving more alms, and not being satisfied with the obligatory. áæÜŐÑÚ íÝ CBÁCÜÉÒÑŰÜ ĚãÜĎÞ äŰ

<u>ÇÄŬĨEÐÉ</u>ŇÜÜÓĢEEIŐEÜÓEÚ ? ìŁŐ ? says: ìóãĂ ¢óåöÈúÇæõãõ**Ďâææãõ®aleæãããaa a satura a satura a satura** a satura a sat

gain access thereby to the Abi Ghazra, he said: during the judges, so that you may Prophet's time, we were called swallow up a part of the brokers, so the Messenger of property of men wrongfully Allah, may Allah's peace and while you know. (al-Baqarah, blessings be upon him, passed by us and called us by a better

Printed and published by Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), No. 5 Joseph Gomwalk Road, P.M.B. 2112, Jos. Telephone: 08035763242. EDITOR: FRANCISCA ADIDI. LAGOS OFFICE: Plot 1234, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos. ABUJA OFFICE: Lantana Crescent, Karu Nyanya Federal Housing Estate. Advert Contacts: 08039795356, 08036164465. All correspondence to P.M.B. 2112, Jos. (ISSN 0795-6988). *E-mail-nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com*