

# Commissioner satisfied with PPC renovation

Page 11



CBN grants foreign banks permission to give loans Page 2

Why Nigerians labeled us as 'Rubber Stamp' legislation Page 2

NCC renews MTN's 3G license for another 15 years Page 2

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## Improve relationship with police/hunters to curb insecurity - Onyeka



Onyeka,

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**P**LATEAU State Police Commissioner, CP Batholomew N. Onyeka, has charged Local Government Chairmen in the state to have cordial relationship with Hunters Association of their respective areas to

strengthen and curb the security issues in the state.

He gave the charge Monday at a meeting with the Local Government Chairmen to help address all security challenges peculiar to each local government, organised by the commissioner and held

at Police Officers Mess Jos, the state capital.

The commissioner said, "It has come to my notice that some of you are not in good terms with their Divisional Police Officer (DPO) despite the sacrifices of the police in your local government

areas. All you do instead of appreciating them, is embarking on campaign of calumny, calling for their removal.

"If you are not co-operating with them for us to achieve what we are here for, I will remove or withdraw my officers back

to carry on with civic protection duty they came to do. They must join hands together and make sure that they put to an end these security challenges. No right thinking Plateau person would want to see bloodshed", he enthused.

The CP, however, charged the Local Government Chairmen to ensure that they cement their relationship with Hunters security outfits in their areas for effective security monitoring and called on them to talk to their youths about peace. He emphasized that they should not only use them for campaign or election purposes.

Responding, the Council Chairman of Shendam Local Government Area, Miskoom Alex Naantum,

# Buhari to commission projects in Plateau

By PALANG KASMI

**P**resident **Mohammedu Buhari will soon visit Plateau State to commission projects, as work on the British-American Flyover and dualisation to Lamingo junction/roundabout in Jos has progressed to its finishing stages.**

This was disclosed in a statement released by the Director of Press and Public

Affairs to the Plateau State Governor, Dr. Makut Simon Macham.

The statement disclosed that a recent visit to the site shows significant progress has been made with ashphalting works on the slip roads around the main flyover and the stretching from the flyover to the second bridge.

It also indicated that President Mohammedu Buhari is set to come to

Plateau State to commission the flyover and many other projects executed by Governor Simon BakoLalong.

"Engineers were seen

busy carrying out several activities including intermittent temperature measurement, density and other bituminous properties of the asphalt

as part of the processes of quality control".

"Already, the main structure of the flyover has been done while the

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 2

## FG delivers 8,938 housing units, 9,290km roads - Fashola

**F**EDERAL Government says it has delivered 8,938 housing units across 35 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and constructed 9,290 kilometres of roads nationwide.

The Minister of Works and Housing, Mr Babatunde Fashola, said this on Monday in Abuja while presenting the scorecard of his stewardship in the eight year administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

The theme of the scorecard was 'Tour of Duty as HM of the Federal Republic of Nigeria: A Time and Economic Resource Report (2015-2023)'. Fashola said the eight years of the Buhari-led administration was targeted at improving living conditions of Nigerians and drastic

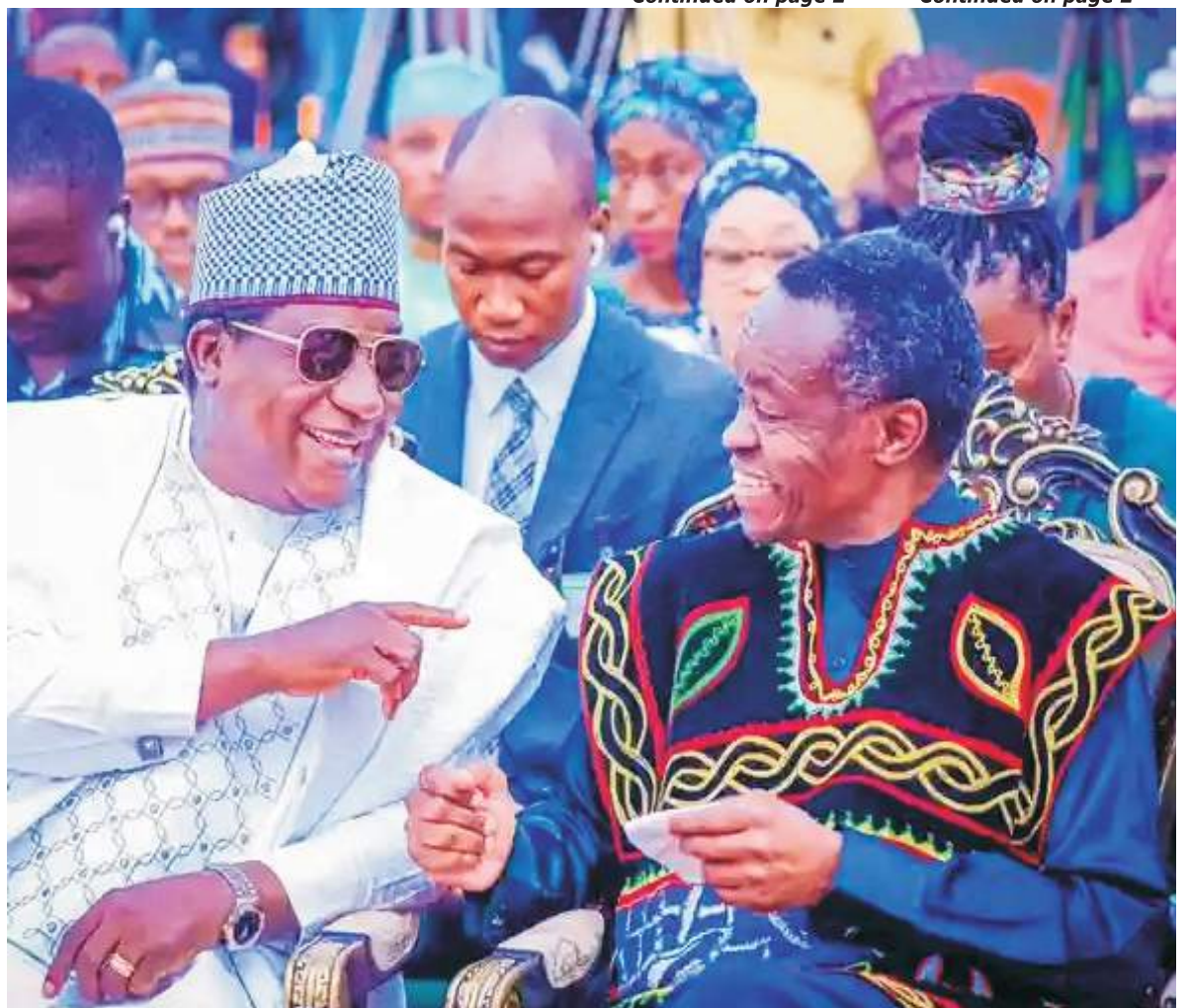
reduction of multidimensional poverty.

He said that upon his appointment as minister, part of his target was to improve human lives by venturing into the construction of long-neglected capital projects inherited from previous administrations.

"When this administration came into being the budgetary allocation for the whole country was N18 billion but within the first year of office, the President was able to put this to N224 billion, today we have 13,000 roads under construction.

"We have created 383,431 jobs, constructed 9,290.34 kilometres of roads, linear metre of lane marking 2,270,319 and number of road signs

Continued on page 2



Chairman, Northern Governors Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, CON and Plateau State Governor, (left) putting heads together with the Guest Speaker at the Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Lecture, titled: 2023 Elections as Panacea for Search for Quality Leadership in Nigeria, Prof. Patrick Lumumba at the 9th edition in Lafia, Nasarawa State on Monday. PHOTO: DOPPA's OFFICE JOS



## News

### Improve relationship with police/hunters to curb insecurity

*Continued from page 1*

who is the ALGON Chairman of the state, said, "Our I make bold to say that our relationship is very cordial. But the issue is this, there has been factions among them.

"Probably, the media is relating with the other faction that probably, is not recognised by us or by the law. Therefore, in my local government for example, we have created opportunity for them to harmonise and come with one leadership which we have now and we are now working seamlessly.

"Some groups came up that they are Hunters, some said they are the original Hunters who have been in the bush. That has been the problem. You cannot have hunters in the city. Hunting is done in the bush so, that has been the problem, but we are trying

### Why Nigerians labeled us as 'Rubber Stamp' legislation

*-Lawan*

NIGERIAN Senate President, Ahmad Lawan has admitted that many Nigerians called his leadership in the National Assembly as a "rubber stamp" legislature.

The Senate President mentioned this while declaring the induction of the first batch of the new representatives on Tuesday in Abuja.

He stated that though labelled as rubber stamp, the Ninth Senate was aware of the negative impact of ongoing disagreement with the executive and its impact on legislative activities.

"However, we were equally aware that a good working relationship is desirable and indeed imperative to achieve effective and efficient service delivery to the people," the senator noted.

Lawan added, "Hence, under my leadership, the Ninth National Assembly adopted a friendly but professional approach to executive-legislative relations. This was focused on a harmonious working relationship based on mutual respect, consultation, cooperation, collaboration and partnership."

Ahmed further mentioned that "this approach to engaging with the executive has led to a misperception and misunderstanding, which has led many to tag the

to see how we can mend fences so that the issues are addressed", he explained.

Bokkos Local Government Chairman, Hon. Moses Guluwa, thanked the Commissioner

### FG delivers 8,938 housing units, 9,290 km roads

*Continued from page 1*

installed 254,690.

"What this is doing in effect is that journey time are being reduced, improving human conditions and promoting prosperity.

### CBN grants foreign banks permission to give loans

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on Monday granted foreign banks permission to give loans to Nigerians and companies

Ninth National Assembly as a 'rubber stamp' assembly."

Lawan insisted that "our intention in preferring an engagement with the executive based on harmony and collaboration has been to better serve Nigeria by providing a safe atmosphere for national development."

According to him, the Ninth Senate accomplished admirably in terms of the number and quality of measures submitted, passed, and signed.

Meanwhile, House of Representatives Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila has urged the 10th National Assembly's lawmakers-elect to engage in impeachable discussion.

Gbajabiamila congratulated the members on their election success and asked them to justify their positions through the quality of their efforts in their posts.

"For those of us in the legislature, this means that the quality of our law-making and advocacy, the excellence of our constituency services, the thoroughness of our oversight activities and the substance of our discourse in the chamber must be unimpeachable," stated the speaker.

of Police and the hierarchy in the state for calling for the meeting and that the meeting was fruitful and it would be helpful to him "because the issue in my local government has been both herders/farmers issues and other security issues, he pointed out".

Fashola added that the ministry issued 1,262, building contracts, while 6,685 Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) were signed from 2015 to March 2023.

According to him, the

operating in Nigeria in dollars.

The apex bank adopted this measure to expand dollar liquidity in Nigeria through foreign bank representatives by authorising foreign banks to work with their parent firms in obtaining and syndicating foreign currency-denominated loans (dollar loans) to Nigerian companies.

The Guidelines for the Regulation of Foreign Bank Representative Offices in Nigeria, signed by the Director of Financial Policy and Regulation Department, Muhammad Musa, stated that the policy corresponds with the CBN's mandate to maintain financial system stability.

He stated that the rules are supported by Sections 6(1) and 8(1) of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act 2020 (BOFIA), which stipulate that "no foreign bank shall operate in Nigeria without the prior approval of the CBN."

The guidelines apply to any bank licensed under any foreign law with its registered head office outside Nigeria, as well as any financial institution licensed under any foreign law whose primary business includes the receipt of deposits, the granting of loans, and/or the provision of current and savings accounts, according to the CBN.

It also includes any foreign-based, foreign-owned functioning bank/financial holding company that owns a controlling stake in one or more banks or institutions whose core business involves accepting deposits, making loans, and providing current and savings accounts.

The CBN also granted the banks permission to promote the products and services of their foreign parent or an affiliate of the foreign parent that is licenced and domiciled

*Continued from page 1*

connecting bridges towards the Lamingo Junction Roundabout are also completed".

"Motorists and residents have expressed delight at the pace of work and are eager to have the flyover and dualised road commissioned and opened

ministry generated a revenue of N13,09 billion within the period.

Fashola said the second Niger bridge, which had stayed untouched for about three decades by previous administrations,

### Buhari to commission projects in Plateau

to traffic which will make life easier for them", said the Director of Press.

He said motorists plying the road and residents who were excited with the project commended Governor Lalong for

was one of the mega projects executed by the Buhari administration.

He added that another major project was the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, which was given priority by the government. (NAN)

initiating the project and keeping his promise to ensure its completion before the end of his Rescue Administration.

Macham said, during the Governor's last visit to the site, he had stressed to the contractor Craneburg Construction Nigeria Ltd that the project must be completed on schedule, as it is one of those to be commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari soon.

"Other projects which are expected to be commissioned soon are the new Plateau State High Court Headquarters Complex, Multi court Door House, General Hospital Kwall, Kanke; Mabudi, Langtang South; and Riyom. Others are ultra modern medical equipment at the Plateau State Specialists Hospital Jos which include Superstar MRI Machine, 64 slices CT scanner, 4D Ultrasound Scanner and Digital X-Ray Machine among others".

"Others are the Shendam Internal Road Networks and bridges, Kalong-AngwanDadi Bridge (the longest bridge in Plateau State), remodelled and reconstructed NUJ Secretariat Complex Jos, Various Legacy Projects among others".



Emefiele

outside of Nigeria.

They can also do research in Nigeria on behalf of the foreign parent and operate as a liaison between the foreign parent and local banks, private institutions in Nigeria, and other foreign parent clients situated in Nigeria.

Banks can also connect banks and other financial institutions to their parent company and provide information to Nigerian exporters about the regulations and markets of target countries where the overseas parent or any of the Group's affiliates has a subsidiary.

Part of the responsibilities include gathering and disseminating economic and financial information or country reports to its foreign parents for use by their customers, as well as assisting their customers who want to invest in Nigeria or do business with Nigerian companies in accordance with the current Data Protection Regulations.

They are also licenced to connect exporters with potential consumers in jurisdictions where the parent firm operates, as well as to assist Nigerian exporters in identifying new markets through the parent company's foreign offices.

"Representative offices

are permitted to record revenue, in so far as such revenue does not relate to non-permissible activities as set out in section 3.2 below and emanates from intra-group services rendered to the parent company with such revenue taxed in accordance with transfer-pricing regulations. Revenue in this provision is limited to line items such as staff costs and business premises leasing fees," the CBN said.

Banks, however, are not permitted in Nigeria to perform services identified as banking business or to engage in any commercial or trade activity that may result in the production of bills for services rendered.

In establishing a representative office in Nigeria, the CBN said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CBN and the applicant's home regulatory supervisor is essential. "Where such an MOU is non-existent, the CBN will work with the home regulatory agency to establish/execute an MOU as soon as possible," it said.

"Not later than three months after obtaining the Approval-In-Principle, the promoters of a proposed office shall submit an application for the grant of a final license to the CBN," the apex bank said.

### NCC renews MTN's 3G licence for another 15 Years

MTN Nigeria Communications will continue to operate its 3G mobile services for another 15 years in Africa's biggest telecommunication market after it paid the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), N58.66bn for licence renewal.

MTN said on Tuesday, that it had received a proposal from the Nigerian regulator to renew 2100MHz spectrum for a period of 15 years, from May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2037.

MTN said, "In addition, having accepted NCC's offer to renew our 2100MHz spectrum for a period of 15 years, effective from 1 May 2022 to 30 April 2037, MTN Nigeria has paid N58.66 billion to the NCC. The 2100MHz spectrum licence enables the provision of 3G mobile services on our network."

The network service provider also revealed that it received approval for the spectrum lease transaction between MTN Nigeria and Natcom Development and Investment Limited (NTEL) for the lease of NTEL's 5MHz Frequency Division Duplex (FDD).





## Business & Economy

# 'We should empower digital economy'

**Since Nigeria emerged from recession following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICT sector has been the most significant contributor to the limited economic growth that Nigeria has achieved, contributing more than 18% to GDP in Q1 2022, nearly three times the contribution that oil and gas made. Gbenga Adebayo writes.**

GIVEN its existing level of importance to the economy, and the pace of the evolution of the technology sector, the future of the digital economy in Nigeria is fundamental to the future of Nigeria's economy, and by extension, the well-being of its people.

While the amendments to the National Information Technology Development Act (NITDA) Bill currently being reviewed by the National Assembly might be well-intentioned, they are not well-constructed or defined. The stated intent is to ensure that Nigeria has two regulators for the sector, with one empowered to regulate telecommunications, and the other empowered to regulate IT and digital services. But the effect is very different.

As currently drafted, the amendments create a new super regulator that usurps many of the powers of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and formalises ministerial influence over the regulatory process, jeopardising the regulatory independence that has been integral to the success of the sector.

When considering legislation that has such a dramatic effect, the first question that has to be



asked is 'why do we need to do this?' Is the current regulatory structure so poor that such drastic action is required? I think it is fair to

say that the NCC is perhaps the best respected independent regulator in Nigeria.

It has guided and shepherded the accelerated growth of a telecoms industry that is now one of the largest in the world, a feat it has achieved with minimal government investment or support. That is how a regulator should work. Empowering the growth of private sector-led enterprises while ensuring they operate within the confines of well-structured and properly-managed regulations.

As the digital economy evolves, and convergence between sectors like payments, telecoms and technology accelerates, the regulatory architecture needs to keep pace. But it needs to do so by integrating and converging itself.

Not creating additional siloed regulators that will compete with each other, and cause confusion

amongst the private sector that has enabled and driven the growth. It is simply too important a sector to hinder through such a poorly-structured approach, especially when we consider that we are already likely to see the emergence of a new and powerful data regulator as the Nigerian Data Protection Bill flies through the National Assembly at record pace.

Given the success of the existing regulator, and the trajectory of converging regulation, it is clear to me that the answer to 'why do we need to do this' is that we don't. It's not only me that thinks this, and neither is it the voice of the outraged on social media. The NCC has publicly expressed its concern, as has the telecoms industry and a plethora of law firms who have analysed the bill and its overlaps with existing legislation extensively.

We have around three weeks now to the inauguration of a new

administration. We should be spending that time engaging with the incoming government, exploring constructive conversations about the optimum way to ensure the digital economy is empowered to deliver even more value for Nigeria. We should not be wasting time fighting off a last-ditch attempt to force through the creation of a new regulator for which there is no clear and pressing need.

Let NITDA remain a development agency, empowered to build on all its success supporting the industry, and let the NCC continue to be the regulator. If there are gaps that need to be addressed and filled, then let's have a constructive conversation about what is best for Nigeria and its people, and give it the time and focus it needs.

Engr. Adebayo is chairman of the Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON)



**Abdulahi**





# Business & Economy

## FG delivers 8,938 housing units, 9,290km roads - Fashola

THE Federal Government says it has delivered 8,938 housing units across 35 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and constructed 9,290 kilometres of roads nationwide.

The Minister of Works and Housing, Mr Babatunde Fashola, said this recently in Abuja while presenting the scorecard of his stewardship in the eight-year administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

The theme of the scorecard is 'Tour of Duty as HM of the Federal Republic of Nigeria: A Time and Economic Resource Report (2015-2023)'.

Fashola said the eight years of the Buhari-led administration was targeted at improving living conditions of Nigerians and drastic reduction of multidimensional poverty.

He said that upon his appointment as minister, part of his target was to improve human lives by venturing into the construction of long-neglected capital projects inherited from previous administrations.

"When this administration came into being the budgetary allocation for the whole country was N18 billion but within the first year of office, the President was able to put this to N224 billion, today we have 13,000 roads under construction.

"We have created 383,431 jobs, constructed 9,290.34 kilometres of roads, linear metre of lane marking 2,270,319 and number of road signs installed 254,690.

"What this is doing in effect is that journey time are being reduced, improving human conditions and promoting



Fashola

prosperity.

"On housing, we have 46 sites in 35 states with 6,068 housing units and 2,870 housing units in the FCT.

Fashola added that the ministry issued 1,262 building contracts, while 6,685 Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) were signed from 2015 to March 2023.

According to him, the ministry generated a revenue of N13.09

billion within the period.

Fashola said the second Niger bridge, which had stayed untouched for about three decades by previous administrations, was one of the mega projects executed by the Buhari administration.

He added that another major project was the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, which was given priority by the government. (NAN)

THE Director-General, Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), Mr Clement Nze, has called on Nigerians living in flood-prone areas to be watchful and move to higher grounds.

Nze told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), recently in Abuja, that this was necessary to prevent disasters and emergency situations that could occur in the coming months due to possible floods.

NAN recalls that the agency had predicted in its 2023 Annual Flood Outlook (AFO), that 178 local government areas in 32 States and the FCT, were within the "Highly Probable Flood Risks Areas".

According to him, all stakeholders have a duty to utilise the information in the AFO, to avert and minimise the adverse effects of flooding in Nigeria.

He said governments at all levels, including individuals, should adhere to the advisories issued by doing the needful.

"As early as middle of February, NIHSA released the 2023 Annual Flood Outlook (AFO). This is quite unprecedented when compared to previous years.

"Early warnings, matched with early action in terms of preparedness to reduce the negative impact of flood disasters, is what is expected of the sub-nationals."

According to him, people living within the floodplains should be on the watch,

Floods: Hydrological agency advises Nigerians to prepare, move to higher grounds



Nze

advising them to move to higher grounds, and visit the floodplains during the day for normal economic activities.

"Those living by the banks of the rivers, especially the trans-boundary Rivers Niger and Benue, should keep closer watch on the periodic surge of the rivers.

"Coastal cities in the country have been placed on red alert with regards to coastal flooding," Nze said.

The D-G said NIHSA's mandate in flood-related issues was advisory and the agency had been providing avenues for discussions on issues such as the de-silting of major rivers.

This, he noted would deepen their carrying capacities, so as to reduce overflow of rivers which often resulted in flood disasters.

He said during the peak of

flooding, President Muhammadu Buhari gave a directive that led to the inauguration of the Presidential Committee for the Development of a Comprehensive Action Plan for Preventing Flood Disasters in Nigeria.

Nze said all issues towards averting flood disasters, including de-silting of the country's major rivers, have been articulated in the committee.

NAN reports that 32 states termed as Highly Probable Flood Risks Areas include; Adamawa, Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross-River, Delta, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Edo.

Others are; Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe, Zamfara and the FCT. (NAN)

## NG-CARES on right track in supporting poor, vulnerable

PROF. Foluso Okunmadewa, the World Bank Task Team Leader for Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES), says the programme is on the right track in supporting the poor and vulnerable groups in the country.

Okunmadewa stated this recently in Abuja, at a Ministerial Town Hall Meeting on NG-CARES Programme with Stakeholders, States and the FCT officials as well as beneficiaries to obtain and document information on achievements and challenges from direct beneficiaries.

He said the the bank was very proud to be a partner of the Federal and State Governments on the NG-CARES initiative.

He stated that so far there had been substantial results and evidence that this approach, this efforts is actually on the right track despite some of the challenges.

"We are actually very proud and of course excited to be part of this Ministerial Town Hall. We are quite happy when the Minister of State, Budget and National Planning, indicated that it is not only good to claim that there are results.

"Even though it was done by an Independent Verification

Firm, it is also important to hear from the beneficiaries and particularly to do so in the presence of those who are in charge of delivering the results.

"I thought and I believe and that is also what we understand in the bank that it is the correct meaning of eye marking because when you do it in the presence of everyone then there is no dispute.

"And particularly if you bring the media in, then everybody will be able to confirm that this is reality of what has happened."

Okunmadewa revealed that the World Bank was prepared to do an extension of the closing date which would be concluded in the next one week.

This, according to him, will allow the states to repurpose their resources apart from the ones that they have earned in the direction of other shops as well.

"It was not only COVID-19, we now have some other shops and fortunately the programme is designed in such a way that it can always help the state to respond to any vulnerability such as the one that happened recently on the flooding which affected a substantial number of states."

Earlier, the National Coordinator of NG-CARES,

DrAbdulkarimObaje, said the NG-CARES programme was a multi-sectoral programme intervention designed to bring immediate relief to the poor and vulnerable Nigerians that have suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Obaje explained that the programme was a 750 million dollars facility from the world bank that should be implemented ordinarily for two years.

According to him, the programme covers two results areas and that is why it is multi-sectoral call social protection, food security and support for micro and small scale

enterprise.

Obaje said that it was on record that the World Bank directors approved the NG-CARES programme on Dec. 14, 2020 and the Federal Executive Council approved the loan request on April 14, 2021.

"And just within a spate of one week thereafter the National Assembly approved it on April 21, 2021. This emphasised the urgency for this intervention at that critical time."

The national coordinator commended the minister for his unwavering support towards the success of the programme.



Okunmadewa

## Japan to invest \$700,000 in agriculture in Nasarawa

Emmanuel Allahnana, the Programme Manager, Nasarawa Agriculture Development Authority (NADP), has disclosed the intention of the Japanese government to build agriculture processing and equipment centres, worth \$700,000 in Lafia, the state capital.

Allahnana, who disclosed this in an interview with newsmen in Lafia, said the processing and equipment centres will be built in Assakio and Shabu, all in Lafia local government area of the state.

He said a letter to this effect had been forwarded to Governor AbdullahiSule, through the state commissioner of agriculture, where the state government will pay only 10 percent of the amount as a counterpart fund."There are some investors who are coming into the state; Sasakawa, have also shown interest to invest in the state and others are willing to do the same.

"The Japan government is going to invest over 700 thousand dollars in Nasarawa State, by building processing and agricultural equipment centres in Assakio and Shabu, the state government is going to pay only 10 percent of that amount.

"When the country director came, we met with the deputy

governor and the state is willing. These are some of the little areas we can help and bring investors into the state" he said.

The programme manager also disclosed that WOFAN Icon II, is also working in four local government areas in the southern part of the state namely Doma, Awe, Obi and Keana and they are supposed to work in 10 communities each, but for now, they will start in 3 communities in each local government.

During this year's farming season, the NADP programme manager said, as the 'farmers hope', they are going to distribute seedlings ranging from oil palms, cashew, rice and yellow and white maize, are all ready to be distributed to farmers at subsidised rates.

"For fertiliser, I cannot give you the exact figures because the memo through the commissioner of agriculture, is before the governor, we are awaiting the approval, but I want to believe that it will not be more than 1,200 metric tonnes of fertilisers.

"For rice and maize, we are targeting nine and five tonnes respectively for framers this year. By so doing, we are ready not minding the climate change, because last year we lost maize and rice fields to flooding he said.





## Business & Economy

# How in-coming govt can curb inflation

**Analysts have called on the fiscal, monetary policy authorities of the incoming government to calibrate reform policies that will ensure FX liquidity conditions to remain frail in the absence of reforms to attract US dollar inflows into the economy. SYLVESTER ENOGHASE writes.**

THEY also implored the fiscal and monetary authorities in the country to show more concern to suboptimal exchange rate management, monetization of fiscal deficits, import and foreign exchange restrictions, adding that low FX liquidity conditions will also be driven by lingering global uncertainties and higher global interest rates, limiting foreign inflows to the economy.

Their advice was sequel to the uncertain outlook and persistent current account deficit in Nigeria, as a consequence, foreign investors will need some convincing actions as regards flexibility and clarity in the FX framework going forward.

They argued that the persistently high commodity prices will continue to be held back by structural problems—including electricity shortages, transport and logistic inefficiencies, as well as labour and product market rigidities.

They told Daily Independent that the Federal Government should prioritise greater investment in physical capital, education, and social safety nets, as well as more support for retraining and re-allocating workers to new and better jobs that will lead to the transformation of the economy to make it smarter, greener, and more resilient and inclusive.

World Economic Forum (WEF), in its recent Chief Economist Outlook, said the localisation and diversification of supply chains is expected to create a new geography of growth, new jobs and opportunities for small- and medium-sized enterprises and new entrants.

However, the global movement of people and exchange of goods, services, technology and ideas remains fundamental to growth and prosperity for developing economies, addressing inequality, expanding living standards for all and addressing the climate crisis.

"Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere," said Gilbert Houngbo, Director-General, International Labour Organisation.

"We have gone through a big wave of globalisation and we have left too many people behind. If you read the story of industrial towns all over the world, people were left behind," said Sander van 't Noordende, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Executive Board, Randstad "It's the right thing to make sure that that doesn't happen again, and it is needed because we need all hands on deck."

Nearly a quarter of all jobs – 23% – are also expected to be disrupted over the next four years, according to the Future of jobs report, released just ahead of the summit.

Sustainability and green investments are expected to be a net job creator while tepid economic growth, supply shortages and high inflation are seen as the biggest risks to job growth.

The impact of artificial intelligence was widely debated, with polarised views on its potential for fully displacing lower-skilled, white-collar work or augmenting workers'



Emefiele

productivity in various professions with faster access to knowledge.

Leaders from business, government, unions, academia and civil society agreed that a renewed push for growth is needed to raise living standards across the world.

But, they also cautioned against focusing solely on GDP growth, calling for greater integration of other urgent priorities including tackling the climate crisis, reducing inequality, building societal resilience and managing the disruptive power of new technologies.

"My hope is that we can find big opportunities from the exploration of alternative drivers of growth, such as intra regionalisation, that have been untapped. This is how we keep global growth going," said Razia Khan, Head of Research and Chief Economist, Africa and Middle East, Standard Chartered Bank.

"There is enormous inequality in productivity," said Ricardo Haus

Growth Lab, Harvard University.

"People in different locations are baking pies of radically different sizes. The process of development is a process of transformation of the way we do things, the way production is organized so that the whole can be more productive. The pursuit of green technology is in the forefront of our minds," said Mmusi Kgafo, Minister of Trade and Industry, Botswana.

"But it has to be a just transition." Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt, emphasized the need for financing in the developing world. "For just transitions to happen, we need just financings."

A key element in the new agenda for growth is the need for significant investment in skills in both advanced

and emerging economies to build competitiveness and to prepare workers for the jobs of the future.

"AI won't take your job – it's someone using AI who will take your job," said Richard Baldwin, Professor of International Economics, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

"We know the jobs that we'll lose, the jobs that we need and somehow we have to make it work" said Claudia Azevedo, Chief Executive Officer of SONAE, as part of a discussion on the importance of closing the skills gap through upskilling and reskilling. We are nowhere near where we need to be to meet the scale and the speed of the demand that is coming our way for green skills. We need to start investing now – and heavily – to put the reskilling and upskilling programmes in place needed to meet the climate challenge," said Sue Duke, Head of Global Public Policy, LinkedIn. When you look at care jobs – both childcare and elderly care – we still see elevated demand compared to pre-pandemic levels," said Svenja Gudell, Chief Economist, Indeed.

Leaders also emphasised the importance of diversity and inclusion as a channel to both promote equity and to accelerate growth and innovation. "Diversity of ideas is essential," said Maria Leptin, President, European Research Council.

Dr Muda Yusuf, Executive Officer of the Centre for Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE), in a chat with Daily Independent, reiterated the central bank's insistence on lowering inflation may signal more hikes in subsequent months.

"To address the looming catastrophe, the fiscal and

monetary authorities must adopt a more flexible and predictable foreign exchange management model to regain the confidence of foreign investors.

Yusuf, who argued that the technical computation of the inflation figures is not in dispute, said: "the reality of the impact of the intense inflationary pressures over the past one year is at variance with the official inflation data.

"For the basket of goods consumed by most households, prices have jumped by between 30-100% over the past one year. The same is true of businesses.

"The pressure of spiking inflation on household budgets has been intense and distressing. Purchasing power has been massively eroded, real incomes have collapsed, and the poverty situation has consequently worsened.

"Businesses have been similarly impacted as they have been experiencing a slump in sales, turnover and profits margins. The impact on small businesses is even more severe because of their limited capacity to absorb economic shocks.

"The spiraling inflation dynamics deserves an urgent policy response at the highest level of government. The impact on citizen's welfare is severe. The effect on SMEs is troubling. There is worsening social discontent, driven by poverty inflicted by inflation".

An executive director of one of the new generation bank in a chat with Daily Independent, implored the Federal Government to urgently tackle the security concerns causing disruption to agricultural activities, reform the foreign exchange market to stabilise the exchange rate, reduce volatility and stimulate foreign exchange inflows to address the lingering fiscal challenges

"If the Federal Government can address foreign exchange liquidity issues through appropriate policy measures; address the challenge of high transportation and logistics cost; reduce fiscal deficit monetisation to minimise incidence of high-powered money in the economy; manage climate change consequences to reduce flooding and desertification the 3.8 growth potentials of the nation's economy in the remaining quarters of this year is guaranteed", the banker said

The bankers also urged the Federal Government to ensure the restoration of normalcy and good order at the nation's ports to reduce transaction costs; reduce import duty on intermediate products and raw materials for industries to reduce production costs, especially in the light of the sharp depreciation in the exchange rate; address concerns around high energy cost and create an investment friendly tax environment.

Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, the Executive Director of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), in a chat with Daily Independent, said Nigeria was not an exception as prices of goods and services were moving northwards with the potential implication of shrinking production of goods and

services.

He said that if the conditions persist, production volumes would be impacted by the raw materials supply chain disruptions, the rising cost of diesel, and other internal security crises.

"Job losses are also very likely due to constrained production and disrupted supply chains, and all of these will likely depress growth potential in the remaining quarters of this year

"The manufacturing sector for instance, will likely suffer some shocks from the rising cost of diesel, logistics, foreign exchange illiquidity, domestic inflationary pressure, weakening purchasing power, poor public infrastructure and port-related challenges.

"These may continue to present as headwinds to the sector's performance", he said

Mr Segun Ajayi-Kadir, Director General of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) told Daily Independent that the naira depreciation has a significant impact on headline inflation, especially the core sub index.

He said: "To tame the current inflationary pressure, he suggested that government should reform the foreign exchange market to stabilise the exchange rate and reduce volatility, address forex liquidity issues through appropriate policy measures, address the security concerns causing disruption to agricultural activities and address productivity issues in the real sector of the economy".

Cordros Researchers in their Weekly Economic and Market Report of May 5, 2023 stated that over the short-to-medium term, we expect FX liquidity conditions to remain frail in the absence of reforms to attract US dollar inflows into the economy.

"The low FX liquidity conditions will also be driven by lingering global uncertainties and higher global interest rates, limiting foreign inflows to the economy.

"Thus, foreign investors will need some convincing actions as regards flexibility and clarity in the FX framework going forward".

Recall that the President had in December 2022, sent a request to the National Assembly, seeking approval to convert the W&M advances to 40-year bonds that will be sold to investors at a 9.0% interest rate, with a three-year moratorium.

Contrary to previous expectations that the securities will be issued to the public, the DMO stated that it will be issued to the CBN by the FGN.

Given that the arrangement involves the FGN issuing the securities to the CBN; it means the W&M outstanding will remain in the CBN's balance sheet.

In our view, the securities remaining in the CBN's books, introduces a moral hazard issue. Nonetheless, this development will ensure that the public debt profile reflects its true picture, bringing debt sustainability to the forefront of policymaking and, possibly, ensuring the next administration consciously embarks on fiscal consolidation.



## Politics

### Plateau APC felicitates with lalong @ 60

The APC family in Plateau state, has heartily joined Plateau citizens both at home and in the diaspora in felicitating with His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Dr Simon Bako Lalong KSGG, CON, the Executive Governor of Plateau State and Chairman Northern Governors Forum, as he celebrates his 60th birthday.

A press release signed by Sylvanus Namang, APC State Publicity Secretary, said attaining this remarkable and diamond birthday which is God's grace upon the Governor's life, is no doubt, worth appreciating God for his mercy.

This is moreso given the so many records of spectacular and uncommon achievements by His Excellency within these sixty years which have placed him at a comfortable and special place in book of fame for achievers.

Though born without a silver spoon in his mouth, Governor Siimon Bako Lalong has by dint of hard work and determination risen from the lower rung of life to a towering level to the admiration of all well meaning and discerning minds.

He started demonstrating his leadership traits as a young man when he became the National President of Gammal Youth Movement in the nineties.

Joining active politics as a founding member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which was then the party with wide national appeal embraced by the people of Plateau state, Governor Simon Bako Lalong contested and won election to represent the good and peace - loving people of Shendam Local Government as Member of the Plateau State House of Assembly.

As the saying goes, "the golden fish has no hiding place, as it can be spotted even in the deepest level of the sea", he was easily identified and unanimously elected by his fellow Members as Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly in 2000, a position he served with great honour and distinction for a record six years till 2006.

His legislative prowess saw Plateau State enjoying great dividends of democracy, especially in the field of education where given the cordial working relationship between the Legislative and executive arms, several tertiary institutions, including the Plateau State University, Bokkos, College of Agriculture, Garkawa and School of Science and Preliminary Studies, Kurgwi were established with speedy and seamless passage of bills to that effect.

A very humble but deft and calculated politician, Rt. Honourable Simon Bako Lalong won the governorship election in 2015 under the APC and again in 2019 against all odds, as most of the political big wigs never gave



Lalong

him a breathing space.

This to a great extent spurred him to put in his best especially in the area of peace building and its maintenance where he picked up the broken pieces as Captain of the Rescue Team and restored calm and relative peace in Plateau state, a legacy he will long be remembered for after the eight years he has been on the saddle as governor.

As an acknowledged and accomplished politician, he was able to properly launch Plateau State into the national arena with several benefits accruing to the state through the attraction of many institutions especially educational institutions where space and time would not allow us mention in this birthday wish for a great and honourable man of peace and a bridge builder.

Governor Simon Bako

Lalong stands very tall for ensuring as the Director General of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, the victory of the President-elect, His Excellency Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Vice-President-elect, Senator Kashim Shettima who would be sworn-in on 29th May, 2023.

As we join his family, friends and loved ones across the nation and globe in celebrating this quintessential leader, a legislator par excellence, a peacemaker and bridge builder of note, it is our sincere prayer and wish that Almighty God will continue to bless him with abundant health and protection and to elevate him for greater responsibilities in the years ahead.

### 3 Kogi House of Assembly candidates dump PDP

From  
**AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THREE immediate past House of Assembly candidates under the People's Democratic Party (PDP), have resigned their membership from the party.

The three candidates made their decisions known in their separate Resignation Letters made available to journalists on Tuesday in Lokoja, addressed to the PDP Chairmen of their various wards.

The letters were dated May 8, 2023.

They are: Hon Sunday Maiyaki, PDP Assembly candidate for Yagba West; Hon. Daniel Olorunjuwon Jones, PDP candidate for Mopamuro; and Hon. Joseph Babatunde Olupeka, PDP candidate for Ijumu Local Government Area, in the 2023 general elections held in March.

Maiyaki in a letter addressed to the PDP

Chairman, Odo-Eri/Okoto Ward, Odo-Eri, Yagba West LGA, said: "I hereby resign my membership of the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

"I have been a party ardent since 1998 starting from the first National Convention in Jos, Plateau State. But today, I can no longer cope with the array of impunity in the party. "The slogan 'Power to the People' is now 'Power to the Few'.

"I wish the party good tidings in their future endeavours. My party membership card is attached".

Maiyaki also sent the copies of the letter to the leadership of the party in the local government areas.

On his part, Jones in a letter addressed to the Ward Chairman PDP, Ward 03, Mopamuro LGA, said: "This is to inform you of my decision to resign as a member of PDP to pursue

CHAIRMAN of the Northern Governors Forum and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong has disclosed that Northern Governors of the APC supported power shift to the Southern part of Nigeria in order to promote the unity, peace and stability of Nigeria within the spirit of fairness, equity and justice which the late Premier of the Northern Region Sir Ahmadu Bello stood for.

Lalong stated this while speaking Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the 9th Annual Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Lecture on Leadership and Good Governance held in Lafia, Nasarawa State.

In a statement by his Director of Press and Public Affairs. He said because the late Sardauna lived a life of accommodation, tolerance, justice and fairness, his legacies have endured long after his demise and continue to inspire leadership in the region and country at large.

"When I led my colleagues the Northern Governors to push for power shift to the south, it was not because we wanted Asiwaju to be President. Rather, we wanted to ensure that justice and fairness prevails in our nation for unity, peace and harmony".

"That is what we believe our revered father of blessed memory Sir Ahmadu Bello would do in

### We supported power shift for unity and fairness

By **PALANG KASMI**

- Lalong

such circumstances. Fortunately, the party delegates chose Asiwaju who was eventually accepted by Nigerians as he was unanimously elected".

Lalong urged all Nigerians, both in the North and across the country, to support President-elect Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as he takes on the mantle of leadership on May 29.

He said the North is an important stakeholder in the Nigerian project and its contributions towards his election cannot be over emphasized.

"The Northern region needs serious attention in various sectors ranging from security, education, infrastructure, agriculture, economic revival and restoration of law and order in various areas that have been ravaged by insecurity".

"It is heartening to note that the Northern Governors Forum, under my leadership, has done a great deal of work on bringing our people together as one people with one a common destiny" he said.

Nasarawa State Governor Engr. Abdullahi Sule said it was a privilege for his state to host the very important event which reminds the region and the nation

about the values that Sardauna lived and died for.

He said although there have been challenges in the country after the demise of Sir Ahmadu Bello, some progress has been made which can be built upon to make the Northern Region and Nigeria a better place.

Speaking on the topic "2023 Elections as Panacea for the search for quality leadership in Nigeria," Kenyan Law Professor and pan Africanist Patrick Lumumba said the late Sardauna left behind several lessons for politicians which include his selflessness and sacrifice for the general good.

He said the question of unity and cohesion in Nigeria particularly after the 2023 general elections cannot be over emphasized because Nigeria plays a very key role in the stability of Africa being a giant in all ramifications.

Lumumba stressed that the sacrifices of founding fathers like Sardauna who paid the supreme price should not be left to go in vain but built upon for a greater Nigeria and Africa.

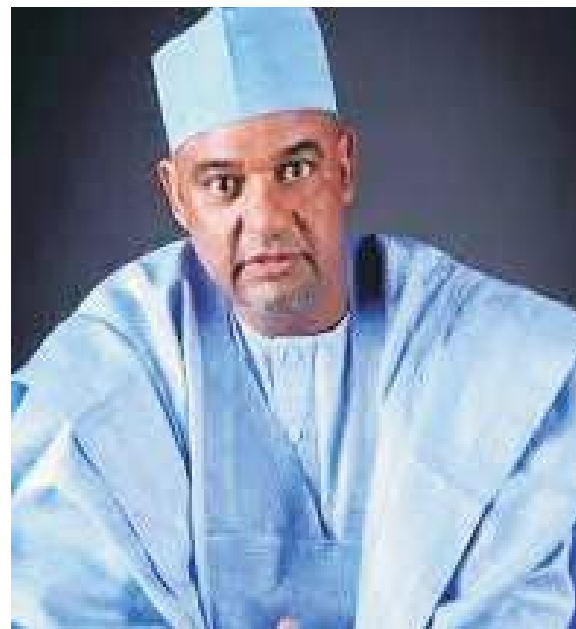
President Muhammadu Buhari in a message delivered by Chief of Staff Prof. Ibrahim Gambari said it is important that Nigerians devote more attention to recruiting quality leaders who are capable of steering the nation in the right direction.

He also said the process of elections should also be looked at and continuously improved upon to ensure that those who serve the people have their mandate and also enjoy their support.

Emir of Lafia HRH Sidi Bage said the lecture series is an opportunity to reflect on the dreams of Sardauna but also a way of putting critical national and regional issues on the front burner.

He thanked Governor Lalong who as Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum worked hard to ensure that the Traditional Institution is given a place in the governance of Nigeria much as it was during the time of the Sardauna.

The next Sardauna Lecture is scheduled to take place in Maiduguri.



Damagum

other interests.

"Please, find attached the original copy of my decision to resign as a member of the PDP with effect from today May 8, 2023.

"I wish the party well in its future activities. Please find attached the original copy of my membership card".

"Please accept this as a formal communication of my decision to resign as a member of the PDP with effect from today May 8, 2023.

"I wish the party well in its future activities. Please find attached the original copy of my membership card".



**Politics**

**10th NASS: How history'll shape APC's Senate Presidency**

**The 2023 transition process in Nigeria will be concluded with the inauguration of the 10th National Assembly and the election of presiding officers of the two chambers. The inauguration has been scheduled for June 5, a week after the swearing-in of the president-elect, Bola Tinubu, on May 29, 2023 writes ABDULQUDUS OGUNDAPO.**

At least six senators are running for the seat of the president of the 10th Senate. The contestants are from four of the nation's six geo-political zones: the North-west, South-east, South-south and North-central. The two other zones – South-west and North-east – having produced the president and vice president-elect respectively, are not favoured to produce the head of the Legislature and third to the president in the order of succession.

The National Assembly has had eight Senate Presidents so far in the Fourth Republic. The first five of them were from the South-east region, the next two from the North-central region and the outgoing one from the North-east.

The South-east delegation monopolised the seat in the first two assemblies of the dispensation between 1999 and 2007 under the Olusegun Obasanjo presidency. Those who held the seat include Evans Enwerem from Imo State, who served between June and November 1999; Chuba Okadigbo from Anambra State who served from 1999 to 2000, Pius Ayimn from Ebonyi State who served between 2000 and 2003, Adolphus Wabara from Abia State who served between 2003 and 2005 and Ken Nnamani from Enugu State who served from 2005 to 2007.

The North-central produced the next two Senate Presidents, who shared the next two assemblies between 2007 and 2019. They are David Mark from Benue State who presided from 2007 to 2015, and Bukola Saraki from Kwara State who served from 2015 to 2019.

The incumbent Senate President, Ahmad Lawan, who was elected in 2019, is from Yobe State in the North-east region. Mr Lawan is the first senator from his region to be Senate President. He has been elected for the fifth term to the Senate but has not officially declared interest in retaining the top seat. However, his prospect of retaining the seat is considerably dimmed by the fact that he is from the same region as Vice President-elect Kashim Shettima and of the same Muslim faith as Mr Shettima and the President-elect, Bola Tinubu.

Barau Jibrin from Kano State and a former governor of Zamfara, Abdulazeez Yari, are the two contestants from the North-west. Their supporters have urged the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to allocate the seat to the zone as a reward for its strong support for the party in the presidential election. The APC got its largest votes per zone from the North-west, larger than it got from the home zones of the President-elect and Vice President-elect.

From the South-east, there were three aspirants in the race. They are incumbent governor of Ebonyi State, Dave Umahi; a former governor of Abia State who is the incumbent Senate Whip, Orji Kalu, and Osita Izunanaso from Imo State. However, Mr Umahi announced his withdrawal from the race on Friday.

A former governor of Akwa Ibom State, Godswill Akpabio, who was Senate Minority Leader between 2015 and 2019 before he defected from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the ruling APC, is yet the only contestant from the South-south to have declared his bid, although Adams Oshiomhole, a former governor of Edo State and former national chairman of the APC,



**Kalu**



**Yari**



**Barau**



**Akpabio**

has also been mentioned from the zone, in spite of being a first-term senator. Akpabio's ambition got a boost last week as he got the endorsement of APC governors as well as that of Umahi.

Sanni Musa from Niger State in the North-central is also in the race but has indicated a preparedness to accept the deputy Senate President seat should the APC zone the top seat elsewhere.

Unlike in the preceding two assemblies (2015 to 2019 and 2019 to 2023), the APC has a slimmer majority in the incoming 10th Senate with 59 members. The PDP has 29 members, the Labour Party has six members, and the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) and the Social Democratic Party have two members each. The All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and Young Peoples Progressive Party (YPP) complete the 109-member Senate with one member each.

The ruling APC has yet to decide on which zones to produce the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives but there had been indications the South-east and South-south were being favoured for the presidency of the Senate. The zones that miss out on the allocation of the Senate President and Deputy Senate President will share the

positions of Senate Leader, Deputy Senate Leader and Senate Whip, who are the other principal officers of the Senate, alongside the Minority Leader and Minority Whip who are members of the minority caucus.

Should the APC zone the Senate presidency to the North-west, Mr Jibrin will be the favourite to take it. The Kano lawmaker has been in the Senate since 2015 representing Kano North District. He is the current Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. In the 8th Assembly, he served as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND.

His rival from the zone, Yari, is coming in as a first-timer in the Senate. Although he won an election to the Senate in 2019 while concluding his second term as governor, a crisis in the Zamfara State chapter of the party led to the Supreme Court stripping him and other APC candidates elected from the state of their seats after affirming that the party did not conduct valid primaries for the nomination of its candidates for the general elections. Under Senate rules, only ranking senators, who have served more than one term, can vie for the seats of presiding officers.

**APC Governors endorse Akpabio**

On Friday, the Governor of Kano State, Abdullahi Ganduje, said governors of the ruling APC had decided to zone the Senate presidency to the South-south. The governors, under the umbrella of Progressive Governors Forum (PGF), had earlier recommended the seat for either the South-east or South-south. They also proposed that the position of majority leader, deputy majority leader and chief whip should be used as compensation for those that may be asked to step down from the leadership race.

In a video circulated on the internet by African Independent Television (AIT), Mr Ganduje also said the APC governors decided to support Mr Akpabio. The video showed Mr Ganduje and some of his governor colleagues, including Ben Ayade of Cross River State, in a meeting with some individuals.

"The Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria will come from the South-south and no other person than the former governor of Akwa Ibom, the uncommon governor, the uncommon minister who will be the uncommon president of the Senate. We have resolved that, so we are giving you assurance. We are waiting for the deal day to be the Senate President of Nigeria," Ganduje said.

However, of the contestants who

had declared their ambition, only Mr Umahi has, so far, announced that he would step down for Akpabio.

Also, there had been reports that the sitting Senate President, Lawan, was opposed to the bid of Akpabio over developments connected to his supervisory roles in the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) as Minister of Niger Delta Affairs. Lawan was said to have proposed amending the Senate Standing Rules to allow newcomers such as Oshiomhole to run for the seat, should the party insist on the South-south.

The region is probably being favoured because it gave more votes to the APC in the presidential election than the South-east, despite the latter having two APC governors. The South-south has also not produced a Senate President since 1983 when the late Joseph Wayas held the position throughout the Second Republic. The South-east is the only southern zone to have produced the Senate President in the Fourth Republic but it is also the only zone in the region that has not produced the President of Nigeria.

With the declaration of the APC governors despite the open objection of Lawan, more drama is expected on this issue until June 5, when the 10th National Assembly will be inaugurated.



# IMAGES

## PROF. LUMUMBA AT AHMADU BELLO MEMORIAL LECTURE 2023

The Kenyan Law Professor and Pan Africanist, Patrick Lumumba on Monday was speaker at the 9th Annual Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Lecture on Leadership and Good Governance held in Lafia, Nasarawa State



Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari through his Chief of Staff, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari delivering speech



Cross section of members on the high table smiling at the Memorial Lecture, 2023



Chairman, Northern Governors Forum and Plateau State Governor, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, CON (right) with the Chief host and Nasarawa State Governor, Engr. Abdullahi Sule



President of Nasarawa State Traditional Council, HRH Justice Sidi Bage Muhammad, CFR Emir Lafia (left) with the Andoma of Doma, HRH Alhaji Ahmadu Aliyu Oga Onawo



Cross section of participants at the 9th Annual Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Lecture



From left are, Governor Abdullahi Sule, Governor Simon Bako Lalong and Prof. Patrick Lumumba



Chairman, Northern Governors Forum, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, CON (left) with the Speaker, Prof. Patrick Lumumba, Professor of Law, Kenyan Law Professor



Cross section of traditional rulers and other invited guests at the lecture



## Politics

# Simon Bako Lalong @ 60: Finishing strong

**The Holy Bible in the book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 7 verse 8 says "The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride" (New Living Translation). This verse does not only convey divine truth that has stood the test of time, but aptly captures the life trajectory of Simon Bako Lalong, KSGG, CON, Executive Governor of Plateau State and Chairman, Northern Governors Forum who turned 60 on 5th May 2023, MAKUT SIMON MACHAM writes.**

INCIDENTALLY, his 60th birthday comes as he prepares to handover to the next Governor of Plateau State at the end of his 8-year tenure. For the man, Simon Bako Lalong, fate, fortune and the grace of God are visible all over him having come from an obscure background from his little-known village of Ajikamai, Nyak, in Shendam Local Government of Plateau State. His story is one of grass to grace built on virtues of humility, love, service, tolerance, broad-mindedness and teamwork which have guided him all through his life.

Trained as a lawyer, Lalong started his political journey through youth activism within the socio-cultural organisation of the Gamai people, Gamai Youth Movement as well as the Plateau Youth Council which threw some spotlight on him that later blossomed and took him to limelight which he enjoyed.

Right from his childhood, Lalong had the innate feeling that he was called to serve and needed to develop himself particularly through education that will give him the capacity to stand among the high and low and effectively add value to humanity. His passion was to become a lawyer. This perhaps explains why despite so many opportunities for a career in football up to the national stage, he chose rather to pursue academics and fulfill his dream of wearing the wig and gown.

Although he had an offer to be a civil servant at the FCDA Abuja after his youth service, he declined and chose to practice his most cherished ambition of law. This brought him back to Jos where he began practice and later delved into politics.

From his election into the Plateau House of Assembly to represent Shendam Constituency in 1999, Lalong never jettisoned his early childhood values that were engraved in his heart by his family and the Catholic Church. Those who know him testify of his loyalty, love, respect, humility and compassion which have grown over the years and opened doors for him across the length and breadth of Nigeria and the world at large.

Many recall his sojourn as the Speaker of the Plateau House of Assembly and his travails over refusal to superintend over the illegal impeachment of Governor Joshua Dariye. Because he would not subvert the constitution and towed the path of impunity, dictatorship and criminality, he spent 40 days and 40 nights in EFCC detention. His loyalty to the constitution, the people of Plateau State and Governor Dariye whom he felt should have fair hearing as provided by law was tested and he passed.

This singular act cost him so much and threw him in the cold as his seat was vacated even after he won the election for his recall which was induced by the powers that be in collaboration with Federal Might. However, his good heart and his principled stance to do the right thing coupled with his contentment, trust in God, and love for others was to restore him to limelight again in 2015 when the people of Plateau State remembered his good works as Speaker and chose him to become Governor.

On coming into office, he inherited a



**Lalong**

myriad of challenges which included insecurity, a despondent and demoralized civil service, uncompleted and abandoned projects, lack of inclusivity in governance, as well as a State that was in dire need of healing, reconciliation and forgiveness. He did not waste time in bringing the people of Plateau State together and addressing the challenges.

He immediately paid 5 months withheld wages under the no-work-no-pay policy and cleared inherited salary arrears of 8 months from the past administration. The same story applied to pension arrears of about 10 months which he equally cleared. This earned him the nickname "Governor Alert" bestowed on him by the civil servants.

Rather than embark on ego trip of commencing new projects while the State was littered with abandoned projects, Lalong chose to complete those inherited even though from a government of PDP. These include the Mararaban Jama'a road which was just about one lane done as well as the Secretariat Junction flyover; old-airport to Rayfield; Rayfield to Bukuru etc. Same applied to abandoned general hospitals such as Riyom, Langtang South, Kanke which he completed. Sadly, this

was to be used against him by his opponents who despite enjoying these infrastructures claimed he never did a "single" project in 8 years - a propagandist lie that unfortunately sank into the gullible.

But Simon Lalong whose heart is like that of a child refused to be intimidated or harassed by frivolities and kept carrying out inherited and new projects. Today, the brand new British American Flyover and Dualisation to Lamingo Junction Roundabout has been completed and will be commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari soon. Same goes for the High Court Complex Headquarters, the Multi-door Courthouse and ADR Centre; NUJ Secretariat, Kalong-Angwan Dadi bridge (longest in Plateau); Shendam bye-pass and internal roads; of Longvel-Yelwa-Mato Junction-Taraba border road; Legacy projects, among others across the state.

When you talk about peace and security, Lalong gave it his best shot by not only dressing the surface, but going down to the root to tackle the causes. His style has been to remove fear and mutual suspicion from the hearts of citizens who had enjoyed peaceful coexistence for decades until crises merchants succeeded in dividing them along ethno-religious lines. While he strengthened the instrument of law enforcement to

deal with criminals, he also came up with the Peace Building Agency which is the first of its kind in the country and backed by law. He ensured that crucial laws were enacted and signed such as the Anti-Land Grabbing and that of Anti-Kidnapping and Violence against persons.

Although there is no absolute security yet, citizens of Plateau State, Nigerians and members of the international community who earlier felt unsafe in Plateau have confessed that Lalong scored a goal in security and peace with abundant evidence to show. Nightlife is back to Jos while "no-go-areas" have drastically faded. Public and private institutions across Nigeria have once more made Plateau State their conference and events capital as they jostle to host one national conference or the other. Hotel and hospitality businesses are booming while many investors who earlier left Plateau have returned. Even property owners have enjoyed a boom under Lalong as Plateau is once more the true Home of Peace and Tourism.

The footprints of Governor Lalong on the Plateau are very visible across all sectors and all Local Governments of the State. Whether it is the education sector where he took over a moribund Plateau State University Bokkos and turned it into

a 7-Faculty institution with 7 convocations in its kitty and a PG School; or the revamping of the Plateau Specialists Hospital with the acquisition of Ultra-modern medical equipment such as Superstar MRI Machine, 64 slices CT Scanner, 4D-Ultrasound Scanner and Digital X-Ray Machine among others; or the deepening of systems for transparency, accountability and good governance in the State which has earned the State national and international recognition, the man Lalong is leaving large footprints in the political landscape of Plateau, albeit quietly as the silent achiever he is.

While some could have disagreed with him over some of his policies and actions, Lalong has never claimed to be a saint or infallible. Indeed those who know him testify that he is one of the meekest persons on the face of the earth who is not afraid to admit any shortcoming just as he can stick to his convictions even when everyone disagrees with him.

His 60th birthday which comes just weeks before he bows out as Governor makes it a day to pause and thank God for sending someone with his temperament, capacity, intellect, humility, courage and love to the people of Plateau and Nigeria at a time such as this. Having done his best to serve and with the best intentions, he is eager to go and have some deserved rest and also spend some quality time with his family.

But whether this will be a reality for him is in doubt because having produced the next President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the DG of the APC Presidential Campaign Council, many expect that he will again play a prominent role in actualizing the Renewed Hope Mandate of Tinubu/Shettima. Also, Lalong who was the leader of the Northern Governors who insisted that power should go back to the south in the interest of fairness and justice remains a strong figure in the ruling APC.

If history is anything to go by, Lalong who is not known to lobby for positions will once again have his past records speaking for him just as they did when he was chosen by his colleagues to serve as the Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum, a position he has used to further demonstrate his capacity on the national stage and also ensure that Plateau remains in national relevance rather than obscurity.

The prayer for this man of peace and love is that God will continue to order his steps and give him more opportunities and make his paths shine brighter to serve humanity which has been his ambition from childhood. As this chapter of his life closes, there is no doubt that God is opening a new phase for him to once again demonstrate that love is the greatest according to Matthew 22:37-40 which happens to be one of his favourite scriptures in the Holy Bible.

Happy 60th birthday Your Excellency!



## News

## HYPPADEC organises consultative meeting on flood mitigation

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

AGAINST the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMET) prediction of imminent flooding in 2023, the Hydro-Electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC) has organised a stakeholders consultative meeting to evolve proactive measures to mitigate the likely effects. Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa, Managing Director of HYPPADEC while speaking during the stakeholders meeting at the Government House, Lokoja, over the weekend, said little timely interventions could save a lot of lives and resources.

The meeting had the state Ministry of Environment, traditional rulers, Local Government Council Chairmen and farmers representatives in attendance.

He said that as direct victims of the perennial floods, the chiefs, Council Chairmen and the farmers knew the negative impact of flooding and where it pinched most and should be able to proffer workable solutions.

The Managing Director warned riverine communities and all stakeholders not to treat NiMET predictions with levity saying that they were based on scientific findings and result of critical investigations.

The "Katukan Yauri" said that 80 to 85 per cent of NiMET predictions in the last five years had always been accurate. And "Since we know we have this problem, I think it's time we start talking to ourselves, mobilising and educating our communities to prepare for the possible onslaught.

"We're trying to finalize working on our GIS Lab which will enable us generate flood vulnerability maps, flood extent maps and flood forecasts so that when we receive forecasts from NiMET we can ascertain.

"We we are also having our own in-house report that we can compare with NiMET reports and prove to you the communities, the need to be proactive", he said.

He said that afforestation was one of the cardinal aspects of the commission's interventions under the Operations Department adding that the Governing Council had approved a sizeable sum for afforestation this year.

The Egena Atta-Igala title holder also assured that the construction of approved houses for flood victims in Ibaji, Mozum, Karara and Edeha community living



Bello

under the Murtala Muhammad Bridge, was on course.

He pointed out that the HYPPADEC was prepared to intervene in communities with serious ecological and drainage issues but was hampered by the size of resources at its disposal.

"But one commitment I want to make here and now is, we are prepared to partner with any local government that has a budget of N50 million for the control of erosion and drainages.

"When we check the design and the bills and we are satisfied, we are prepared to finance such projects by 60 per cent but they must contribute their 40 per cent down.

"Once they are able to do that, we are prepared to pay

60 per cent on behalf of the commission so that our communities will feel the impact of our presence and we also feel the impact of the partnership between the local government and HYPPADEC", he said.

Governor Yahaya Bello represented by the state Commissioner for Environment, Mr Victor Adewale Omofaiye, said government had decided to embark on afforestation as part of measures to address the flood.

The Atta Igala, Matthew Opaluwa Oguche-Akpa represented by Eje of Ibaji, Ajofe John Egwemi, appealed to HYPPADEC to appeal to the Federal Government to dredge the Rivers Niger and Benue and build dams to address the flood challenges.

## NYSC At 50: Corps members embark on walk

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Kogi on Monday embarked on a "Unity Walk" to celebrate the 50th year anniversary of the scheme.

The walk tagged: Unity Walk began at the NYSC State Secretariat, and terminated at the Government House, Lokoja, where they were received by His Excellency, Gov. Yahaya Bello.

In his remarks, Bello congratulated the NYSC Director General and the State Coordinator for the meaningful impacts and contributions the scheme had made in Nigeria for the past 50 years of its existence.

The governor, who was represented by the State Security Adviser, Cdr Jerry Omdara (rtd), commended the NYSC for identifying with

Kogi Government on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary celebration.

He admonished the corps members to continue to foster unity among themselves and residents in the course of their service year in the state.

The governor urged them to remain focused and utilise the experiences and skills they acquired during the service year for the benefit of their future.

Also speaking, the Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Mr. Musa Idris, commended the NYSC for contributing its own quota to the development of the state.

Idris, who doubles as the state Chairman NYSC Governing Board, said the scheme had impacted the country positively in all sectors of the economy as well as fostering national unity.

Represented by the

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

ABUJA Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), Kogi Regional Office has said that N22 billion worth of energy is being owed by electricity consumers in the state.

The Regional Manager, AEDC, Mr Danladi Baba, disclosed this in an interview with our correspondent in Lokoja.

According to him, the customers as whole are owing AEDC over N22 billion worth of debt, and every month we add value to our debt.

He said the state government alone was owing N483 million as at April 2023, while other debts were from private individuals, companies and other customers.

"For the past four months in Kogi, we import energy of nothing less than N1 billion but we hardly get N500 million in average every month from our customers.

"The highest we have gotten in a month is N543 million and sometimes it dropped below N500 million.

"We encourage our customers to pay their electricity supply debt to avoid the AEDC from being disconnected from the National Grid," Baba said.

The Regional Manager stressed that regular payment of electricity bills and outstanding debt would lead to improved electricity supply for customers to enjoy.

He explained that some Electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos), who could not fulfill the obligation of the market, were recently disconnected by Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) from the National Grid. This, he said was because of their inability to pay for what they imported as energy.

"The obligation of the market is that you must meet up with the payment for the energy that you are taking.

"Thank God the AEDC is not part of those Discos that were

## AEDC laments N22bn debt owed by electricity customers



Fashola

disconnected, and that is why we are appealing to our customers to pay up their accumulated bills.

"If care is not taken, the disconnection by TCN from the grid can affect AEDC also," Baba said. He, however noted that the drop in the electricity supply in March and April was due to the shortfall in the allocation given to them by TCN from the National Grid.

"We can only dispense to our customers what is being allocated to us. We hope for improvement in the allocation very soon. But if you compared Kogi to other AEDC regions as well as other Discos in terms of megawatts intake, Kogi has improved electricity supply than Nasarrawa and even part of FCT.

"The improvement has started from the beginning of this month of May, and we will continue to improve.

"As from May, almost all our Feeders take 16 hours supply of electricity till this moment, while customers on Band A get over 20 hours supply daily," Baba said.

He noted that Prepaid Meters were available through only one access window called, "Meter Access Provider (MAP)" where customers pay with their money and get the meters unlike before when they were doing Mass Metering giving it out free of charge.

According to him, a single phase meter goes for N63,100, while that of double phase is N118,000 aside the managing director categories, which is N500,000 and above depending on the rating.

He, gave the assurance that the Federal Government and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) are in collaborative efforts to provide over 100 million prepaid meters to customers free of charge.



Ahmed

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mrs Janet Bajeh, the commissioner assured the NYSC of continued partnership with the state government to bring development to the state.

In his remarks, the State

Coordinator of NYSC, Pastor Mrs Mofoluwasho Williams, said they were celebrating five decades of fostering national unity and development in Nigeria.

According to her, the essence of the celebration was to recount the achievements of the scheme over the past 50 years.

Williams, who was represented by Mr Kingsley Musa, NYSC Asst. Director, Corps Discipline and Rewards, said the scheme had been able to live up to its mandate in fostering national unity and development in Nigeria.

The state coordinator gave the assurance that the NYSC would continue to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of Nigeria in all sectors of the economy and foster national unity. "We will not relent, we will continue to do the needful to ensure that Nigeria remains

together", she said.

The state coordinator commended the NYSC DG, Brig. Gen. Yusha'u Ahmed, for the arrangements put in place for the celebration of the 50th anniversary.

The "Unity Walk" was carried out simultaneously in both Lokoja, and Asaya Camp in Kabba.

The NYSC Unity Walk in Kabba was led by the State Coordinator herself, Pastor Mrs Mofoluwasho Adebimpe Williams.

The NYSC was created on May 22, 1973 as an avenue for the reconciliation, reconstruction, and rebuilding of the nation after the civil war.

The NYSC's mandate was to ensure unity, eliminate prejudice and inculcate the spirit of industry among youths, skills acquisition and foster national unity and development in Nigeria.



News

# Commissioner satisfied with PPC renovation

By DUMAH RANDONG



Manjang

PLATEAU State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr Dan Manjang has expressed satisfaction with the ongoing renovation work at the Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), Publishers of **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** and **SUNDAY STANDARD** newspapers.

Manjang on arrival at the premises of the organization Monday to inspect the level of work carried out ahead of the governor's visit to commission the City Line Machine and the renovation work on the structure, was received by the Acting General Manager, Mr. Paul Jatau and management of PPC. He said he was very impressed with the ongoing work which has reached advanced stage and thanked Governor Simon Lalong for ensuring that **The Nigeria Standard** is back on the street.

"We are happy that we are living **The Nigeria Standard** better than we found it. I am very impressed. I am sure if the governor were to come

here himself today, I can tell you for sure that even if he wants to commission this machine today, it is possible, it can be done," he stressed.

The Commissioner further stressed that many of the state publishing houses were no longer on the streets and commended the management and Board of the PPC for being able to keep the organization going. He added that this administration has done its part by coming to its rescue.

On whether the work would include office furniture, the

Commissioner said the work was being done in phases but assured that with further releases, news prints, and other consumables will be purchased to keep the tabloid running. He noted that government is a continuous process. If the furnishing aspect was not done, the next government should continue from where it stopped.

Places inspected by Commissioner included the Newsroom, Technical, and Production Departments as well as the City Line Machine.

## Don't treat NiMET predictions with levity - HYPPADEC MD

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

MANAGING Director of Hydro-Electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC), Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Yelwa has warned riverine communities and a stakeholder's authorities not to treat Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMET) predictions with levity.

Yelwa issued the warning at a stakeholders consultative meeting organised by HYPPADEC in Lokoja to evolve proactive measures to mitigate the likely effects.

The HYPPADEC Managing Director said that the commission could not afford to treat the NiMET prediction with levity as it was based on scientific findings and result of critical investigations on ecological issues.

He said that so far, 80 to 85 per cent of NiMET predictions in the last five years had always been accurate.

"Since we know we have this problem, I think it's time we start talking to ourselves, mobilising and educating our communities to prepare for the possible onslaught.

"We're trying to finalize working on our GIS Lab which will enable us generate flood vulnerability maps, flood extent maps and flood forecasts so that when we receive forecasts from NiMET, we can double check.

"We are also having our own in-house report that we can compare and prove to you, the communities, the need for you to be proactive."

He urged governments and communities in flood prone states to take proactive measures to mitigate the likely effects of the NiMET prediction of imminent flood in 2023.

He said that as direct victims of the perennial floods, the chiefs, council chairmen and the farmers knew the negative impact of flooding and where it pinches most and should be able to proffer manageable solutions.

He urged the stakeholders to organise various community meetings in their respective areas to sensitise the people about flooding.

"These communities have been experiencing flooding year-in, year-out. So, we should not allow ourselves to be taken for granted when we know we can address these issues.

"In the early part of the year, we received NiMET prediction that there would be flooding this year. What it said is that this year's will be worse than last year", he said.

"Afforestation is one of the cardinal aspects of our intervention under the Operations Department and the Governing Council has approved a sizeable sum for afforestation this year.

"And it is as a result of this that we requested Local Governments to donate land for the commission to plant trees to provide necessary shed and value for the communities but we have not received positive results from some of the Local Governments.

"We're trying to finalize working on our GIS Lab which will enable us generate flood vulnerability maps, flood extent maps and flood forecasts.

"We are also having our own in-house report that we can compare and prove to you the communities, the need for you to be proactive."

About the houses we approved for Ibaji, we are still processing the tender reports and I'm sure that in a week or two, we should be able to request the contractors to report to Ibaji and Mozum, Karara and Edeha village near the bridge.

The Managing Director said the Commission was prepared to intervene in communities with serious ecological and drainage issues but was hampered by resources at its disposal.

He however, pledged to partner Local Government Councils in that regard saying,

"One commitment I want to make here and now is, we are prepared to partner with any Local Government that has a budget of N50 million for the control of erosion and

drainages.

"When we check the design and the bills and we are satisfied, we are prepared to finance such project by 60% but they must contribute their 40% down.

"Once they are able to do that, we are prepared to pay 60% on behalf of the commission so that our communities will feel the impact of our presence and we will also feel the impact of the partnership between the Local Government and HYPPADEC", he said.

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 also pledged to uphold the decision of the opposition parties on minority leadership of the House in line with parliamentary best practices. The coalition, known as the "Joint Task - 10" Assembly" comprises 283 members - elect for the APC, the People Democratic Party (PDP), the Labour Party (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 inter-dependence 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.



## Time to work for the people

SINCE elections were held in February and March of this year, there has been palpable tension in the land. Reading through the social media, one cannot but feel sad as those who have won see their victory as a license to mock those who lost while losers engage in all manners of tactics to, according to them, reclaim their stolen mandates. It is, therefore, only reasonable to sound an early note of warning before the swearing-in of the new administration so that people-centred policies would be the focus rather than the fights for the spoils of office which often characterize this period in the life of new administrations.

Most often, some people are excluded in the name of politics. But this is the time to show how well those elected would show their capacities to genuinely live above the expectations of their political leanings. They must be able to select a good team who would do a lot of sacrifice on behalf of the people. What is expected is that the first eleven to be selected to help the leaders pursue their programmes must be people who are selfless and dedicated. They must be ready to burn the midnight oil so that our society can grow and compete with its peers anywhere in the world.

Least I be misunderstood, once elections are won, governance replaces politics. People should not be given positions just because they are loyal party men but because they have demonstrated capacity. They must not be given political positions just to come and chop but be able to make positive contributions which would add value to the people and our society. We must have learnt from the years past where politics has been the only thriving industry where charlatans display their inadequacies in the name of offering service.

The time to look hard and deep is now so as to make

genuine change possible. We must start walking the talk and doing what is right. We cannot keep going in circles in the name of politics. We must allow the process reinvent itself. Those who feel shortchanged should be allowed to pursue the right course of actions to satisfy themselves so as to clear all doubts and genuinely help the process of healing. This means winners must be magnanimous while losers must work to support whoever has won so that when next he too wins, he would be supported and helped to achieve his set goals.

We cannot continue to grope in the dark in the name of trying to find the appropriate means to govern. We already have established models what remains is for our leaders to sieve and create models which suit our purpose and apply same for the growth and development of our society. We must, therefore, strive to move away from the business-as-usual attitude and present teams that would make us proud to be called Nigerians.

Already, we are faced

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.

with a litany of problems and we need to work quickly to ensure they are corrected. Insecurity, hunger, dearth of infrastructure and whole lot of other problems are waiting for leaders to provide solutions to. Unless these are quickly tackled and brought to an end, our quest for development might be hampered.

In the past, the enterprise of governance had been cornered for the enjoyment of a few. And if nothing is done to correct this anomaly, those whose business is managing the resources of the state on behalf of the majority would be lost in the wilderness. It is these contradictions that have brought the country to this position where everyone seems to be on their own and God for all of us. We are at the point where brute force seems to be the only way to survive. This jungle we have deliberately created is a sure path to perdition for us as a country and a people unless we retrace our steps.

How can we return to the path of growth and unity? Justice must be served to all manner of people. The people must be treated as equals and not one tribe lording it over others. Our leaders must rise to the protection of the people whenever an injustice is done to anyone not just their own. They must not allow people to begin to agitate before doing what they are paid to do nor should they be compelled to act when performing their statutory functions. This would douse unnecessary tension.

It is thus another opportunity for our society to get it right. But we cannot get it right if we begin on faulty foundations. Let us put in place deliberate policies that would create a path for growth and development so that history would be kind to us and we would not just be footnotes when our histories are written, but active participants.



## News

# AWCN celebrates culture as tool for peace

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

As part of its efforts to showcase the richness of the world's cultures and the essential role of intercultural dialogue in achieving peace and sustainable development, the Army War College Nigeria (AWCN) on 6 May 2023 organized an International Day Celebration for the participants of Course 7/2023 in Abuja.

In his address, the Special Guest of Honour, Major General AA Fayemiwo, the Chief of Account and Budget (Army) while going round various stands, appreciated the enlightenment on the history and activities of various allied nations, stressing that, cultural diversity is a driving force for development, not only to economic growth but also a means of leading a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life.

General Fayemiwo thanked the Commandant, members of the faculty and staff of the college for their sacrifices towards actualizing and sustaining the vision of the college which according to him would no doubt contribute immensely to the materialization of the Chief of Army Staff vision for the Nigerian Army.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Commandant AWCN, Maj Gen Bamidele Alabi said the International Day event is part of the activities lined up for the AWCN Course



Irabor

7/2023 and the idea of incorporating officers from Nigeria's friendly countries in order to broaden the scope of AWCN's engagement and cross-fertilize ideas needed in professional military education.

General Alabi reiterated that the college has continued to receive participants from allied nations and so far, the college has graduated 16 allied officers.

He added that the International Day celebration is an avenue for the allied participants to showcase their countries to their Nigerian hosts while also having the privilege of seeing the cultural heritage of Nigeria's 6 geographical zones displayed alongside theirs. He, therefore, encouraged the participants to maximize the

opportunity to learn about the cultural heritage of the participating allied officers and that of Nigeria's 6 geopolitical zones.

The Commandant appreciated the COAS Lieutenant General F Yahaya who is also the Chairman of the AWCN Governing Board for his untiring efforts in attending to the numerous requests made by the college.

The Course has 74 participants drawn from the Nigerian Army, Navy, Air Force, and others from the Republic of Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Liberia, Morocco and Niger Republic.

Highlights of the event were cultural displays and presentation of souvenirs to the invited guests.

Erstwhile Director General of the now defunct National Sports Commission (NSC), Alhassan Yakmut has emphasized the need for the incoming President Ahmed Bola Tinubu administration to ensure full implementation of the National Sports Industry Policy (NSIP) approved by the Muhammadu Buhari-led outgoing Federal Executive Council for the administration of sports in the country.

The former Nigerian professional volleyball player, who gave the charge at an interaction with the members of the FCT chapter of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), specifically urged the next minister that will be at the helm of sports to design and construct very contemporary NSIP implementation strategies for the sports industry in the country to start flourishing.

He commended the outgoing administration for initiating the Sports Industry Policy which outlines an effective means of improving the funding of sports, delineating the obligations of the different tiers of government, the participation of the private sector and other stakeholders in sports.

"The National Sports Industry Policy (NSIP) came at the point when an administration was coming to an end and the new president has been elected. So, the new administration that will be coming in, needs to fill in the

## Implement NSIP football masterplan, Yakmut advises Tinubu

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja



Yakmut

gap and ensure full implementation of the policy.

"The policy is well drafted and documented. The new regime will now have to also design and construct very contemporary implementation strategies for the sports industry policy to flourish," he said.

Yakmut also tasked the incoming administration on the implementation of 10-year football masterplan approved by the Buhari administration, saying the masterplan was designed to bring Nigeria out of

the doldrums of running football for peanuts.

The football master plan was supposed to bring us out of the doldrums of running football for peanuts rather than for economic development.

"The economy of the UK is being turned around by football and football is being quoted in the stock exchange. But here in Nigeria, football is a community project like social service and that is what we need to change," he said.

## Accord snake bite the attention it deserves- Medical expert

JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

A medical expert and former Medical Director of Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital, now University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Dr.

Nandul Durfa has called on the government at all levels to accord snake bite the attention it deserves in their health budgets.

Dr. Durfa while speaking with newsmen in his office, decried a situation in which our young people have died and still dying as a result of snake bite.

He said "on the Plateau, the effect of snake bite is an emergency situation in local governments like Shendam, Quana-pan, Lantang North and South, Kanke, Dengi and Yankari of Bauchi State. The people are being troubled by snake bites which has led to the loss of lives and amputations of limbs of so many people before the advent of Echi tab

which is an anti-snake venom.

Dr. Nandul Durfa who is now the Managing Director of Echi-tab Study Nigeria Limited, an organization which provides anti-snake bite venom in Nigeria, explained that it was against this backdrop of rising snake bite in Nigeria Exhibitab study was set up.

The medical expert however appealed to agencies that were concerned with handling health matters and the general public to let fairness and justice to prevail.

Given the cost of treating snake bites, Dr. Durfa stated that it will be appropriate if the government can ameliorate this by buying the drugs in large quantity and distributing such to its various health centres.

## Nigerian army again refutes Reuters claims

The Nigerian Army, (NA), has again refuted alleged claims by international media, Reuters that it carried out mass abortion, massacre of children as well as other allegations of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children during its counter insurgency operations in the North East.

This is as the international news agency, Reuters, has again released another report of alleged human rights violation by Nigeria Military in their counter insurgency operations in the North East.

A Senior Human Rights Adviser to the Executive

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, (NHRC), Hillary Ogbonna, who doubles as the Secretary, Special Independent Investigative Panel on Human Rights Violations in the Counter Insurgency Operations in the North East, (SIIP:NE), stated this in Abuja Monday during a sitting of the investigative panel.

According to the panel, the report which was the follow up to the first reports released by Reuters last year

December was released on the 19th of April and was named, 'Abortion Assault two'.

Mr. Hillary explained that the report highlighted how Reuters arrived at their publications and the allegations against the Nigeria Military in their counter insurgency operations in the North East.

He said, "According to the report, forty soldiers, most of whom were officers, were interviewed by Reuters in the course of the reports."

"December last year, Reuters published reports alleging abortion of ten thousand pregnancies, infanticide and other forms of sexual and gender based violence by the Nigeria Military but the military has since denied the allegations saying it was a deliberate attempt to rubbish the counter insurgency operation."

Meanwhile the Panel in the course of investigations so far has taken testimonies from eighty-four witnesses.

The Nigerian Army, however, debunked Reuters allegations on victims of Boko Haram in the North-East.

While testifying before the panel, the Force Commander, United Nations mission to South-Sudan, Major General Benjamin Sawyer urged the investigative panel to do

everything within its power to unravel the matter; saying the military has a key goal of combating insurgency and restoring peace in the troubled region. It therefore could not have embarked on secret acts alleged in the Reuters report.

"What they have written is completely false, misleading and degrading to the image of Nigerians and the Nigerian Army despite what the military has done to restore normalcy in restive regions."

Also testifying, Retired Major General James Komolafe, former Commander, 21 Brigade, North East, described the Reuters report as deliberate falsehood circulated to rubbish the integrity of the military.

He added that the military was law abiding and no military medical facility will subject itself to such illicit medical practice.

The panel, chaired by a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Abdul-Aboki, is officially known as Special Independent Investigative Panel on Human Rights Violations in the Implementation of Counter Insurgency Operations in the North East.



Yahaya



Ehanire



## Features

# Chronicles of 2023 Illum O'tarok (Tarok Day)

**"If we are to preserve culture, we must continue to create it" Johan Hizinga. ISRAEL NANJUL LAR writes.**

THE cultural day celebration is a colourful festival of dance, cuisine, display of custom and tradition that everyone, especially people of a certain extraction or nation look forward to.

2023 I'lum o'tarok cultural festival was not an exception. It was an opportunity to celebrate the diversity that exists within the the Tarok communities of different clan and extraction that made up the Tarok nation.

This year's festival with the theme: Sustaining Peace and Cultural Solidarity for Economic Growth: Tarok nation in focus is unique because dignitaries across Nigeria and beyond came out en mass in solidarity and support Tarok sons and daughters across the globe.

While welcoming dignitaries to this year's Tarok day celebration, the National president of the Ngwang Ishiotarok Ambassador Danjuma Nanpon Sheni appreciated the state government for the restoration and creation of districts chiefdoms describing it as well deserved adding that the creation was timely.

The Ngwang Ishiotarok, NIO is an acronym for Tarok unity. The association is closely with elders and critical stakeholders of Tarok sons and daughters to ensure that Tarok nation is one indivisible entity.

The NIO further ensures togetherness and oneness of Tarok nation and often brings warring factions to dialogue without pitching camp with one side over the others hence, the motto of NIO is "Nga pyel an yet, nlevunya'kat" meaning, "Forward ever, backward never"

It is worthy of note that there are 36 members of Langtang (Tarok) traditional council and over 28 registered NIO chapters across the country whose untiring efforts in ensuring the success of the festival which symbolises Tarok unity and love of Tarok sons and daughters at home and in diaspora in consolidating Tarok collective gains as a people common lineage geared towards genuine and people oriented cause to believe growth and development of Tarok nation as well as project on all possible avenue of Tarok rich cultural values and heritage.

At the 2023 festival, the Emir of Kanam, HRH Mohamadu M. Mohammed urged the Tarok nation to work together towards electing it's paramount ruler so as to usher in sanity in the Tarok traditional environment so that progress and development would thrive in the land.



**HRH Langnim**

The royal father further admonished the Tarok nation to continue to live in harmony with it's neighbours and appreciated the people for their peaceful disposition and friendship to other tribes within and outside the state including their domains.

The Ponzhi Zinni and Acting Ponzhi Tarok, His royal highness Nimnan Langnim

while speaking said he is in support is the call for a substantive Ponzhi Tarok urging stakeholders to work towards the realisation of a new Ponzhi calling on Tarok sons and to always live in unity and peace with one another.

Similarly the chairman of the occasion and deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Idris Ahmed Wase represented by Hon Nanven

Nimfel noted with appreciation the tremendous support he has been enjoying from the sons and daughters of Tarok extraction especially it's daughter and his colleague Hon Benny Lar.

In the same vein, the chairman of the Tarok elders forum, Air Marshal Jonah D. Wuyep while thanking all none Tarok for their show of love and solidarity towards the Tarok and on solidarity towards the success of the 2023 illumOtarok assures all and sundry that the unity and peaceful coexistence of Tarok nation is nonnegotiable.

He further noted that, without peace and unity, there would be no progress and urged, especially the youths to engage and develop themselves in entrepreneurship/skills acquisition ventures for progress of the land, cautioning them on drugs.

Needless to say that the president of NIO, Ambassador Danjuma Sheni pointed out that NIO under his watch has been committed to peaceful coexistence and calls on Tarok critical stakeholders to put all necessary mechanism towards ensuring a successful election and installation of a paramount ruler (Ponzhi Tarok) the eye of the Tarok nation.

However, the geopolitical and socio-cultural entity that

constitute the present day Ponzhi Tarok stool came into existence with almagamation of the Hill Tarok and the plain Tarok under one traditional jurisdiction and authority in 1955.

Notwithstanding, it is significant to note that this unification resulted in the institution of the stool of Ponzhi Tarok which is an embodiment of the cultural heritage of the Tarok people. Hence, this political metamorphosis into what is today known as Langtang North and South local government areas. The legal instruments establishing the stool of the Ponzhi Tarok was published in the gazette No 43 of 1975.

It therefore behoves on the leadership of Ambassador Danjuma Sheni, joint traditional council and other critical stakeholders to match words with action to set machinery in place for the election and installation of a new Ponzhi Tarok for the Tarok nation progress and stability.

Good will messages came from chairman of the central planning committee of the 2023 illum Otarok, Dr. Nanzing Nden, chairman Langtang LGA amongst others

Highlights of the occasion was the performance of different traditional dancers from within and outside Tarok land, display of different Tarok delicacies and different Tarok costumes.



**Tarok dancers**



## Foreign News

### India's population to surpass China in coming days - UN

UN Population Division has China's foreign ministry will expel a Canadian diplomat from the country's Shanghai consulate as a "reciprocal countermeasure" hours after Canada declared a Chinese diplomat in China's Toronto consulate as "persona non grata" over alleged involvement in a campaign to intimidate a Canadian legislator critical of Beijing.

Lalonde has been asked to leave China before May 13, it added.

In a statement on Monday, Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly said Ottawa would expel Chinese diplomat Zhao Wei over the intimidation campaign.

The furore began last month when Canada's The Globe and Mail newspaper reported that Beijing had sought information about a Canadian legislator's relatives who may be in China in a likely effort to "make an example of this MP" by targeting his next of kin in order to deter others in Canada from taking positions against the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The newspaper cited a report by Canada's spy agency. The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) report did not name the legislator, but the Globe said a national security source identified the politician as Michael Chong, a member of the opposition Conservative Party of Canada. A Chinese official at China's consulate in Toronto was said to be involved in the intrigue, according to reports.

The China-Canada relationship has been frosty for several years, especially after Canadian authorities detained Huawei Technologies executive Meng Wanzhou in 2018 on a US arrest warrant.



Jinping

China then arrested two Canadians on spying charges.

The standoff ended when all three people were released in 2021, but relations have remained sour over several points of contention, including human rights and trade.

Canadian Prime Minister

Justin Trudeau has also faced growing calls in recent months to investigate allegations that the Chinese government has interfered in the country's elections and is operating covert "police stations" in Canada.

body's viability is at risk if it cannot cooperate with the country that controls more than half of the Arctic coastline.

An ineffective Arctic Council could have dire implications for the region's environment and its 4 million inhabitants, who face the effects of melting sea ice and the interest of non-Arctic countries in the region's mostly untapped mineral resources.

The work of the council - made up of the eight Arctic states of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway,

### Ukraine's allies accused Russia of violating UN charter

Russia, Sweden and the United States - has produced binding agreements in the past on environmental protection and preservation.

It is also a rare platform giving a voice to the region's Indigenous peoples. It does not deal with security issues.

But with the end of cooperation with Moscow, about a third of the council's 130 projects are on hold, new projects cannot go ahead and existing ones cannot be renewed. Western and Russian scientists no longer share climate change findings, for example, and cooperation for possible search-and-rescue missions or oil spills has stopped.

The Arctic is warming about four times as fast as the rest of the world.

As sea ice vanishes, polar waters are opening to shipping and other industries eager to exploit the region's

bounty of natural resources, including oil, gas, and metals such as gold, iron and rare earth minerals.

The discord between Russia and the other Arctic Council members means that an effective response to these changes is far less likely.

Russia argues this work cannot continue without it.

Adding to the worries is the possibility that Russia will go its own way on issues affecting the region or even establish a rival council.

Recently, it has taken steps to expand cooperation in the Arctic with non-Arctic states.

On April 24, Russia and China signed a memorandum establishing cooperation between the countries' coastguards in the Arctic.

Days earlier, on April 14, Russia invited China, India, Brazil and South Africa - the BRICS countries - to conduct research at its settlement on Svalbard, an Arctic archipelago under Norwegian sovereignty where other countries may operate under a 1920 Treaty.

Norway said it is "optimistic" a seamless transition of the chairmanship from Russia can be achieved because it is in the interest of all Arctic states to maintain the Arctic Council.

That will not be easy, given Oslo's own strained relations with Moscow. In April, Oslo expelled 15 Russian diplomats saying they were spies. Moscow denied the accusations, and Korchunov said the expulsions undermined the trust needed for cooperation.

Analysts said NATO member Norway, which shares an Arctic border with Russia, is still well-placed to handle the delicate balancing act with Moscow.

A Senegalese court has handed opposition figure Ousmane Sonko a six-month suspended sentence in an appeal of a defamation case that could jeopardise his run for president next year.

In March, he received a two-month suspended sentence and a hefty fine in March for defaming Tourism Minister Mame Mbaye Niang. On Monday, a Dakar appeals court increased the term to six months, potentially making Sonko ineligible for the vote.

Baboucar Cisse, a lawyer for the minister, told reporters the sentence would rule Sonko out of the 2024 presidential vote if confirmed following a six-day period for appeals.

Sonko, 48, came third in the 2019 presidential election and intends to stand again in 2024, but two court cases could ruin his candidacy.

A spokesman for Sonko's party, Ousseynou Ly, and supporters on social media also said the ruling would scupper his bid if upheld, but the politician's lawyers left the court without responding to questions. The court also

ordered Sonko to pay 200 million CFA francs (about \$330,000) in damages to Niang.

Sonko failed to turn up to Monday's proceedings, after warning he would no longer

respond to court summons without guarantees for his safety.

Al Jazeera correspondent Nicolas Haque reports that the opposition leader has already called for a national movement of civil disobedience and said he wouldn't attend trials due to a lack of trust in government institutions to dispense justice.

Sonko is also facing trial later this month for alleged "rape and death threats" over a complaint filed by an employee at a beauty salon where he went for a massage.

He appeared to refer to his claims of a March assassination attempt by police during his forced transfer to the Dakar court during initial defamation proceedings.

In addition to appealing his defamation conviction, Sonko has denied the rape charge, saying he is the victim of a plot by President Macky Sall to torpedo his 2024 candidacy.

The government has denied the accusation and alleged Sonko has drummed up demonstrations to avoid justice.

Prosecutor General Ibrahim Bakhom had called on the court to have Sonko arrested and jailed.

Sonko's court sessions are often sources of tension and near-paralysis of traffic in the capital, as he usually travels to court with a procession of sympathisers.

The rape charge against Sonko in 2021 triggered riots in which at least 12 people were killed in the West African country, which is viewed as politically stable in a turbulent region.

Sall's refusal to rule out running for a controversial third term as president - which his opponents say would be unconstitutional - has also increased political tensions.

### Defamation: sonko to spend 6 months in Jail



Sall

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### Dozens of police seize ex-PM outside court

Mr Khan was appearing in court on charges of corruption, which he says are politically motivated.

Footage showed dozens of paramilitary forces in armoured vehicles detaining Mr Khan after he entered the court compound, then driving him away.

Mr Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has called on its supporters to protest. In the hours since he was detained, violence has been reported from a number of cities including Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar.

On the streets of Islamabad, hundreds of protesters blocked one of the main highways in and out of the capital.

People pulled down street signs and parts of overpasses, lit fires and threw stones. During the hour or so that the BBC was there, no police or authorities were visible.

Footage from Lahore posted on Twitter appeared to show crowds breaking into the military corps commander's house, destroying furniture and belongings inside.

Protesters in the main port city of Karachi have been

blocking a main road, Reuters reported.

It said at least 10 people, including six police officers, had been injured in the south.

Protests were reported from various cities in Pakistan, including Karachi.

The case involves allegations over the allotment of land in the so-called Al-Qadir Trust, which is owned by Mr Khan and his wife.

Mr Khan, who is being held at an undisclosed location, denies breaking any law.

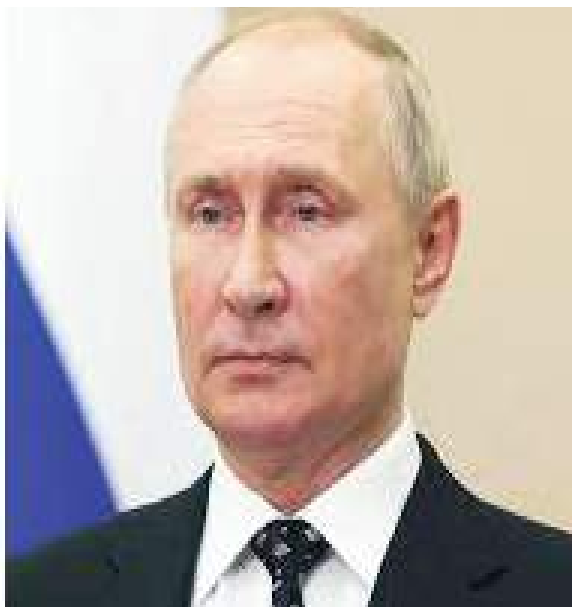
Imran Khan has been the main opposition leader since being ousted by his opponents in parliament a year ago.

Security was tight in the centre of the capital for the former PM's court appearance.

Mr Khan was appearing in court on charges of corruption, which he says are politically motivated.

Footage showed dozens of paramilitary forces in armoured vehicles detaining Mr Khan after he entered the court compound, then driving him away.

He was ousted as PM in April last year and has been campaigning for early elections since then.



putin



## Feature

# Quality governance and federal character issues

**Nigeria is a federal republic in the sense that there is both a national government and governments of its 36 states and it utilizes the form of government in which the people hold power, but elect representatives to exercise and utilize that power with the executive power exercised by the president. Mike Umogun writes.**

ACCORDING to Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, "Federal character is essentially affirmative to create a balance...it should be based on merit" such that "if we are to reserve an office for a particular zone, that zone should be able to produce the best candidate."

The best candidates must be ones that can stand on their own and can deliver on assigned mandate. The candidates need not be a member of any registered political party. Recent comments by the president elect Asiwaju Bola Tinubu points to the same fact. However our experience so far is in abeyance of this common sense and reality in our polity.

The federal character in government has turned into an instrument for compensating political cronies and supporters across the 6 geo political zones in the country. The skepticism on the manipulation of the federal character requirements has made many watchers of public policy to push for a realistic review that would enhance the federal character initiative.

Former Central Bank Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi had asked, obviously in indignation, why federal character had always been pursued at the expense of merit and competence. HRM Sanusi has wondered why the development indicators of the north have not improved considering the amount of northern leaders that governed the country since independence. His point is very simple, development indicators do not improve by the amount of people that are in power from your region rather it would be measured by the amount of better schools, better housing, better hospital, better social infrastructure and gross domestic product of the country.

According to a recent editorial in the Guardian Newspaper, The principle of federal character is enshrined in the constitution of Nigeria for such laudable reasons as inclusion, representation, sense of belonging and balance in the polity. Above all, it serves a uniting purpose in this multi-ethnic, multi-religious country of many nations. Indeed, these reasons are expressed in Section 14(3) of the extant constitution thus: "The composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and to promote national unity and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that



**Buhari**

there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that government or any of its agencies." Section 14(4) restates this principle for the states and the local councils.

Most recently, President Muhammadu Buhari submitted names to the Senate for approval as commissioners in the Federal Character Commission. The chairman is Muheeba F. Dankaka from the northern state of Kwara. The sitting secretary is Mohammed Bello Tukur Esq. With her appointment, the top five positions in the commission are firmly occupied by northerners.

A development that prompted Osita Chidoka, former minister of aviation to cite this as one of the "seeds of national discord that has been systematically sowed over the past few years by the outgoing government..." he says if the FCC itself is thus compromised, how effective it can implement its mandate is anybody's guess. This is why we are all waiting for the cabinet and non cabinet appointments by the president elect Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

### Government of National Competence

According to Tinubu his government would focus on Competence. In his words neither religion nor ethnicity and other such considerations would determine

consideration.

According to the editorial board of the Guardian Diversity in a polity can be a strength, or a weakness, depending on how it is managed by those entrusted with the affairs of state. Armed with a constitutional provision, there can be no reason for any government to fail to act for inclusiveness, balance and stability in the political and administrative setup of this country of complex diversity. If the FCC Act is transparently implemented, it will foster equity and a sense of belonging among the constituent groups of Nigeria. This will improve trust, cooperation and development. On the other hand, stability, peace and development eludes a country that is controlled by a provincial-minded leadership.

### The pledge by the incoming President

Tinubu has promised the electorate that "As your incoming president, I accept the task before me. There has been talk of a government of national unity. My aim is higher than that. I seek a government of national competence.

"In selecting my government, I shall not be weighed down by considerations extraneous to ability and performance. The day for political gamesmanship is long gone. The 2023 Presidential polls are over. I shall assemble competent men and women and young people from across Nigeria to build a safer, more prosperous and just Nigeria. "There shall be young people. Women shall be prominent. Whether your faith leads you to pray in a church or mosque will not determine your place in government. Character and competence will.

"To secure our nation and to make it prosperous must be our top priorities. We cannot sacrifice these goals to political expediencies. The whims of politics must take a backseat to the imperatives of governance. The elections and campaigns are over.

"We have bridges and roads to build not just for commerce and travel but to connect people of different faiths, parties and different outlooks in harmonious dialogue and common purpose. We have families to feed not just to eliminate hunger but to nurture enlightenment, civic responsibility and compassion.

"We have jobs to create not merely to put people to work but to afford all a better standard of living by which families and communities are improved and democracy deepened. We have water to replenish not just to quench physical thirst but to ignite a thirst for creative and better solutions to society's challenges.

"We have a nation to protect such that we eliminate danger and even the fear of danger. May all of our people be able to live their lives in the light of peace and the glow of broadening prosperity". According to him, an important step towards restoring economic normalcy has been taken by the Supreme Court's decision on the parity of old and new notes.

He said: "This restores both the rule of law and economic decency. But this is not the end of the story. It is merely the beginning of a more comprehensive solution to our economic challenges."

We are watching and waiting for you Mr. President – elect.

**"The principle of federal character is enshrined in the constitution of Nigeria for such laudable reasons as inclusion, representation, sense of belonging and balance in the polity. Above all, it serves a uniting purpose in this multi-ethnic, multi-religious country of many nations. Indeed, these reasons are expressed in Section 14(3) of the extant constitution thus: "The composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and to promote national unity and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that government or any of its agencies." Section 14(4) restates this principle for the states and the local councils."**



# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

## What can cause low libido in women?

IF your desire for sex has taken a dip, don't worry, low libido in women is a common problem that tends to be both temporary and fixable. The first step is to pinpoint the cause.

Authored by Amberley Davis •  
Reviewed by Dr Krishna Vakharia  
What is low libido?

If you have a low libido, also known as low sex drive, you don't desire sex very often, or sometimes not at all. If this sounds familiar, it's important to remember that your libido - a fancy word that simply means 'sexual desire' - can peak and fall throughout your life.

"Low libido can affect both men and women at different times in their lives and depends on several factors, including their age, hormonal changes, and external stressors such as relationships, work, and life events."

When your disinterest in sex lasts longer than six months and is a big source of distress and frustration, you may be diagnosed with hypoactive sexual desire disorder. Patel explains that this is more common in women than men, affecting up to one in three of us over our lifetime.

**What are the reasons for low libido?**

**Stress, anxiety or depression causing low libido**

"When a person is anxious or stressed, they have higher levels of cortisol which is the main stress hormone in the body. High levels of cortisol can suppress sex hormone levels that affect desire."

The same goes for low mood and negative thoughts, a dip in sexual desires being a key sign that you might be suffering with depression<sup>3</sup>.

**Relationship problems**

Sexual problems and relationship problems tend to be a two-way street: if you and your partner are struggling with disagreements or a lack of communication or trust, the emotional disconnect can make



physical intimacy difficult and cause low libido. At the same time, a lack of sexual activity in your relationship may sometimes cause an emotional rift.

**Vaginal dryness**

Low libido in women could also have roots in a physical condition. One of the most common causes is vaginal dryness, which can make sex uncomfortable or painful as a side-effect. "Our sexual desire is managed by the same hormones that change with our menstrual cycle, meaning that if oestrogen levels are low, it is more likely to cause symptoms such as vaginal dryness," explains Patel.

Your GP may prescribe hormonal creams, tablets, or rings to treat this problem. If oestrogen isn't the issue, or you're unable to use hormonal treatments, then Thomas recommends finding a lubricant - your pharmacist will be able to advise.

**Hormonal fluctuations**

You're probably aware that hormonal changes occur during the menopause, but did you know that this is a really common cause of low libido in women at this stage in their lives? Thomas highlights that several possible factors can cause loss of libido, including emotions, vaginal dryness, and night sweats. "The good thing is this is normally only short-term and your interest in sex can come back - but give this time."

**Some medications**

It's important to check if any medications you take may affect libido. Patel highlights common culprits for all genders include high blood pressure tablets and antidepressants. In some studies<sup>5</sup>, hormonal contraceptive pills, patches, or implants have also been found to decrease sex drive in women, although more research is needed on hormonal

contraception and female sexuality.

**Recreational drugs**

It's not just prescription drugs that may be interfering with your sex life. The following are also possible contributors to low libido in women and men:

1. Smoking - this can obstruct our blood flow, which may impair sexual performance and desire.

Alcohol - over-consumption may interfere with crucial sexual arousal functions, including blood flow and sensitivity of nerve endings.

Some illicit drugs may also contribute to low libido.

**Other medical conditions**

According to Patel, two common examples include:

**An underactive thyroid gland.** "This means your body makes more of a hormone called prolactin, which can lead to vaginal dryness, making intimacy painful. Hormone and blood levels can change as you age, so having regular blood tests to monitor an underactive thyroid level is recommended."

**Diabetes.** "Increased sugar levels are dangerous to blood vessels and nerves and can cause a reduction in blood flow, which obstructs feeling (sensitivity) to areas around your body, including the genitals."

**Low self-esteem and poor body image**

"If you aren't feeling great about yourself then you may not feel like getting naked and being vulnerable, and this is another libido hit," says Thomas. "Many people struggle with their bodies, and we're constantly being bombarded with seemingly

perfect images of people on social media.

**How to treat a low libido**

Thomas' advice to be kind to yourself and to be open with any partners you may have is an important message. It's also one that you should apply, no matter the reason for your low sex drive.

Thomas also adds that, whatever the reason for your low libido, you can talk to your doctor and look at over-the-counter options. You can also look at adjusting your lifestyle, as this may "help put the zest back into your sex life".

•**Look at your diet** - a balanced diet with fruit and veg, good fats, proteins, and lots of water will have a direct impact on your mood.

•**Take regular exercise** - this will help to boost your body image, lift your mood, and release feel-good hormones which could also help to boost your libido.

•**Deal with stress** - by talking it over with a friend, family member, partner, or your GP.

•**Ditch alcohol**, cigarettes, and other non-prescribed drugs.

•**Make time for intimacy** - date night ideas include going to see a romantic movie or having a massage at home to gently awakening your senses again. This also means being open and honest with your partner. They won't want you to be unhappy and may want to help you feel more confident and sexual so you can enjoy one another again.

Sources: Medicalnews.com





# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

# Health benefits tropical garden egg

GARDEN Egg is a good source of dietary fiber and other minerals and vitamins such as vitamin B1, potassium, folate, manganese, magnesium, copper, Vitamin B6, niacin, and other secret nutrients. .

**Health Benefits Garden Egg: Promotes Weight Loss**

Eating eggplant, especially the greenish type, is beneficial in weight reduction because they contain low carbohydrates and calories essential for weight management.

Overweight individuals who want to lose or retain their average weight can also add eggplant.

**Rich in Antioxidants**

Anthocyanins and flavonoids are essential and powerful phytonutrients and antioxidants in eggplants that help protect the body system and add many health-promoting benefits to the human body.

**Rich in Vitamin B**

Garden egg is a natural source of vitamin B's such as thiamin, niacin, B6, and pantothenic acid that helps the body properly use fat and protein; and positively contributes to the nervous system.

Vitamin B plays a vital role in promoting good health and well-being. It helps in brain development and also helps in making sure that the immune and nervous system works properly.

**Promotes Healthy Bone**

They contain many potent minerals such as folate, manganese, vitamin K, magnesium, vitamin C, and copper that help bone strengthening and general bone health.

Consuming eggplant is highly beneficial in preventing the risk of bone degradation and osteoporosis.

**Helps in Digestion**

Garden eggs are fibrous fruits that help in proper food digestion and control of bowel movement. Due to this fiber content in the fruit, they reduce constipation and improve digestion.

Garden eggs are one of the most significant sources of dietary fiber, an essential element in any balanced diet.

**Good for Pregnant Women**

These fruits contain minerals, vitamins, and other crucial nutritional properties during pregnancy.

The properties of garden eggs help pregnant women and unborn children with healthy situational conditions.

**Prevents Anemia**

The garden egg has been found to serve as a natural medicine for treating several health conditions such as bronchitis, colic (pain in the abdomen caused by obstruction of the intestine), stress relief, headache, and others if consumed daily.

**Prevents Diabetes**

Garden eggs, a source of soluble



fiber and carbohydrates, can help control and prevent diabetes.

Foods that are rich in fiber and carbohydrates help in the regulation of blood sugar levels and glucose absorption.

It is an excellent food for people with diabetes, as it will go a long way in reducing and preventing type 2 diabetes.

**Maintains Blood Pressure Levels**

Garden eggs contain a high amount of calcium, magnesium, potassium, and phosphorus. These minerals contained in it help in maintaining electrolyte balance in our body.

It aids in neutralizing sodium effects in the body, thereby controlling blood pressure levels.

An antioxidant in garden eggs known as chlorogenic acid also helps reduce cholesterol levels in the body.

Therefore regular consumption of garden eggs helps maintain good blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

**Prevents heart diseases**

Garden eggs are rich in vitamin B1 and B6 (thiamin and niacin). These vitamins are essential in the body for proper heart functioning and cellular respiration. It's rich in potassium and also helps in blood pressure regulation.

Vitamin B1 deficiency leads to cardiovascular problems. Therefore, foods rich in vitamin B1 are vital in ensuring a healthy nervous system and improving the cardiovascular's proper functioning.

Vitamin B6 helps in maintaining a healthy



nervous system. Consuming garden eggs can significantly help in preventing heart disorders.

**Side Effects**

Garden eggs, when consumed excessively, have side effects. Pregnant women shouldn't drink this fruit regularly because of its diuretic nature, which can stimulate menstruation.

Consuming garden eggs regularly can also lead to acidity problems. Garden egg is a good source of potassium good, but

there are side effects if taken excessively.

Too much potassium can cause vomiting and stomach upset. Excess fiber can cause diarrhea, constipation, and difficulty in nutrient absorption.

Garden egg belongs to the nightshade family plant, causing allergies like nausea, itchiness, rashes, and throat swelling. Therefore you should consume garden eggs moderately to avoid their side effects.

**Conclusion**

Health professionals have

suggested that eggplants should be eaten in moderate quantities daily because of the fruit's numerous medicinal and health values, which are essential in overall health development.

One good thing about it is that it is a fruit consumed by all ages because they contain all beneficial properties which aid in general health promotion. It is an excellent food that more blood to our body and provides us with lots of vitamins and minerals needed for a healthy body. **Source: finelib.com.**



**Editorial**

**As University of Jos convoke graduates**

COME the 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, May 2023, one of Nigeria's foremost institutions of learning, the University of Jos will conduct its 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> combined convocation ceremony for its graduating students. The ceremony which will include issuing awards of Diploma and Degree certificates to gradaunds, conferment of Masters, PhD and Honourary Degrees will climax with a public lecture on the topic "Combating Climate Change for National Security and Development to be delivered by the Director, Climate Change and Green Growth, Africa Development Bank, Abidjan, Prof. Anthony Okon Nyong .

THE choice of this topic is not far-fetched after coming to terms with the precarious disposition of most African nations necessitated by the devastating consequences of climate change phenomenon. As it is, climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity.

RECORDS have indicated that climate impact the world over are already harming health, through air pollution, diseases, extreme weather, forced displacements, pressure on mental health and increased hunger and poor nutrition.

THIS aside, the citadel of learning has for decades now continued to produce intellectuals who have consistently contributed immensely to the integration and brightening the prospects of Nigeria before the comity of nations. Most of the researches conducted by the institution in synergy with established and respected multi-national conglomerates have distinguished it as one of the second generation institutions which has not disappointed scholars in the nation.

AS a prelude to the epoch making event, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Ishaya Tanko, visited Governor Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State where he drew the attention of the Governor to several problems bedeviling the institution including the issue of illegal encroachment of the University land by neighboring communities.

TRUTH be told, the University has since its establishment faced several daunting challenges ranging from that of security, inadequate accommodation for both students and staff. As the University prepares for its 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> combined convocation and investiture of the institution we are of the opinion that it is high time that these challenges be given proper attention.

WE also wish to re-echo the suggestions of many concerned individuals that to help curb the incessant killings of students with impunity, a police barracks be established within the area. This, when achieved would help put a stop to the senseless killings of innocent students. It would also not be out of place for the Plateau State government to actively spearhead the cause of finding lasting solutions to the teething problems bedeviling the university all these decades.

STRINGENT measures must also be taken against all those who encroached into the university land so as to serve as deterrence to others while the management of the institution also intensify efforts towards restoring the lost glory of this citadel of learning. For the gradaunds, they must become true ambassadors of the institution wherever they find themselves as anything short of this would be a disservice to their fatherland.

AS we join millions of Nigeria to identify with the management of University Jos over the giant strides so far recorded, it is our collective hope that in no distant future, the institution would emerged amongst the best leading tertiary institutions in the world.

IN criminal law, kidnapping is the unlawful confinement of a victim against their will which often causes fear and trauma the perpetrator may use a weapon of force on the victim which leads to captivity and can be referred as kidnapping.

It is common knowledge that taxis and other means of transportation are used to perpetrate such act which has gained a scandancy in Nigeria. Therefore, Government needs to take proactive steps to address security issues in the country. Unfortunately the Nigeria Police art have become apprehensive as families barricade themselves at night like prisoners for fear of criminals.

**Nigerian Youths and political violence**

POLITICAL violence is becoming a global phenomenon which many nations find within their political system, it refers to various forms of crises in the society particularly during elections and politically related violence are always attributed to the teeming youths that are suppose to be the backbone of

Statistics have shown that at least 7,222 Nigerians have been killed and 3,823 abducted across the country while 2840 incidents of kidnapping have been reported between January 1, 2022 and July 29, 2022.

Therefore I wish to use this medium of the Nigerian Standard newspaper to express my concern over the increasing cases of insecurity across Nigeria and hope that the Federal Government

**Government should take proactive steps on kidnapping**

together with all security agencies including stakeholders would synergize in taking proactive measures that would curb the menace of kidnapping by criminal groups

in order to keep Nigeria safe and productive.

**By Abdul Azeez Abubakar is an IT Student from Federal Polytechnic**



**Nigerian Youths and political violence**

every society but due to idleness, lack of education, unemployment, poor orientation and greed of political class. Another factor which reinforces violence in African political system is the desperate attitude towards politics among African politicians, the desperation among some African politicians,

to win elections and occupy political offices by all means is a major cause of political violence in the political realm of the continent other illegitimate youths which may have been absolved as personal assistance and special body guards during campaigns and other struggles

just hogan political power.

In some cases, it is the contestants who are aspiring to come into political power organize some youth and provide essential arms that would be used to enforce fear during election. It is said that when two elephants meet only the grass suffers", it is simply the youths who are at the middle of those desperate fellows are being used against each other and even the innocent civilians who peacefully want to exercise the right to vote for a representative with pure intention and hoping to choose a credible candidate that will protect their interest.

**Effects of rape on victims**

RAPE is said to be a forced sexual intercourse without the person's consent.

However some of the major contributing factors to such menace include indecency, speaking in vulgar and offensive manner by some males etc.

The use of vulgar and offensive words which certain people use naturally suggests sex to the opposite sex. A lady who often uses the 'fuck you' word indirectly communicates that she is use to it and this builds up in the mind of the opposite sex and he eventually carries out his evil act.

Often times the uncontrolled urge to have sex brings about this disaster upon people. Alcoholism and drugs also have a high tendency of increased sexual urge amongst offenders the good and bad people of the society are often caught as either the victim or the offender because this is when the person is at the wrong place and at the wrong time.

Furthermore my advice to young girls is to be mindful of the specific time they do visit their boyfriends, most especially late at night in some cases when the light are out the next thing that come to the guy's mind is sex"

Religious institutions have a vital role in preaching to their members on the need to be decent, it may interest you to know that perpetrators of rape and other sexual offences might not be who you think but sometimes people that are closely attached to each other.

However research has proven that 1 out of 2 rapes cases are carried out by their partner or ex partner and also 98% of adults prosecuted for sexual offences are men and 5 and 6 rapes against women are carried out by someone they know.

Rape is indeed a social vice perpetrated by individuals of the society and the nation at large and if not dealt with, has negative effects to victims of such act.

In addition, the psychological motivations of rapists are more complex than it was formerly thought it include the desire to punish to gain revenge to cause pain or to cause sexual prowess etc.

The psychological reactions of victims of rape also varies but usually include feelings of shame victims can also be traumatized confusion and any fear and rage with them.

Moreover the duration of the psychological trauma varies from individual to individual whereby many feel the negative effects for years even with considerable supportive therapy.

I therefore appeal to the government and non-governmental organizations to sensitize the general public and rape victims by organizing workshops, seminars and conferences in public & private institutions on the need for rape victims to speak up and never feel intimidated and also report such cases to relevant authorities.

Supportive therapy should be given to victims to boost their psychological and emotional wellbeing.

Lastly, advocacy and human rights activists should Endeavour to stand and speak up against rape and they should ensure that these criminals are brought to book. To serve on a deterrent to both rapist and other animal minds in the society.

**By Jonathan Rabo Dammo writes from the Plateau state Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi, Mass Communication Department.**

During campaigns the money and offer of some the materials to the people have become order of the day across African nations that cannot be left out and is also a relevant factor responsible for continued spread of political violence, the level of poverty on the continent is an intimidation to the innocent youths may give it through if circumstances warrants the opportunity to participate in violence it will be done just to survive, the politicians store huge amount of money that will be use during electoral campaigns inform of gift to the poor especially those in the rural areas just to win people's consent not only to vote but to justified their sponship tuggery.

**Gloria Jared is an IT student of Kwarafa University Wukari.**

**Standard Cartoon**





## Opinion

# Whistleblowing: Strategy for tackling gender-based violence

Repeatedly, studies have shown that there is a rising incidence of gender-based violence in different forms in Nigeria. These include sexual harassment, rape, physical violence, socio-economic violence, emotional and psychological violence, harmful traditional practices, online bullying, and trafficking of women, among others. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains a challenge that significantly stymies women's rights and opportunities across the country. What would we not give to halt this dreadful phenomenon that is widely known to be a serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening issue?

By **NKECHI UGWU**

IN 2020, during one of the activities to mark #16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Abuja, Mary Ekpere-Etta, director-general of the National Centre for Women Development (NCWD), noted that genuine support for women, girls/boys to survive gender-based violence will help in breaking the culture of silence in domestic violence which had led to many deaths and truncated dreams. In view of her assertion, there is no doubt that whistleblowing will be most appropriate in pushing for action to encourage victims to report the many unfair treatments by perpetrators of gender-based violence in the country.

According to Sima Bagous, Executive Director of UN Women, "Violence against women is an existing global crisis that thrives on other crises. Conflict, climate-related natural disasters, food insecurity and human rights violations all contribute to women and girls living with a sense of danger, even in their own homes, neighbourhoods, or communities."

There is the potential for intense gender-based violence getting more serious in this age of internet technology which has succeeded in creating an atmosphere for online bullying that is capable of destabilizing women, girls and boys for taking positive advantage of the internet. Therefore, it is reasonable to suggest that the presence of the internet has made GBV thrive globally.

In recalling the circumstances that had caused GBV to flourish in Nigeria and across the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic is undoubtedly a major culprit. The pandemic has contributed immensely to increasing gender-based violence. In Nigeria, the most low-income earners are women

whose daily income is dependent on daily sales. They are the ones who bore the brunt of the COVID-19 lockdown. For their daily income they depend on daily sales. This means "no sales and no money to care for their families." The lockdown had an unprecedented negative economic impact on families and exacerbated some of the risk factors for violence against women and children in many homes in Nigeria where poverty has been rated high. Also, prevalent during the lockdown were cases of emotional and physical violence which had been declared by researchers to be underreported. Moreso, findings have linked low social-economic status to an increased risk of domestic violence during the lockdown.

Similarly, the post-pandemic incident of GBV seems to be more prevalent considering the high rate of inflation and yet it is underreported mostly due to the culture of silence predominantly among the citizens. According to Ulla Elisabeth Mueller, Country Representative of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), part of the reason for underreporting is that victims chose to be silent instead of reporting the crime. They feel ashamed to stand up to say, "I was raped." Usually, victims are traumatized and dehumanized. If we are serious about reducing GBV in Nigeria, we must end the culture of silence related to reporting gender-based crimes. GBV can be limited by increasing the rate of reporting it and punishing offenders. By so doing, we would be contributing to realising goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Increasing the rate of reporting gender-based crime is an area where whistleblowing can be

meaningfully deployed. Presently, the whistleblowing policy has been recognized by Nigerians as an important mechanism for reporting all forms of wrongdoing, the absence of a whistleblower protection law notwithstanding. This policy was announced by President Muhammadu Buhari in December 2016. Since then, development partners and relevant stakeholders have been working to raise awareness about the policy and encouraging government to enact a whistleblower protection law as a way of enhancing citizen participation in the fight against corruption and other wrongdoing. Thankfully, a draft whistleblower protection bill was approved last December at a Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting. It will be transmitted as an executive bill to the National Assembly for passage into law, hopefully before the tenure of the Buhari administration ends on 29 May, 2023.

With the passage of the whistleblower protection law in sight, it's apt to start expanding the

frontier of violations by drumming support for adopting whistleblowing as a viable instrument for reporting gender-based crimes in Nigeria. Toeing this line will be consequential because it will help boost the efforts in addressing the culture of silence and low reporting which has been identified as one critical issue in checkmating gender-based atrocities in the country.

To that extent, it will be beneficial if victims of gender-based violence in all ramifications are provided with an anonymous whistleblowing platform to encourage victims to speak up to enable them to access help from relevant authorities, as well as get medical care, psychological support, and justice at the end of the day. This is achievable seeing how useful the policy has been in aiding the recovery of stolen public funds thereby reducing corruption in the country.

The African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL) is currently working with partners and other relevant civil society organisations to expand the scope of

the whistleblowing policy strategy in addressing different issues that the policy can strategically impact.

The novelty of the whistleblowing strategy is that tips can be submitted anonymously by relations of the victims, their friends, or any concerned citizen, for immediate action. The strategy will offer an opportunity for confidentiality in terms of reporting GBV cases and provide safety, legal support and ultimately justice for victims while contributing to statistical record-keeping and improving case management of gender-based crimes in the country.

In light of the above, seeing the usefulness of whistleblowing and the gap it seeks to address, it is hoped that partners will see the need to support its use as a veritable tool in curbing gender-based violence in the country.

**Nkechi Ugwu is Snr Programme Officer (M&E) at the African Centre for Media & Information Literacy (AFRICMIL).**

**"Violence against women is an existing global crisis that thrives on other crises. Conflict, climate-related natural disasters, food insecurity and human rights violations all contribute to women and girls living with a sense of danger, even in their own homes, neighbourhoods, or communities." There is the potential for intense gender-based violence getting more serious in this age of internet technology which has succeeded in creating an atmosphere for online bullying that is capable of destabilizing women, girls and boys for taking positive advantage of the internet. Therefore, it is reasonable to suggest that the presence of the internet has made GBV thrive globally.**

# Nation-building and demands of citizenship

Nation-building will not be possible if a number of citizens are largely ignorant or insouciant about their part in solving the puzzle. The leadership can do its bit, but in our pottery wheel lies the greater task of moulding Nigeria the way we want it to be.

By **FREDRICK NWABUFO**

TO suggest that the advancement of any society chiefly hangs on the elements of homogeneity and lateral filial connections is a self-determining fallacy. Nature bubbles in divergence and eclecticism. The beauty and wonders of our world are by the fashioning of heterogeneous intelligence. Man was not made to be culturally, socially, morphologically, and linguistically unipolar.

So, in essence, Nigeria's multiformity is not the dominating factor for its seeming ungovernability. Rather, it is the abuse and exploitation of differences; abnegation of civic duty, denuded understanding of citizenship, refusal to submit to the collective interest, native nationalism, and the absence of a rallying identity and cause, that are the denominators of

**So, in essence, Nigeria's multiformity is not the dominating factor for its seeming ungovernability. Rather, it is the abuse and exploitation of differences; abnegation of civic duty, denuded understanding of citizenship, refusal to submit to the collective interest, native nationalism, and the absence of a rallying identity and cause, that are the denominators of Nigeria's quandary."**

Nigeria's quandary.

Those who say Nigeria needs to splinter according to ethnic determination to achieve unity, peace and progress are ignorant of the complexities of natural design. "Presumed homogeneity" does not guarantee unity, peace, or progress among a people.

In fact, a good number of the world's most successful countries are so endowed by the nourishment and talents of their diverse population. There is wealth in diversity.

More so, homogeneity does not exist in the true sense of the word among any ethnic classification. For instance, in the South-East, which is

wrongly viewed as a homogenous society, there are subgroups and splinter groups within the entity. There are also many varying derivative dialects across communities and towns, some of which native Igbo speakers may not understand.

The variant of Igbo spoken in my native town is different from that spoken in other towns within the same state. There is also no homogeneity in religion. And there have been cases of clashes among communities over differences bordering on politics, land, and other contentions. In fact, my native town and a neighbouring town do not agree. There is still a disputation over land till date.

So, essentially, the argument that a Nigeria carved up along sectional contours will become united and prosperous is a slothful one. It shows a vacancy of thought and reason. Nigeria's challenge is not its diversity, but the unwillingness of its leaderships and followership to be deliberate citizens.

We are citizens of Nigeria by the fashioning of fate, marriage, or naturalisation. But are we deliberate about our citizenship? Being deliberate citizens implies a commitment to the ethos of the country and a discharge of our responsibility to fatherland.

The 1999 constitution (as amended)

spells out these responsibilities as: "Section 24 (a)

It shall be the duty of every citizen to – (As Nigerians, we owe our country to do the following:) abide by this Constitution, respect its ideals and its institutions, the National Flag, the National Anthem, the National Pledge, and legitimate authorities; (Obey the constitution and respect our national authorities and icons;)

"Section 24 (b) help to enhance the power, prestige, and good name of Nigeria, defend Nigeria, and render such national service as may be required; (Promote Nigeria's reputation and power and defend the country if the need arises;)

"Section 24 (c) respect the dignity of other citizens and the rights and legitimate interests of others and live in unity and harmony and in the spirit of common brotherhood; (Live in peace and unity with all others, respecting their own individual rights;)

"Section 24 (d) make positive and useful contribution to the advancement, progress, and well-being of the community where he resides; (Support the development of your local community;)

"Section 24 (e) render assistance to appropriate and lawful agencies in the

maintenance of law and order; and (Help government agencies maintain the law;)

"Section 24 (f) declare his income honestly to appropriate and lawful agencies and pay his tax promptly. (Declare and pay the truthful and complete tax on time.)"

My interest here is in section 24 (b) and (c) which stipulate that as citizens we must promote Nigeria and defend its reputation, as well as respect the dignity of other citizens and live in unity and harmony and in the spirit of common brotherhood.

It takes deliberate citizenship to actuate these ideals. It takes an attuned citizenry to live by the laid downs of our constitution. Clearly, we have been remiss in this regard.

Nation-building is by and large citizens doing the building. There is the place of leadership, but the office of the citizen is a critical trigger for the change we seek. We cannot abandon the responsibility of building Nigeria to anyone.

Nation-building will not be possible if a number of citizens are largely ignorant or insouciant about their part in solving the puzzle. The leadership can do its bit, but in our pottery wheel lies the greater task of moulding Nigeria the way we want it to be.

**Fredrick Nwabufo aka Mr OneNigeria is a media executive.**



Feature

# Relevance of ESV in city management and maintenance

By **ESU ABAH CHRIS ONOJA**

OVER the years, management of cities has been government responsibility with little or no contribution from both the private sector and the professionals. The Estate Surveyor and Valuer is a management consultant given his bias for value, econometrics; micro and macro.

The Estate Surveyor and Valuer should be brought in to contribute his/her great wealth of expertise, experience and wisdom in salvaging our cities which at the moment, are at the ravaging ends. Valuers should value the city as property, an asset, a facility, an investment and deploy the full dose of their management know-how in getting our cities back on track.

Government at the various levels should pilot this all-important process guided by global best practices. It has worked beautifully at some countries like Bulgaria where requisite professionals have been engaged to manage the cities (Thomas and Fordham, 2006). Usually, it is initiated with an enabling legislation with clear and specified stipulations on the scope and terms of the engaging such professionals.

The difference will definitely be witnessed in our cities as soon as the Estate Surveyor and Valuer comes on board to manage them in collaboration with other requisite professionals. It has remained a puzzle why the simplicity of the past has continued to outclass the sophistication of the present in terms of city planning and management.

Virtually everything worked in our abodes then without asingle legislation as the stone age men operated strict rules regarding where they lived, where



they recreated, where they held gathering, where they worshipped, where they schooled, etc. There was soft laws, not written on any paper but right in their hearts and minds (Carmona, et al, 2010). Indeed, they operated conscientiously to the well-being of all and sundry.

Today, despite the existence of several Laws and Bye-Laws, Edicts, Regulations, Codes, Guidelines and so many Dos and Don'ts, our cities remain shadows of themselves, not meeting up with the requirements of smarter, innovative or sustainable cities. Something must be

wrong somewhere. The Estate Surveyor and Valuer is adequately equipped and strategically positioned to finally resolve this quagmire. The earlier he is engaged to turnaround the fortunes of our cities, the better for all of us and our overall economy. Indeed, the professionalization of the

management of our cities should be accepted as a hard fact. It is a departure from the ordinary to a paradigm and should be treated as such for a healthy growth of our cities and the advancement of urban sustainability.  
E m a i l : abahandco2018@gmail.com

## Change of Name

<p><b>ZAINAB</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ZAINAB MOHAMMED</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS ZAINAB AGBO</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABUBAKAR GARAB MUHAMMAD</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANSHIN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANSHIN NANKLING AKILA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANSHIN NANKLING SIMON</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUSA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUSA LOUIS BAMAIYI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUSA LOIS BAMAIYI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LOHYA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>REJOICE SIMON LOHYA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LOHYA RIMFAT SIMON</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DADONG</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DADONG HAJARATU MORIS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DADONG HAJARATU LONGRET</b>. Correct date of birth is 14/11/1983 not 14/11/1985 All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>PLANGNAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PLANGNAN AYUBA AYUBA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PLANGNAN DALAP AYUBA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ABAH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>EZEJA NKEMDILIM RUTH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABAH NKEMDILIM RUTH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ISHAKU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ISHAKU REJOICE JOSHUA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISHAKU REJOICE DAMAR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>KANENG</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KANENG CHUNG DALYOP</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KANENG CHUNG BEWARANG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NVEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NVEL HALA CAHI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NVEL BABA HALA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SHUAIBU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ALIYU SHUAIBU ALIYU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SHUAIBU ALIYU IDRIS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>JOHN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>EZE JOHN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN SUNDAY</b>. Correct date of birth is 13/2/1972 not 12/2/1972 All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>IDRIS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SHEHU YAHAYA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IDRIS LAWAL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>JULIANA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JULIANA GIDEON ADAMU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JULIANA GIDEON DANLADI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AZI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AZI IZANG AFINIKI</b>, <b>AZI AFINIKI IZAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AZI AFINIKI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ANNA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ANNA AJANG DANIEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANNA MOSES PAM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DEME</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MARY DANLADI DEME</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DEME MARY NGYUK</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>MWANRET</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MWANRET THANKGOD</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MWANRET AMINU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>EVEZHI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SAMUEL EYINGA IVEZHI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IVEZHI SAMUEL EYINGA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ABAH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABAH DANIEL O.</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABAH DANIEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TAMBA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>TAMBA KHLILNGAN FABIAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TAMBA KHLILINGNAN FABIAN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SABO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DAWAM FOENPE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SABO SAMINU</b>. Correct date of birth is 17/04/1970. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ADAM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ADAMU ISMAIL ABASS ISHAYA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAM ABBAS ISMAIL</b>. Correct date of birth is 10-08-2004. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>AYUBA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SAMUEL ESTHER</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AYUBA ESTHER AJIJI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>EMMANUEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MAFULUL EMMANUEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EMMANUEL SHERIFF MAFULUL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NYALWAT</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GRACE STEPEH ISHAYA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NYALWAT GRACE JOSHUA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SALE FOR SALE</b></p>	<p><b>SALE FOR SALE</b></p>	<p><b>SALE FOR SALE</b></p>



News

# Lalong to commission remodeled NUJ Secretariat, other projects

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State is set to commission the remodeled state secretariat of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Jos. The project he totally overhauled for journalists to have a conducive working environment for enhanced and effective reportage with 31 other projects across the state.

He has also concluded plans for President Muhammadu Buhari to commission the major twelve (12) signature projects out of the 32 projects which among whom are the British/America Junction Interchange Bridge (Overhead bridge), Jos High Court Complex and Multi-door Court House and other projects across the state before the end of his tenure.

The Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Dan Manjang, while on an inspection tour to NUJ Secretariat Monday, disclosed that the governor has earmarked this project for commissioning before the end of the life of his administration, hence the need for us to ensure that things are put in place.

He said, "People who know how this facility was will now know that there is a facelift. So, the entire ministry is here as an advanced party to see things before His Excellency will come. It is long overdue. This project would have been commissioned long before now, but because His Excellency included the landscaping and furnishing as requested by NUJ Council when he visited the project.

"The structure is still good to go, we have rescued it and we are happy. I want to assure the NUJ that the furnishing is as good as done because the money for the furnishing has been released and in the next two days, this furnishing is going to be done according to the specification that was sent by the Council. We have overcome that and in two days, you will see a different thing", Manjang highlighted.

The commissioner, however, rated journalists on the Plateau high for adequate covering of this administration's activities. He said "you have paid your dues positively towards the state government and His Excellency is very happy about it. We pray that his successor will be able to do more for journalists.

"I am an advocate of better pay for journalists and insurance coverage for journalists to make them comfortable, otherwise, they will have to look for other means and cut corners to survive or meet their constitutional needs", he enthused.

The Government spokesman, therefore, called on journalists at all levels to standardise the practice of journalism like other professions because quackery has taken the order of the day,



Lalong

hence the need for journalists to ensure that one must undergo a requisite training in journalism before he or she would practice.

Responding, the state Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Paul

Jatau, who could not hide his joy, thanked the Executive Governor for bringing back the life of NUJ Secretariat and called on members to reciprocate this gesture by making the new secretariat lively.

# CISLAC advocates for domestication of NAEP

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has begun an advocacy drive in Gombe State towards the implementation of the National Agricultural Extension Policy, NAEP.

The policy, if implement in the state is expected to see an improvement in the agricultural extension services to smallholder women and men farmers thereby increasing their farm yields, thus keying into the Together Against Poverty (TAP) project.

To this end, Munachi Ugochukwu, Senior Programme Officer, CISLAC/Transparency International, Nigeria, led the advocacy visit in Gombe State.

During the visit, the team had interaction with authorities in the state Ministry of Agriculture, state Agricultural Development Programme (ADP), Gombe State Project Coordinator of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL), a World Bank Project and the Gombe State House of Assembly where they discussed on opportunities for collaboration on way forward.

At the Gombe State House of Assembly where CISLAC had presented a congratulatory letter from its Executive Director, Auwal Ibrahim Musa Rafsanjani to the Speaker of the state Assembly over his re-election into the House, Mr. Munachi told the Speaker and other legislators that even though Gombe is an agrarian state, farmers are yet to benefit from standard farming practices that would yield

maximum results from their produce.

While calling for the legislators' commitment in domesticating the policy in the state through increased budgetary allocation to agriculture among others, Mr Munachi said there is going to be a high level engagement with farmers through direct and indirect means such as radio discussion programmes.

He said, discussions during the sessions will focus on smart agriculture, advisory on seedlings, fertilizer application, weed/pest control, dam preparation and eventually exploring product standardization processes for export value addition.

He explained that the radio programme hopes to draw listenership from small-scale farmers in the state, leveraging radio as an affordable, widely available, and accessible medium to

PROTESTERS, mostly women and youth have in their large numbers, staged a peaceful demonstration recently in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State demanding the immediate release of Gung Zaar-select, retired Air Commodore Ishaku Komo.

The Gung Zaar-select who is highly respected by Zaar/Sayawa ethnic group in Bauchi and beyond was said to have been arrested and detained by the Bauchi State Police Command in connection to a bloody clash that emanated from coronation of a hamlet head he allegedly performed in Sang community of Tafawa Balewa Local Government.

According to Police Crime Bulletin made available to newsmen by the Command's spokesperson, SP Ahmed Mohammed Wakil, Retired Air Commodore Ishaku Komo, alongside others are being investigated over the clash which led to loss of one life and valuables destroyed.

On Saturday, youths in Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro Local Government Areas of

# Bogoro, Tafawa Balewa women, youths demand leader's release

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

Bauchi State embarked on a various heterogeneous peaceful demonstration over ethnic and religious groups in the arrest and detention of the affected areas of Tafawa Balewa and Bogoro Local Government Areas of the Command.

Our correspondent in Mukhtar said in that regard, Bauchi reports that the present administration has established a proper express road linking Bauchi State with Plateau in the area was blocked by the creation of a Sayawa Chiefdom that would be peaceful over the continued detention of their monarch. all stakeholders for peace to reign in the affected areas.

The police said, so far, seven people including A press statement signed by Mukhtar Gidado further arrested for investigation on noted that Bala Mohammed Sang communal clash in has in consultations with key Bogoro Local Government. and relevant stakeholders,

In reaction to the incident, established a committee to Bauchi State government suggest to government the modalities for the on Media to the governor, implementation of the Comrade Mukhtar Gidado, reports of Justice Babalakin, said the state government Shehu Awak, Justice Bala Umar commissions of Bala Mohammed is enquiry as well as the Bauchi State House of Assembly Law determined to ensure lasting State House of Assembly Law peace and harmonious on the creation of the coexistence among the Sayawa Chiefdom.

disseminate relevant information to all levels of education and socio-economic groups ahead of the coming farming season.

According to him, "the Together Against Poverty (TAP) project is supported by Oxfam and seeks to promote fairer and more resilient food systems that improve the livelihoods of women and men small-scale producers in Bauchi and Gombe States".

Our correspondent reports that the meetings at both the Ministry of Agriculture and the GSHA had the same

primary purpose- to introduce the TAP project and draw commitments and support in the implementation of its activities

Responding, Speaker of the Gombe State House of Assembly, Abubakar Mohammed Lugerewo, described agriculture as a critical sector in addressing poverty across the globe, as such, stakeholders must put hands together to reduce the high level of poverty.

He decried the inadequacy of agricultural extension

workers in Gombe State commensurate to its population but believes that the current government in the state is working towards addressing that.

While assuring that he will intimate the House Committee on Agriculture to work with CISLAC's plans so that the programme will achieve its objectives, Mr. Lugerewo also assured that budgetary allocation to agriculture in the state has been encouraging as compared to other states.

# Investigative journalism suffers setback due to poor remuneration - Shamsuddeen

From Abbas Gungura, BAUCHI

The Head of Department of Mass Communication of Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi Dr Shamsudeen Dauda, has attributed poor remuneration as one of the factors militating against investigative

journalism in the country. Shamsuddeen made the assertion in an exclusive interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD on International World Press Freedom Day, recently in Bauchi, where he said motivation is a weapon and key success to any organization.

The senior polytechnic lecturer argued that if journalists are being paid good remunerations, they can go to any length and dig into any crucial and vital information that will give the organization a good name to stand out different among its competitors.

According to him, most of the reporters in media organizations today don't have any specific allowances or salary package from their employees. "What the employees give them is only Identification Card or Introduction Letters which serves as ticket for a living, with no any other options rather than to compromise in some situations."

Dr. Shamsuddeen Dauda explained that the trend has affected the performance of

many journalists to carry out effective investigative reporting which invariably crippled the journalism profession in the country.

On the part of freedom of expression for the journalists, he said that Nigeria and Bauchi state in particular have achieved up to 65-70% access to some vital government documents by media practitioners, stressing the need for governments at all levels to allow journalists have access to their request in performing their duties.

The HOD however, enjoined the journalists to ensure they operate within the confines of the law and shun any negative report that will dent their image and their organizations.

He commended the role of the present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed and National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) for providing a level playing ground to all media outlets and ensuring that they operate within the confines of the law.



Rafsanjani, CISLAC leader



Feature

# ESV as land economists,infrastructural development

**As land economists for infrastructural development schemes, one of the major determinants of a country's development rate, standard of living and social well-being is massive investment in infrastructural development schemes by the government and private sector. Land economics for infrastructural development schemes focuses on the allocation of land in a particular region within a state/country for residential, commercial or other uses. ESV BABALOLA ADENIYI ADELEKE writes.**

IN the provision of infrastructural development schemes, Estate Surveyors and Valuers have important roles to play because they act and serve as land economists through their education and training in the concept, theory and principles of land economics – rural and urban – to give expert opinion and advise on the various locations within a region where different types of land uses – residential, commercial, agricultural, etc – can/should be developed based on the needs of the populace, as well as other urban and non-urban land issues.

The roles expected of Estate Surveyors and Valuers as land economists in relation to infrastructural development schemes are:

Analyze organization of activities in a region

Establish factors that determines prices of land in a region

Examine intra-location choices of firms and households

Formulate policy for various land-use control

Identify all the various urban and non-urban issues inherent in carrying out infrastructural development schemes in a particular region

Assist in formulating a region's development master plan

**Custodian of Land And Landed Properties:** Trained in the art and science of estate management to deal with all matters relating to the maintenance and management of land and landed properties within a country for the overall beneficial interest of the citizenry, Estate Surveyors and Valuers should be engaged always because their level of expertise and training spreads across various aspects of real estate discipline.

Estate Surveyors and Valuers while acting as custodians of land and landed properties performs the role of ensuring that those classes of land and landed properties been entrusted onto them are continuously properly managed and maintained in order to improve their aesthetic value, monetary value and lifespan, as well as achieve the expected optimum returns which are in varying forms for the owners of such



land and landed properties.	include:	use of any land and landed properties	plan for infrastructural development projects in the society
Some of the roles expected of Estate Surveyors and Valuers while acting as custodians of land and landed properties in the society	Management and maintenance of land and landed properties for the owners	Act in the overall beneficial interest of owners of land and landed properties	Determine the monetary value and worth of land and landed properties.
	Advise on the highest and best	Help to formulate a master	



# Avoiding Judicial ambush by politicians



BY KENNETH DARENG

WITH the aftermath of the 2023 General elections, and as a common tradition with the outcome of every election circle in Nigeria after all is set and done, attention will definitely shift to the courts.

This is a time the Judiciary as usual becomes the last resort and hope for losers who would approach it for justice to be served in order to retrieve their mandate through the use of all available legal fire frameworks.

Perhaps sensing that the 2023 elections might be the toughest battle for the Nigerian political class as well as for the Judiciary in view of the mirage of litigations that are likely going to accompany it, the Chief

Justice of Nigeria [CJN], Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, had recently on three separate occasions issued serious warnings to politicians to refrain from interfering with the operations of the Judiciary.

The CJN who also spoke at the 2022 Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association on Public Interest and Development Law [NBA SPIDEL], said; "The electoral process has been set in motion and the 2023 elections are just stone throw away.

"We are fully aware that it is in a period like this that the executives or those seeking and aspiring for political positions will not threaten on the path of rule of law, the Electoral Act and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, but will rather act on their whims and fancies to clinch to power.

"Interestingly, the Judiciary shall be at the centre stage of this to equipose between the electoral players and further catalyse and administer justice, fairness and equity in the courts where their petitions shall flow."

According to the CJN, "past and present political regimes in Nigeria have not ceased to intervene and interfere in the premises of the Judiciary and have almost diluted its supposed sanctity." He also accused the politicians of

whittling down its powers and authority and tampering with its Independence and autonomy through various means.

The second time Justice Ariwoola warned was shortly after he was sworn in as the substantive CJN where he directed his plea to both politicians and other Nigerians urging them to allow the Judiciary to function because law is not static, and that is why you have seen that the National Assembly continues to amend laws. "And it is the laws that the courts apply to the facts available."

And for the third time during a reception organized in his honour by the Oyo state Government the CJN again warned the politicians, "Let them do their things and allow us do our things. The laws are not static. What we apply is the law as it is made. But our dockets are full. We have asked for an amendment to our Constitution over and over again.

"There are many matters that should not find their way to the Supreme Court in 2022. Many are indeed domestic matters of political parties. Why bring that to the court for us to adjudicate when your constitution has shown the way?"

Clearly, the signals coming from the CJN, is an indication that given the past experiences in the country and the embarrassing revelation made



by some judicial officers after the 2015 general elections where Judges gave details of how politicians pestered them to tilt or scale down justice in favour of some political interests and failure to abide could be met with dire consequences as was the case with the invasion of the residences of some Judges by the Department of State Services [DSS].

A recent report by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission [ICPC], Titled; "Nigeria Corruption Index: Report of a Pilot survey covering 2018-2019, placed the Judiciary on top of the Nigeria Corruption Index."

The report estimated that N1.4 billion was exchanged in a bribe-for- judgement scheme in the Judicial sector between 2018 and 2019. It also stated that lawyers were mostly responsible for offering bribes for favourable judgements mostly in electoral and political matters.

Therefore, the CJN's persistent caution to the politicians might have been

informed by the dangerous trend because as an insider operating at the pinnacle of the nation's Judicial arm, apart from knowing what is going on, he also understands what is actually happening.

And to borrow from the words of Hon, Justice S.O. Uwaifo a former Supreme Court Judge, in his valedictory speech on January 24, 2005, opined that; "A corrupt Judge is more harmful to the society than a man who runs amok with a dagger in a crowded street. The later can be restrained physically. But a corrupt Judge deliberately destroys the moral foundation of the society and causes incalculable distress to individuals through abusing his office while still being referred to as honourable."

This also means that the Nigerian Judiciary has a crucial role to play in 2023 and beyond by resisting any attempt to play into the hands of some unpatriotic and selfish politicians. A just, fair and equitable Judiciary will at the very end be to the benefit of the politicians and indeed other Nigerians at large.



By PETER H. TITLE

THE general elections conducted this year where candidates from across all parties emerged winners at different levels of the polity has come and gone. The aftermath is still evergreen in the minds of INEC, the actors and the electorate. And it will continue to be a reference point to many and the unborn.

Nigerians had high hopes that the 2023 elections would be a watershed in the nation's democracy. In the last eight years, what Nigerians saw and experienced was "Suffering" which was beyond human imagination. And they saw the elections as an opportunity to choose leaders that would turn things for the better.

Sadly, the assurances to

# INEC, politicians and show of shame

Nigerians by the electoral umpire to conduct a free, and uninterrupted elections was not to be. The expectations the electorates had was dashed. Votes buying was the order of the day without prosecution to serve as a deterrent. Results were announced to the people while voting was still on or a candidate was just allocated a vote to suite them not minding the consequences.

That was the reason, the electorates took it upon themselves to protect and guard their votes. They ensured they protected their votes since they no longer had confidence in the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

In the Plateau Central Zone the electoral body could not conclude the senatorial election where the inconclusiveness made the atmosphere tensed between the two major parties, the PDP and APC. Both supporters clashed severally claiming victory until the final result was announced at a later date.

Similar things happened in different places in the country. It happened in Kano, Sokoto, Lagos, Kaduna, Nasarawa and many other states. Some people while the lucky ones escaped with severe injuries. And all the blames were heaped on INEC.

Just as INEC demonstrated ineptitude in the conduct of the

general elections, the actors, I meant the Politicians were not left out of the game, instead, they added petrol to the already fierce inferno. They outplayed themselves and to an extent colluded with INEC officials in order to carry the day and to gained favour. Obviously, some succeeded while some could not get what they had planned to get.

The electoral umpire apart from colluding with some of the Politicians to rig, went to the extent of buying votes amidst the scarcity of naira and kobo notes experienced at that time. They also instigated snatching of elections boxes to deter the process too. And these all were aimed at compromising and smearing the process as well as to win the election at all cost.

Despite the cries and hues of Nigerians over the poor and the discrepancies witnessed during the elections as was widely reported, the Adamawa state governorship election was the worst of it all. First to be announced during the Governorship election was Senator Aishatu Binani as winner, before it was reported to be inconclusive.

It was while the result between Hajiya Binani of APC and Ahmadu Fintiri of PDP were being collated and the following day and time was set by the state collation officer (SCO), who

was saddled with those function by law, then the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Barrister Yunusa Hudu Ari from nowhere and who allegedly had no power to announce Binani as winner.

This attitude shows vividly that they were on a mission. The show of shame exhibited by INEC in their quest in installing an unpopular candidate made Nigerians to be suspicious of the sincerity of the electoral umpire.

Binani being a desperate politician as well as making her accepting speech at the same time she was being announced by the reckless REC. That singular act calls for questioning of both the REC and Binani. It is believed that only the same kind of birds flock together. So the rest is for you to judge.

After the elections, the cycle of shame that attended the elections was evident to all and sundry. From local to international observers, verdicts

of disappointments about the much anticipated since 1999 abound.

Observers also say and I concur, the 2023 general elections may go down in Nigeria's history as the most divisive poll since the return of democracy because the populace were divided across religious, ethnic and political lines.

While yours sincerely will advocate for the rejigging of INEC to stand the taste of time as a fallout of 2023 general elections and to punished overzealous politicians that colluded with officials of the electoral body to scuttle the process for their benefits, the question that I will want to leave with Nigerians is; can the incoming administration grapple with the urgent problems facing the country and foster a process of national reconciliation?

**"The electoral umpire apart from colluding with some Politicians to rig, went to the extent of buying votes amidst the scarcity of naira and kobo notes experienced at that time. They also instigated snatching of elections boxes to deter the process too. And these all were aimed at compromising and smearing the process as well as to win the election at all cost."**



By **BULUS GAMBO**

THE positive impact of cooperative societies to the development of our society cannot be overemphasized. This is more so because of the obvious fact that if not for these societies, many of its members would not have become self-reliant and economically vibrant as is the case today.

Interestingly, the idea of the formation of these societies kick-started long time ago in the world including this part of the country in particular. The metamorphosis of these cooperative societies to overwhelm challenges of contemporary times have been the focal point of many financial experts.

With the passage of time however, the proliferation of these societies become so crucial owing to the dynamic changes and the quest to create an enabling environment for socio-economic self-reliance and societal growth. It was in tune with some of these objectives that the Plateau State Cooperative Federation (PLASCOFED) has continuously sought for dynamic and pragmatic strategies of enhancing many more people and communities on the need to accept and appreciate the possible contributions of such cooperative societies towards national integration and the economic wellbeing of the nation.

Considering some of these positive contributions, PLASCOFED also thought it wise this year to logically conscript the integral framework of its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) around creating awareness based on the fundamentals of unity in diversity. Last year, PLASCOFED was able to diligently organize thought-provoking activities which subsequently aided in no small measure towards propelling the organization to greater prospects. Recalling some of these activities with great nostalgia, the body was able to organize a board members retreat, one day workshop for primary society members, a state submit and leadership workshop and mobilized delegates to Asaba, Delta State for a National Summit.

This year, the Plateau State Cooperative Federation deemed it fit to focus on the topic, **Unity in Diversity: The Value of United Cooperative Societies** after digesting some of the fundamental problems militating against floating a successful Cooperative Society in most recent times. Interestingly, many scholars and stakeholders could not hide their feelings over the multiple advantages associated with such steps taken to strategically reposition

contemporary societies to perform better.

Speaking during the event held at the APIN Hall, Old Jos University Teaching Hospital, (JUTH), President of the Plateau State Cooperative Federation, (PLASCOFED), Mrs. Hannatu Mershak noted that "PLASCOFED has remained deliberate in maintaining good relationship with her partners and regulators

the Guest Speaker, Victor Kuchili, CEO, Choice Concept Network Nigeria explained that the theme for this year, Unity in Diversity was in definitive terms absolutely relevant in our contemporary society adding that managing diversity is all about managing our basic principles of life.

Kuchili further explained that



## When PLASCOFED encourages unity in diversity



efforts of the present board, few of such properties have been given on BoT. Committee on the properties was inaugurated and had toured all the properties last year October 2022 and presented their report to the council. Council had asked the committee to continue with the work as to get documents for the land."

On achievements, she explained that the board has done a lot adding that "the secretariat is now wearing a new look while "the purchase of PLASCOFED vehicle is another feat in easing transportation and movement problems."

In his remarks, the Director Cooperatives, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Azi Ayuba acknowledged the contributions of cooperative societies to societal change for the better urging them to be well focused in their responsibilities.

While encouraging members

to include a German company known as GIZ through one of their interventions called SEDIN. This programme is aimed at improving the employment and income situation of Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprise (MSMEs). Our collaboration with SEDIN, GIZ has and is still yielding tremendous benefits, amongst which is the training of nine board members and fourteen council members totaling twenty-five on Organizational Development."

According to her, "PLASCOFED has enjoyed robust relationship with Cooperative Mortgage Bank. They are one of our bankers and have always identified with us and contributed financially towards the success of our programmes. We are encouraging the primary societies to maintain account with this bank because they stand to enjoy benefits."

Said she, "I am delighted to inform you that I was presented with an award in Asaba, Delta State at the National Summit by the CFN President, High Chief Ariyomi Ayeola. He said the award was in appreciation of my exemplary leadership, commitment, loyalty and contributions to the development of cooperative movements in Nigeria. I must say that I was really humbled by the award and that has motivated me to do more."

In his lecture at the occasion,

though our cooperative societies have at their liberty huge financial resources and opportunities, they hardly have a say in the establishment of governments, facilitation of policies and or vibrant bargaining power.

He urged societies to galvanize their strength and take their respective places where they would command great respect in this country for the benefit of its entire members.

Earlier in a secretariat report presentation, the Executive Secretary of the body, Mrs. Rifkatu Rwang Nyam noted that "I wish to state that PLASCOFED is the apex body for all Primary Cooperative Societies (PCS) on the Plateau which was formed in 1978 with the primary purpose of organizing, coordinating and supervising cooperative activities in the state."

While highlighting some benefits to include providing cooperative awareness to members, providing advisory services, link members to government programmes and NGO's, serve as guarantors to members to some extent, example in account opening with financial institutions and attending AGMs and other programmes of affiliate members, the scribe noted that "financial position of the organization has steadily improved since the inception of the current board. This can be



verified in our financial reports."

She said, "At the formation of the board, the Plateau State government graciously handed over landed properties to PLASCOFED in the nine local government areas for the promotion of economic activities, but at the moment, most of it have been encroached upon and some dilapidated. With the

to float shares, the director stressed that his role is to supervise these societies for the better.

In his vote of thanks, the Chairman Central Planning Committee, Yusuf Sunday Shut thanked all stakeholders for making the occasion a memorable one.



# IMAGES

## COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION VISITS PPC, NUJ

*The Honourable Commissioner for Information and Communications, Hon. Dan Manjang, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Boniface Gwotbit and Management State visited the ongoing renovation work at the Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC) publishers of The Nigeria Standard and Sunday Standard newspapers. The Commissioner was received by the Acting General Manager, Mr. Paul Jatau, Director Admin., Mrs. Victoria Arin James and other Management Staff*



*Acting General Manager, Mr. Paul Jatau (right) conducting the Commissioner, Hon. Dan Manjang and team round the ongoing renovation of PPC*



*Acting General Manager, PPC, Mr. Paul Jatau (right) stressing some points to Commissioner, Hon. Manjang and team during the visit*



*Hon. Manjang (middle) admiring one of the latest production of the The Sunday Standard, left is the Acting GM, Mr. Jatau and right, Mrs. Francisca Adidi, Editor of The Nigeria Standard*



*Commissioner, Hon. Dan Manjang, his management staff, Mr. Paul Jatau and his team in one of the renovated offices*



*NUJ Vice Chairperson, Ayuku Pwaspo (left) welcoming the Commissioner, Dan Manjang to NUJ*



*Coss section of PPC Management Staff and State Ministry of Information Management Staff*



*Commissioner for Information and Communications, Hon. Dan Manjang (right) with the NUJ State Chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau and Chief Scribe, Mr. Peter Amine at the NUJ Press Centre*



*PPC Staff seen cleaning the office premises*

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



## Odd World

# How Fela Kuti married 27 women in one day

FELA Kuti, the late legendary Nigerian musician, multi-instrumentalist, composer, and political activist, is widely regarded as the father of Afrobeat, a genre of West African musical styles influenced by highlife, American jazz, and later soul and funk influences. Fela Kuti married 27 women

The self-proclaimed Abami Eda (a Yoruba term that loosely translates as "mysterious or strange creature") was also a well-known polygamist.

In 1960, Fela Kuti married his first wife Remi (then Remilekun "Remi" Taylor), a British-born Nigerian. This was while he was still a student at London's Trinity College of Music.

After establishing himself as a reputable musician, Fela had a harem of women who lived with him in his home in a compound in Suruere he called 'Kalakuta Republic'.

Many of the females worked as backup singers, dancers, and composers. Some of them were underage girls who had left their homes and families as unaccompanied minors to live with the musical legend.

These women, who were widely perceived as harlots, marijuana smokers, and so on, were, in fact, the very soul of Fela's music.

Fela married 27 of them in a single wedding ceremony in 1978. Twelve (12) Ifa priests officiated at the mass wedding ceremony.

This occurred years after his first and only legally married wife had divorced him. Remi passed away in 2002.

The 27 women married by the music legend came from various ethnic groups in Nigeria and elsewhere.

Fela married the women in order to protect them and disprove the rumour

that he was abducting them. The wedding was attended by Fela's family, friends, and band members.

The women include, Kikelomo Oseyini, Folake Oladejo, Tejumade Adebisi, Naa Lamiley, Sewaa Kuti, Omotola Osaeti, Omowunmi Oyedele, Alake Anikulapo Kuti, Shade Shodeinde, Adeola Williams, Najite Kuti, Emaruagheru Osawe, Kevwe Oghomienor, Ihase Anikulapo, Adejonwo Iyabode Ogunitro, Bose Anikulapo Kuti, Lara Anikulapo Kuti, Suru Eriomola, Tokunbo Akran, Funmi Kuti, Omowunmi Afesumo, Laide Anikulapo Kuti, Ronke Edason, Damiregba Anikulapo Kuti, Aduni Idowu, Omolara Shosanya Remilekun Taylor and Fehintola Anikulapo Kuti (Seun Kuti's mother).

The marriage served not only to mark the anniversary of the attack on the Kalakuta Republic. On February 18, 1977, the compound burned to the ground following an assault by a thousand armed soldiers.

Eight years after the mass wedding ceremony, Fela was reported to have divorced them all.

It was reported in 1986 that Fela Kuti divorced the majority of these women. This was following his release from prison in 1984 (Fela was imprisoned by Muhammed Buhari's administration in 1984).

The afro-beat maestro justified his actions by claiming that "marriage brings jealousy and selfishness."

However, one of the women, Laide Anikulapo-Kuti, nee Babayale, stated in a recent interview that, contrary to claims that Fela divorced her and the other 26 wives, he never divorced any of them until his death in 1997.

Some of the women he married, however, maintained that he did not die



## As Karl Kumm University commences academic activities

THE Karl Kumm University Vom, Plateau State is anticipated to commence its academic activities with the admission of its first set of undergraduates during this year's prospective calendar period. This development has come to be after many painstaking years of efforts aimed at establishing such as edifice anticipated to provide a world class educational standard opportunity for our teeming undergraduates in the country. This prestigious citadel of learning established by its proprietor, Church of Christ in Nations, (COCIN) currently led by its President, Rev. Dr. Amos Mohzo on the 3rd February 2021 is intended to contribute to the provision of education and qualitative manpower development in Nigeria and beyond. Certainly, one cannot also forget the various contributions of the members of the Church of Christ in Nations towards actualizing this great dream. It's only God that will continue to bless all our vulnerable women and men who despite the present harsh economic realities of our time still remained resolute until the church was able to achieve this significant feat.

Just some days back, Rev. Amos Mohzo reassured that the Karl Kumm University is a project so dear to the church and would need the support of all and sundry to enable it succeed in impacting both the fear of God and the required knowledge needed to better the lot of this country. Many of us have prayerfully committed this gigantic project into the hands of God for Him to take preeminence knowing too well that only Him has the capacity to lead the entire institution to greatness.

Fundamentally, it has become quite obvious that all hands therefore must be on deck to ensure that this gigantic project excel beyond comprehension considering its relevance towards building the intellectual capacity of our children to competently face contemporary challenges of life. Therefore, the Karl Kumm University is a project which must continuously be supported by all stakeholders and the COCIN congregation even as it has become quite obvious that Nigeria's educational sector must not be left in limbo.

Thus, if Karl Kumm University is able to officially kick-off its academic calendar this year, it would certainly be among very few tertiary institutions in the country which were able to commence educational activities from its permanent site. This development would also be a plus for both the Governing Board of the school currently led by the former Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, (TETFund), Prof. Suleiman Bogoro and the incumbent Vice Chancellor of this dynamic faith based institution of learning, Prof. Nanven Audu Gambo. Indeed, we must thank God for giving us these two intellects who in the past few years have continued to relentlessly give the institutions their best till this particular point in time. But again, without the sincere commitment of other stakeholders and management staff, not much would have been recorded as far as this project is concern. But again, we must all come to terms with the reality of the fact that the university must be embraced by us all for the sake of our future generations.

This is because all these past years, all the critical stakeholders of this great institution have tirelessly and resiliently been working

and looking forward to the official commencement of this great institution of learning in the country. Quite obviously, I must reemphasize that the huge dream would not have come to past but for the sincere and generous commitment of the entire COCIN family, lovers of consistent educational development as well as other critical stakeholders within Nigeria's educational sector. Good enough, the institution is presently coming to be in order to help fill up the gap in the country's desire to facilitate concrete and proficient educational pursuit.

So far, the University has concluded arrangement to start with some of the major science oriented courses in the country including theology and political science while anticipating the approval of more unique courses for the institution in the near future.

As Karl Kumm University officially commences its academic activities however, there is undamental need for both the proprietor of the University and other critical stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of the institution as a critical sector in addressing the educational requirements of the nation. Beyond this, though it takes a huge amount of resources to effectively and efficiently sustain any private university in Nigeria, the stakeholders must be mindful of the need to providing affordable education to both the rich and vulnerable citizens of this country. Most significantly at a time like this when the nation is sleeplessly tackling issues of moral decadence, visionless and morally corrupt leaders in this country, it is also anticipated that a faith-based tertiary institution like Karl Kumm University will have a critical role to play in re-modifying and reorienting our future leaders on the need to patriotically offer the needed leadership role so as to salvage the nation from its obvious predicament in the annals of our country's historical antecedence.

Since the quest for provision of quality education commenced decades ago as pioneered by COCIN, this body of Christ has not failed in doing the needful. In fact, aside Gindiri mission schools, all the other schools also established by the Church of Christ in Nations have continued to set the pace in the country. Such narratives motivated the church to venture into the establishment of this university which we are all sure will stand the test of time. In this regard, there is the need for all stakeholders to have it at the back of their minds that this university has come to stay.

On the other hand, the institution must also synergize with other renowned universities across the world to help upgrade its distinctive status in research enhancement providing lucrative opportunities for research collaborations among both the academic staff and incoming students of the institution. For the students who will commence as pioneer undergraduates, much will be expected from them particularly in the coming years. That is the more reason why we must all play our part very well towards ensuring that the Karl Kumm University Vom overcomes oobvious challenges in the educational sector and stand out as one of the best in our complex contemporary times.



## View Point

# Hunger kills as fertilizer fires up

**The increase in price of fertilizer has thrown Nigeria into a serious catastrophe, whereas uncountable Nigerians have also been living from hand to mouth while others are forced to beg for money to buy fertilizer and apply on their farms. ADAM YUSUF MUHAMMAD writes.**

FERTILIZER is a commodity in need by farmers around the globe especially amongst citizens whose source of livelihood depends solely on agriculture. In today's world, no farmer can survive without the use of fertilizer which is the backbone of providing sustainable food security in the Nation.

Flashing back to our Nigeria in 1990s fertilizer was mostly given out free to farmers by the government to farm and feed the Nation. Between 2000 and 2009 government give out fertilizer to farmers at a subsidized price. From 2011 till date, subsidized fertilizer is given at the rate of Five thousand Five hundred Naira but now; the wholesalers sells it to retailers for Fifteen thousand Naira (15,000) Naira per bag which is three times higher than its initial prices.

The Golden Fertilizer was around Seven to Eight thousand Naira (7000-8000) as at 2007 to 2012 but now the Golden fertilizer is not available because it is not affordable by farmers. The Golden Mix 20-10-10 was 9000 in 2014/2015 but today it sells at Twenty-Eight thousand Naira, (28000). The cheapest fertilizer is Urea which sold at the cost of 7000 before 2015 but it is now sold at 22000.

Considering the price multiplications of fertilizer above, the economic situation currently in Nigeria is beyond imagination and both the rich and the poor in the country are not left out of this ugly situation. Mind you, fertilizer is not the only input the farmer need. There are other inputs which the farmers need to get good harvests.

Interestingly, a man most eat



to live because food supports man with energy to pursue life's basic necessities. Fertilizer cost more than the food stuff at the moment. The price of fertilizer has now increased the prices of foodstuffs in the market where one measure of maize is currently two hundred Naira. Before 2015, it was fifty Naira, rice was three hundred Naira and now it is seven hundred Naira thus how many of these measures can the poor afford?

Looking into the reasons why the prices of fertilizers fire up in geometric proportion, the business tycoons sell fertilizer used to increase the price for reason that doesn't ride anything home. The prices now fluctuate in the market as they sell it at different prices.

The government should be vigilant in the market to watch out prices at which these sellers sell to the consumers. Nigeria is a country with a mixed economic system so, there

has to be a price control board. For this to happen, the government has the right to regulate the prices of goods and services. They should therefore determine the price of fertilizer to make sure it is sold to farmers at an affordable price. Had it not been that capitalism operates in Nigeria, the forces of demand and supply should not have been determinants of price but in our own case the government have major say in the prices of goods and services including fertilizer.

The farmers are not contented because some of them cultivate more than they can control that is why they run short of fertilizer to apply. They also spend more than they get in their farms and this causes shortage of funds to fertilize farms for good harvest.

To get out of these plights of insufficient food in the country, the government should create a direct linkage between them and the final users of fertilizers. This is because; when the government subsidized the fertilizer, the whole sellers and the retailers will triple the price before it reaches the

consumer just as it is evident today where the government price is five thousand five hundred Naira (5500) but the subsidized fertilizer is today been sold by business men to farmers for seventeen thousand Naira (17,000).

Farmers on their own should understand the value of manure. They should also be advised by extension workers to cultivate what they can manage and how they can manage it which includes; the time for applying fertilizer to their crops, the type of crop and the amount of fertilizer they should apply to it. This can be achieved through the use of media and extension workers where the media should educate them on agricultural development programs. These solutions when implemented will bring an ease to the current food insecurity devastating the country. A hungry man is an angry man and we all know that insufficient food leads to war and excess food leads to peace. This piece should be a wake-up call to the government, fertilizer sellers and the farmers.

***"To get out of these plights of insufficient food in the country, the government should create a direct linkage between them and the final users of fertilizers. This is because; when the government subsidized the fertilizer, the whole sellers and the retailers will triple the price before it reaches the consumer just as it is evident today where the government price is five thousand five hundred Naira (5500) but the subsidized fertilizer is today been sold by business men to farmers for seventeen thousand Naira (17,000)."***





## Celebrating 60 years with over-head bridge shaped cake

Plateau State Government House was agog with the presence of staff, aides, political appointees, and family members on Friday, May 5 to celebrate Governor Simon Bako Lalong @ 60.

As preparations was ongoing to surprise the governor on his special day, most of those who were watching as the cake was rolled into the premises initially thought it was a table, or an architectural dummy.

Suddenly, all mouths was in awe when people realised that the table-like edifice was not only eatable but a beautiful massive cake that appeared longer than a standard table.

The person behind the beautiful cake-idea was Permanent Secretary, Government House, Mary Afan who said she had rubbed minds with other stakeholders to hatch the idea into reality.

Afan on behalf of the staff of Government House and other stakeholders said they wanted to do something so special to celebrate their boss with this unique gesture, so that the memories will linger in his mind forever, because it was his last birthday to be celebrated at the Plateau Government House, and as governor of the state as he exits his seat on May 29.

"It is time to climb your bridge" she said as she called on the Governor's Wife, Regina to move round the overhead-bridge cake and supervise it. The Governor's wife was shown round the vehicle tarred routes which the cake was made of like the FCMB bank, terminus routes, JUTH, Abattoir, and the beautiful landscapes of horticultural designs under the bridge, while the governor watched.

Governor Lalong was so excited as he spoke. He first of all thanked God for the gift of life and attaining 60 years, acknowledging it is a rare privilege because many had lost their lives earlier without reaching this milestone age.

"In golf, I'm now a veteran, and an elder he said" recalling that former President Olusegun Obasanjo once advised that as you climb the ladder, you should be careful and must not joke with your aides and those around you, like your cooks, drivers, security, guards, laundry workers and gardeners because as the ones closest to you, they are the ones that can be used to harm you.

He appreciating his staff and all who worked with him for the past eight years as he governed the state, stressing he is grateful to God for ending well with them.

"I appreciate my wife and many of you who pray for me. I'm not a good prayer person



and sometimes, I sleep off but my wife stands to ensure she keeps vigils to pray for me and the success of the state".

He said due to his busy schedules, the dogs in his house only know his wife. "The dogs don't know me, when I come back late, they bark at me but when they see her, they run and climb all over her body in excitement. I don't blame them.

Lalong continued with his thank you speech. "To the Press, I battle with you, sometimes you write good things about me and my administration and sometimes bad when you are not happy with me, and then I say what have I done? But you did very well, and I appreciate you for all you have been writing".

"The cake is very wonderful and I will keep it in my house till the president comes to see it because it is one of the best cakes I have ever seen. Due to its beauty, I didn't even know where to start cutting, it was as if I will destroy it if I do".

He thanked his immediate family for being with him and supporting him, and described the surprise birthday plot as a conspiracy, between his children and the organisers. "They are always conspiring, now that I have reached 60, I hope you will stop your conspiracies" he said, smiling.

The Governor recalled that when he came on board in 2015, he met a bad situation including backlog of salaries, and ethno-religious crisis but is glad that he did his best to address the challenges.

"Please give the next person that comes on board the support you gave me that made me enjoy and succeed" Lalong said.

He added. "At 60, I am wiser, and for everything all of you have done for me, God will reward and bless you" he told the excited gathering.

Goodwill messages came from the Speaker Yakubu Sanda and his wife Nancy, Commissioner of Finance, Regina Soemlat, Special Adviser on Job Creation to the Governor, Samuel Kwampkur who all described the Governor as a father to all irrespective of religious and tribal affiliations, and a man of peace and humility who chose to mark his special day with prayers, rather than a lavish-state celebrations. Chaplain of the Government House Chapel, Rev. Fr. Godfrey Gopep offered prayers of thanksgiving for the Governor praying to God to lead him to embark on greater assignments in future.

## News

### Vigilante group rescues 134 kidnaped victims

THE Chief Press Secretary to Gov. Yahaya Bello of Kogi, Mr Onogwu Muhammad, has disclosed that no fewer than 134 kidnaped victims have been rescued in Kogi by a vigilante group.

He said this in a statement issued in Lokoja recently, noting that the rescued victims were abducted in Federal

FROM AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Capital Territory (FCT) and Nasarawa State.

Mohammed said that the victims were rescued during a rescue operation launched by the Kogi vigilante group in a forests located in the state and some parts of Nasarawa State.

"The vigilante group had stormed the hideouts of

kidnappers in the Odullo Forest of Kogi and Sardauna in Nasarawa State and rescued 134 victims who were abducted from Abaji, Kuje, and Kwali in FCT, as well as Toto Local Government Area of Nasarawa.

"The vigilante group, comprising 92 members who participated in the operation at the Odullo Forest and Sardauna in Nasarawa State, returned and were gladly received by Chairman of the area, Mr Dauda Aliyu," he said.

He also said that Aliyu, who received the rescued victims, commended the vigilantes for their bravery and achievement.

He said that the chairman commended the Yahaya Bello's administration's support to security operatives in the state, adding that the victims had been properly reunited with their families.

"The council boss appreciated Bello for

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

THE General Officer Commanding, (GOC) 6 Division Nigerian Army/ Land Component Commander Joint Task Force (South - South) Operation Delta Safe, Major General Jamal Abdussalam has pledged the support of the Division to the Nigerian Army Officers Wives Association (NAOWA) 6 Division Chapter to enable it succeed. The GOC made the pledge when the Chairperson of the NAOWA Chapter led members of her executive on a courtesy call on the GOC.

A statement by Iwwha Ikedichi Lieutenant Colonel Ag Deputy Director Army Public Relations 6 Division Nigerian Army, stated that the GOC while appreciating the Chairperson for the visit stated that he was poised to bring about improvement in the living condition of the barracks community; hence would partner with NAOWA whose objectives revolve around the improvement of the wellbeing of the barracks community.

He equally directed the assessment of the NAOWA school within the cantonment with a view to improving the quality of manpower, infrastructure, and other educational aids facilities within the school.

Earlier, the Chairperson of the Division's chapter of NAOWA, Mrs Maryam Abdussalam, congratulated the GOC on his appointment as the 10th

### GOC pledges support to NAOWA



Yahaya

General Officer Commanding. She solicited the assistance of the GOC at improving facilities at the NAOWA school and the possible establishment of a NAOWA college in Port Harcourt Barracks.

Mrs Maryam Abdussalam further stated that she intends to resuscitate the NAOWA school with qualitative, attentive, and caring teachers. This, she stated is in line with the vision of the National President of NAOWA, Mrs

Salamatu F. Yahaya to enhance the quality of education in the barracks.

She equally indicated her plan to create the appropriate curriculum that will aid learning in a serene environment, which would give parents the confidence to have their children in the school.

The NAOWA chairperson was accompanied on the visit by members of her executive. The visit was concluded with the presentation of souvenir and group photograph.



Bello



## Sports

# How Haaland became footballing phenomenon

THE Norwegian 22-year-old has already scored more goals in a Premier League season than anyone before him and is just the second player in English top-flight history to net more than 50 times in all competitions - and the first for 95 years.

All this with a potential eight games left in the campaign, and in his debut Premier League season after his move to Manchester City from Borussia Dortmund for an initial £51.2m last summer.

Haaland's prolific exploits have helped the champions back to the top of the league table and eyeing a Treble, with an FA Cup final and two Champions League semi-finals against Real Madrid on the horizon.

Haaland and Co will visit the Bernabeu on Tuesday for the first leg against the European champions full of confidence this can be their year.

Not since managing Lionel Messi at Barcelona has Pep Guardiola's approach been influenced more by the presence of just one player, but the frightening thing for the rest of Europe is Haaland's best could be yet to come.

Born in Leeds in 2000, the son of former Nottingham Forest, Leeds and Manchester City defender Alf-Inge Haaland and heptathlete Gry Marita Braut seemed destined for a successful sports career from an early age.

In 2006, he achieved a world record in his age category for the standing long jump with a jump of 1.63 metres. He was five years old.

At youth level - having moved back to his parents' Norwegian hometown of Bryne aged three - he was a skinny, fast and incredibly dedicated winger.

And even then Haaland was a passionate student of the game, looking to the likes of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Robin van Persie, Jamie Vardy, Messi and Mario Balotelli for inspiration.

After monitoring his older brother Astor closely - and increasing the pressure on him to make it as a professional athlete, which didn't happen - Haaland's parents took a more relaxed approach with the younger sibling.

They allowed Erling to develop more naturally and, as he grew in confidence, he did as well in size and stature at Bryne, his boyhood club where he came through the academy.

Now an imposing 6ft 4ins centre-forward, Haaland's growth spurt in his mid-teens - which brought the inevitable pains - brought a physique that married well with the attributes he already had to become a professional footballer; technical ability, tactical nous and the right mentality.

"I do the same runs as I did as a 13-year-old," he says.

Coach Alf-Inge Berntsen, who trained him for eight years at Bryne, said: "At 13 years old,



## Haaland

I already saw that this kid was going to make the Norwegian national team with his very special work ethic and tactical sense."

A spell at Molde between 2017-19 under the tutelage of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who dedicated hours to Haaland him on a one-to-one basis, helped him develop as a finisher because at that time it was something that did not come naturally to him.

Once it became clear he wanted to be a professional, a five-year strategic plan was prepared by him and his father, which included two years at Molde refining the finer points of his game and playing as many matches as possible. The goals flowed - as did the interest from elsewhere.

Haaland moved to Red Bull Salzburg in 2019, scoring 25 goals in 23 matches including a 45-minute hat-trick in his Champions League debut against Genk which served as conclusive proof he belonged at that level.

From there, he moved to Borussia Dortmund for about 20m euros. Despite serious interest from the likes of Manchester United and Juventus, the forward chose the German club with an eye on the amount of playing time he would get there.

Starting with a 23-minute hat-trick on his debut as a second-half substitute, Haaland scored 86 goals in 89 appearances at Dortmund. It was only a matter of time before he would join one of the biggest clubs in the world - with Manchester City activating his 60m euro (£51.2 million) release clause last summer.

Haaland will be just 26 when his five-year deal comes to an end and many expect him to try his trade in Spain and Italy next, with his desire to succeed in the biggest leagues in the world.

Even Haaland himself is a little surprised by how well he has done so quickly at Etihad Stadium.

One of the key reasons for his success has been his trainer, Ivar Eggja, who works closely with his father and acts as a 'facilitator' for the striker - finding him a home, looking after his diet and giving him everything he needs so he only thinks about football.

By the time Haaland arrived in Manchester, he already had everything in place.

Another key is the fact he is never satisfied - always looking to improve.

Manchester City's Italian trainer Mario Pafundi pushes him but also helps him understand his body. This has meant Haaland has so far avoided the injuries that set him back him last year at Borussia Dortmund.

He has gained around 12kg of muscle in the past 15 months as a result of privileged genetics, a regime involving the consumption of enormous quantities of quality food, coupled with hugely demanding training circuits and a relaxed life style incorporating periods of meditation which he uses to ensure his mind is in the right place.

There were questions around how Haaland would fit in to Manchester City's style of play, whose power comes from the midfield, cutting through the lines and creating space behind the opposition defence, while

the Norwegian's strengths are in the rapid transitions.

City's style of play when more measured can create a disconnect between Haaland up front and the rest of the team, something Guardiola is aware of and keen to avoid.

After the defeat at Manchester United in January, the City boss admitted the whole side had to get the striker more involved. Haaland was a peripheral figure having only a couple of half-chances and just 19 touches in the match.

The challenge for Guardiola is to play the type of game he wants, while still ensuring Haaland is engaged, occupied, fully focused and generally happy, even if that means occasionally putting in a pass that you wouldn't normally consider.

The coaching staff have on occasions asked Kevin de Bruyne or Bernardo Silva to put balls through to Haaland that they would not normally play for no other reason other than to ensure he stays fully connected with proceedings.

He still feels frustrated on occasions when he does not get the service his runs are calling for, while he also knows he could be more helpful to team-mates in and around the box and off the ball.

"Haaland lives 24 hours for his profession, his work, his passion, what he loves," said Guardiola.

Those that know him talk of someone who is polite, humble, grounded and self-assured - certainly not someone who is egotistical or arrogant.

Fanatical as a trainer and invariably the first to arrive and

the last to leave, Haaland is aware of the need to immerse himself in the necessary rigours required. This includes extensive massages and ice baths, all lessons he has learned from his father's schooling.

Invariably positive, upbeat and smiling, he loves Italian food, Italian wine, eating well and has little time for social media. He doesn't read what is written about him because he realises it is pointless trying to control those things you are unable to.

He has the right amount of confidence in himself and tries to thrive off the pressure that comes with the territory.

To help him cope with that pressure, he is passionate about the powers of meditation and its ability to remove stress from his life and also conscious of the need for good quality sleep.

He is not a night bird, nor a big video game or film buff, preferring instead - when not training - to live a quiet life at home, relaxing.

One of Haaland's great strengths is his ability to shed self-doubt. He is one of the most intensely watched and highest-paid athletes in the world, and he just rolls with it, as if he doesn't even notice.

He is not afraid of making mistakes and is unfailingly positive in the knowledge that even if he does not get it right he will always get another chance, and another, and another. He is not the sort of person to dwell on past misfortunes.

Haaland is certainly aware that as huge a talent as he is, he is still a work in progress, which is a frightening prospect for the rest of the world.

Source BBC SPORT



Sports



Flying Eagles

# Flying Eagles face Colombia in friendly

Allnigeriasoccer.com understands that the Flying Eagles will be facing Colombia in an international friendly as part of their preparations for the showdown against five-time world champions Brazil at the 2023 FIFA U20 World Cup.

Nigeria U20 boss Ladan Bosso stated before the team's trip to Argentina that two friendlies against World Cup participants not in Group D are being lined up, but only one friendly has been

confirmed as of now. On Tuesday, May 16, the Flying Eagles will be taking on Colombia, who have a similar playing style to Brazil.

The Flying Eagles have never faced Colombia at the World Cup, and the friendly will be a good test before the meeting with Brazil at the Estadio Único Diego Armando Maradona, La Plata on May 27.

Coached by Héctor Cárdenas, Colombia qualified

for the World Cup by virtue of finishing third at the 2023 South American U-20 Championship, where they held Brazil to two draws (1-1 and 0-0).

The friendly between Colombia and Nigeria will kick off at 2000 hours Nigerian time at a yet to be determined venue.

Nigeria will open group play against the Dominican Republic on May 21, followed by matches against Italy and Brazil.

# Osimhen sends message to Weah

Super Eagles forward, Victor Osimhen, who recently surpassed George Weah's Serie A goal record, delivers a touching tribute to the legendary African footballer, **Soccernet.ng** reports.

The Nigerian sensation broke Weah's 23-year scoring record with his equaliser against Udinese, giving him 46 Serie A goals. On Thursday, he surpassed Weah's record this time by scoring his 47th goal from the penalty spot against Fiorentina.

The 24-year-old socked into his social media account to show his respect for the

current president of Liberia, who, during his playing days, made a positive impression on all African players.

In his spectacular 18-year professional football career, which concluded in 2003, the AC Milan icon played as a striker and was often regarded as one of the best players of all time.

Meanwhile, his long-standing record was recently surpassed by Nigerian striker, Osimhen, who has nothing but glowing words for the 1995 Ballon d'Or winner

He wrote: "While growing up, I have always admired

the great achievements of so many African legends, and his Excellency Mr George Weah is one of them, an icon in the world of football and also a leader to his people. Someone who has motivated and inspired millions of young talents alike.

"Yesterday, it was a great honour to break his record as the top-scoring African player in Serie A history, an achievement I will forever cherish. Mr George Weah has set a foundation of excellence for individuals like me to emulate, and his legacy will forever be

ORGANISERS of the gold label Okpekpe International 10km Road Race, yesterday, revealed that there would be in-competition doping tests during the ninth edition of the historic event on May 27.

**Guardian** said that, according to the Race Director, Zack Amodu, provisions have not only been made for a full doping control for the event, but also full medical services will be available at the venue.

"In line with World Athletics anti-doping rules, in-competition tests will be conducted for selected athletes during the race. This will be done to preserve the integrity of performances achieved at the event which is a World Athletics Gold Label race," said Amodu.

A minimum of eight athletes will be subjected to the tests that will be conducted in conformity with the provisions of the international standard for testing and investigations.

"As a World Athletics Gold Label race, four men and four women will undergo the tests,

# Organisers plan full doping control at Okpekpe Race



including four with EPO analysis. The testing kits needed for effective anti-doping have arrived. We have a doping station built in Okpekpe for the race.

"However, only the elite athletes will undergo the tests. Athletes required to take prohibited substances or methods written in the Prohibited List to treat an illness must apply for TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemptions)."

Amodu also assured participants of full medical services before, during and after the race.

"The organisers have fully complied with World Athletics' competition medical guidelines in the organisation of the medical services provided to participants since the inaugural edition of the race and this year's event will not be different."

# Bosso picks his final roster for World Cup

The head coach of the Flying Eagles, Ladan Bosso, has today released the list of players that will be representing the country at the upcoming U-20 World Cup championship, **Soccernet.ng** reports.

Playvolume00:00/07:12Victor Osimhen is the best striker in the worldTruvidfullScreen

The 55-year-old has provided a twenty-one-man squad list



The seven-time winners of the Africa Cup of Nations are aiming to win their first World Cup in the Argentina-hosted U-20 World Cup in 2023

that will don the green and white colours in Argentina, when the competition starts on the 20th of May 2023.

Nigeria are in Group B and will have to fight against Italy, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic to get any hopes of reaching the latter end of the tournament.

The flying eagles kick off their campaign against The Dominican Republic on Sunday, May 21st. They will also face Italy after the space of three days.

Goalkeepers: Chijeke Aniagboso, Nathaniel Nwosu, Saheed Jimoh.

Defenders: Daniel Bameyi, Benjamin Frederick, Israel Domingo, Abel Ogwuche, Augustine Njoku, Solomon Abalaka.

Midfielders: Daniel Daga, Samson Lawal, Victor Eletu, Ibrahim Abdullahi, John Joshua, Tochuckwu Nnadi.

Forwards: Haliru Sarki, Jude Sunday, Ibrahim Mohammed, Lawal Salem Fago, Kehinde Ibrahim, Emmanuel Umeh.

# Naija Super Eight zonal play-offs get venue

THE zonal play-offs of the forthcoming Naija Super Eight football competition will now hold

at the Eket Township Stadium, Akwa Ibom, from June 1 to 3, instead of the earlier advertised Godswill Akpabio Stadium.

According to the organisers of the Super Eight competition, Flykite Productions, the venue change was necessitated by the decision of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to use the Godswill Akpabio Stadium for its Super League, hence the demand that the facility be refurbished ahead of the competition.

Flykite Productions Managing Director, Jenkins Alumona, yesterday, explained: "The managers of Godswill Akpabio International Stadium informed us that the facility has been chosen as the venue for the CAF Super League and it will need to be refurbished ahead of the competition."

"This has left us with no option than to move the play-offs to Eket, which, thankfully, has a great facility and is close to Uyo.

"The Eket Township Stadium, which was completed less than

a year ago, is in good shape. The town is also a football location and we assure fans that they will have a great time watching the play-offs."

The 12-club zonal play-offs are the first of the two stages of Naija Super Eight and are designed to determine representatives of the six geopolitical zones at the finals to be held in Lagos from June 16 to 25.

To qualify for the play-offs, clubs must be among the two with the highest vote tallies from their zones after the completion of the ongoing fan voting, which opened on April 10, will end on Friday.

The top two teams from each zone will take on each other in a single-game elimination match, with winners proceeding to the finals, where two wildcard teams to be decided by the organisers will join them.

Alumona called on fans, who have not voted, to visit [www.naijasuper8.ng](http://www.naijasuper8.ng) to vote for their favourite clubs to be part of the competition.



Napoli forward, Victor Osimhen, moved to join the Gli Azzurri in 2020 and has scored 47 goals, making him the first African with the most goals in Serie A top-flight



Sports

# 'Without peace there will be no development'

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

GOVERNOR Simon Bako Lalong of Plateau State has advised the incoming government to sustain his administration's maintenance of peaceful coexistence among the citizens of the state, as without peace there will be no meaningful development.

The governor gave the advise during the final and presentation of prizes at the Triangular Golf Kitty, in honor of his 60th birthday, held at the Rayfield Golf Club on Sunday.

Governor Lalong emphasized that when he assumed the mantle of leadership, restoring peace back in state was one of his cardinal agenda, adding that peace is very important in any society.

"I'm thankful to God for clocking 60years, at sixty God have given me the opportunity to be an elder statesman on the Plateau".

"I will always beat my chest that I'm a governor who is always seen ordinarily, especially to golfers", he said.

"I'm already on the move, but I can't move without thanking you all, that is why I organized this tournament. So many golfers in the country wanted to participate, but I told them



Gov Lalong

this Kitty is only for Jos golfers", he emphasized.

He challenged them to be united, "I have ensured that all the golf courses have green in order for us to compete anywhere. I also want us to see our selves as one, despite been members of different clubs, Rhino, Lamingo and Rayfield golf club belong to all of us".

He further thanked the President of Nigeria Golf Federation for giving a generous prizes, applauded the organizers and assured of more support to all the golfers.

Earlier, Barr. Steve Abah,

Captain, Rayfield Golf Club, congratulated the governor and thanked him for all the support giving to clubs for the betterment of the game.

Highlights of the event was the cutting of birthday cake by the celebrant and the presentation of birthday cards and plaque.

ANDY Murray won his first title in nearly four years by beating Tommy Paul in the final of the ATP Challenger event in Aix-en-Provence.

BBC SPORT said that, Briton Murray, 35, came back from a set down against American top seed Paul to win 2-6 6-1 6-2.

It is the three-time Grand Slam champion's first title since winning in Antwerp in 2019, and his first on clay since 2016 in Rome.

It is his first title at the second-tier Challenger level since 2005.

"This last year, 18 months, has been a bit of struggle with my game. But [my team] have been there supporting me and working with me to try and get better," said Murray.

"We keep going from here." Fifth seed Murray took a late wildcard entry into the tournament to get more clay-court match time before the French Open, following first-round exits from Monte Carlo and Madrid in April.

After a slow start against Paul, in which the world number 17 won the opening four games en route to taking the first set, Scotland's Murray found his level at the start of the second set and reeled off five successive games.

## Murray beats Paul for first title since 2019



Murray

Paul, a semi-finalist at this year's Australian Open, got on the board but Murray levelled the match on his first set point and picked up where he left off in the decider, immediately breaking his opponent's serve. He missed out on the opportunity to go 3-0 up by failing to convert two break points, and later saw another go begging before he finally broke 25-year-old Paul again in what turned out to be the penultimate game, before serving out the match.

Victory means Murray will rise to 42 in the world when the rankings are updated on Monday - his highest world ranking since May 2018.

His win over Paul marks his third victory over a top-20 player this year, after beating Matteo Berrettini in the first of his enthralling battles at the Australian Open in January, and Alexander Zverev in Doha in February.

The French Open, the second Grand Slam of the year, starts on 28 May with Murray aiming to play in it for only the second time since 2017.

## Madrid Open: Alcaraz wins title over Struff

WORLD number two Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff.

The 20-year-old Spaniard won 6-4 3-6 6-3 for his

fourth trophy on the ATP Tour this season, and 10th overall.

BBC SPORT said that, Alcaraz is the second man to defend his title in Madrid, after compatriot Rafael Nadal did so in 2014.

He will replace Novak Djokovic at the top of the world rankings by simply playing in Rome next week.

Alcaraz's victory in Madrid means he has won back-to-back tournaments, having won the Barcelona Open in April, and demonstrates why he is among the favourites for the French Open, which begins on 28 May.

After he broke lucky loser Struff's serve in the opening game in Caja Magica, his opponent fought back to remove Alcaraz's advantage in the fourth.

But after Struff held

serve, US Open champion Alcaraz reeled off three straight games, later saving three break points before making the most of his first set point.

Struff, the world number 65, raced into a 3-0 lead at the start of the second set before saving five break points to go 4-1 up.

Despite failing to convert a break point, the 33-year-old went on to serve out the set to take the final into a decider - at which point Alcaraz found another gear.

He broke to take a 3-1 lead and, while missing out on two further break points, never relinquished his advantage and served out the match to love.

Alcaraz, who like women's champion Aryna Sabalenka celebrated his birthday on Friday, has lost just two matches in 2023.

## Clark wins first PGA Tour title



Wyndham Clark's previous best showing was runner-up at the 2020 Bermuda Championship

AMERICAN Wyndham Clark claimed a first PGA Tour title with victory at the Wells Fargo Championship.

BBC SPORT said that, Clark, 29, started the final round with a two-shot lead at Quail Hollow in Charlotte, North Carolina.

And he followed up Saturday's 63 with a three-under 68 to finish on 19 under and four shots clear of compatriot Xander Schauffele.

"It's been a long five

years to get to this point, it was well worth the wait and I'm so grateful," Clark said.

England's Tyrrell Hatton, who had shared the halfway lead, was tied third on 12 under with American Harris English.

England's Tommy Fleetwood was a shot further back alongside Adam Scott of Australia.

Clark lost his two-shot advantage in the first three holes and trailed

Schauffele after seven holes.

But he pulled away on the back nine, leading by five at one stage, and could even afford to bogey the final hole.

"I think in years past I might have folded," he said.

"This time I just stayed patient and hung in there and got hot on the back side."

He has enjoyed five top-10 finishes this season but

had never won in 133 events on the tour before Sunday.

His previous best showing was a play-off loss to Brian Gay at the Bermuda Championship in 2020.

"There's so many times I wanted to cry and break clubs - and I did break the club sometimes - in this journey and to get to this point is so sweet," Clark said.

"It's just amazing to finally do this."



Carlos Alcaraz won the US Open in 2022



