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Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

6 companies get approval to import petroleum products

The Federal Government, on Monday, said six new companies have received approval to import petroleum products into Nigeria.

Farouk Ahmed, the Managing Director of Nigeria Mainstream and

Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDRA), made this disclosure to state correspondents at the Presidential Villa, on Monday

He debunked reports that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), had

given approval to Dangote Group to import petroleum, saying that the company has no powers to give such approval.

Ahmed further noted that there are several companies that applied for fuel importation permit and anyone can apply for

importation to get access to the port as the authority is open to all those interested in importing.

"There are six companies who said they want to import fuel in July. Of course, all the others may import in December

in November, or anytime but those who expressed interest to bring in fuel in July, there were six of them as of this morning.

"The beauty of it is that there are interests, which means that they have been able to have access to foreign exchange in order

to import.

"Now, as we go along, of course, we'll be briefing you on the progress or the achievements so far, but the important thing is that NNPC has 30 days fuel sufficiency, so we do not anticipate any gap in supply or in distribution."



Nigeria's President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, exchanging greetings with the President of Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote and the Founder, Bill & Melinda Gates, Bill Gates during a visit at the Presidential Villa, Aso Rock Abuja on Monday. PHOTO: STATE HOUSE PRESS, ABUJA

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has expressed sadness over continuous coordinated attacks on citizens.

He urged the security personnel to diligently execute their constitutional responsibility of protecting lives and property in the state by going after the killer bandits in

Go after killer bandits in communities -Mutfwang

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

This came in a press statement signed by the Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Gyang Bere, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the

State capital Sunday. The statement stated that, the governor has expressed sadness over the coordinated attacks by bandits that claimed the lives of several people and property destroyed in some parts of Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of the

state, affecting communities like Kak, Ranyam, Nging, Lohala and Buka respectively. He sympathized with the families of victims and condemned in strong terms, the bloody attacks that perished lives of many innocent lives. "I want to

use this opportunity to urge the security agencies to diligently execute their constitutional responsibility of protecting lives and property in the state in order to put a stop to the wanton spilling of blood and burning of property

"I also want to appeal with security agencies in the state to consider the redeployment of more personnel to the communities that are currently under attack to prevent further destruction of lives and properties and

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He, therefore, saluted the gallantry of some of officers and men of various security agencies who have made sufficient and selfless sacrifices in curbing the spate of attacks, encouraging them to put in more efforts to halt the ugly trend completely.

While commiserating with the families of the deceased, Mutfwang, reassured Plateau citizens of his commitment to should remain neutral and refrain from meddling into the local politics that is outside their purview", Mutfwang enthused.

The Governor, however, reiterated the commitment of his administration to work with the existing security apparatus at the Federal level, using multifaceted approaches to secure innocent citizens in communities who have been under invasion by the bandits.

addressing their sad situation, particularly the issue of insecurity so as to bequeath the requisite development and progress the state was yearning for

He called on citizens irrespective of tribe, religion or political affiliations to join hands with government in finding lasting solutions to the unwarranted, unprovoked attacks on innocent villagers in our communities, denying them of the chance to carry out their legitimate.

Egbetokun vows to tackle criminality



Nigeria's new Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, has vowed to tackle crime

head-on and rid the nation of criminality.

The IGP spoke to State House correspondents on Tuesday, after he was decorated by the Vice President, Kassim Shettima, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja

He said, "Now that I have just been decorated, I am looking forward to taking over tomorrow morning at 11am.

I really can't describe how I feel presently, but if I have to tell you anything, I will tell you that right now I feel like a tiger inside of me, ready to chase away all the criminals in Nigeria.

"And at other times, I feel like a lion in me, ready to

devour all the internal enemies of Nigeria. That's my feeling right now."

The reports had it that President Bola Tinubu, on Monday, approved the appointment of Egbetokun as acting Inspector General of Police after he retired former IG Usman Alkali Baba.

On Tuesday, Alkali Baba expressed his confidence in the new leader, emphasising their shared history and their collaborative work over the years.

The former IGP expressed his confidence in Egbetokun's ability to champion the cause of the police.

Unity is our key focus as Plateau lawmakers-

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

A second term member representing Jos-South/Jos-East Federal Constituency in the green chamber of the National Assembly, Hon. Musa Bagos, has assured people of Plateau State of his resolve to work for the unity of the state to actualise the Plateau dream.

He stated this recently in an interview with journalists at his Post Inauguration Dinner held at the Emerald Events Centre in Jos, the Plateau State capital where thousands of supporters and well-wishers cutting across all faiths and political parties trooped in to celebrate with him on his inauguration.

The lawmaker said, "You are all aware of what we went through during the



general elections and the high tension from diverse interests. But now, it is time for governance. And I want all of us Plateau people to ensure that we are united as government of the people to see that we get the dividends of democracy.

"This is because once we are not united, we will not

be able to actualise our dream. So, unity is a key word and unity should be the focus of everyone of us so that we will be able to look at what our people will get as dividends of democracy", he assured.

Reacting to the persistent attacks on communities in the state, Bagos expressed sadness that the previous

administrations' Governors in the state had no capacity. "So, we need a policy so that the Federal government should understand what is going on, on the Plateau to really address it. We are clearly saying: Not Now.

"It is something that the Federal Government needs to address. We want the perpetrators to be arrested and justice should be served to the people that are being killed to give confidence to my people", he advocated.

However, the second term House of Representatives member, has assured the people of his constituency to expect nothing less. "Talking about expectations in this second tenure, the only word that I can say is, expect nothing but wow!"

DisCos' plan to buy power from GenCos hits hurdles

Electricity sector operators are negotiating bilateral contracts to enable power purchase agreements in the contract market phase set to begin in July, and parties to these negotiations tell BusinessDay that there are knotty issues.

Some of the highly indebted distribution companies (DisCos) have not made adequate investments in their networks including installing meters in their substations to capture the amount of electricity they receive. Also, the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) lacks the capacity to wheel all the contracted power, making agreements difficult to reach.

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission had planned to move the electricity market into a full Transitional Electricity Market (TEM) Phase, which is the intermediary step between an integrated total utility and a fully competitive market structure with more varied market players, structured to bring competition into the market.

After TEM, a multiple buyer model is supposed to follow and this allows customers and DisCos to buy electricity through bilateral contracts with the bulk trader, in addition to buying directly from generation companies (GenCos) and independent power producers.

In the electricity value chain, the government is the wholesaler. GenCos are producers, while DisCos are retailers. Bilateral arrangements are meant to remove the wholesalers in the value chain and allow the retailers and producers to interact directly and freely, analysts say.

Group tackles Asari Dokubo on allegations against military

The National Probity And Values For Nation Building Organization (NPVNBO) has cautioned a former militant leader in the Niger Delta region, Mujaheed Asari Dokubo, to be tactful and honest while exercising what he feels are his civic responsibilities and not to be carried away with euphoria.

The group also noted that Dokubo was on borderline behavioural dysregulation, hence he should not be seen trying too hard to impress President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for very obvious reasons.

A statement signed by NPVNBO secretary, Ademola Ojo, said it was appalling that Dokubo could make allegations of oil theft against the Nigerian military especial the Army and Navy branches of the Armed Forces of Nigeria.

"We find it appalling that Mujaheed Asari Dokubo could make such wide of the mark allegations against the Nigerian Armed Forces - particularly the Nigerian Army and Navy respectively of their alleged

involvement in crude oil theft and economic sabotage.

We feel such spurious and unguarded claims should better be avoided as it is capable of heating up the polity within the Armed Forces in a government that is still in transition, this is obviously tactless and garrulous and we believe the nascent administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu should not be crowded and distracted with such unsubstantiated allegations that is capable of sowing distrust.

We are of the opinion that if and when Asari Dokubo is a privy to any confidential informations regarding the security of this country, at best he should have brought it to the knowledge of the President privately since he was a guest of the President and bearing in mind the weighty allegations and the confidentiality and integrity that the office of the President demands in dealing with such security issues, the President still

maintains the prerogatives on national security as he is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

As stakeholders in this country and particularly in the Niger Delta region, we believe in the fight against crude oil theft and its total eradication, the prosecution of the criminals behind it and the elimination of the twin evil of environmental degradation, our unwavering focus is on the total rehabilitation of the Niger Delta - environmentally, infrastructurally and economically and as such we will support all efforts that will help eliminate the variable threats and sabotage that are ultimately responsible for the summed aggregate deficits in the region, what we are saying without mincing words is that we have always worked with the Armed Forces in our communities to flush out criminals and whatever inducements that are there, we recognise the daunting efforts of the armed forces in our communities in peace

building and crime fighting, so in situations where reported that some purported bad elements within the armed forces are involved in economic sabotage we must be careful and disciplined enough to isolate such and not tar the entire armed forces with such brush of an act of infamy.

On the detained leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of

Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu, the group appealed to President Tinubu to reach into the depths of his rich resume of leadership dynamism to finding an understanding for dealing with the issues that led to the agitations in the South-East of the country and find out a better understanding of the the dynamics for the success of a multi-layered social and diverse ethno-religious society as Nigeria.



Dokubo



THE part of the conversation over the pace and trajectory of the economy that matters more, is where we begin to acknowledge that the Nigerian economy is unlikely to pick up pace simply because of the reform initiatives recently put in place by the Tinubu government. An increase in the trend growth rate of domestic productivity matters far more for the domestic economy's outlook. This process will benefit from investment in new technology, equipment, processes and factories.

The first 100 days of the Tinubu government will go down as some of the most frenetic in Nigeria's history. Certainly, it is almost as if this government is trying to compensate for the languid pace that has characterised policymaking in the last two decades. Marked by a flurry of changes to existing procedures, and interventions that look like having the potential to broadly improve governance, the government struggles to flee from the charge that the most important of these initiatives have an improvised feel to them. Understandably, concerns have also been expressed as to the pitfalls to the reform effort from improper sequencing.

For instance, should the new government have removed the subsidies on petrol before making the downstream sector's supply chains more flexible? Without addressing the latter constraint, price signals will not elicit the desired optimal supply responses. Nor will the market reach a useful equilibrium very soon. Should it also have floated the naira before fixing the perverse incentives from the central bank's fiscal repression policy? Negative real interest rates having been implicated in the dollarisation of the economy, a free floating local currency will be driven to distraction without first fixing the monetary transmission problem.

While the immediate consequences of the reforms have included a lot of confusion, much of the associated colic is just so much quibbling. For too long, successive governments in the country, especially since the current assy at democratic rule launched in 1999, have held off implementing reforms because of a fixation on process. Barely able to discern the trees from the woods upon taking office, mission creep soon erodes whatever room new governments have for manoeuvre. In this context, a central advantage of the "Big Bang" announcements that the Tinubu government has made is their apparent irreversibility.

If the larger point of these additional adjustments to the organisation of the local

How do we fix this economy?

The questions are myriad, and how the answers influence themselves often unclear. But we have not scratched the surface of the problem of how to fix this economy. UDDIN IFEANYI writes.



Tinubu

economy is to help improve the returns to domestic investment, a small part is about smoothing out economic outcomes in a way that encourages domestic economic units to save more. Of the sundry uneven playing fields that currently constrain domestic economic activity, education is, unfortunately, the most glaring and mission critical.

Now work may begin on addressing the processes without which those announcements will not amount to much, and at worse, may compound an already sickly economy. The discontinuities between the central bank's policy rate and retail rates in the financial services sector matter for the success of reforms to the foreign exchange market. Similarly, positive real interest rates will be necessary for attracting deposits and discouraging lending — both required responses from the market, if monetary policy is to have any chance of reining inflation in. The rates dynamics will also matter if the eventual return of the asymmetric cash reserve requirement (CRR) "recovered" by the Central Bank from commercial banks is not to drive banking sector liquidity higher still. As they will be for attracting both foreign direct and portfolio investment. A big problem for non-resident investors over the nine years that Mr Emeziele ran the central bank was how to repatriate profit from their local operations to non-

resident shareholders.

However, the part of the conversation over the pace and trajectory of the economy that matters more, is where we begin to acknowledge that the Nigerian economy is unlikely to pick up pace simply because of the reform initiatives recently put in place by the Tinubu government. An

“ Are we sufficiently invested in the processes, institutions, and persons that will boost education across tiers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics? Can we begin to teach programming and coding skills from primary through secondary school? The questions are myriad, and how the answers influence themselves often unclear. But we have not scratched the surface of the problem of how to fix this economy. ”

increase in the trend growth rate of domestic productivity matters far more for the domestic economy's outlook. This process will benefit from investment in new technology, equipment, processes and factories. Along this path, the reduction in the cost to businesses, both big and small, of plying their trade, is a task that this government will need to accomplish with far more brio than any of its predecessors ever did.

It is easy to describe this task in terms of both better industry regulation, a slimmed down, more focussed, and therefore more efficient public sector, and the removal of the many oligopolies that currently sit at the intersection of government and the private sector (this will require razing barriers to entry and exit to businesses in nearly all sectors of the economy) in the country. In addition the police, the judiciary, the army, our local government administrators, all have to be nudged to learn to support level playing fields across the economy.

Are we sufficiently invested in the processes, institutions, and persons that will boost education across tiers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics?...The questions are myriad, and how the answers influence themselves often unclear. But we have not scratched the surface of the problem of how to fix this economy.

If the larger point of these additional adjustments to the organisation of the local economy is to help improve the returns to domestic investment, a small part is about smoothing out economic outcomes in a way that encourages domestic economic units to save more. Of the sundry uneven playing fields that currently constrain domestic economic activity, education is, unfortunately, the most glaring and mission critical. We have far too many eligible nationals out of school, not undergoing (indeed who have never gone through any) training, and all out of (again a sizeable number have never been in) work. Then there are questions as to how fit the current school curriculum is for the purpose of jumpstarting the economy.

Are we sufficiently invested in the processes, institutions, and persons that will boost education across tiers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics? Can we begin to teach programming and coding skills from primary through secondary school? The questions are myriad, and how the answers influence themselves often unclear. But we have not scratched the surface of the problem of how to fix this economy.



Business & Economy

Nigerians kick as FG implements 7.5% VAT on diesel

THE Federal Government, on Monday, confirmed that it had commenced the implementation of the payment of 7.5 per cent Value Added Tax on Automotive Gas Oil, popularly called diesel.

Officials of the Nigeria Customs Service and Federal Inland Revenue Service confirmed this in Abuja, stressing that AGO was not exempted from the payment of VAT based on the VAT Modification Order 2021.

The development was, however, condemned by Nigerians, who pointed out that citizens were still trying to adjust to the hike in the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, not knowing that plans had been perfected to further raise payments for diesel.

When asked by our correspondent if the NCS was now collecting 7.5 per cent VAT on the imports of AGO, the spokesperson for the service, AbdullahiMaiwada, replied, "Yes."

He continued, "If you ask me whether Customs collect 7.5 per cent VAT on AGO, I will tell you yes and I'll give you the reasons. There's what we call VAT Modification Order 2021, which exempts petroleum products of Harmonised System Codes.

"But the HS Codes for Petroleum products that are exempted from paying VAT are those in the region of 2709.00.00.00 - 2710.19.12.00. The HS Codes are what we use to classify commodities. But AGO is classified under HS Code 2710.19.21.00, which is not exempted from the payment of VAT. Now, this is based on the VAT Modification Order 2021.

An official of the FIRS, Tobi Wojuola, also confirmed the development, stressing that it was the position of the VAT Modification Order. "The position of the VAT Modification Order 2021 is that VAT is chargeable on diesel," he told our correspondent in Abuja.

In a letter from the NCS to some of its personnel, on the matter, with reference: NCS/T&T/899/217/VOL. I, sighted in Abuja, and dated June 8, 2023, the service made it clear that VAT must be paid on diesel. The letter was signed by the Assistant Comptroller-General (Tariff and Trade), Mba Musa, on behalf of the Deputy Comptroller-General (Tariff and Trade).

It read in part, "I am directed to forward a letter



Tinibu

from Federal Inland Revenue Service on the above subject matter. The VAT Modification order 2021 only exempts petroleum products of HS codes 2709.00.00.00 - 2710.19.12.00 from payment of VAT. AGO or diesel falls classifiable under HS Code 2710.19.21.00 and is not exempted from paying VAT.

"Subsequent upon the above, all future importations of the product should assess and pay VAT at the point of entry into the country. Also note that AGO or diesel are not exempted from destination inspection or import guidelines and as such are expected to process Form M and PAAR as well as make declarations appropriately in the NICIS II system.

"A copy of the letter from FIRS is attached for your information. Take note and be guided accordingly, please."

However, the new development has hit Nigerians hard, as many have called for an utmost review of it, especially because of the recent removal of fuel subsidies.

A Twitter user, Ingawa said, "That means for every litre of AGO you will buy, you have to pay 7.5 per cent VAT of the pump price. For example; If one litre of AGO is N650 at the filling station, then you have to pay an additional N48.75 being payment for 7.5 per cent VAT. The total price per litre will be N698.75 per litre.

Another user, Angry Non-Nigerian, said, "When Tinubu said 'widen the tax net, you people thought he was joking. The only thing that man knows is tax, tax and tax. As Lagosians."

One Oyo said, "The Citizens will be the main IGR for this government. There is no single move to cut the cost of government from the Senate to the House to other departments.

"They went to education

first by trying to add tuition fees, now 7.5 per cent VAT on PMS. Everything directly to the common man."

THE naira slumped further to the dollar after closing at 770.38/\$ at the end of trading on the investor & exporter forex window on Monday.

According to figures obtained from the FMDQ on Monday, the trading rates had closed at N686.96/\$ on Friday.

Trading opened at N703.50/\$ and hit a high of N799/\$ before closing at N770.38/\$.

The I&E forex window recorded a total turnover of \$78.03m at the close of trading on Monday.

The Central Bank of Nigeria, last week directed Deposit Money Banks to

FINANCIAL services once again led the way as the Nigerian Exchange closed positive with a marginal gain of N8bn for investors.

The All-Share Index went up by 0.02 per cent higher to close at 59,014.85 index points when compared to the 59,000.96 index points recorded in the previous day's trading session.

The market capitalisation of equities closed at N32.134tn, indicating a gain of 8bn when compared to the N32.126tn recorded in the previous trading session.

Universal Insurance Plc (10.00 per cent) led gainers, followed by Tantalizer (10 per cent), and Unity Bank (9.80 per cent). MBenefit came fourth with a gain of 9.76

Investors gain N8bn as Stock market closed positive

per cent while FTNCocoa completed the gainers list with a gain of 9.63 per cent.

Ellahlakes Plc (-10.00 per cent) led the losers followed by JohnHolt (-9.57 per cent), and Academy (-9.55 per cent). Omatek was down by -7.14 per cent while Regalins completed the laggards list with a depreciation of -7.14 per cent.

Jaiz Bank Plc was the most traded equity by volume at the end of today's session. The bank was followed by SterlingNG (105,543,000) and UNIVINSURE (95,115,898).

By value, the top three traded shares were GTCO (N2.6bn), UBA (N693m) and SterlingNG (N311m).

Trading volume also increased by +34.80 per cent from the previous day's session as N892.95m units of shares were traded today.

The marginal gain on Monday came on the heels of a bullish trading week that saw investors rake in N1.7tn. The market rally was largely attributed to the suspension of the former Central Bank Governor, Godwin Emefiele and the decision of the CBN to float the Nigerian naira.

Naira falls to 770.38/\$ at official market

remove the rate cap on the naira at the I&E window to allow for a free float of the national currency against the dollar and other global currencies.

The banking regulator explained its new forex operation in its report on 'Understanding the

operational changes to the foreign exchange market'.

By collapsing all segments in the FX market into the I&E window, it said this meant all eligible FX transactions in the market would only be done via the I&E window, as all other windows ceased to exist.

"The I&E market functions by a willing buyer, willing seller system, where an entity with demand for FX seeks out another entity with FX to sell at an agreed price through an authorised dealer," the CBN stated.

On the concept of the willing buyer and willing seller model, it explained that the rates were mutually agreed by both parties.

The CBN said PTA, BTA and other invisible transactions would continue to be accessed through the banks at the prevailing market rate.



Data Breaches: FG vows to prosecute MDAs CEOs

THE National Commissioner for the Nigeria Data Protection Bureau, Dr Vincent Olatunji, has disclosed that the Commission will prosecute the Chief Executive Officer of any government agency found guilty of data breaches.

He made this disclosure on Monday in Abuja at a press conference to shed more light on Nigeria Data Protection Law 2023.

Lamented the low level of data compliance among government agencies, with compliance level rising from four per cent to nine per cent after a series of training, awareness, and a circular, which was issued last year.

Olatunji added that while private organisations can be made to pay a fine for data breaches, asking a government agency to pay a fine is the government fining itself.

Therefore, instead of a fine, the head of the agency will be prosecuted for the breach.

He said, "What we have in the law now, if we want to fine a government organisation, it is using government money to fine government. So, we are saying the CEO must be prosecuted, that is what we have in the law. So, if you are the CEO, and you say you are a government official, and nothing will happen. If there is a data breach, we will leave government, it is you that will be prosecuted."

He added that a number of training is planned to ensure awareness and compliance in the private and public sectors.

The NDPC boss further noted that over 100 organisations, which include mostly lending platforms, are being investigated.

He added some investigations were concluded, with appropriate sanctions meted but did not disclose the names of organisations sanctioned.

Olatunji said, "Between when we started now, we have investigated over 100 organisations. Most of them are lending apps."

He added, "We have dealt seriously with them. Currently, Sokoloan that is like the arrowhead of such organisations, we issued fines and are currently discussing with them. We have investigated about seven banks. Some are ongoing and we have concluded some. Those that we have completed, we have issued sanctions to them."

On the fines for the breach, he noted that although the law states that any organisation found guilty should pay two per cent of their gross earning, the Commission issues

fines based on the level of the damage.

He said, "What the law says is that they should pay two per cent of their gross earnings but looking at our economy in Nigeria, we are preaching ease of doing business. Some of them if you tell them to pay that fine, that means, in fact, they confess to us, that almost all their top management staff will go. So, what we are saying is that it depends on the impact of the breach on the data subject.

The NDPC boss also said that the Commission has earned over N200m from licences and breaches, with over N50m made from only data breaches.

"On breaches alone, we raised more than N50m. From licences and everything, from when we started, without a law, we raised over N200m for government," he said.



CBN lifts deposit restriction, allows \$10,000 withdrawals daily

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has provided further guidance to Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) on the operational changes to the foreign exchange market announced on June 14, 2023.

Going by the latest guidance, holders of domiciliary accounts are now free to withdraw a maximum of 10,000 dollars per day while cash deposits into such accounts will no longer be restricted.

The apex bank in a statement on Sunday by its Director of Corporate Communication, Isa AbdulMumin, directed the DMBs as follows:

All visible and invisible transactions (medicals, school fees, BTA/PTA, airline, and other remittances) are eligible for the Investors' and Exporters' (I & E) window.

DMBs shall ensure expeditious processing of all eligible invisible transactions on behalf of their customers using the applicable rate at the I & E window.

Ordinary domiciliary account holders shall have unfettered and unrestricted access to funds in their accounts.

Domiciliary account holders are permitted to utilise cash deposits not exceeding USD\$ 10,000 per day or its equivalent via telegraphic transfer.

DMBs shall provide returns to the CBN including the purpose for such transactions.

Cash deposits into domiciliary accounts will not be restricted, subject to DMBs conducting proper KYC, due diligence, and adhering to the spirit and letter of extant AML/FT laws and other relevant rules and regulations.

The CBN will prioritise orderly settlement of any committed FX forward transactions as they fall due in order to further boost market confidence.

The Bank will normalise its CRR maintenance processes and ensure equity in its implementation across the banking industry.

The CBN assured the banking public that it remains committed to ensuring a stable and efficient FX market that meets the needs of all legitimate users

ECONOMIC CONFIDENTIAL can recall that before now there was a restriction on how much cash Nigerians could withdraw from their domiciliary accounts. The restriction was also clouded with a lot of confusion and



uncertainty as holders were not sure how much cash they could withdraw.

Withdrawal of previously deposited cash was restricted to 10,000 dollars per week sometimes or even monthly depending on the subsisting CBN policy.

The new policy direction has now clearly stated that holders can withdraw or transfer to the maximum of 10,000 dollars per day out of their domiciliary accounts.

The limit on wired transfers into a deposit account has now been completely removed.

Nigerians can now deposit an unlimited amount of cash into their domiciliary accounts.

Barely a week after ordering the suspension, arrest and detention of the former CBN



governor, Godwin Emefiele, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is advancing in his determination to undo all the

Muhammadu Buhari and Emefiele policies which allegedly crippled the economy for the better part of

the last eight years.

Nigerians have struggled to access their cash deposits into domiciliary accounts following the restrictions placed by Emefiele as CBN governor.

Before now, accessing cash deposits into domiciliary accounts was very limited as the CBN under Emefiele feared the dollarisation of the economy.

With this new development, Nigerians with domiciliary accounts can use their debit cards abroad without fear of restrictions.

The development according to some experts is also likely to improve liquidity in the forex market as this allows more people to deposit their forex in banks.

Politics

Venmak challenges Lar: June 19 for hearing

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE petition filed by Council Chairman of Langtang South Local Government Area, Hon. Vincent BulusVenmak, of the All Progressive Congress (APC) challenging Hon. Beni Daushep Lar, of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) before the National Assembly Petition Tribunal sitting in Jos, has been adjourned to June 19.

This was to enable the tribunal conclude on applications or submissions made by counsels during the Friday's pre-hearing session held at Court '4' of the Jos High Court, Plateau State where Counsel to the petitioner, Barr. Edward Pwajok, SAN, applied for the amendment of some paragraphs in the petition for the purpose of justice.

However, Counsel to the 2nd respondent, earlier objected and urged the tribunal to dismiss the application on the ground that no amendment was supposed to be entertained after 21 days of filing a petition because it was coming at an odd time.

Countering the objection of Counsel to the 2nd respondent, the Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), who is the counsel to the petition, quoted the case of INEC versus Yusuf in 2022 and said, the amendment was not to temper with the substance of the petition, but to correct some typographical errors in



Lar

the petition to give room for smooth abdication of justice.

He, therefore, appealed to the tribunal to allow the submission to go on and be adopted so that proper amendment should be made for the interest of both counsels and justice which they all sought to achieve in order to distinguish documents that would give them way to bring in witnesses.

The tribunal, after considering both applications and counter applications during the pre-hearing arguments in the case, adjourned the case to Monday June 19, 2023 to conclude the pre-hearing and

subsequently continue with the hearing proper where witnesses would be entertained. **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** observed that only the petitioner, Hon. Vincent Bulus Venmak, who is PW1 was in court in person, but the respondent, Hon. BeniDaushep, was absent and represented by her counsel. It would be recalled that Hon. Venmak contested for the position of the National Assembly Member representing Langtang-South Constituency under the umbrella of the APC with Hon. Lar, of PDP on February 15, 2023 but was slidely declared second after Hon. Lar who came first.

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Plateau Senatorial Zone aspirant of People's Democratic Party (PDP), Ambassador Golkuna Yohanna Gotom, has vehemently debunked allegations making the rounds that Senator Diket Plang, has settled him and he has withdrawn his petition before the tribunal.

He stated this recently while in an interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital following speculations making the rounds in some quarters that he has withdrawn from the tribunal.

The aspirant said, "This is surprising that some mischief makers who would want to get cheap recognition will cook this false story to either please their principal or confuse the process. A right thinking person should know that this is a document before the court and for anything of such to take place, it must be formally done.

"The person that should be thinking of withdrawing should not be me but Hon. DiketPlang, who stole my

Gotom debunks claims of withdrawing from tribunal



Plang

mandate. From the onset, it should be clear to you that my mandate was stolen. How can an election result be delayed for more than a month before declaration?", he questioned.

Gotom, however, cleared air that he was in court to take

back his mandate and called on his supporters to disregard any false claim that he has withdrawn his case. He described it as baseless and misleading saying, "we are in court to take mandate!

NYP hails new NASS leadership

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Nigerian Youth Parliament (NYP) has commended the emergence of Senator Godswill Akpabio and Rt. Hon. Tajuddeen Abbas as Senate President and Speaker of the 10th National Assembly.

Speaker of the Parliament,



Akpabio

Dr. Azeezat Yishawu, in a statement she signed and made available to newsmen also urged the new president of the Senate to include the Nigerian Youth Parliament in the Senate's decision-making processes.

The Parliament equally congratulated Sen. George Akume and Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamilla on their appointment by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Chief of Staff to the President respectively.

On the new NASS leadership, she said "This is a crucial time in the nation when the people need a parliament that would further improve on the legislative accomplishments of the 9th Assembly and work for the people".

According to her, "having witnessed Senator Godswill Akpabio's partnership to the progress of the Nigerian Youth Parliament since its inception in 2007 when he was Governor of Akwa Ibom, the state produced the pioneer

Speaker of the Parliament."

She noted further that since then, Akpabio has remained a partner in progress to the successive sessions of the parliament since its inception up to date.

She said, "We are hoping that since he's now the Chairman of the National Assembly, he will engage members of the Nigerian Youth Parliament more closely, especially in the decision-making process that affects young people in the country."

She commended the process that produced the leadership of the National Assembly, describing it as free, fair and transparent.

While canvassing for a pragmatic partnership with NYP, Dr. Azeezat said, "Young people need to be engaged in issues that affect them directly which is the reason for the establishment of the Nigerian Youth Parliament. It is to ensure that young people contribute to the decision-making process since it is said that, 'Nothing about us, without us,'" she pointed out.

36-year-old re-elected as Oyo Speaker



Ogundoyin

ADEBO Ogundoyin, a thirty-six year-old indigene of Eruwa in Oyo State has been re-elected as Speaker of the state House of Assembly. There are twenty eight (28) members elected on the platform of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Four (4) were elected on the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC). Ogundoyin is currently representing Ibarapa East state constituency on the platform PDP.

Ogundoyin was first elected as Speaker of the House in June 2019. The elected members have elected him for the second time and the election took place during the inauguration of the 10th State House of Assembly. The election of Ogundoyin was sequel to his nomination by one of the lawmakers-elect, Bamidele Adeola (Iseyin/Itesowaju). The nomination was seconded by Babajide

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan

Gabriel Adebayo. The state governor,

Set aside partisan politics

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO

GOVERNOR Seyi Makinde of Oyo State has advised the state House of Assembly members to set aside partisan politics.

Makinde made this disclosure recently while addressing lawmakers during the inauguration of the 10th House of Assembly in Ibadan, the state capital.

The governor, while addressing the newly inaugurated lawmakers advised them to set aside partisan politics.

He urged the lawmakers to

work for the progress of the state. The governor while speaking, also promised to reduce the number of out of school children in the state.

"I want you to set aside partisan politics and work for the development of Oyo State.

"Our government will reduce the number of out of school children.

"Mr. Speaker and honourable members. We remain firm on our resolve to give good governance to our people", the governor emphasised.



Makinde

Politics

Valedictory session marks end of 9th PLHA

It is said that whatever has a beginning must have an end, and that the end of a matter is better than the beginning. In what can be described as a solemn moment, the Plateau State House of Assembly held its valedictory session to signal the close of the ninth (9th) assembly. The session saw the speaker and members recounting some of their most memorable experiences in the course of their journey as legislators. while some were good, some were not so good. PAULINE DALLONG writes.

THE Speaker, Rt. Hon. Abok Nuhu Ayuba set the ball rolling by giving his farewell speech. He first of all expressed gratitude to God and then his constituents for giving him the mandate to represent them. He was also grateful that they stood by him throughout his tenure as member representing Jos East constituency. For Abok Ayuba, nothing can be more fulfilling than doing his best in the discharge of his duties, while keeping to his campaign promises.

To his colleagues, the former speaker did not hide his gratitude as he thanked them for unanimously electing him to serve as speaker. According to him, being first amongst equals did not give him reason to take their mandate, trust and confidence for granted. In his words: "we came as individuals, became a family, got scattered, got united again and would be departing as a family to meet again in another level".

Ayuba did not leave out the immediate past Governor, Barr. Simon Bako Lalong in his list. He described him as one of those who in one way or the other, allowed God to use them in making him speaker. He also mentioned the former Chairman of his former party, Chief Letep Dabang who he said is now a chieftain of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), for his role in also ensuring he emerged speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly.

To some of his colleagues, who he said allowed themselves to be used in destabilizing the smooth running of the assembly by illegally and forcefully removing him from office on the early hours of 28th October 2021, he had this to say to them: "I have forgiven each and everyone of you and hold no grudge against any of you. And to your conspirators and



sponsors, I have also forgiven you".

Afterwards, members one after the other also took turns in reeling out their appreciations to their spouses, colleagues, constituents, legislative aides, families, management and staff of the assembly, the press especially that of the House, etc. One thing that stood out for me was the fact that they all asked each other for forgiveness. Their departed colleagues were not left out as almost all, including the speaker eulogized the late Hon. Henry Longs, recounting experiences shared and the role he played before and during

the impeachment saga.

However, not all members of the ninth assembly attended the valedictory session as some were visibly absent with no explanation given, except for the Minority Leader and member representing Barkin Ladi constituency, Hon. Peter Ibrahim Gyendeng who is now a member of the National Assembly and was said to have traveled to Abuja.

Those who were not present include the former Speaker and member representing Pengana constituency, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, the Deputy Speaker and member representing Dengi

constituency, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong, the Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency, Hon. Naanlong Gapyil Daniel and the member representing Jos North North constituency Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan. Others are Hon. Abdul Yanga, member representing Mangu North constituency and the member representing Kantana constituency, Hon. Bala Noma. Meanwhile, the PLHA has during the week's plenary requested the state Executive Governor, Caleb Mutfwang to direct the immediate dissolution of all political structures in the seventeen (17) local government councils of the state, and allow for thorough investigation into financial mismanagement by the anti graft agency.

This was part of resolutions reached by the House adhoc committee investigating the financial records of the LG councils. While reading the resolutions, Speaker Rt. Hon. Abok Ayuba also requested the executive governor to suspend eight (8) directors of personnel management and directors of finance for their involvement and alleged conspiracy with their suspended chairmen in frustrating the investigations.

The Chairman of the adhoc committee, Hon. Pirfa Jingfa

Tyem who is also the member representing Langtang North North constituency while presenting the committee's findings revealed a lot of shady transactions carried out by the ousted chairmen, which he said was not in line with financial due process.

Also during plenary, and sequel to the communication received from His Excellency, Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, the House confirmed the nomination of the following persons as transition committee chairmen of the seventeen (17) local government councils.

Jos East, Hon. Markus Hussaini, Riyom has Hon. Sati Shuwa, Jos South has Hon. Peter Vwangdung, Bassa has Hon. Fidelis Adara while Hon. Daniel Kim is to oversee that of Barkin Ladi. Others are Mr. Istifanus John, Jos North, Hon. Markus Atu Mangu, Hon. Monday Kassa Bokkos, Hon. Samuel Go'ar for Pankshin.

Hon. Caleb Shikir will oversee Kanke, Hon. Ado Yusuf Kanam, Hon. Nicholas Kemi Nshe is that of Shendam, Hon. Christopher Audu Manship for Qu'an Pan, Hon. Daniel Kungmi, Mikang while that of Langtang North is Hon. Nanmwa Kumzhi, Langtang South has Hon. Mrs. Manji Dangfa and Hon. Hamisu Anani for Wase.

"Those who were not present include the former Speaker and member representing Pengana constituency, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, the Deputy Speaker and member representing Dengi constituency, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong, the Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency, Hon. Naanlong Gapyil Daniel and the member representing Jos North North constituency Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan. Others are Hon. Abdul Yanga, member representing Mangu North constituency and the member representing Kantana constituency, Hon. Bala Noma".

IMAGES

PLATEAU STATE DEPUTY GOVERNOR RECEIVES ALMA-MATER BOYS BRIGADE

The Plateau State Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo recently received on a courtesy call her Alma-Mater, St. Louis College Jos, led by the Education Secretary, Catholic Archdiocese of Jos, Mrs. Rose Agur and the Boys Brigade Nigeria led by Evangelist Lengshakka Mershaka of Jos North Battalion Council at Government House Rayfield, Jos.



Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo (left) listening to the message from her St. Louis College Old Students being delivered by Mrs. Rose Agur, Education Secretary of Catholic archdiocese Jos



Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo (middle) in a group photograph with some management staff of St. Louis College Jos and Government Officials



Student of the College (right) presenting souvenir to the Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo



Plateau State Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo with some students of the St. Louis College Jos in a photograph



Evangelist Lengshakka Mershaka of Boys Brigade Nigeria, Jos North Battalion delivering his message to the Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo (left)



Cross section of some officers of the Boys Bridgade Nigeria, Jos North Battalion Council listening the remarks during courtesy call



Permanent Secretary, Office of the Deputy Governor's Office, Mr. Hezekiah Awoss (left) with the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Governor, Hon. Alex Kundang



Plateau State Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo in a group photograph with government functionaries Evangelist Lengshakka Mershaka and members of the entourage

PHOTOS: OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RAYFIELD, JOS

Politics

Task ahead of Plateau Tenth Assembly leadership

The legislature can be described as a democratic structure which besides handling lawmaking responsibility, operates within the confine of its constitutional roles and House rules. As an instrumental arm of Government which largely promotes the ensurity of doctrine of separation of power and check and balances, the legislative arm sits only within week days and upon inauguration of a new assembly, principal officers to pilot affairs of the institution are elected. TIMOTHY TYEM writes.

THE Tenth Plateau State House of Assembly like its counterpart at the National Assembly was inaugurated on Tuesday, 13th June 2023 and has since elected its presiding officers. Interestingly, a first timer and member representing Mikang constituency, Moses Sule emerged as the new speaker while a returning member Gwottson Fom Dalyop representing Jos South constituency, was elected as the deputy speaker.

The Speaker Rt. Hon. Moses Sule, whose role as leader of the state legislative arm also being the number three citizen of Plateau and the cynosure of all eyes, is a seasoned grassroots politician who has a vast experience working both in the private and public sector.

It won't be out of place to say that the new speaker and his deputy rode on the trust and magnanimity of their colleagues who unanimously voted them to lead the institution, giving the believe they have in their capacities to revolutionize the House to a 21st century peoples' oriented assembly.

Though a first timer, Moses Sule is expected to leverage on the vast legislative experience of his deputy Fom Gwottson Dalyop, a returning lawmaker whose rich expertise provides a guide that aids the helmsman settle in the reverred position.

This time around, the House in its wisdom brought in middle aged men while also leveraging on the nexus between the new and the returning members into leadership as the combination of Moses Sule and Fom Gwottson is to foster quick adaptation to legislative practices, not forgetting that their intellect, industry and energy in the pursuit of good governance to citizenry is also an added advantage.

The tenth state assembly may have inherited a near dysfunctional institution practically ravaged by leadership crises pitching the lawmakers along camps and carrying out questionable functions in the court of public opinion. However,

when compared with the Federal House of Representatives which sponsored two thousand two hundred and thirty two bills (2,232), out of which five



hundred and ten (510) were passed and two thousand (2,000) motions in total considered in four years.

In view of this, it can be said that the performance of Plateau State ninth assembly is abysmally unacceptable, given its record of seventy five (75) bills which are both executive and private member sponsored. Out of

this number, twenty five (25) were passed and seventy four (74) motions considered within its lifetime.

The data revealed here accounts largely to the rationale behind the ninth assembly's underperformance, derogatory assessments in the public space and supposedly inordinate representation to speak for the people.

What is therefore expected of the leadership in the tenth assembly is to quickly settle down to unite all structures within the House, with a view to setting a pace for optimal legislative impacts.

Although autonomous and independent in its dealings, the new leadership of the tenth assembly should equally leverage on the initiative of building a working and collaborative synergy with other arms of Government; a panacea for all round achievements but not forgetting its constitutional roles.

It is therefore, worthy of note to state that the tenth state assembly is the beautiful bride in the eyes of the storm.

Citizens are not only expectant of smart changes in governance style capable of bettering their livelihoods but are also tired of frequently hearing the House in the news for the wrong reasons.

“
The tenth state assembly may have inherited a near dysfunctional institution practically ravaged by leadership crises pitching the lawmakers along camps and carrying out questionable functions in the court of public opinion. However, when compared with the Federal House of Representatives which sponsored two thousand two hundred and thirty two bills (2,232), out of which five hundred and ten (510) were passed and two thousand (2,000) motions in total considered in four years.
 ”



4 arrested for vandalizing JED armoured cables

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PLATEAU State Command of the Nigeria Police Force has arrested four (4) suspects for alleged vandalization of Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JED)'s armoured cables in Lodih of Rantya Community, Jos-South Local Government Area of the state.

This came in a press statement signed by the Command's Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Alfred Alabo, and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos, the state capital Tuesday.

The statement stated that the Command under the leadership of the amiable Commissioner of Police, CP Bartholomew N. Onyekapsc(+) has arrested four (4) suspects in connection with the vandalization of the Jos Electricity Distribution company's (JED) properties within the state.

It said, "On 10/06/2023 at about 0400hrs, the patrol team of Rantya Division in collaboration with the Divisional Crack Team and Neighborhood Watch arrested one Tijani Bala 'male' of Last Gate Dadin Kowa who was found to be in possession of JED's 75MM armoured cables.

"In the course of interrogation, the suspect confessed to having received the items from one Nura 'male' of Atiku Street, Rayfield, whose surname is unknown and is now at large. The said Nura is believed to have vandalized the JED armoured cables somewhere in Rantya, known as Lodih and brought them to him for sale", disclosed the statement.

However, the commissioner, through the Command's PPRO revealed that the suspect after his arrest, tried to bribe the police and Neighborhood Watch officers with the sum of fifteen thousand (#15,000) Naira to cover his crime, but was resisted. He is currently being detained at the Rantya Divisional Headquarters for further investigation while efforts were on top gear to ensure that the said Nura was found and brought to book.

He also disclosed that the Command with the co-operation of a JED staff, one TersurSuswam 'male', who came to the Police Station and volunteered his statement, was able to achieve this success. "The Command wishes to thank the good people of Lodih community for giving the police timely information which has helped us greatly and urges all other communities to do the same by forming security committees in their areas in order to avoid future occurrence of such acts".

In the same vein, three suspects have been arrested on 11/06/2023 and were currently being detained at the Anglo-Jos Police Station



Onyeka

in relation to another JED cable vandalization.

The Command released the names of the suspects arrested as: Henry Yahuga, DaudaAuta and IzangAzi respectively saying, "investigation is ongoing and further information will be communicated to you in due course. We are advising members of the public to desist from engaging in any form of criminal activity, as we will not take it lightly with anyone found in such acts".

THE NIGERIA STANDARD gathered from the Command that for any emergency, people should please call the following numbers: 07059473022; 08038907662; 08075391844 and 09053872296 respectively. No byline.

The Federal Government, on Monday, said six new companies have received approval to import petroleum products into Nigeria.

Farouk Ahmed, the Managing Director of Nigeria Mainstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDRA), made this disclosure to state correspondents at the Presidential Villa, on Monday.

He debunked reports that the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), had given approval to Dangote Group to import petroleum, saying that the company has no powers to give such approval.

Ahmed further noted that there are several companies that applied for fuel importation permit and anyone can apply for importation to get access to the port as the authority is open to all those interested in importing.

"There are six companies who said they want to import fuel in July. Of course, all the others may import in December in November, or anytime but those who expressed interest to bring in

fuel in July, there were six of them as of this morning.

"The beauty of it is that there are interests, which means that they have been able to have access to foreign exchange in order to import.

"Now, as we go along, of course, we'll be briefing you on the progress or the achievements so far, but the important thing is that NNPC has 30 days fuel sufficiency, so we do not anticipate any gap in supply or in distribution." Six Companies Get Approval To Import Petroleum Products In July.

Security agents allegedly shot 12 during KASUPDA demolition

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

THERE was pandemonium in Sabon Gyero Community in Kaduna State, when residents were shot at by security agents while resisting operation of the State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA), who embarked on demolition of houses in the area recently on Democracy Day.

Operatives of Kaduna State owned security outfit, have allegedly shot and injured 12 residents of SabonGyero



Ag. IGP Egbetokun

PLATEAU State Deputy Governor, Josephine Piyo has commended management and staff of Saint Louis College, Jos for inculcating discipline and sound moral values in students of the college.

Piyo gave the commendation when she received on a courtesy call, proprietor and management of the college at Government House, Rayfield, Jos, recently.

The Deputy Governor who is an alumnus of the college noted that she was proud to be a product of the school.

She explained that God nurtured her from a humble background through his divine grace to where she is today.

The Deputy Governor encouraged some of the students on the entourage to be committed to their studies and God will exalt them in their endeavours.

Education Secretary, Catholic Arch Diocese of Jos, Rose Agur who led the delegation said they were at the Deputy Governor's office to rejoice and pray with her to succeed as the number two citizen in the state.

Agur stated that the journey was not an easy one, but prayed that God will uphold her in the new assignment.

She also prayed for more strength, understanding, good health, empathy and wisdom for the deputy governor and her principal, the governor to succeed.

The visit climaxed with the presentation of sacramentals to the deputy governor to draw inspiration and strength from them, when the journey gets tough.

Meantime, Plateau State Deputy Governor, Josephine Piyo has assured Boys Brigade Nigeria of her support to train

Deputy Governor receives alma mater, Boys Brigade

By DUMAH RANDONG



Piyo

and bring up godly children in the society.

Piyo gave the assurance when she received on a courtesy visit, officials of the Boys Brigade, Jos North Battalion Council in her office at Government House, Rayfield, Jos, recently.

The deputy governor who doubles as patron of both Jos North and Riyom Battalion Councils of the organization, noted that it gives her great joy when she sees the younger ones being nurtured in the way of the Lord.

She expressed happiness with the way the Boys Brigade conducts its activities,

pointing out that as a mother, she is concerned about the growth and spiritual wellbeing of children.

Piyo commended the Boys Brigade Nigeria for supporting and encouraging her even in dark moments.

Chairman of Boys Brigade, Jos North Battalion Council, Lengzaka Mershak said they were in her office to congratulate her as their spiritual mother.

He prayed for God's strength upon her to enable her and the governor to meet the yearnings and aspirations of Plateau people.

and children, boys and girls of ages between 12 and 16years, according to credible report.

The Chairman of the Joint Task Force (JTF), in the community, Uwaisu Yunusa, has also confirmed the incident to journalists, alleging that the operatives reportedly opened fire on the victims in an attempt to stop Kaduna State Urban Planning and Development Authority (KASUPDA), from carrying out the demolition exercise.

In an Interview with Adamu Yusuf of Radio Nigeria Kaduna, made available to journalists Tuesday, the (KADVIS) shot twelve persons when some angry youths were trying to stop KASUPDA from carry out some demolition at the community.

"The operation of KASUPDA at Sabon Gyero Community, Millennium City, Chikun Local Government area of Kaduna State has left twelve persons including women and children with gunshot injuries

"Addressing Radio Nigeria correspondent, the Chairman of JTF Sabon Gyero Community, Uwaisu Yunusa confirmed that the vigilantes under KADVIS, shot twelve persons while some angry youths were trying to stop KASUPDA from carrying out some demolition at the community.

"He said already, he reported the incident to the police DPO in charge of Millennium City and environs and the victims were taken to Gabasawa Clinic Unguwar Rimi for medical attention.

"Uwaisu Yunusa popularly known as Sarkin Samari, lamented that the community of Sabon Gyero used to have a cordial relationship with KASUPDA and other agencies and he does not know why KADVIS would inflict innocent persons including girls and boys under the age of twelve to sixteen with gun bullets.

"The victims are Hasat Magaji, Rukayya Lawal, Hamza Bashir, Aminu Salisu, Rukayya Falallu and Sani Nura.

"Others are Rahama Yusuf, Zainab Sani, Abdullahi Lawal, Jamilu Idris, Kamilu Muhammad, Baba Bello and Hafsat Adamu.

"When contacted, the leader in charge of the operation at Sabon Gyero, Yunusa Ibrahim however denied shooting anyone by KADVIS, adding that KADVIS only fired up their shots to scare people that wanted to attack them during the demolition.

"The sad incident occurred 12th June, while the country was celebrating her democracy day", he stated.

News

Police rescue 7 kidnapped Uni Jos students

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA



Onyeka

SEVEN (7) kidnapped students of the University of Jos, have been rescued following tireless commitment and prompt response by the Plateau State Command of the Nigeria Police Force in collaboration with the Anti-Kidnapping Unit, families and community members.

This came in a press statement signed by the Command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Alfred Alabo, and made available to Sunday Standard in Jos, the Plateau State capital Friday.

The statement said, "the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka, psc(+) through his continuous tireless work towards combating crime and criminality within the state is pleased to announce to the general public that seven (7) of University victims who were kidnapped on 13/06/2023 have regained their freedom.

"The Command swung into action immediately after receiving the report and worked tirelessly in collaboration with the Anti-Kidnapping Unit, family members of the victims and the community to secure the release of the victims", it highlighted.

SUNDAY STANDARD learnt, according to the statement that one of the victims was able to escape from the kidnappers' den, on the day they were kidnapped. Five were later rescued Friday, while one victim who was the only female that was still in captivity regained her freedom Saturday.

"The victim was later taken to the hospital for proper medical attention and will

soon be reunited with her family. This brings the number of rescued victims to seven (7) through the efforts of the Command to see that they gained freedom", he explained

According to the PPRO, "the Commissioner of Police CP Bartholomew N. Onyeka, psc(+), has given a matching order to the Area Commander Metro and the DPO Nasarawa Gwong to intensify efforts toward ensuring that the last victim is rescued unhurt and the perpetrators of this heinous act are arrested and brought to book".

The Commissioner, therefore, reassured the good people of Plateau State of his commitment to ensure peace and safety of lives and property in the state. He called on the residents to be security conscious by reporting suspicious activities or persons around them and provide useful, timely and accurate

information that could help in the fight against crime and criminality in the state.

The Command therefore, gave the following GSM numbers to be called for any emergency: 07059473022; 08038907662; 08075391844; 09053872296 accordingly.

It would be recalled that seven (7) students of the University of Jos who lived off campus were kidnapped by gunmen last Wednesday, but six of them have regained their freedom following efforts by the Police Command led by CP Bartholomew N. Onyekapsc(+).

Ironically, however, the 10th Assembly of the Plateau State House of Assembly members on the day of rescue were passing a "Vote of No Confidence" on the state Commissioner of Police not withstanding these efforts recorded within a short time.

Gov. Bala partners NDLEA against youth restiveness

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi,**

THE Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir, has re-emphasized that his administration is working round the clock to address the problem of drug abuse among youths in the state.

The governor stated this recently when the State Commander of National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Bauchi, Malam Ali Aminu, visited him at the Government House, Bauchi.

The governor explained that the problem of drug abuse in the state, particularly among youths, can only be surmounted if NDLEA would work in collaboration with other sister agencies. He charged the state Command of the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency to go after drug barons, dealers and merchants operating in

the state.

The governor charged the agency to ensure that any dealer, baron, merchant caught was properly prosecuted so that it would serve as a deterrent to others.

"You need to stem the tide of Sara Suka in the state. They cannot just be cutting hands under the influence of drugs abuse and go scott free. We want you to go after the merchants, those that are in the business of supply, they can't be bigger than the law. Don't only prosecute the takers, prosecute the sellers. If you arrest any dealer, make sure that is the end of his business for life."

"We know the importance of your agency. We know what you are here to do for us, as an agency. We are always looking up to you to support government in the efforts to ensure that the state is drug free in terms of abuse and trafficking."

"We will always give you

the opportunity to come and interact.

"From the national statistics, the state is the 3rd most populous state in the North after Kano and Kaduna. And so of course, demographic, migration and the rest are not helping us because by virtue of our being relatively peaceful, people are migrating to this place.

"I thank you for prosecuting over 100. That means that you are not complacent, you are working very hard to ensure a drug free society.

"You must establish community relationship with our traditional rulers, with community leaders and religious leaders." the governor said.

"We are not happy with the level of sensitization and publicity of the activities of NDLEA. People should know your importance, should know what you are doing.



Religion as an albatross

NIGERIA is a very, very religious country. Worship centres dot every corner of our streets. There is hardly any street you cannot find one worship centre or the other. Christian and Muslim worship centres compete for space with each other. Indeed, they are found side by side in some cases. As a matter of fact, residential houses and relaxation spots that do not house a worship centre are considered abnormal. Anything the average Nigerian person does, he claims God is at the centre of it all.

Thus you hear the cliché "if not for God" or "my God is greater than any other thing. Nigerians fight for their gods. They kill in the name of their gods. Yet claim God created everything and all things. Every waking day, a new church or mosque springs up in a corner of our society yet nothing seems to work well for our county. Our leaders, adherents of either of the two major religions seem to have found a very convenient way of beating us, the followers back into line, each time we stray off the mark.

Least I be misunderstood, religion practiced properly, keeps us in check. It is the moral fibre that holds the society together. It points us in the right direction whenever we miss the point or veer off the moral radar. But religion is not an industry. You cannot pray your way to development neither can you do same to success. No matter how hard you pray, the era of miracles is long gone there are no longer free manna from heaven. Even our holy books are replete with directives on the need to work and use whatever talent one is endowed with for one to succeed in life.

Ours is a religious society yet nothing works. We start every event by calling on God to take control and take charge of proceedings yet our prayers seem not to go beyond the ceiling of the building in which the events hold. Muslims and Christians seem to be in competition with each

other not to bring dividends of development to the society but to outdo each other in soiling their hands in the public till. When they hit the brick wall, they resort to religion. And the gullible followers fall for their antics.

Religion to Nigerians is a means to an end. However, you manage to use it to your advantage is all that is important. People steal and when they are found out, they say they are being persecuted because of their faith. We do things that are completely at variance with our faith yet we claim that we are guided by that faith. We feel no qualms taking shelter under falsehood and lies.

Look at the resources our country is blessed with. Do we have any reason to be

where we are? Instead of working to build a just and fair society, we are building one that is fractured and is sick. Boko Haram is an indication of the mess we have gotten ourselves into as a country. We have built an army of disillusioned people that are now ventilating their anger on our society. No one seems to care where we are headed to as a country. No one is taking responsibility and is doing something to bring us out of the woods.

All we hear is that we need to pray. But I ask, pray to whom and for what? We cannot wish banditry away neither can we pray away the biting poverty that is consuming our land. We cannot wish away herder/ farmers clashes but have to put in place deliberate measures to curb them. God will not come down from heaven to change the course of our history for us, we will have to do that by ourselves. Unless we show Him a willingness to work for change, He cannot help us. He has given us all the enablement to succeed but we have refused to use them. Look around us and see how blessed we are yet nothing is working. Roads, absent. Electricity, zero. Infrastructure completely non-existent yet we fight ourselves over nothing on behalf of God?

Those who brought the two religions to us have since realized that if they do not manage their activities well, they are not going to make any headway. Dubai is an example. All investments are channeled to this desert just because they have shown a willingness to change their story. We are no longer our brothers' keepers. We have become very individualistic and self centred and no longer care what happens to our neighbours. We build mega churches and Mosques at the expense of industries. We cannot pray our way out of poverty in the name of religion, we need to change and change for the

All we hear is that we need to pray. But I ask, pray to whom and for what? We cannot wish banditry away neither can we pray away the biting poverty that is consuming our land. We cannot wish away herder/ farmers clashes but have to put in place deliberate measures to curb them. God will not come down from heaven to change the course of our history for us, we will have to do that by ourselves. Unless we show Him a willingness to work for change, He cannot help us. He has given us all the enablement to succeed but we have refused to use them. Look around us and see how blessed we are yet nothing is working. Roads, absent. Electricity, zero. Infrastructure completely non-existent yet we fight ourselves over nothing on behalf of God?

NEWS

PSC pushes for increased gender sensitivity

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja



Ag. IGP Egbetokun

THE Police Service Commission has approved new policy guidelines for deployment of management and Tactical Commanders in the Nigeria Police Force and the imperativeness for gender-sensitivity in the deployment of Assistant Inspectors-General of Police and Commissioners of Police to Zonal and state Command Headquarters.

Ikechukwu Ani, Head Press and Public Relations, said in a statement recently that the Commission considered and approved the policy guidelines at its 21st Plenary Meeting which held at its Corporate Headquarters in Jabi, Abuja recently presided over by its Chairman, Dr. Solomon Arase, CFR, retired Inspector General of Police.

The Commission stated that the Nigeria Police Force should be guided by the principle of Federal Character in both recruitment (at all levels) and deployment of its personnel at management and tactical levels to ensure balance, equity and fairness in the system.

It observed that the current deployment of Commissioners of Police to State Commands leaves much to be desired in reflecting the principle of equity and fairness to all geo-political zones of the country, stressing that the current statistics of such deployments was against the North East and South East geopolitical zones.

The statement further explained that the Commission observed the disproportional distribution and lopsided deployment of Command Commissioners. And noted that it has become extremely important that a fair representation of all geo-political zones is always reflected in these deployments to eschew and address the feeling and sense of marginalisation and injustice by certain zones of the country in the Nigeria Police Force.

The Commission at plenary and relying on Section 6(e) and (7) of the

Police Service Commission Act which empowers the Commission to 'formulate and implement policies aimed at the efficiency and discipline in the Nigeria Police Force; and perform such other functions which in the opinion of the Commission are required to ensure the optimal efficiency of the Nigeria Police Force considered and approved the new policy guidelines.

Henceforth request for deployment of Commissioners of Police to State Commands must ensure that the disadvantaged zones are considered first in the proposals to the Commission in order to redress the present imbalance and lopsided deployments skewed against the North-East and South-East regions of the country.

All geo-political zones of the country must now have at least 15 percent representation in the deployment of Assistant Inspectors-General of Police to Zones, Commissioners of Police to State Commands and posting of Commanding Officers of Police Mobile Force, Counter-Terrorism CTU and Special Protection Unit (SPU).

It also stated that all police deployments to zones and Commands at both management (Deputy Commissioners of Police and Assistant Commissioners of Police and tactical levels (Commanding Officers of PMF/SPU/CTU, must recognise our heterogeneity and reflect fairness and equity in terms of ethnicity and religion.

The Commission however advised the Inspector General to be guided appropriately by these policy guidelines founded on principles of fairness and justice to all members of the NPF. It is also geared towards eliciting trust and confidence of the Nigerian people and taking ownership of their police in showing greater understanding, cooperation and support to the NPF towards improved community safety and adequate internal security in

Nigeria.

On its policy on imperativeness of gender-sensitivity in the deployment of AIGs and CPs, it noted the continued practice of lopsided deployments of only male Police Officers to Zones and Commands with no fair consideration and representation of female police officers who are qualified for such positions. It observed that this will in no time portray the Police as an organisation that is anti-woman empowerment and averse to women inclusivity in governance.

The Commission also considered and approved that "at least three state Commands out of the thirty seven Commands must have female police officers as their Commissioners of Police and out of the seventeen Zonal Headquarters, at least one Zone must have a female AIG to head the zone".

The Commission had also at the Plenary Meeting approved the appointment of two Deputy Inspectors General of Police, approved the promotion of 14 Commissioners of Police to the next rank of Assistant Inspectors General of Police which included CP Adebawale Williams, who was until his promotion, the Commissioner of Police, Oyo State Command.

The Commission also approved the promotion of 22 Deputy Commissioners of Police to substantive Commissioners of Police and which also included DCP Enyinnaya Inonachi Adigun, who was formerly Deputy Commissioner Special Fraud Unit (SFU) Ikoyi Lagos.

PSC doffs cap for Rivers State PC

By DORCAS PANKYES

THE Police Service Commission applauds the Rivers State Police Command for its improved efforts in tackling crime, and commends Nura Mandé for his exemplary conduct in returning 800 US dollars to a Katsina pilgrim

The Police Service Commission reiterated its determination to not only punish police officers found wanting in the discharge of their duties but to commend and possibly appreciate and motivate those who have continued to show uncommon courage in the war against terror, banditry and other forms of criminality in the country. Commission Chairman, Dr. Solomon Arase, CFR, retired Inspector General of Police had declared on assumption of duty that there must be consequences for misconduct and benefit for exemplary behaviour.

The Head, Press and Public Relations of the Commission Ikechukwu Ani disclosed this recently in Abuja that the Commission wishes to commend the

Inspector General of Police for the successes recorded by the Rivers State Command especially the recent giant strides in checkmating the deadly escapades of a notorious gangster that had held the state in its jogular.

The statement noted that the Commission received with happiness, the news of the crushing of a criminal gang of three operating by Isiodu Forest in the Emohua axis of the East/West road of the state and who were alleged to have killed a former Federal Commissioner of the National Population Commission and hijacked two 18 seater buses conveying National Youth Service Corps members who were travelling to Ondo State.

The Commission notes that this positive resurgence of strength and capacity to provide the required security of lives and property is a welcome development especially as the nation is picking up the

Hummer bus with registration number JJJ 941 XA (Lagos) somersaulted along the expressway.

Atiba Unit Commander Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Bayode Olugbesan, confirmed the accident to journalists on Saturday.

He added that the accident was caused by over speeding and overloading.

He said 20 people were

4 die in autocrash along Ibadan expressway

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan

involved in the accident but only four were confirmed dead at State Hospital, Oyo.

He said four people who died in the accident had been taken to the mortuary.

"All the victims are male and their destination was the North. The cause of the crash was over speeding and overloading. The bus was supposed to carry 14 passenger but was loaded with 20 passengers".

He said 20 people were

Bauchi Gov laments state of Custodial Centre

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi



Mohammed

BAUCHI State Governor, Bala Mohammed has observed that the Bauchi Custodial Centre is old and over-stretched with minimal comfort for those sentenced to serve for specific periods of time.

The governor, however, expressed satisfaction with the reforms going on in the correctional service where convicts and inmates are being shown empathy and sympathy, and can punish people even outside their custody, saying this is very ingenious of the Nigerian Correctional Service.

Bala Mohammed made the expression when he received the North East Zonal Correctional Service, Assistant Controller-General Yahaya Adamu Sambo, at the Government House, Bauchi recently. He assured the coordinator of the state government's continued support to enable him discharge his statutory duties in Bauchi and the entire North East

zone.

The governor directed the Secretary to the State Government, Ibrahim Mohammed Kassim, to as a matter of urgency provide the coordinator with an official residence and vehicle to facilitate the smooth conduct of his duties.

Earlier in his speech, the Correctional Service Zonal Coordinator intimated the governor,

"We have a plot of land at Inkil over the years where

efforts to develop and relocate the old custodial centre has not yet come to fruition".

Yahaya Sambo, however, expressed hope that with Governor Bala Mohammed on board, the relocation of the old custodial centre will soon be a reality if not on Inkil, but a better site. He pointed that "I believe you would be able to do it because we have seen what you can do on the seat of governance".

He told the governor that the service had a lift by way of the new Act that came into force in 2019 which has widened the scope of the Nigerian Correction Service with the addition of a Directorate of Non-Custodial Service which, according to him, de-emphasize containment or imprisonment, and de-emphasize level of dehumanization on the human part.

According to him, by way of the Act, the judicial officers have the option to give non-custodial sentencing like probation, community service and so forth to especially first offenders to give an opportunity for them to amend and become better citizens.

While describing the governor as 'pace-setter', the coordinator observed that if he could learn the magic he used in transforming Bauchi State within a short period of four years, he would have replicated it to take the zonal service forward.

Achievements of Africa's Ukraine-Russia peace mission

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has hailed as "historic" last week's trip of African leaders to Ukraine and Russia, describing it as "the first time African leaders have embarked on a peace mission beyond" the continent. MAYENI JONES writes.

HOWEVER, with neither warring sides agreeing to peace talks, did it make any difference, or was it just an attempt by Mr Ramaphosa to secure attention on the global stage, amid mounting problems in South Africa?

An African contingent including leaders and representatives from seven countries met Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky and Russia's President Vladimir Putin at the end of last week and over the weekend.

There had been hopes that the trip, which was announced last month and led by Mr Ramaphosa, would work towards ending the war, which has badly affected living standards in Africa.

The delegation from South Africa, Egypt, Senegal, Congo-Brazzaville, Comoros, Zambia, and Uganda put forward a 10-point proposal, including a recognition of Russia and Ukraine's sovereignty and continued unhindered grain exports.

They also called for a de-escalation of fighting and for negotiations to commence with urgency, for the release of prisoners of war and for greater humanitarian support, among other requests.

Both Russia and Ukraine agreed to continue engagement, South Africa said, but on Saturday Russian President Vladimir Putin appeared to dismiss large chunks of the plan. Ukraine also appeared lukewarm.

The conflict has led to a shortage of grain and fertiliser in many African countries, which import the commodities from Ukraine and Russia respectively. This has led to a spike in food prices around the world, especially in Africa.

The Africa Development Bank says the war is directly responsible for a shortage of about 30 million tonnes of grain on the continent.

President Putin has been threatening to not renew a deal to let Ukrainian grain ships headed for Africa pass through Russian-controlled ports on the Black Sea.

It's not the first time Mr Putin has threatened to do this, but if he follows through this time, it could exacerbate food shortages on the continent - which Africa leaders are keen to avoid at all costs. Although it is thought unlikely Mr Putin will deliver on his threat because he needs African countries on his side to avoid diplomatic isolation.

Alongside raising international awareness about the economic impact the war has had on the continent, African leaders were confronted by further calls to condemn the invasion.

Ukraine's leader argued that condemning Moscow was needed to send a clear message to the Russian people that their isolation on the international stage was a result of their president's invasion of Ukraine.

Both Uganda and South Africa,



The African delegation travelled by train from Poland to Ukraine, and then on to Russia

which formed part of the African delegation, are seen as aligned with Russia's position. Last month the US ambassador accused South Africa of violating neutrality and supplying weapons to Russia, violating its non-aligned status. South Africa denied this.

It is also unclear if South Africa would hand Mr Putin over to the International Criminal Court, should he visit South Africa during the upcoming Brics summit in August.

A country that would like to be seen as a wise and steady ambassador for a negotiated peace in Ukraine, and a crusading champion of a non-aligned, multi-polar world, has been caught up in a string of very public international squabbles that have left its government looking muddled and indecisive, and its currency sinking to new lows.

At issue is South Africa's warm relationship with Russia - and a growing Western perception that the country has decided to back Moscow in its war against Ukraine, and perhaps even to send it weapons.

But is that perception fair? And what could it all mean for South Africa's reputation and its increasingly fragile economy?

"It's a nightmare," admitted one senior South African official. They were speaking off-the-record in Cape Town this week, on the sidelines of a meeting of

foreign ministers of the Brics group, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Western diplomats have privately expressed deep frustration about South Africa's stance towards Russia and its shaky attempts to live up to its self-declared "impartiality" in relation to the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine.

"The government's heart is with the Russians. There's no doubt about it. They believe the world is slipping out of Western hands - that the Russians are stronger and will win, and that they're investing in a strategic future, a new world order," said Irina Filatova, a Russian academic based in Cape Town. But others here argue that the West has got it all wrong and is misreading South Africa and fretting over what amounts to a storm in a diplomatic teacup.

"Nobody serious within the [South African] government wants to move away from the US, the UK and EU. Everybody knows these are extremely important trade partners. It's just a mess in terms of timing and perception, not in terms of substance," argued political analyst Philani Mthembu.

So where did things go wrong? Western diplomatic frustration finally burst into public view at a recent news conference by US Ambassador Reuben Brigety.

He accused South Africa of "arming Russia" by shipping "weapons and ammunitions" on a

Russian ship that docked in a well-guarded navy port near Cape Town last December.

"We are confident that weapons were loaded on to that vessel. I would bet my life on the accuracy of that assertion," said Ambassador Brigety, who went on to raise the possibility that America might respond with trade restrictions.

The ambassador's comments provoked fury from many quarters in South Africa, with some quick to see a colonial mentality on display.

"He was completely out of order. Must we kowtow to whatever the Americans say? I really don't agree with that. This is geopolitical blackmail," said Mavuso Msimang, a prominent veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle.

Many South Africans remember Moscow's support for liberation movements across the continent, and favour moves - championed by the Brics group - for a more multi-polar world.

South Africa's Defence Minister Thandi Modise summed up the government's frustration. She thundered a single South African slang word, that put politely means "nothing", to describe exactly how many weapons South Africa had shipped to Russia.

There have been whispers here that the US ambassador may have overstated his case, but while he later sought to "correct any misimpressions", he pointedly failed to apologise or to

withdraw his claims.

The key aim of the trip was to help strengthen the case for a negotiated diplomatic solution to the war in Ukraine, and in that respect, it has not been a success.

Both Ukraine and Russia reiterated before and after the African peace mission that they would not come to the negotiating table without certain basic preconditions.

For Ukraine, it wants its borders as they were in 1991 to be reinstated. This would mean Russia withdrawing from all the territories it has seized from Ukraine in the past decade, including the Crimean Peninsula. This is something the Kremlin is deeply opposed to, arguing instead that for negotiations to take place, Kyiv would have to accept its country's "new territorial reality".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday said that talks with the Africa delegation would continue.

Despite failing to bring the two sides of the conflict together, Mr Ramaphosa argues that his delegation opened the door for future talks.

Given his problems at home, including crumbling infrastructure, regular blackouts and growing discontent with his government, Mr Ramaphosa may have been seeking to play up a win on the international stage.

Unfortunately for him, this peace mission has not delivered that win.

Feature

The DSS operates within its mandate

Recently, about five major newspapers called out the DSS for bashing of sorts. The papers, which used their platforms to express varied views about the modus operandi of the Service include Vanguard, Daily Trust, The Sun, Tribune and Punch. While Vanguard's piece on 2nd June, 2023, was Dousing the DSS/EFCC Feud, Daily Trust, on 6th June, 2023, published an editorial titled, "The DSS Must Conduct Its Duties as a Secret Service". DR. AFUNANYA writes.

THE Sun, on 7th June, 2023, published "The Needless DSS/EFCC Fracas", while Tribune, on 8th June, 2023, wrote on The EFCC/DSS Confrontation.

Similarly, on 14th June, 2023, Punch featured "DSS, Others Need Radical Reforms." It did not seem that the editorials, which sought the reforms of the DSS or to criticise it for its public statements or actions on various subject matters of national security concern, were, by any means, an accident or a coincidence. It looked every inch planted or organised. It is a hatchet job, or so it seemed. The judgement that the Service is excessively public or ubiquitous missed the point. The papers manifested predictable bias and patterns.

Relatedly, some respected legal personalities namely, OlisaAgbakoba SAN, Mike Ozekhome SAN and Femi Falana SAN, opined that the Service operates outside its mandate, especially with regards to the investigation of Godwin Emefiele. The fact that this matter has become sub-judice, constrains the Service from making further statements about it. The celebration of the news of a court order to allow his Lawyers and family access to him is quite unnecessary. He was never denied access. Ever since he was taken into custody, his family has continually accessed him. Same with medical officials. The impression that the Service is going to act on the prompting of the Court is not correct. This is by the way.

Back to the subject under discourse. While it may be fair to admit that the news media and aforementioned personalities are entitled to their opinions, measured ignorance predominantly played out in their arguments.

First, they failed to recognise that security threats are evolving and so do the approaches to managing them. Instructively, the security landscape in Nigeria, like many other countries, has become increasingly complex and dynamic. The periodic issuance of press statements to educate or carry citizens and residents along has undoubtedly become part of strategies to manage national security challenges. Extensive research would have revealed to the critics that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other world intelligence Services deploy similar tactics including occasional statements and advisories. The CIA includes demographic information on its website to provide the public with valuable insights and data about various populations so to enhance understanding of different regions and communities. Does it mean CIA is operating outside its mandate? Or will that be accepted because it's CIA, a foreign body?

The need for the agencies to be responsive, transparent and apprise taxpayers has become the global norm in national security and intelligence management. It is called security/intelligence accountability. The tenets of security and intelligence governance expect that agencies remain transparent, accountable



and compliant to democracy. World over, Intelligence Services operate in ways and means not too discernable to the uninitiate. But the institutionalisation of democracy as preferred political culture has nonetheless forced such agencies to communicate often with the Public. You can see why the public statements can never be out of place. Without public consciousness and support, countering threats may remain a herculean task for security agencies. Democratic subordination and legislative oversight are basic principles which make it an obligation for these agencies to operate openly even when some of their activities are secret. Ask the USA, UK, France, Canada and other advanced democracies. This level of openness does not vitiate the expected secrecy or in any way compromise their operations.

Regarding the matter concerning the DSS and EFCC, both agencies have refuted claims of a rivalry. It is important to note that comparing the 30th May, 2023 incident at 15 Awolowo Road, Lagos, to the barricade of National Assembly in 2018 is inaccurate and unjust due to the substantial differences in the nature and context of the two events. While it is essential to emphasise inter-agency relations and cooperation, it would be unfair to generalise and imply that the Service is in rivalry and power struggle with the Commission. Each agency operates within its distinct mandate and context.

Meanwhile, the editorials accurately alluded to the constitutionality of the DSS as an intelligence organisation in detecting, preventing and neutralising threats against Nigeria. They commended the Service for its commitment to the

security of the country as well as the many feats it had accomplished in the course of discharging its duties. Thank you indeed. It has to be understood that the Service is not only an intelligence organisation. It is also a law enforcement agency. It is a security and policy advisory organ. Its establishment law expects it to prevent. To prevent unarguably means to enforce. Should the Service seek media endorsement or permission before deploying operatives and equipment to conduct its job? Should it rather play to the gallery? Characteristic of intelligence operating systems, DSS' activities may never be completely explained or understood particularly to those who do not need to know.

Even though some of its high officials and operations are known and their veils of secrecy uncovered, there are thousand undercover personnel and actions that have no business going public. It is expected to remain so. With its broad mandate and legal authority to investigate crimes of national security significance, the DSS is well within its rights to initiate an inquiry into any relevant matter. The DSS is primarily charged to detect and prevent crimes and threats against the internal security of Nigeria. More profoundly, it is to undertake such other responsibility as maybe assigned to it by the President and Commander-in-Chief. Appreciating this role of the DSS is instructive for some sections of the media, lawyers and other interested parties. The Service operates on the basis of rule of law. Its operations are rule governed. As required, it obtains arrest and detention warrants when and if needed. For the fact

that such instruments are not advertised does not suggest otherwise. Critics should get conversant with the law and rules of engagement and desist from misinforming, misleading or inciting the public. Those seeking to weaken the Service through premeditated reforms may be on a wild goose chase. Consistent attack on it based on ignorance, unrealised interests and emotional assessments and judgements does the country no good. The DSS has stood so firmly for Nigeria. It will continue to.

Considering the warped mentality that has triggered these writeups, it will, no doubt, be unsurprising to witness an upsurge in malicious articles, criticisms and baseless attacks in the public space following the investigations of Messrs Godwin Emefiele and AbdulrasheedBawa, among other flimsy matters. Certain groups and people are bound to come up with frivolous allegations against the Service and its leadership. These entities may also exploit unpatriotic members of the Service to spread falsehoods, propaganda and hate in order to project the Organisation in a bad light. Given their reach and war chest to mobilise forces against Government and its key officials, the adversaries may intend to cause distractions to the on-going investigations as directed by the C-in-C. However, the Service will not depose its professionalism for cheap backlash nor discharge its duty with prejudice or fear.

For those who canvass the opinion that the DSS has no business in investigating the matters referred to it, are obviously not taking seriously the omnibus powers of the President, as enshrined in the enabling Acts of the SSS and the NSA. As argued by a onetime Director of the DSS,

Fubara Duke, "When a law confers on the President power to delegate ANY assignments he deems fit for a particular Agency to perform, I wonder how it falls outside the purview of (ANY) the stipulations of the President's powers and by extension why the DSS is being faulted for carrying out the President's directive". Continuing, he added: "I have heard arguments of cases being thrown out by the courts over questionable prosecutorial powers of the DSS regarding some categories of cases including criminal cases. Without prejudice to the wisdom of the court on such judgements, they should not override the lawful investigative authority of the DSS. Should there be need for prosecution in due course, these determinations would be appropriately evaluated and where/if necessary, appropriate prosecutorial agencies which may include the Attorney General's Office or other sister agencies may be deployed to prosecute. It is not the first time this has happened".

Let it be clear, however, that the DSS will remain unshaken and professional in carrying out its duties. It recommits to diligently operate, as always, within the confines of the law and to uphold the fundamental rights of all Nigerians. The media must, as the fifth estate of the realm, remain balanced, accurate, impartial and accountable. To sustain a deliberate misguidance of the public with any form of misconceptions is detrimental to nationhood. Therefore, to deepen the expected contributions, seeking veracity is not only ethical but obligatory. That should not be asking for too much.

*****Dr Afunanya is the Public Relations Officer of the Department of State Services (DSS).***

Feature

Nigeria's carrier project dogged by rot, scam, impunity

It is no longer news that former President Muhammadu Buhari left office on May 29, 2023, after eight years, without delivering the national carrier or flag carrier, as some persons describe it, Nigeria Air. The carrier was among his many unfulfilled promises which left citizens bemused after placing a huge trust in him. SAM DIALA writes.

WHAT is more worrying, however, is the rot and impunity that characterised the obviously questionable multi-billion Naira carrier project. Moreover, events at the twilight of Buhari's exit saw bewildered Nigerians boil with anger and despair over what seemed an unwavering determination to scam the people.

Before assuming office, Buhari had indicated interest in bringing back the national carrier, Nigeria Airways, earlier liquidated by former President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003 after 45 years of operation. Among Buhari's campaign promises in the 2015 presidential election was the restoration of the national carrier, which was not considered wise and feasible by well-meaning Nigerians. But the "visioner" would not see the merit in any voice raised against the controversial project.

The missteps in the take-off was sufficient evidence that raising a new national carrier from the carcass of the demised Nigeria Airways was a mere flying idea in the sky. It, however, betrayed the Aviation Minister, Hadi Sirika, as a public servant on a mission of ulterior motive, given subsequent developments. He demonstrated to Nigerians, from the outset, that he was flying into a thick cloud that covered integrity.

From the outset, Sirika pursued the project in a manner that suggested his priority for a personal carrier over a national carrier. He committed humongous public resources to the Nigeria Air project in the most unconscionable manner.

The project was greeted with public outcry over the outsourcing of the Nigeria Air logo to a Bahraini company by the government at an allegedly outrageous sum despite the abundance of similar service providers in the country. But this did not cause Buhari's aviation minister to do a rethink.

There were claims that the logo design contract was worth \$600,000 (N183 million), which the government denied without providing an alternative figure. Coupled with the huge expenses incurred in freighting a large contingent of government officials and other Nigerians to the Farnborough Fair in the UK in 2018, for a mere unveiling of the national carrier, it was obvious that the project was billed to thrive more on controversy than in reality.

At the July 2018 Farnborough Air Show in London, the United Kingdom (UK), Senator Sirika announced plans to launch the national carrier within six months.

The airline, he said, would fly to 80 different destinations and would have a fleet of 30 aircraft. The Federal Government had earlier unveiled Nigeria Air as the name of the new national carrier scheduled to take off in December 2018 with a logo encompassing the flowing green-white-and-green ribbon.

According to Sirika, the new airline was planned to have a white livery with the national flag ribbon around its aircraft and also have as the slogan: Bringing Nigeria Closer to the World. The elaborate Farnborough event pointed to the government's renewed effort in recreating a national airline for the country.

Sirika said he would also explore



every opportunity available at the Air Show, an event that brings the biggest and the best in the industry, to attract more prospective investors into the Nigerian aviation environment. This was based on ongoing plans at the time to establish a Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Nigeria, concession some airports in the country and execute other components of the Aviation Roadmap which Buhari's government had launched at its inception with Sirika in the driver's seat.

Incidentally, the proposed airline, which was expected to gulp \$8.8 million in preliminary cost and \$300 million as takeoff cost, had to be suspended. This followed the discovery that no budgetary provision had been made for the venture. Concerns were also raised over the project's relevance and sustainability, given the economic reality at the time. This became more worrying when the aviation minister himself announced, two weeks after the unveiling, that the Nigeria Air project had been postponed indefinitely. This unexpected development opened a new chapter of controversy.

This was compounded by the controversy that ensued between Sirika and information and culture minister, Lai Mohammed, over the actual reason for suspending the national carrier before the December 2018 take-off date.

Addressing journalists at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport in Lagos, Mohammed had revealed that investors, who were supposed to partner with the government on the project, eventually backed out.

"If the understanding of government at the beginning was that the project might be self-financing or the project would be financed by investors and you think that such a project can no longer be sponsored by investors, either because they are not forthcoming or such venture can no longer be viable, the government is at the discretion to take a decision.

"The position of the government in business is to provide the enabling environment and it is not to become the sole source of finance or funding and in addition, there is much more than funding in

trying to get our national carrier. So, the Federal Government thinks this thing should be stepped down now until we get a better funding structure," Lai Mohamed said during the official opening of LSG Sky Chefs, an in-flight catering facility, in Lagos.

Countering Mohammed, Sirika, then Minister of State for Aviation, said it was untrue that the Nigeria Air project was suspended over lack of investors. In a statement issued on his behalf by James Odaudu, Deputy Director, Media and Public Affairs, Ministry of Transportation, Sirika said a number of "well-grounded" investors were ready to key into the project.

The minister's comment thus contradicted that of Mohammed, his information counterpart, that investors who were supposed to partner with the government on the project were no longer forthcoming.

"The Office of the Honourable Minister of State for Aviation has noted, with consternation, various opinions, comments and observations in the media regarding the status and the reasons for the recent suspension of the processes leading to the establishment of a Nigerian national carrier."

"Among the reasons being bandied around for its suspension, especially in the social media, is the absence of interested and ready investors. This couldn't be farther from the truth, as the national carrier project has an avalanche of well-grounded and ready investors", the statement read.

This suggests that while Sirika was announcing the fantastically optimistic plan of a national carrier to the international community, the nation had no concrete plan on ground to actualise it. That anomaly consequently launched the project on the inevitable 'Uncertainty Expressway' where it sojourned till the end of the Buhari administration. But a huge chunk of the taxpayers' money had been invested in Nigeria Air – a project that has remained an idea in the skies.

Well-meaning Nigerians thereafter reinforced their attention to the defunct carrier, Nigeria Airways, which collapsed

due to corruption and poor management, and warned against the new national carrier towing that path. But the Federal Government had dismissed all concerns raised, insisting that the airline would begin operation before the end of 2018, following former President Muhammadu Buhari's promise to establish a national airline during his 2015 electioneering campaign.

The President of Aviation Round Table (ART), Elder Gabriel Olowo, in January 2019 criticised the Federal Government for earmarking N8.5 billion for the suspended national carrier project, Nigeria Air, in the 2019 budget proposal to the National Assembly. He also took a swipe at the government for setting aside the sum of N500 million for Transaction Advisers in the budget.

Olowo observed that if allocated to technical professionals in the country, a little of such a large sum of money would give the government appropriate advice on how to go about the floating of a befitting national carrier for Nigerians.

Speaking at the public presentation of a book titled: 'The Learned Commander,' authored by Captain Dele Ore, the former president of ART and a former Director of Operations at the defunct national carrier, Nigeria Airways, Olowo urged the government to source for consultants locally from professionals in the sector on how to re-establish a new national airline for Nigeria.

He said: "I read somewhere that the Federal Government proposed another N8.5 billion for the establishment of a new national carrier for Nigeria in the 2019 budget proposal to the National Assembly. Out of this money, N500 million was set aside for Transaction Advisers.

"If you give N500 million to people like Dele Ore and co, they will advise you on how to have a befitting national carrier. However, ART as a body will continue to fight for the interest of the former staff of Nigeria Airways. We will continue to drum it to the ears of the government that what is due to them is paid."

Where is 'Nigeria Air'?

Amid the reinforced public outcry, the Federal Government showed a

renewed determination to wooing investors and foreign airlines to take out stakes in the venture. In April 2022, former Virgin Nigeria Airways boss Captain Dapo Olumide was named as the interim managing director of Nigeria Air as plans to float the new airline with Qatar Airways as a major stakeholder.

On June 6, 2022, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) presented Nigeria Air with its Air Transport Licence (ATL) in a development that will make the airline a legal entity. Receiving the certificate, Captain Olumide lamented the fact that it was very difficult to get the aircraft at the moment, attributing this to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aviation sector globally, among other factors.

He, however, stated that efforts were ongoing to get all the aircraft, as this was a basic requirement by the NCAA before the issuance of another vital certificate. Captain Musa Nuhu, the NCAA Director-General, presented the ATL to Nigeria Air which he signed, saying it would run for a period of five years from June 3, 2022 to June 2, 2027.

An ATL is issued as authorisation to airlines to provide scheduled and non-scheduled services. It is one of the licences received by airlines before they can commence operations, just as they await the all-important Air Operator Certificate that fully guarantees them the right to begin air services.

Captain Olumide added: "The aircraft are available, but there are all sorts of issues because this is the summer peak period and as you know, post-COVID-19, all the aircraft were parked in the desert. The airlines are bringing them out slowly, but it takes time to bring an aircraft out of storage.

"Then, there are further complications as a lot of flights in Europe are being cancelled or delayed because most people were laid off during the COVID-19 lockdown and they don't have enough staff in the airports to turn around flights. So there are lots of cancellations going on.

"It is very difficult to get the aircraft, but we have discussions going on with original equipment manufacturers and we are just waiting for the right terms of the agreement. We already have the aircraft identified because that is one of the requirements for the NCAA, but we are just trying to perfect titles and so on." Yet, most Nigerians remained unconvinced.

Despite the acquisition of its Air Transport Licence (ATL) from the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), there were indications that Nigeria Air might eventually not take off at all under the Buhari-led government because of the faulty foundation.

Yet, the government changed gear by announcing July 2022 as the new date to start operations. The target, it was learnt, was to bring in the first out of the three wet-leased aircraft for the airline in June. But nothing was on ground to justify an optimistic stance for the near future. In addition, its Air Operator's Certificate (AOC), which would enable it to commence as a scheduled operator, was not issued.

THE EYE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Living

Sleeping positions that cause wrinkles

By **MARCI ROBIN**

"SLEEPING position can definitely have an impact on skin, but not for everyone, and the effects are variable from person to person," says Rachel Maiman, certified dermatologist, who says those effects can include acne and sweat-induced rashes from the way their skin folds, perspires, and gets compressed during sleep.

We spoke to dermatologists to find out which people are most likely to get wrinkles while they sleep, why, and how to keep those lines at bay without any sleepless nights.

Unfortunately, this is not a myth. The position you sleep in is definitely one of the reasons you may start seeing lines and wrinkles on your skin's surface — but it's only one factor among many.

"It won't single-handedly cause them, but these sleeping conditions can expedite and intensify wrinkles on the chest, neck, and face," explains dermatologist Deanne Mraz Robinson, any behaviour or position that continually folds or stretches the skin will create skin laxity over time. "Wrinkling from sleeping position will be more obvious on more lax skin, which is why you'll see it on an adult's chest but rarely on a child's."

In addition to wrinkles, sleeping on your side may also have an effect on other age-related skin changes, like more volume loss on the side you sleep on.

All three dermatologists we spoke to gave us the same bad news for side and stomach sleepers.



"As far as the skin-friendliest way to face, sleeping on your back with your head facing out and centre will definitely reduce the risk of developing sleep-related skin problems to the greatest degree," Dr. Maiman says.

Dr. Robinson also recommends lying on your back, though finding the perfect level between too flat and too propped up can be a challenge. "Elevating too high may cause your chin to drop and your neck to scrunch up, while being too flat may lead to waking up with puffy eyes from the accumulation of fluid and lymph in the upper body," she says.

Do certain types of pillows and pillowcases help?

Pillows are the ultimate frenemy. We rely on them for comfort, but they can betray

us — and not just regarding our skin.

"With age, our neck and body joints need increasingly more support, but too many pillows can exacerbate these problems." Humans evolved without pillows, she says, so, arguably, no pillows would be ideal — but between the aforementioned puffiness that can be caused by lying too flat and our desire for comfort and support, it's not a terribly appealing option.

If you struggle to sleep on your back but would like to give it the old college try, you may want to look into specialised pillows like one of the many cradling designs that keep you facing up while supporting your neck. We like the memory foam YourFacePillow, for which you can buy a specially shaped satin pillowcase.

What else can be done to help prevent sleep-induced lines and wrinkles?

Luckily, you can tweak your skin-care routine to help battle the impact of skin friction and folding while sleeping and treat the wrinkles that may result.

"Apply your retinol, and don't forget to spread it down on your neck and chest. This

will help keep the skin cells rejuvenated, soften fine lines and encourage collagen production," advises Dr. Robinson for nighttime. Applying a thick cream after your chosen serum because it will "sink into the spongy top layer of skin and fight the compression impact of folded skin."

If you want to go the extra mile while sleeping, Dr. Robinson suggests using a silicone pad on areas of concern. "They make these shaped for your neck, chest, and even face," she says. "They work by keeping skin hydrated and prevent skin from folding and creasing when you move throughout the night."

Drinking a big glass of water to help depuff and rehydrate.

"You can replenish fine lines and lost volume with a hyaluronic acid serum" — her current favourite is the Alastin HA Immerse Serum — "and gently pat a brightening eye cream around your orbital bone."

In the grand scheme of things, while it may be annoying that the position we feel the most natural and comfortable sleeping in can be a culprit in causing lines and wrinkles, you most definitely don't want to lose sleep over it. "Sleep is one of the most important factors in your overall health, including how your skin ages," says Dr. Robinson. "So, if avoiding compromising positions is cutting into your Zzzs, prioritise the sleep over the position."



THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Beauty bytes

The endless debate over women's make-up

By
JULIUS TOBA-JEGEDE

Make-up, the art of applying cosmetics to the face to look good, has been part of womenfolk from time.

It is generally believed that every woman had, at one time or the other, used one cosmetic or the other with powder, lipstick and eye pencil usually the most common.

Women have different reasons for applying make-up, but it is generally assumed that most do it to attract or impress the opposite sex.

Mr Odunlade Adebayo, an architect and quantity surveyor, for instance, believes that women's make-up deceives men.

Adebayo, while narrating his experience, said he met a lady online and took a deep interest in her because she was looking so beautiful with her make-up.

"But, the day I met her physically and saw her natural face, I was disappointed because she looked different from the pictures posted on



eyes that makes them glow and minimal lip colour, I think that's the perfect make-up look. If her lipstick is too bright, I'm afraid to get in there and really kiss her if the opportunity arises."

Mr Bolanle Aderopo, a pharmacist, complained that his wife always stains the bed

up to appear less noticeable. "Seduction, on the other hand, involves women who want to be noticeably more attractive. They tend to use make-up to be more confident, sociable, and assertive."

Mr Lifted Nwanuibe, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ace Clothing and styles, has a sharply different view of women's make-up.

"I see it as a form of expression and love it when my girlfriend wears it.

"I believe everyone should be free to express herself or himself in whatever way without restrictions. My girlfriend doesn't need to be natural always."

Mr Effiong Abasi, an accountant, also said that he loves it when a woman wears make-up.

"Make-up brings respect to a woman. It displays sign of maturity on the part of the woman and attracts men," Abasi said.

Mr Olayinka Peters, a lawyer, said that make-up turns him on, whether applied well or not.

"Make-up is a turn on for me. It gives me the hint that this woman is conscious of being attractive," he said.

Mr Idris Akanbi, a technician, said he doesn't have a problem with make-up, but is usually uncomfortable with excessive application.

"The strength of a house lies with the foundation, so is it with the make-up of a woman. It starts from the foundation before the painting of whatever.

"Even if one doesn't know make-up at all, one should know if something is pleasing to the eye," he said.

For Mr Ikechukwu Offor, a spare parts trader in Mushin area of Lagos, noting is as galling as when his wife puts on make-up.

"My wife is fair and naturally

beautiful. So, when she applies her make-up, I don't really like it. The colours on her face put me off," he fumed.

Offor, however, accepts that it is her choice to apply make-up or leave her face to glow naturally.

Some make-up artists also spoke on the practice and how to apply it to get the right result.

"Some ladies do not have the skills or knowledge while some have but do not know how to apply it correctly.

"Before applying foundation, ladies have to moisturise their face and apply primer, put enough foundation to go round and blend with a beauty blender," she explained.

Omobolanle said that ladies should blend the foundation well into their skin to avoid breaking and smearing.

For the CEO of Pees Glam, Miss Precious Bolorundoro, some ladies do not have the patience to learn how to do it right.

"Some ladies rush to do their make-up and it might come out wrong especially when you're not a professional at it," she said. Bolorundoro also said that ladies should get the right product for their skin type.

The CEO of Budosky Signature, Miss Victoria Nwabudo, explained that make-up is all about passion and ladies should not expect to be good in something if they did not have passion for it.

"Most ladies get their make-up wrong because they don't have passion for it. Those that do, get it wrong because they haven't relaxed to learn the proper way to apply make-up products," she said.

Nwabudo advised ladies to clean their face with a face wipe to get a clean base for work and use concealers for highlights and contours.

"Ladies should apply primer to help the make-up last longer, apply foundation of their shade and use a spoolie brush to keep their eyebrows in shape," she said.

As the debate over the practice rages, analysts believe that make-up should be applied in moderation to avoid situations where it often boomerang, leading to unpleasant consequences.



social media."

According to him, women are wonderfully made and should be proud of who they are and not hide their facial flaws.

A civil servant, Mr Leke Ashafa, said, "I always feel bad for women that are so scared to have men see them without their face made up. They're prisoners to the mask.

"I like it when a girl doesn't wear any make-up at all. I know it sounds cliché, but it lets me know that she takes care of her skin and that she's confident in herself because she doesn't need to cover up her natural complexion.

"When a woman wears light sparkly shadow around her

sheet and pillows with her make-up.

"I love it when my wife puts make-up on; it makes her beautiful. However, I don't like it when she doesn't clean her make-up properly at night before going to sleep.

"She messes up the bed and pillow case. It really causes a big quarrel between us always," he said.

A teacher in one of the Lagos State Government schools, Mr Lanre Okeowo, said there were two primary reasons why women wear make-up.

According to him, it is either for camouflage or seduction.

"For camouflage, women, who are anxious and insecure, tend to use make-



Editorial

Implications of unifying Nigeria's FX rate

PRESIDENT Bola Ahmed Tinubu, had during his campaign promised to "hit the ground running" immediately after his inauguration. In a speech delivered at the swearing-in ceremony on May 29, 2023, he reiterated several macroeconomic initiatives aimed at creating employment and improving overall productivity.

BARELY two weeks after taking over the helm of affairs, President Tinubu set the ball rolling by keeping his promise and made some bold pronouncements, initiatives, aimed at improving the Nigerian economy and bringing succor to ordinary Nigerians. These include: removal of petroleum subsidy, the signing of the Electricity Act 2023, the Access to Higher Education Act, 2023, otherwise known as students' loan, which establishes an Education Loan Fund to help Nigerians fund their higher education, and also unification of the exchange rate.

THE man on the street would feel the grueling effects of these policies in the short term as the cost of living rises, with staples like food and transportation most vulnerable to price shock. There should be negligible impact on the general prices of goods and services as products already factored in parallel market rates to a large extent.

The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, MAN, had in some news reports opined that the signing of the Electricity Act 2023 by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu would be a palliative to its members and Nigerians if well implemented following the removal of fuel subsidy.

MEANWHILE, investors have taken the news positively as they say it is meant to be a game changer to address the numerous constraints within the sector, and see the policies of removing government subsidies on petroleum and that of unifying the country's exchange rate as necessary to curb public waste, efficiently reallocate resources, increase investor confidence and drive overall productivity.

FOREIGN Exchange (FX) liberalisation is expected to unlock the huge potential for investment, jobs and capital flows, and investors' confidence would be positively impacted. It is worthy of note that exporters will now earn more money on their exports as in the short term, prices of goods will increase, but on the other hand, Nigerians should expect two to three months of difficult moments and a slight rise in inflation of up to 30 percent, following the liberalisation of the FX market, after which there will be normalcy, reports say.

THE benefits of the new foreign exchange regime would include the fact that any foreign exchange income to the government would now be monetised at the new unified rate which is far higher than the old Central Bank of Nigeria artificial rate of about N435 to the dollar. This means more resources would be available to the three tiers of government for development action. The resources used to subsidise a few that got the foreign exchange at the CBN imposed rate will no longer be deployed to the wasteful expenditure.

ANOTHER advantage is that; it will boost repatriation of export proceeds. The Nigerian exporter whose export proceeds were tied to the lower official exchange rates found ways of withholding their proceeds and keeping it out of the country thereby starving the economy of much needed foreign exchange.

OTHER benefits of the unification of the exchange rate is that government's revenue will increase in naira terms resulting in a higher tax/revenue to GDP ratio. Corporate tax collection may however decline as many businesses crystallize forex losses due to the higher exchange rate. The country will as well attract foreign exchange inflows especially from portfolio investors, Foreign Direct Investment, FDI, and exporters proceeds. Impact on diaspora remittances would be marginal, the capital market will benefit as it is likely to appreciate further as foreign investors take position.

IN as much as the pronouncements by the federal government is a step in the right direction, efforts must be put in place to help cushion the effect this will have on the ordinary man on the street. Nigerians have already in the recent past gone through difficult times with the new naira note design, withdrawal of fuel subsidy and its resultant effect of the increase in pump prices which has also led to increase in cost of transportation and prices of foodstuff.

OVERALL, this is a positive move. However, the government needs to manage the dynamics to restore confidence. The backlog of forex demands need to be addressed and the government should be ready to supply fore

SKILLS is said to be the capacity to do something well, technique ability it is usually acquired or learned.

While grade can be defined as the performance of an individual or a group or an examination or test.

I therefore admonish undergraduates in tertiary institutions to be experts or professionals in their various area of specialization, most especially students of mass communication.

Mass Communication is indeed a broad course which has lot of branches, firms and organizations are after undergraduates who are more specialized in their field of study which includes journalism, broadcasting reporting and so on. So they can improve on the growth of their organization.

However, grades are of top priority for students in tertiary institutions which can make their parents proud. But the truth must be told, nowadays

people tend to buy certificates due to unemployment in the nation, and can't perform effectively in their offices.

Meanwhile they do not have certain qualities of either a broadcaster, reporter or a journalist, and do not have the ethics of a professional media practitioner.

Undergraduates should have a though on how they impact to the growth and development of their various organizations or place of

Enhancing skills amongst undergraduates

industrial training. Lecturers are advised to put more efforts in lecturing students on how to improve their writing reading and listening skills as they dream to be great media professionals or practitioners.

Lastly, critical thinking and problems should be well admonished by lecturers, whereby everyone experiences problems in their



daily life. Some may be small which can be solved in an easier way but some may be in a complicated stage.

From a student life, we should make our minds critically and for solving problems, which helps to make our challenges in a positive way in our future job.

Either in a job or in organisation exposure should

begin an is experiencing though situations with the task with our co-workers, and in working place are the main challenges in our routine life. Facing the tasks in a manner is a skill.

By Jonathan Rabo Jaimo Plateau State Polytechnic, Jos Mass Communication Department.

Barracks road bridges need urgent attention

BARRACKS road Bridges need urgent attention

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

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

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

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

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

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

Way therefore causing a major blow to an already congested metropolis.

Prevention they say is better and cheaper than cure.

Abdulazeez Abubkar is an

IT student from Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi.

Nigerian youth must shun political violence

POLITICAL violence is becoming a global phenomenon which many nations try to contend with within their political system.

This can be in form of crises in the society particularly during elections where most politically related violence are always attributed to the teeming youths that are supposed to be the backbone of every society. Due to idleness, lack of education, unemployment, poor orientation and greed of the political class our youth are becoming vulnerable in our society.

Another factor which reinforces violence in African political system is the desperate attitude of African politicians, the desperation to win election and occupy political offices by all means is a major cause of political violence.

In some cases, it is the contestants who in their quest for political powers organize some youths and provide arms that will be use to enforce fear during

election and it is said that "when two elephants fight only the grass suffer". It is simply the youths who are at the middle of those desperate fellows aspiring that are being use against each other and even to the civilians who are peacefully exercising their rights to vote for a representative with pure intention and hoping to choose a credible candidate that will protect their interests.

During campaigns, the money and offer of some materials to the voters have become the order of the day across African nations. It is also a factor responsible for continued spread of political violence. The level of poverty on the continent is such an intimidation where the innocent youths may be recruited for violence which is done just to survive. The politician use of huge amount of money during electoral campaigns in form of gift to the poor especially those in the rural areas just to win peoples votes is not

good for the people and democracy. Who would then be on ground during election to snatch ballot boxes and cause confusion, specifically, the youths are targeted as instruments of perpetuating violence and their hearts are poisoned with money and other items which can make them participate and not be concerned of the danger involved in executing such acts.

For this phenomenon to discontinue, there must be a favourable, peaceful atmosphere for citizens to participate in the country's democracy and be able to elect their representatives peacefully without any molestation. The youths should therefore be cautioned on accepting any gift from politicians or be used as violent instruments to disrupt any peaceful election process in the country.

Gloria Jared is an IT student from Kwara University, Wukari.

STANDARD CARTOON

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



Opinion

Students Loans Act and realities of prospective beneficiaries

By
**ABDULHALEM ISHAQ
RINGIM**

THE student loan idea is one that I have been skeptical about since it first surfaced as a proposed policy action in President Tinubu's policy document, "Renewed Hope 2023." In the document, it was stated that if elected, the Tinubu Administration "will institute a pilot student loan regime like the program established by the Lagos and State Governments. This will expand access to education to all Nigerians regardless of their backgrounds." The document further elaborates that the implementation of the loan regime aims to provide institutions with greater flexibility to be able to adjust their tuition fees to become more cost-reflective, potentially leading to a significant increase in fees.

In fulfillment of this campaign promise, the President has assented to the "Students Loans (Access to Higher Education) Bill, 2023," which, by implication, repeals the Nigerian Education Bank Act, 2004. The bill, now an Act, seeks "to provide easy access to higher education for indigent Nigerians through interest-free loans from the Nigerian Education Loan Fund established in this Act with a view to providing education for all Nigerians." This bill was sponsored by the immediate past Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila, who currently serves as the Chief of Staff to the President.

The Act structures the student loan in such a way that only applicants whose income or that of their family is less than N500,000 will be eligible for the loan. It also mandates that applicants must provide at least two guarantors who shall be civil servants of at least level 12 in service, lawyers with at least 10 years post-call experience, judicial officers, or justices of peace. According to the Act, the loan is open to applicants who must have secured admission to study in federally or state-owned universities, polytechnics, COEs, and any vocational schools.

Repayment becomes due 2 years after the mandatory National Youth Service, and it shall be done via direct deduction of 10% of the beneficiaries' monthly salary at source or remittance of 10% of monthly profit in cases of self-employment.

Certain gaps become obvious when the policy is compared with similar policies in other countries (like the United States) and within the country as well, as in the case of the Kaduna State loan scheme, which was particularly referenced in the policy document as a sort of model.

When comparing the loan regime described in the Act and the Federal Direct Subsidized Student Loan, commonly known as the Subsidized Stafford Loan in the United States (which is the closest in similarities), certain parallels can be observed. The Subsidized Stafford Loan is primarily allocated to students with financial hardships, typically those whose family income falls below \$50,000. The maximum loan amount varies depending on the student's academic year. Under the default repayment plan, known as the Standard Repayment Plan (SRP), borrowers are granted a six-month moratorium before commencing a ten-year repayment period, featuring fixed monthly installments.

However, alternative repayment plans exist to accommodate individuals with low income and financial challenges. These include income-based, income-contingent, and Pay-As-You-Earn plans, which extend the repayment term to 25 years. Monthly payments are set at 10 to 15 percent of discretionary income. The interest rate for such loans is typically determined by the federal government and only begins accruing after a six-month grace period. Furthermore, provisions are in place to grant deferment, forbearance, or forgiveness in cases of unemployment, with eligibility contingent upon individual circumstances and associated conditions.

In contrast, the student loan scheme in Kaduna State follows a distinct structure. It entails a repayment period of five years without a grace period, an interest rate of 8%, and a Debt Burden Ratio of 33.33%. Only employed students or sponsors, such as parents, are eligible to apply for the loan. Disbursement of the loan amount occurs subsequent to credit checks conducted by the issuing bank, ensuring confirmation of a consistent income source for the student (in the case of employment) or sponsor (for unemployed students) capable of repaying the loan within five years. The loan amount accessible to each beneficiary depends on their monthly income. For example, based on the loan calculator available on the application

website, an individual with a monthly income of N30,000 qualifies for a loan amount of N490,000, with a monthly repayment obligation of N9,999, equating to 33.33% of their income over a sixty-month period (five years). The scheme mandates that a federal or state civil servant serves as a guarantor.

But unlike these two loan schemes described above, especially that of the US, the Act does not clearly define any alternative repayment method or the implications of the failure to start repayment after the moratorium period of 2 years after NYSC due to unemployment or other circumstances like loss of a job. This is particularly important and problematic because of the country's record high unemployment rate of 33.3% (with youth unemployment of 53.4%) as last reported in 2020 which is expected to hit 40.6%, according to a report by KPMG. Also, according to the Nigerian Graduate Report 2022 by Stutern, only 31.99% of graduates in Nigeria are engaged in full-time employment. 41.71% are unemployed, and 9.25% are self-employed. As higher institutions continue to churn out graduates into the constrained labor market that is currently only able to accommodate 31.99%, the possibilities of massive default on payment due to unemployment should not be underestimated and should be clearly provided for.

Additionally, a misalignment concerning the target beneficiaries of the loan scheme, their realities, and payment prospects becomes obvious on critical appraisal. This is particularly in contrast to the other schemes referenced above where the target beneficiary realities and payment prospects arguably justify the loan schemes.

For instance, the unemployment rate in the United States is about 3.7% as of May 2023. Only 19.8% of the total unemployed have been jobless for 27 weeks or more. Also, according to Pew Research Center, "only 1.9% of college graduates ages 25 and older were unemployed" in February 2020 just before the COVID-19 outbreak. The number rose to 6.8% after the pandemic hit but stabilized in March 2022 to about 2%. These numbers provide sufficient justification for the 6-month grace period and 10-year repayment period for the Standard Repayment Plan and up to 25 years for income-driven repayment

plans.

However, even with these favorable numbers and flexible repayment plans, the scheme adequately provided for cases of unemployment and other situations of financial hardship through loan deferment, forbearance, and even forgiveness. Yet still, it is worth noting that out of about 34 million federal direct loans due for repayment, 5.1 million are currently in default, 3.1 million are in deferment, and 24 million are in forbearance, according to Forbes Advisor. Only 0.5 million have been repaid. 6.4 million are in school, while 1.6 million are in the grace period. The level of forbearance is high because repayment has been paused since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. A student loan forgiveness plan of the Biden Administration is currently being considered and is in the courts due to some controversies.

Similarly, the Act is also in contrast to the Kaduna State scheme where it is clear that the target beneficiaries are only students who are either employed or have sponsors who are willing and able to pay back the loan within 5 years. This justifies the 5-year repayment period, and one can clearly see the alignment between the scheme's terms and the realities of the target beneficiaries. Compliance to repayment conditions is almost always easily assured.

The federal scheme, however, seeks to target poor households with less than N500,000 in annual family income. Yet, the terms of the loan as provided by the Act require repayment to start 2 years after the completion of NYSC. In a country with poor employment and graduate survey numbers as described above, the Act does not recognize circumstances of unemployment and other financial hardships which are highly prevalent — a definition of the realities of Nigerian graduates. By extension and implication, it also does not provide for alternative repayment plans and provisions that address such circumstances as unemployment like the loan forbearance, deferment, or forgiveness options.

This stresses the questions whether the provisions of the Act are consistent with the realities of its target beneficiaries, the country at large, and whether it is enough to justify charging more cost-reflective tuition by universities, which is one of the ultimate aims of the Act.

For the Act to be able to usher in an effective loan scheme, the government must resist being cornered by the clutches

of "Isomorphic Mimicry," a term used by organizational theorists and policy experts to describe a phenomenon where governments adopt policies and practices that superficially resemble successful models elsewhere without fully understanding or internalizing the contextual factors, specific conditions, structures, and levels of institutional/processual efficiencies of the original contexts of such policies.

A thorough reassessment of the realities of the country and the target demography is advised. This should be followed by a reappraisal of the operational aspect of the provisions of the Act. The government must decisively choose a distinct demography of target beneficiaries. They must choose whether to target prospective beneficiaries who are willing and capable of paying the loan, as in the Kaduna State scheme. This extinguishes the concerns of difficulty and uncertainty regarding compliance with repayment conditions but entirely changes the original aim of the Act, which seeks to cater to 'indigent Nigerian students'.

Alternatively, they can maintain the objective of providing easy access to higher education for indigent Nigerians but must explicitly provide for circumstances of unemployment and other financial hardships that define the realities of the original target demography and the country. Provisions for deferment, forbearance, and forgiveness of loan repayment should be made. Such provisions are highly essential and must be included as provisions of the Act (not only the Nigerian Education Loan Fund policy and guidelines) to avoid ambiguity and other legal issues.

Such provisions will definitely affect the viability of the program as currently designed by the Act if considered, especially in terms of financials and operations. This is where the government must reassess the situation, ask itself whether the scheme justifiably allows for an increment of tuition fees at the moment, and decide whether it is the right timing for such a program.

Abdulhaleem Ishaq Ringim is a political/policy/public affairs analyst. He writes from Zaria and can be reached via haleemabdul1999@gmail.com

Pantami: A minister's glorious exit and detractors' anguish

WHILE he held sway as the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, between 2019 and 2023, Prof. Ibrahim Isa Ali Pantami was the target of all forms of malicious attacks by persons who have an axe to grind with him. Unfortunately, they are still not yet 'done' with him, even after he bowed out graciously and gloriously, about a month two weeks ago, as Nigeria's Digital Economy Minister, with unrivalled achievements to showcase. Some of their agents, recently futilely attempted to discredit Pantami's landmark feat in the passage of the NITDA Bill, this year. In an incendiary article titled "Telecom: How Gbajabamila saved Nigeria from Pantami's curious Bill", highlighted some baseless issues that apparently manifested their stark ignorance about the NITDA Bill, and the high-flying Digital Economy maestro Pantami is.

It would be recalled that in March 2021, the Director-General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, proposed the realignment of the agency's act with "tenets and ideals of the fourth Industrial Revolution" and Nigeria's Digital Economy Policy.

What followed the proposal on 30th August 2021 was an official announcement by NITDA's Head of Corporate Affairs and External Relation, Hadiza Umar, calling on all stakeholders in the IT sector to participate in its 2007 Act re-enactment. NITDA had clarified that the agency does not seek to regulate telecoms business, but regulate Information Technology for development. The NITDA bill seeks to introduce a licensing regime for operators in the Information Technology Industry and Digital Economy. The bill empowers the agency to issue regulations that provide for licensing and authorisation criteria, including renewal, suspension, and

By **ABBAS ABDULAZEEZ**

revocation conditions to promote free market operation and competition, among other things within the sector.

She clarified that NITDA only regulates Information Technology for development and does not intend to regulate Telecommunications operators.

After studying the draft NITDA Bill 2021 and NCC Act 2003, 2007 critically, I make bold to state that there is absolutely no basis for such reasoning or belief except of course the intention of the critics is to pursue a sinister agenda. While Tahir and other armchair critics attempted to hide facts in plain sight, the recurring question they have failed to address convincingly and empirically remains, where is the clash of mandate between NITDA and NCC?

The facts are obvious in the history of both the NCC and NITDA Acts.

The mandate and authority of NCC is derived from the Nigerian Communications Act 2003 (NCA 2003), which was signed into law, after having been passed by both Houses of the National Assembly, by President Olusegun Obasanjo on July 8, 2003.

The NCA 2003 applies to the provision and use of all telecommunications services and networks, in whole or in part within Nigeria or on ships or aircraft registered in Nigeria. (see fact on the NCC website via this link:

The laws that guide and enable the operations of the Commission include: NCC decree 75 of November 1992, the National Telecoms Policy (NTP) 2000. (New one under review), Wireless Telegraphy Act , 1990 and Nigerian Communications Act 2003.

The major mandates of Nigerian Communications Commission – NCA 2003 include to facilitate telecom investment and entry into the

market, protect the rights and interests of service providers and consumers; management, monitoring and use of scarce national telecommunications resources and ensure efficient and qualitative telecom services and advise the minister on the formulation of policies and other matters.

In a nutshell, one can understand that the key function of NCC is to regulate and oversee the telecom industry in Nigeria.

I don't know why Pantami has suffered more than a fair share of abuses from ignorant folks for no other reason other than his determination to leave the digital space in Nigeria far better than he met it which he did.

I don't know why critics always mentioning Pantami with NCC palava, after all, NCC is not the only Agency under him as a minister and they all obeyed his instructions as a supervisor of the ministry. I wonder why all these cowards are now attacking him despite his unprecedented track records.

Unfortunately for the sponsored writers and propagandists, who behave as if they were sponsored by NCC officials, the EVC himself, Professor Umar Garba Danbatta was not only loyal and trustworthy public officer, he respects the Minister's gut efforts and sacrifice in the digital economy to the extent that he praises Pantami actions and utterances. Why the brouhaha now just because the Minister is no more in the saddle, when the minister

Since his foray into public service, Pantami has no doubt exceeded expectations by consistently working round the clock to come up with innovative ideas to expand the digital space to accommodate more young Nigerians who would have been left jobless.

The Ex-minister of Communications and Digital Economy succeeded in putting Nigeria's digital economy on the global map.

Among the major achievements of Pantami include the unprecedented 18.44 per cent highest ever contribution to the country's GDP by the ICT sector in a quarter.

Also, apart from securing the approval and supervision of the distribution of 6000 ipads to Nigerian institutions to promote virtual teaching, learning and other scholarly activities, Pantami secured a partnership with Microsoft to train five million Nigerians in ICT related and emerging technology courses.

He also secured a partnership with HUAWEI that attracted free training for over 30,000 Nigerians and promoted the establishment of 300 HUAWEI ICT Academies in Nigeria.

Pantami was credited with securing a partnership with KOICA that attracted a total grant aid of \$13 million for the Federal Government to support the project for building foundation towards digital governance in Nigeria in the second phase of the e-Government Project for Nigeria.

Others are: the implementation of broadband connectivity across the country, reinvigorating Nigeria's digital economy sub-sector, implementation of a Digital Identity Programme, implementation of a National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy, Idigitalizing government functions and processes, launching of 5G network as well as deployment of 4G across the country.

The stuff of career cowards is to hit below the belt when their target is no longer in office and can no longer defend himself using the paraphernalia of office. But a lie is a lie irrespective of when it is being told and how often it has been told.

Posterity will be kind to Pantami. Abbas Abdulazeez writes from Federal Housing Lugbe, Abuja

CHANGE OF NAME

VOMAGAI

I, formerly known as **NYAM CHUUNG CHUUNG**, now wish to be known and address as **VOMAGAI CHUUNG NYAM**. My correct date of birth is 14/11/1991 not 14/11/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

IBRAHIM

I, formerly known as **ISTIFANUS DAUDA AWATAI**, now wish to be known and address as **IBRAHIM MATHEW ARATAK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ILIYA

I, formerly known as **ILIAYA YOHANNA**, now wish to be known and address as **ILIYA YOHANN**. My correct date of birth is 25/11/1964. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

HELEN

I, formerly known as **HELEN YAKUBU WEZE**, now wish to be known and address as **HELEN PHILEMON CHORI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NZEAKO

I, formerly known as **IZACHUKWU NZEAKO**, now wish to be known and address as **NZEAKO NDUBUEZE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NNONYELU

I, formerly known as **OKOYE CHISOM FAVOUR**, now wish to be known and address as **NNONYELU CHISOM FAVOUR**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

IGBOKWE

I, formerly known as **IGBOKWE EMMANUELLA EMMANUEL**, now wish to be known and address as **IGBOKWE NWAKAKU EMMANUEL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

AJAYI

I, formerly known as **SAMUEL SHADE MARY**, now wish to be known and address as **AJAYI SHADE MARY**. My correct date of birth is 21/11/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DOMYA

I, formerly known as **DOMYA ROSE DAVID**, now wish to be known and address as **DOMYA ROSE LANEM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SALISU

I, formerly known as **ABDULLAHI SHAIBU**, now wish to be known and address as **SALISU MOHAMMADU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DOOSE

I, formerly known as **DOOSE JESSICA JATO**, now wish to be known and address as **DOOSE JESSICA JOGO**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MAISAJE

I, formerly known as **DACHUNG DANJUMA**, now wish to be known and address as **MAISAJE DACHUNG DANJUMA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

GWAZA

I, formerly known as **ABOYE MARKUS**, now wish to be known and address as **GWAZA MARKUS ABOYE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MATHIAS

I, formerly known as **MATHIAS TIMOTHY YILBEER**, now wish to be known and address as **MATHIAS TONGSARNAAN YILBEER**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

LESLEY

I, formerly known as **OMOLOLA FOLORUNSHO**, now wish to be known and address as **MRS. LESLEY OMOLOLA ALONGE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

IDIMAH

I, formerly known as **IDIMAH GLORIA BLESSING**, now wish to be known and address as **IDIMAH GLORIA NGOZI**. My correct date of birth is 16/01/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NYANG

I, formerly known as **NGYANG CHANGE LUKA**, now wish to be known and address as **NYANG CHANGE LUKA**. My correct date of date is 21/03/1963. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

GODWIN

I, formerly known as **GODWIND OKOLSI SARAH**, now wish to be known and address as **GODWIN SARAH OKOLSI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

AZORO

I, formerly known as **AZORO CHUBBY CHUKWUEBUKA PRINCE JOSEPH**, now wish to be known and address as **AZORO CHUBBY CHUKWUEBUKA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

GORO

I, formerly known as **NBRUVU GRACE**, now wish to be known and address as **GORO GRACE NBRUVU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ATSEN

I, formerly known as **ATSEN ADANG SUNDAY**, now wish to be known and address as **ATSEN SUNDAY IDOH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ABDUSSAMAD

I, formerly known as **ABDULLSMAD ABUBAKAR ALI**, now wish to be known and address as **ABDUSSAMAD ABUBAKAR ALIYU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

JOSEPH

I, formerly known as **JOSEPH CHARITY NYIRI**, now wish to be known and address as **JOSEPH CHARITY DAZENG**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ADAM

I, formerly known as **ADAMU AISHA**, now wish to be known and address as **ADAM AISHA ISMA'IL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

JOHN

I, formerly known as **DARAMOLA RACHEAL ABIKE**, now wish to be known and address as **JOHN RACHEAL ABIKE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

YATU

I, formerly known as **DAVID DAVID JAMES, DAVID JAMES**, now wish to be known and address as **YATU DAVID JAMES**. My correct date of birth is 16/04/1997 not 16/04/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MUHAMMAD

I, formerly known as **JABIR JALMILU**, now wish to be known and address as **MUHAMMAD HAMISU YUSUF**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ONUGWU

I, formerly known as **ONUGWU ANTHONY EMEKA, ONUGWU ANTHONY**, now wish to be known and address as **ONUGWU ANTHONY CHUKWUEMEKA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

BLESSING

I, formerly known as **BLESSING EZIAMAKA KINGSLEY**, now wish to be known and address as **BLESSING EZIAMAKA NWANKWO**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MAFULUL

I, formerly known as **MAFULUL MAMGBONG**, now wish to be known and address as **MAFULUL PETER MAMGBONG**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

IFEOMA

I, formerly known as **IBEDU IFEOMA FRANCA**, now wish to be known and address as **IFEOMA FRANCA HENRY**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ISHAKU

I, formerly known as **VENFA NANPON**, now wish to be known and address as **ISHAKU VENFA NIMMAM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SADIQ

I, formerly known as **SADIQ SADIQ HARUNA**, now wish to be known and address as **SADIQ HARUNA IBRAHIM**. My correct date of birth is 10/10/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

TSEAA

I, formerly known as **TSEAA EMMANUEL**, now wish to be known and address as **TSEAA TERUNGWA EMMANUEL**. My correct date of birth is 10/12/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SEWANOU

I, formerly known as **COCOU FABRICE**, now wish to be known and address as **SEWANOU FABRICE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

AMBI

I, formerly known as **TITUS MARKUS**, now wish to be known and address as **AMBI MONDAY BABA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SUNDAY

I, formerly known as **SUNDAY KURAH**, now wish to be known and address as **SUNDAY KURAH ISHAKU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MARY

I, formerly known as **MARY MNENA DENNIS**, now wish to be known and address as **MARY UMENDE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DAGHIL

I, formerly known as **GODWIN BALA NAOMI DAGIL**, now wish to be known and address as **DAGHIL NAOMI GODWIN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SEWANOU

I, formerly known as **KOCU EMMANUELLA ALBERT**, now wish to be known and address as **SEWANOU GRACE EMMANUELLA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SEWANOU

I, formerly known as **ALBERT ABIGAIL**, now wish to be known and address as **SEWANOU ABIGAIL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SHAIGBE

I, formerly known as **FEBIAN SHAIGBE**, now wish to be known and address as **SHAIGBE FEBIAN FATER**. My correct date of birth is 08/10/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I **PATIENCE MICHAEL YELIM** the daughter of **MICHAEL JOSHUA ADAMU** who died on the **12/11/2020** at Abuja and he was a staff of J.E.D. I am his next of kin.

All concerned authorities and the general public to take note.

Signed:
PATIENCE MICHAEL YELIM,
Next of Kin

PUBLIC NOTICE**WE CARE TAROK YOUTHS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.**

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under Part "F" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Luka Pontip (Chairman) | 6. Vondip Kwamkur Samuel |
| 2. Lakai, Amos Joseph (Secretary) | 7. Jangle Nancwat Lohbut |
| 3. Dashe Davis Selman | 8. Lar Nandir |
| 4. Pyennap Ishaku Nandom | 9. Ndam Timchang Alfred |
| 5. Vongkur Lar Kamchit | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To advance and promote education at all level among Tarok Youths
- To encourage skill acquisition among Tarok Youths
- To guide secondary school students in Tarok land on career choice as they plan to further their education
- To provide free Jamb registration form to less privilege Tarok Youths who have the required O'Level qualification and have the passion to further their studies.
- To reignite the desire for higher education among Tarok Youths.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: SECRETARY.

KOPJI

I, formerly known as **KOPJI PAULINA RINKIMWA**, now wish to be known and address as **KOPJI PAULINA SATI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DANDAM

I, formerly known as **LUKA DEDE SUNDAY**, now wish to be known and address as **DANDAM ZINGDAM LOHSEL**. My correct date of birth is 02/09/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NANCWAT

I, formerly known as **MANTIM BINVYAT NANCWAT**, now wish to be known and address as **NANCWAT MANTIM**. My correct date of birth is 25/09/1996 not 19/09/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

EROCHUKWU

I, formerly known as **JOHN EROCHUKWU**, now wish to be known and address as **EROCHUKWU DAVID UGWU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DASIYAP

I, formerly known as **MISS. EZEKIEL MACKYEN SHEDRACK**, now wish to be known and address as **MRS. DASIYAP MACKYEN SHEDRACK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

YAKUBU

I, formerly known as **GYANG KACHOLLOM PAM**, now wish to be known and address as **GYANG KACHOLLOM YAKUBU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

PAMWOS

I, formerly known as **NORAH BITRUS SHA**, now wish to be known and address as **NORAH BITRUS PAMWOS SUNDAY**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**THIS IS SPACE
IS FOR SALE**

News

Gov. Mohammed distributes insecticide-treated nets

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

BAUCHI State Governor Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir, has kicked off the 2023 distribution of 4.4 million free Insecticide-treated nets and Seasonal Malaria Chemo-Prevention worth N7bn across the 323 wards in the state.

The occasion which took place at the Multi-purpose Indoor Sports Hall along Murtala Muhammad way Bauchi on Monday. Governor Mohammed said that in its dedicated efforts to reduce the burden of malaria, the Bauchi State government partnered with the Federal Ministry of Health through the National Malaria Elimination Programme, Against Malaria Foundation (AMF), USAID, President Malaria Initiative (PMI-US) and World Malaria partners to increase access to Insecticide Treated Nets.

The governor said that apart from the distribution of free Insecticide Treated Nets in the state, the government is also launching the administration of Malaria Prevention drugs for 2.5 million under-five children in the state which was made possible through the support of partners in the fight against malaria.

He said that the primary mission of his administration is the safety and well-being of every individual in the state which includes life-saving Initiatives and enhancing the strength of the health system in the state. The governor added that in alignment with this commitment, the state government has activated over 1,000 health facilities in the state as distribution points and deployed over 27,000 ad-hoc staff for the success of the exercise.

"Malaria as we all know is a serious threat to life caused by the plasmodium parasite transmitted from person to person via infected female mosquitoes. The 2018 Demographic Health Survey revealed that malaria is a primary cause of maternal and child deaths in Nigeria.

"Since this administration came into inception, we have prioritized the health sector. We declared a state of emergency in the sector and have been allocating above the recommended 15 percent of our total budget to the health sector. We are also dedicated to tackling the deficit in the healthcare manpower and combating major diseases, especially communicable diseases" he said

Also speaking, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Alhaji Ali Babayo said that as part of efforts to ensure the effective distribution of the Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNS) in the state, the Bauchi State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Malaria (BACATMA) organized series of trainings to build the capacities of the ad-hoc staff and their supervisors at state and local government levels. Adding that the health sector



Bala

has made all the necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the exercise.

He said that the sector will continue to support the

present administration in its efforts in revitalizing the health sector so that every citizen of the state will continue to access healthcare services with ease.

Seplat JV commences 2023 'Eye Can See' initiative

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

SEPLAT JV has launched 2023 'Eye Can See' Initiative. The programme has screened over 96,411 patients and performs over 4,218 eye surgeries since inception of the programme.

The Seplat Energy JV held the opening ceremony of this year's edition of its Eye Can See Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative recently at the Oba's Palace in Benin City, Edo State.

The company's signature CSR health programme is designed to ensure the provision of eye care, visual aid and surgical treatment for Cataract, Glaucoma and other eye problems within NNPC E & P Limited/Seplat Energy operational communities in Edo and Delta states.

They added that It is also an opportunity to provide lectures on ways to ensure total well-being when faced with other health challenges, such as hypertension and diabetes.

The programme is targeted at men, women and children towards achieving the United Nations Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) 3 on Good Health and Well Being. Seplat JV stated that other objectives of the Eye Can See programme include the provision of free optical treatment at all levels to members of the communities, prevention and reduction in cases of permanent loss of vision, provision of free reading glasses and treatment of other related eye problems, educating patients on ways to care for the eyes and how to detect eye diseases, as well as lifestyle changes required to reduce the rates of hypertension and diabetes.

Speaking during the programme, the Director, External Affairs and Sustainability, Chioma Afe, said that the Seplat/ NNPC E&P Eye Can See CSR programme is designed to ensure provision of eye care, visual aid and surgical treatment for different

communities and other areas have been richly impacted. A total of 96,411 patients have been screened; 45,074 reading glasses have been dispensed; and 4,218 surgeries performed. And the 2023 edition, which is being flagged off at the Oba's Palace Benin today, will further boost these numbers. About 90 communities will be served using 13 centres across Edo and Delta states."

In his remarks, the Director, New Energy, Seplat Energy, Effiong Okon, expressed gratitude to NNPC E&P Limited and other stakeholders involved in making the initiative a success. "We extend our sincere appreciation to the Palace, the government of Edo and Delta states, and NNPC

eye problems within the Joint Venture (JV) operational communities. She explained that the initiative also provides lectures on ways to ensure total well-being when faced with health challenges such as hypertension and diabetes. Afe explained: "The programme aligns with the pursuit of good health and well-being which is what the UN Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) 3 is all about; that is to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing of all at all ages.

"Since the inception of the programme in 2012, the lives of many in our host

Echo, UNICEF unveil initiative for crisis-impacted children

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

UNICEF in partnership with European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) has launched a groundbreaking programme to expedite life-saving responses, and deliver essential nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene supplies to children in Nigeria's conflict affected North-East region.

This new collaboration was made recently between the two agencies. It targets those living in crowded camps for displaced persons and conflict-stricken locations throughout the region. In addition, through the coordination of the Rapid Response Mechanism, this action will seek to reach the most underserved communities in hard-to-reach-locations, with a

SENATOR Simon Mwakwkon has congratulated the Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio, Deputy Senate President, Senator Barau Jibrin, Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen and his Deputy, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu on their emergence as principal officers of the 10th National Assembly.

This was contained in a statement issued by Friday Bako, Director, Media and Publicity to Senator Simon Mwakwkon on Monday.

In the same vein, the senator congratulated Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Moses Sule, his Deputy, Rt. Hon. FomGwottson and other principal officers of the state Houses of Assembly across the nation on their elections to pilot the affairs of the 10th Houses of Assembly.

Senator Mwakwkon harped on the need for better legislation in order to meet the yearnings and aspirations of the citizens of Nigeria.

He urged all state and national lawmakers not to disappoint the citizens for the

Mwakwkon congratulates leadership of 10th Assembly

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**



Mwakwkon

trust and confidence reposed in them but justify same with outstanding performance and credible representation.

"Our constitutional mandates are lawmaking, representation and oversight in them but justify same with outstanding performance and credible representation. "We have to always remind ourselves that as representatives of our people, we have critical roles to play in meeting their expectations and in strengthening our democracy. We are accountable to the citizens and must continue to give accounts of our stewardship at all times. We must legislate and proffer workable solutions to address the security and economic challenges bedeviling the nation," he said.

"As you know, at Seplat Energy, we are purpose driven. We anticipate that this intervention will continue and even outlive all of us."

In a goodwill message, the Oba of Benin, Oba Ewuare II, represented by Chief Stanley Obamwonyi, the Esere of Benin Kingdom, appreciated, Seplat Energy for the constant featuring of the Eye Can See programme, which has tremendously helped my people. He urged them to continue in that light.

representation and oversight in them but justify same with outstanding performance and credible representation.

"We have to always remind ourselves that as representatives of our people, we have critical roles to play in meeting their expectations and in strengthening our democracy. We are accountable to the citizens and must continue to give accounts of our stewardship at all times. We must legislate and proffer workable solutions to address the security and economic challenges bedeviling the nation," he said.

The lawmaker charged the citizens to keep supporting and praying for their representatives to succeed as they get prepared to provide them with sound leadership and bring democratic dividends to their doorsteps. He wished all members of the state/National Assemblies fruitful tenure.

lifescaping integrated package of nutrition and WASH assistance to address their immediate needs.

"With generous funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), this life-changing initiative aims to uplift the lives of nearly 88,000 people including nearly 50,000 severely acutely malnourished children".

The programme's main objective is to establish preventative measures and treatments to mitigate wasting, disease outbreaks, and child protection risks, thereby reducing mortality and morbidity amongst children already plagued by conflict and repeated displacements.

UNICEF said, the longstanding conflict in Nigeria's North-east region continues to extract a grave toll on children's wellbeing, as well as on pregnant and

lactating women.

According to the UN estimated report, over 8 million people require humanitarian aid, with roughly 2.2 million children under five and pregnant or lactating women suffering from wasting diseases in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states. Alarmingly, 60% of children in these three states are impacted by wasting, with only 31 per cent of these children having access to treatment services.

UNICEF and partners project that over 700,000 children will require wasting treatments across North-East Nigeria this year alone. According to them, the innovative programme will extend the use of the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) approach—an easily applied method for assessing children's malnutrition status—to a greater number of

vulnerable infants and young children.

In Addition, it will empower mothers and caregivers to identify and waste in their children. Slated to run for one year, this programme will prioritize supporting both nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sectors, enabling partner organizations to coordinate effectively and deliver vital supplies swiftly, particularly in crisis-prone locations.

Christian Munduate, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria explained that Children and women in North-East Nigeria need not to continuously being deprived of fundamental survival services. "We must work relentlessly to eradicate wasting and prevent needless deaths among the country's most disadvantaged individuals".

PROBATE NOTICE

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

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

<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON DR. SAMUILA NDAYARO late of Plateau State Died on the 14th May, 2023, at Jos, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT BALEWA NDAYAKO of No. 1 Yachit Road, Rayfield, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON EZEKIEL DAVOU JOK late of Plateau State, died on the 15th May, 2021, at Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau state</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT EZEKIEL OLUCHI of No. 1 D. B. Zang, Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON REBECCA DUKOR late of Plateau State, died on the 13th Dec., 2021. At Jos, Plateau State</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DONGNAAN THOMAS ARI and VIRU DAUDA DUKOR of Angwan Paul Gindiri, Farin Gada, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/brother of the said deceased.</p>
<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON FATIMA ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM late of Plateau State died on the 14th March, 2022. At Jos, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ABUBAKAR HAUWA IBRAHIM & HINDATU SANI SALIHU All of No. 7 Muhammadu Wada Street Jos, Plateau State. Lawful sister/daughter of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON PATRICK MANCHA late of Plateau State died on the 1st June, 2023. At Jos, Plateau state.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT THERESA NIYAZI PAM of No. 1, JIB Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON MALLAM ZINGDAM late of Plateau State, died on the 24th June, 2021. At Gen. Hospital Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DANDAM ZINGDAM LOHSEL of Kadarko Wase LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.</p>
<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON JOHN MATHEW OCHEPO late of Benue State, died on the 8th May, 2023. At Jos, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ESTHER OCHEPO of Great Commission Movement of Nigeria Jos, Plateau State Lawful widow of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON A KUVIA DANIEL UNGBONTO late of Kaduna State, died on the 18th September, 2022. At Gwantu Sanga LGA, Kaduna State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT UNGBONTO DEBORAH DANIEL of Fudawa Village, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON KIM PAM JOHN late of Plateau State, died on the 24th August, 2021. At Kwi behind Jos Air-Port, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT GEOFFREY PAM JOHN of Kwi Behind Jos Airport, Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.</p>
<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON YUSUFU D. MEEN late of Plateau State. Died on the 12th April, 2009 at JUTH, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT AFINIKI JOHN & SABINA YUSUFU MEEN of Nanmwa Junction Abbator Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/son of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON PERCY JOB CHUWANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 27th February, 2021 at Bukuru Low-Cost Jos South LGA Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT HILARY PAM BOT of Bukuru Low-Cost, Jos South LGA, Plateau State . Lawful brother of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON GOZIE OKOYE late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th February, 2023. At Agape Clinic Hospital Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ANALIKE NKEIRUKA MARYANN of Aliyu Kama Road Mindin Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful window of the said deceased.</p>
<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON VICTORIA DAGAP late of Plateau State. Died on the 3rd March, 2022. At OLA Hospital Jos, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DAGAP INNOCENT NA'ANMIAP of Behind Satellite Market Rukuba Road, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON STEPHEN DUNG late of Plateau state. Died on the 5th February, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT DUNG PATRICK JAMES of Diye Kyeng Vera Zawan, Jos south LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON CHRIS NGOZI OKELEKE late of Delta State. Died on the 24th November, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT IKECHUKWU ANSELEM OKELEKE of Bright Way Road, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.</p>
<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON INSPR. IRMIYA JONAH late of Plateau state. Died on the 14TH April, 2022, at Chigwong, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT REJOICE IRMIYA JONAH & NENPINMWA JONAH IRMIYA of St. Joseph Catholic Church Chigwong Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON JOSEPH GYANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th September, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT JOSEPH SAMUEL COCIN Fagul Bukuru Express Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON PAM KIM YUSUF late of Kaduna State. Died on the 5th April, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT YUSUF PAM GYANG & YOP SOLOMON of No. 36 Zone D. Shaka New Layout Jos Plateau State. LGA, Plateau State. Lawful father/aunty of the said deceased.</p>
<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON DEME CECILIA RAPHAEL late of Plateau state. Died on the 21ST November, 2022 at Shen, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ALEXANDER PAM DEME & ANDREW DAVOU DEME of Kazong Shen, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON PAULA GOBIR late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd February, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT GYANG MERCY KANGYANG & NENPAN MOSES GOBIR of ST. Thomas Catholic Church Shen Jos-South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/son of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON INSPR. ISHAYA THOMAS MESSE late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th January, 2023. At Awe Nasarawa State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT AARON MARY & BENENCHIH ISHAYA OF BUKURU ROAD JOS SOUTH LGA, PLATEAU STATE. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.</p>
<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON GOKOP JUSTINE GOBEM late of Plateau State, died on the 15th December, 2014. At Lur, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT GOKOP CHARITY, St. Micheal Catholic Church Lur, Kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Daughter of the said deceased.</p>	<p>NAME OF DECEASED PERSON SUNDAY LAMI late of Plateau State, died on the 12th July, 2022. At JUTH, Jos Plateau State.</p>	<p>NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT ISHAKU SUNDAY ADILIMIL of ECWA Church Kishi II, Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.</p>	<p>Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</p>	



By VICTOR ALI

NIGERIA is indeed a very funny country. Blessed naturally with the Black Gold (crude oil), the country supposedly should be in the league of developed nations. Amidst the joy of discovering this natural resource before the country gained its independence, Nigerians and the world felt the country was good to go in terms of monumental strides in its development. Today, over five decades after independence, it is still debatable whether the God-given crude oil is a blessing or a curse.

With the abundance of the crude beneath the Nigerian earth, the expectation was

that in no time, the Nigeria state will be an Eldorado, surprisingly; this has visibly become a dashed hope. Fuel scarcity, persistent hike in the product, thriving black marketing, official corruption known as Fuel Subsidy and other illicit activities have become the nation's greatest undoing. Added to this are the nefarious and very satanic activities of vandals of oil pipelines.

As the major earner of the country's income, any volatility in that industry affects the economic plan of the government and the welfare of its citizenry. It can be said with all gusto that, oil price dictates virtually everything that happens to or in the economy. Therefore, the efficient and effective management of that resource goes a long way in determining the well-being of the country's economy and the people.

Recently, the National Operations Controller of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Mike Osatuyi said that, petrol pump price may rise astronomically as Nigeria's could buy fuel at N700 per litre. Osatuyi said, the current of N170 price can more than double if the oil marketers are unable to obtain foreign exchange (Forex) at the Central Bank of

Nigeria's (CBN) official rate.

The IPMAN boss explained that, Forex scarcity at the official market might force oil marketers to approach the black market for Forex and this will compel them to increase petrol price. Hear him: "If CBN failed to avail marketers of

Nigeria and the Petroleum debacle

Fore at official rate of N445 to a dollar after deregulation, importers will have no choice than to turn to the black market for forex which will push up the pump price of petrol to between 650 naira to 700 naira per litre".

He further averred that, "total deregulation remains the best solution to ending fuel scarcity. The deregulation of the downstream sector remains the only potent and lasting solution to scarcity. But the cost implication of the policy will make the petrol price too expensive for Nigerians, as deregulation will shift the burden from the government to users of the product" adding that, "the Fuel Subsidy needs to go due to its impact on budget deficit and raising debt profile on the government ". According to him, Fuel subsidies deprive the government of huge revenue and do not allow competition in the oil industry, where the Nigerian National



Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited acts as a monopoly.

"Subsidy regime" according to him, "does not allow competition, while monopoly is the language of Petrol business as the Nigerian National Petroleum company (NNPC) Ltd is the sole importer, manager and distributor of Petrol. Subsidy kills efficiency in the procurement and supply chain of petrol business operations and deprive government of huge revenue. Nigeria's debt servicing of N6.3 trillion per year is not healthy for the country with mere capital expenditure of N5.35 trillion".

All said and done, the big question remains: should petrol price increase as explained by the IPMAN boss, what is the fate of the ordinary Nigerian? Certainly, the cost of living would be monumental and the concomitant effect would be disastrous. It is unfortunate that Nigeria has found itself in

this messy quandary. Leadership failure has been at the behest of this regretable situation. There is no gainsaying the fact that Nigerians are battling for survival. Cost of feeding, housing, transportation, not to talk of education, medicare and other basic necessities of life have become the exclusive preserve of some few elites.

In a country of about 200 million people, this sure portends danger. Imminent implosion can occur afterall, the old adage that a hungry man is an angry man remains immortal because at the end, something must give. And what is to be done? It behooves on government to strategise and bring out workable solutions towards ameliorating the already precarious living conditions of Nigerians. It is evil that with all the petrol dollars Nigerians are wallowing in abject poverty, wants and penury.



By KENNETH DARENG

THE recent collapse of the nation's electricity grid across the country that caused utter darkness in many homes and almost brought economic and social activities to a halt was a quick reminder to the fact that the nation's energy sector is experiencing a major crisis that requires urgent surgical operation to prevent it from entering a permanent state of coma.

Although reasons advanced for the electricity paralysis indicated high cost of gas as well as drop in hydro levels, poor synergy between the power generation and distribution companies and other factors within and outside the power sector itself.

From the old good days of Nigerian Electricity Power Authority [NEPA] which was also coined by some people to mean ; " Never expect power always" due to its irregular power supply and inefficiency seems to passed the bug to the present Power Holding company of Nigeria [PHCN], the story has always been the same with plenty of excuses to give Nigerians. It is always the blame game on gas or water levels and when

Electricity providers still going in circles

boxed into a corner they will tell you that; " power generation is different from distribution"

The unbundling of PHCN under the so called privatization years ago by the Federal Government only succeeded in making a bad situation even worse. The Generation Companies [GenCos] and the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading [NBET] as well as the Transmission Company of Nigeria [TCN] have failed to find a common ground to work out a framework that would have by now taken the nation to the pedestal of sufficiency in both power generation and distribution for the overall growth and development of other critical sectors of the economy.

This drawback can be largely responsible for the constant collapse of our national grid with negative consequences on every aspect of human activity and a major hindrance to our journey toward industrial evolution either within the African continent or on the global stage.

Unfortunately many companies are closing shop from Nigeria due to lack of power supply, while most investors are now relocating their businesses to neighboring Ghana because of its reliable power supply.

A recent report on power generation in the country revealed that must of the gas-powered generating stations like Omotosho, Afam, Omoku and Okpai among others have been under severe pressure due to the low power out-put from Jebba and Shiroro Hydro power stations which are also gasping for breath.

The recent silent increase in the tariff of power consumption by the electricity

companies amid high level of corruption within the sector has continued to add more salt to injury to the consumer. One can also imagine the sabotaging effort of staff of the companies who connive with unpatriotic individuals to vandalize power cables and steal Transformers and other installations.

How about the deliberate attempt to frustrate the metering of some areas whereby some disgruntled staff of the electricity providers often deny the investors the opportunity to recoup from their investment thereby crippling the good vision of improving power supply generally.

Unfortunately too, the attitude of some Nigerians is another factor especially in a situation where illegal connection and power By-pass is the order of the day and lack of payment of bills by the average consumer. This gives room for criminal tendencies within the ranks of some electricity marketers who enjoy collecting money from consumers who would rather

enjoy free light at the detriment of those using pre-paid meter thereby betraying the trust of their own organisations.

All of these reflect a serious danger for the entire nation which by implication the nation remain being powered by generators even as the citizens are living with the excruciating pain of buying petrol and, diesel at cut throat prices by each day. It also means businesses will suffer and in addition to many job losses.

Therefore, there is need for the electricity providers to work out a sustainable formula that hill enhance diligence and efficiency while the Federal Government must come out with concrete measures aimed at improving the energy sector before it gets completely paralyzed.

Power is the backbone of any development and thus determines the wellbeing of the society. It is so vital that right from creation God in his wisdom said; "LET THERE BE LIGHT." And there was light. This time, it cannot be an

"A recent report on power generation in the country revealed that must of the gas-powered generating stations like Omotosho, Afam, Omoku and Okpai among others have been under severe pressure due to the low power out-put from Jebba and Shiroro Hydro power stations which are also gasping for breath."

By IBRAHIM ADEYEMI

Nobody wanted to tell me the story behind the pain of a people in the coastal settlements of Lekki in Lagos. A few people said it had better be buried in a secret grave forever. When I probed further, I found a narrative bizarrely told with grief.

Lekki was a blossoming town of aquatic splendour blessed with green vegetation and rich biodiversity. But the government

How Lagos Seaport ruined fortunes of local communities

would endorse a multi-billion naira seaport to grow the national treasury — at the expense of the locals in Lekki and its ecosystem.

Then I asked: How can a people conceal their pains in eternal darkness? The locals said they feared the wrath of the authorities whose passion for generating revenues appears to trump their commitments to the safe living of the people.

In October 2022, I witnessed a wave of magic bricks turning into modern houses and industries in Lekki town. In MagbonSegun village, for instance, the sea rolled up into a mountain, roared and simmered downward while a horde of helmeted Chinese workers engineered the Lekki Deep Port a distance away.

Life can be good on the Lekki shore, residents said. Fathers fed their families with proceeds from fishing. Children looked up to their successful fishermen-fathers. Fishes in the Lekki streams beckoned on the people, and fish vendors smiled at one another at different points of sale.

But this rural life was short-lived for the people when the deep seaport emerged, causing them deep pain. Now, the port has stripped the Lekki community of its charm and the people of their wealth. Catfish, tilapia and crabs were easy to catch; Chinese fish and sharks were the pride of a successful fisherman. But these aquatic blessings are disappearing, ruining the livelihood of the people. Fishermen sat in groups tending to their nets and wearing long looks on the shore of MagbonSegun. Their business was crumbling, they said, and the cost of livelihood was almost costing them their lives.

One said he had fished for three decades, bought cars, built houses and sent children to schools only to become a peasant fisherman. Another one said he used to earn up to N200,000 for every fishing adventure but rarely makes up to N30,000 now. A fish vendor said she had toiled for days to trade fish, but her efforts yielded nothing.

One common thing the fishermen told PREMIUM TIMES: The dredging activities by the seaport engineers are destroying their fishery resources and chasing them away from us. The more they dredge, the farther the fishes run.

The locals' claim seems sensational, but the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Pacific (UNESCAP) confirmed it in a report, saying dredging removes marine habitat, leading to a gross loss of fishery resources. The report also said disturbance from construction activities on a port site terrorises fishes, displacing them while dredging removes plants and animals living in the sea.

As of July 2022, the construction works on the Lekki seaport were nearing conclusion with dredging activities pegged at 97.90%. By January 2023, the port was set to commence its operation.

We are pleased to announce that the construction of Lekki Port is now at 94.3% completion," Lekki Deep

Sea Port stated on its website at the time.

On 23 January 2023, President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurated the Lekki seaport, the deepest in sub-Saharan Africa. On a build, own, operate, and transfer (BOOT) basis, the seaport project, a 45-year concession, was awarded to the Lekki Port LFTZ Enterprise Limited (LPLEL) by the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA). Occupying 90 hectares of the 830 hectares of land reserved for the Lagos Free Zone

adverse impact on the marine ecosystem resulting from the maritime shipping activity, noting that the landscape's biodiversity would be in danger, primarily due to the induced urbanisation of the community.

"The environmental and social management system will include the preparation of detailed standard operating procedures for all port activities as well as comprehensive emergency preparedness and response plans to deal with



Events People & Places



(LFZ), the port was constructed by the China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC).

On several occasions, the Lagos government had said it would generate \$201 billion from the Lekki deep seaport when completed. They described the project as "a game-changer and a pacesetter". The Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) added that the new port would contribute \$361 billion in economic impact in 45 years. The ICRC projected that \$201 billion would be generated from revenue, royalties, duties and taxes while \$158 billion would be gained from direct and indirect business impacts.

Before the construction of the Lekki seaport, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was conducted on the 90 hectares of land the project would occupy and its host communities. The project site was surveyed for assessment of the human, biological and physical environment following the Federal Government's Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 1992.

In the assessment document, environmental experts predicted there would be adverse impacts on traditional livelihoods, noting that fishing would likely be restricted from operating in the channel area during dredging and marine infrastructure construction. They observed that the project would hurt the terrestrial ecosystem of the port site vegetation, soil and the removal of wildlife habitat.

They foresaw, again, that dredging of the harbour and access channel, construction of marine infrastructure, and disposal of dredged material would injure the space's biodiversity. They expressed trepidation upon an

accidents that could threaten the health and safety of workers, nearby residents, and the environment," the document stated, showing commitments to mitigating environmental hazards on the Lekki shore.

The place many call Lekki is an extension of the small rural settlement between the lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean of Nigeria's Lagos State. In the dark days of the 19th century, Lekki was a meeting point for invading imperialists trading Africans overseas for cash.

A certain MrLecqui, a Portuguese slave master, was notorious for perpetuating this small town to merchandise Nigerians for slave labour abroad. He had built a slave trade empire and the small town would later be named after him. MrLecqui would die of severe malaria in his Lekki home, after many years of active slave-trading of Nigerians, according to historical records.

But in 1963, Obafemi Awolowo, Nigeria's first premier of the Western Region, was charged with treasonable felony and his prison home would be MrLecqui's former apartment in Lekki. His restriction to the town would let him explore the area closely.

He then acknowledged the great uniqueness of Lekki town, due to its numerous natural resources and biodiversity, prophesying that the area would be a hub for great economic potential and an industrial revolution. And in truth, decades after MrAwolowo's prophecy, the Deep Seaport, the Dangote Refinery, and other economic-growing industries, sprouted out of the Lekki soil.

But these developments would not be cost-free.

Misfortune trailed the people of Lekki when the government

engineered the seaport. As industrial activities germinated on their land, the locals in Lekki failed to grow with these developments. This costs them their livelihood because their sole and traditional source of income is fishing. But the era of enjoying the gifts of nature abundantly is vanishing due to the emergence of the port and other industries.

Residents said their fishes consume the daily toxic excreta from the seaport. These fishes are weakened once they taste the dangerous wastes and eventually die or run far away.

Sunday Abouhje, a fisherman on the seashore, is a witness to the tears of the Lekki people. I met MrAbouhje in Idotun, a small village on the shore of Lekki. The heavy-hearted man trudged through the sandy road of the riverine community, carrying the burden of insistent self-doubt over yet another failed fishing adventure.

"May the good, flourishing moments return to Idotun," he told PREMIUM TIMES, revealing how his life had changed in many ways he never envisaged.

When I asked what exactly has changed, he said: "These days, we suffer before we catch fish. Before now, we would use the engines for seven or eight years before they get spoiled, but now they get spoiled quickly. The cause is the chemicals they pour into the water (from the seaport)."

Environmental and port experts consulted for this story said the same thing: Toxic discharges from ships could be sources of water pollution. Bilgewater, ballast water, oily wastes, sewage, and garbage, among others, are residues in a ship that could toxify water. They also said spills of oils, lubricants, fuels

and other oily liquids may be other sources of water pollution.

Once an oil or oily compound is discharged into water, it is spread on the surface by winds and currents, forming a thin layer, a report by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific, stated. On the surface of seas in tropical or temperate zones, oils can be polymerized gradually by biodegradation and eventually form dense particles which sink.

The Lekki Seaport is established on the Lagos Free Trade Zone, a multi-billion naira investment destination with world-class infrastructures. The Free Trade Zone industrial complex — integrated with the Lekki Seaport — is harming the host communities, the recipients of its industrial wastes. Using geospatial assessment, the experts said the Free Trade Zone industries have two main drainage channels where they dispose of industrial wastewater.

The waste from sailing vessels, the fragments from dredging and the oily pass-outs from machines deployed to construct the seaport endanger the people's lives and destroy their marine biodiversity. However, other industries in the Free Trade Zone aggravate the conditions of the people as they have nowhere else to deposit their wastes than directly into the waters where the fishes live and the fishermen seek survival.

Experts said this has implications for the fishing economy, considering that the drainages lead directly to the fishing coast of these communities, depositing oil and cosmetic chemical waste in the basin.

IMAGES

SERVICE OF SONGS IN HONOUR OF LATE MOSES DALYOP

The Service of Song in honour of one time Jos South LGC Chairman, late Da Engr. Moses Dalyop at Renny Balloons Hall, Jos, recently



Sen. Jonah David Jang, former Governor (2nd left) with his wife Ngo Talatu Jang (left) and Ambassador Bagudu Hirse with his wife



Late Engr. Moses Dalyop's wife, Mrs. Sarah Dalyop and children during the service of songs



Bishop Jacob Kwashi putting heads together with Rev. Dr. Sylvester Dachomo



Some members of the deceased family



Barr. Mrs. Helen Mutfwang, wife of the Governor (2nd left) with wives of Speaker, Deputy Speaker and PDP Woman Leader, Northern Zone.



R - L, Mrs. Hassana Ayika, Permanent Secretary, women Affairs, Barr. Olivia Dazyam, former commissioner, Women Affairs



Cross section of sypathisers at the service of songs



Mrs. Kacholom Aba (left) and Prof. Patricia Lar

Odd World

Man living 'dream' after spending £12k to look like dog

IT'S very hard to not love dogs, but one person has taken his adoration for the four-legged animals one step further - and wants to become one.

A dog lover, known online as Toco, has spent two million Yen (£12,480) in order to fulfil his "lifelong ambition" of looking like a collie.

An odd video has now surfaced, showing the man from Japan wearing an eerily realistic, human-sized collie costume so he could look like his favourite breed of canine.

Toko has a YouTube channel with over 28k subscribers, where he regularly shares videos of himself learning how to eat, play and train like a pooch.

In his most recent bizarre clip, which has been seen over 650,000 times, Toco can be seen in his dog costume, on all fours, with piano music in the background. He then walks over to a dog cage, gets in, and it is then locked by the person filming.

In the caption of the video, he wrote: "My name is Toco, I wanted to be an animal and I became a collie."

Hundreds of people have commented on the video, with many praising Toco for "living his dream".

One person wrote: "Though it may be weird for many of us, as long as they're not harming anyone there shouldn't be an issue."

"He's just living his childhood dream. These videos are interesting to watch!"

Toco ordered the bespoke outfit from a specialist movie and TV costume maker, and it took 40 days to be completed.

In an exclusive interview, Toco previously told The Mirror: "I rarely tell my friends because I am afraid they will think I am weird. My friends and family seemed very surprised to learn I became an animal."

He says he always "dreamed of becoming an animal" and he now dresses up a few times a month to live out his childhood fantasy, and enjoys "doing things that only dogs do" because it makes him feel like a proper pet.

Toco explained: "Since childhood, I have had this unspecific fantasy of becoming an animal. I wonder whether it was a desire for transformation." He added that he picked collie, because it's his favourite breed of dog.

In his videos, Toco can be seen rolling over for belly rubs, sitting, walking on a lead and generally mimicking the behaviour of a collie.

He also shared videos of himself in his collie costume while he eats fake "dog food", lays in a hammock - and most recently getting inside a cage.

Source: The Mirror



Our refugees, crammed in double captivity

SOME years back, the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, Plateau State chapter decided to visit one of the many refugee camps in the state and bequeathed their widow's might towards the upkeep of the Internally Displaced Persons, (IDP's) there. Yours frankly was unpredictably conscripted to drive these women Journalists to the camp where some of us eventually sniveled as a result of the harrowing and agonizing quandary these citizens are experiencing at the camp.

Though the situation at this camp may be a replica of several such camps elsewhere in the country; it is quite a pity to see these inmates suffering in such a disgusting and unspeakable manner. Unimaginably, these brothers and sisters of ours were crammed in a "cage" like broilers waiting for Christmas to be slaughtered; it is indeed very disturbing and unpleasant to me including many others who had the opportunity of going there to see the situation for themselves.

Though the accommodation at the camp was not that which could be cherished, toddlers in the camp were mostly hit by this unexpected horrifying development. Most painful were the glaring fact that most of these children are orphans who had lost both parents during acts of aggression perpetuated by the Boko Haram insurgents in the North Eastern part of this country.

Yours sincerely cannot believe it when the leader of the center revealed the difficulty faced by these IDP's who reportedly come from Yobe, Maiduguri and Adamawa States in north eastern part of this country.

For God's sake, these people are also citizens of this same country of ours. In fact, if for nothing else, they don't deserve to be left in this precarious and dehumanizing situation without any pity. To say the truth, if not for the humanitarian services offered by some None Governmental Organizations to these brothers and sisters of ours at these camps, their future would have long been gone with the wind. However, in spite these painful unending experiences which the inmates face on daily basis as a result of activities of insurgency and poor and visionless strategies of governance, the politicians in this country must be blamed for dragging them into this mess.

Come to think of it, the president of this country, Muhammadu Buhari had at a point disclosed that our country was broke. Immediately after this proclamation, opposing parties raised against him claiming that such utterances would scare investors out of the country. Therefore, in their usual antics, they were expecting the president to lie to the entire citizens of this country in order to save their business links and connections across the globe. In other words, they had wanted the president to deceitfully declare that all is well even when most states in this country cannot pay salaries to their dedicated workers.

When former President Olusegun Obasanjo was this country's leader, we were made to believe that he had the best cabinet one can ever imagine in this contemporary nation of ours. Though one cannot forget the role his government played in the debt relief granted this nation, the crux of the matter is; how did

they fail to identify any of these indicators of economic failure as it were.

I am yet to comprehend the competency of our technocrats as they failed in issuing warning signals when our economy was under threat. Many of them are well read in world class universities across the globe but always mess us up when it comes to assignments such as this.

How can one describe the degree of insensibility of the immediate past administration particularly as regards the true position of our economic status then? Here was a president sitting on an economically shaky nation but he did not even border to dwell much on solvable strategies at his disposal and was only busy campaigning for self succession.

Even when journalists confronted relevant authorities during his tenure to know the socio-economic status of this nation then, the response was that nothing was indeed wrong with the country's economy. Unfortunately, some months before he handed over power, states became cash-trapped.

As a result of this, most states became incapacitated and were unable to pay salaries to civil servants. Then the worse began to happen; the nation could no longer stand the heat in the fight against the insurgents causing sleepless nights for this country.

Though I strongly believe that this nation will come out of these present surmountable problems, one thing I am yet to comprehend is why our politicians find pleasure lying to us both during their campaign periods and even when they find themselves on leadership positions. Where did they pick up these hobbies of deceit and insincerity which has become one of the fundamental problems bedeviling this country?

Not once and not twice, I have witnessed some politicians unveiling their campaign promises, full of lies and deceptions. These people also dished out lots of monies to the electorate as if tomorrow will never come are today not helping us. Unfortunately, as a result of these lies, Nigeria has found itself in a more precarious and unpredictable disposition ever imagined today. Thus, it is becoming more realistic that in a few years time to come, the country will be unable to feed its teeming population.

Sad enough, the oil we were generating our resources from is almost drying and the reality is beginning to hit us on the face. Without credible and formidable framework to hasten our expectations in the industrial sector, the rate of unemployment in this country is becoming unbearable and unimaginable by all standards.

The indicators are glaring, if care is not taken, we will all in no distant future become Internally Displaced Persons, (IDP's) in this country of ours. This is because, if a nation becomes broke and cannot take care of its citizens; then the worse is expected to happen. At this juncture however, it is our hope that our leaders and politicians will learn lessons and turn a new leaf in the best interest of the generality of the people of this country. Beyond this development however, it is our humble prayer that God will prevent this country from nose-diving into any chaos for our sake and that of our future generations.

Feature

Corruption as index of insanity in Nigeria

In the community of sane people, it is only the activities of insanes who smuggled their way into the society that could trigger confusion, disorder and unrest. In other words, suspect the presence of mentality disoriented or distorted persons when the fibre of society suddenly collapsed. I learnt this lesson in terminus market, Jos, Plateau State. That fateful day, I visited one of my book vendors and was enjoying time with him. The atmosphere was that of a busy market setting but not chaotic. All of a sudden, however, a lady emerged. Looking same but the action the lady exhibited soon began to manifest and exposed her insanity. AYUBA YILGAK'HA writes.

For no just cause, this said lady held a passer-by and began to wrestle with him. The man got angry, reacted and the woman became even more violent. This man was alerted that the lady might be crazy and he managed to sneak away. The peaceful but bubbling atmosphere became chaotic as some passers-by who knew nothing about how it all started accused the man fighting a woman as others who were yet to ascertain the mental condition of the lady rebuked her for her uncivil action.

The lady soon crossed to the other side of the road and before anything, she began to engage another street trader. She attempted scattering a table and pulled down the umbrella the innocent trader. It became very clear at the this point that a mentally derailed person has entered the market. The poor trader she engaged this second time, got a long big stick around and came after the violent lunatic. She hurriedly left with great murmuring and only God knows how many people she will violently engage on her way to who knows where.

This was a life story and the narrative demonstrated how an activity or activities of insanes or mad people amongst sane people could unsettle the balance of a peaceful community. To be mad is to be increasingly engaged in abnormal activity or behaviour that falls outside the realm or measure of normal conduct. Mental or social disorder could manifest in many ways and through different causes.

A man that has lost traction and lives outside the normal code of morality and ethical conduct is insane by every standard. For instance, anyone who has insatiable drive for primitive wealth accumulation could be suspected to be technically insane. In other words, corruption is an act of insanity within the framework and context of this discourse.

Corruption at the Institutional of primary interest. Institutional corruption is all about accepting bribe to render public service(s) or looting public trust which could be in material or immaterial terms. It means distorting, disregarding and/or circumventing public rules to enrich or serve personal interest.

In view of the above background, it is necessary draw the attention of my readers to an anonymous piece I got on WhatsApp and feel the unedited copy be reproduced here for public consumption and reflection. This could help a great deal in driving home the main fibre of today's discussion. The article is titled, "A CITY OF THE MAD." With recognition and permission from the author, I share the fulltext as contained in the next few paragraphs.

"Contentment is the grace to stand up from the dining table and look away from the food tray when your belly is full. But the Nigerian public official, although filled and belching with excess, would still hide stolen meat within the corners of his mouth at a dinner, stuff fried rice into his socks, and try to shuffle moimoin into his shoes. Madness you say. But who else would steal 80 billion Naira except a mad fellow.

"I am no longer numbed at the numbers stolen in Nigeria, but I am terribly saddened by the titles of the armed robbers. Kemebradikumo Pondei, that dramatic NDDC acting managing director that fainted in



court was a professor of medicine. A man trained to build, repair and even possibly manufacture life. Yet, he too got to table, and scooped jollof rice into his boxers.

"Do you know who Diezani Alison-Madueke was? No you don't. When ladies of her age were wishing and praying to be admitted to Shell Petroleum as typists or tea girls, she was already on the board of the company as an executive director. God gave her the bigger privilege of marrying Allison Madueke, a naval officer and former military governor of two states. She was a trained architect who transformed to become Nigeria's first female petroleum minister. Yet, despite these privileges, Diezani stole our barbecued fish and roasted yams, and hid them in her bra. Like a mad woman.

"You recollect that Jamb/NECO registrar, Dibu Ojerinde, that professor, the one that stole almost a billion. Just go through his CV, he had been eating from one educational agency to another nonstop since the military era. But at almost 70, a grandpa, he comes from detention facility and goes to court to defend himself for stealing monies he would never need. At 70, a man is nearer my God to thee..., but in Nigeria, a 74 year old minister would steal to buy a plot of land to build a new mansion. His sepulchre of course.

"Our leaders make you puke at your credentials and certificates. If medical doctors, senior advocate of Nigeria, doctors of philosophy, and professors would be this bestial and mad, you wonder to what purpose is our education. They say people steal government funds because they fear to fall into the poverty trap. But how do you explain an Uzor Kalu, Rochas Okorochoa who rode on private billions before politics and still stole the community goats and chickens. Or Lucky Igbinedion, former

governor of Edo state, who had a golden spoon in his mouth, and nevertheless seized the feeding bottles of milk from the mouths of Edo babies.

"A billion has nine zeros. With ₦80 billion you can build a brand new town, local government area, of 15,000 low cost housing units complete with roads, schools, and hospitals. ₦80b billion would build a new ten-Faculty University that can accommodate 20,000 undergraduates and graduate students. But an accountant allegedly stole such staggering sum. A fellow of ICAN. A distinguished member of a privileged elite group. Who else should know the cost implication of fraud better than a chartered accountant?

"See, the almajirai, area boys, mc oluomo, and their likes are not the main threat to this beautiful country. The elite are. The directors, permanent secretary, vice chancellors, ceo, solicitor generals, senators, and governors are the ones bleeding us. Not bandits, boko haram, or ipob. The elite are the ones bombing and destroying the social architecture of our nation with their unbridled hedonism. They think the stolen billions would enamour them to the dangers ahead. "But stolen melons are the sweetest...they don't know the former guests are now citizens of hell". Everyone is victim.

"Having broken the social ligaments that hold our nation together, by stealing monies meant for education, healthcare and infrastructure, the elite have rendered Nigeria a classless nation. Billionaires are now stolen, emirs are kidnapped, and attempts had been made in recent past to abduct a serving governor. The the elite had sowed wild thorns, the harvest is fully here. Politicians steal in Japan, and senators thief in America. A \$50,000 bribe. A golden watch. Or a

misappropriated flight ticket or inflated hotel bills. But in Nigeria, our leaders don't embezzle, they haul. Why? Because they are mad.

"Our political elite, despite their jejune certificates, lack the intellectual capacity to solve our economic problems, and worse, they lack the contemplation of the right philosophy of public service, They aren't kingly, neither are they philosophic. But leaders are made to live for God, and their existence is for society's sake. We are to use our gifts, spend our grace, and deploy our earthly term and years, to serve community, society, country and mankind. No man living personally needs a billion. What for? Dangote, Buhari, Otedola, Elumelu cannot spend fifteen thousand naira daily on Nigerian foods or meals. If they do, they would die sooner than their time. You would too. Because, God didn't create us to be excessive. Every extra gift, talent, grace, money and wealth we have, is not totally for us. But for society and state. We are to give, give and give, for state, humanity and posterity. Although nature and law permit an optimal material rewards and compensation for our efforts. That is why the Accountant General of Federation, Governor, Senator is well remunerated above others, so he won't run mad and go about stealing.

"But all is not sad. Like Chief Micheal Adekunle Ajasin, there are a few saints in this city of sin. There are good examples despite the rot. Oby in Ezekwesili was former minister of solid minerals, and education. I have sat across her a few times. She does not have the look nor the body scent of a thief. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala handled our billions of dollars at the time Nigeria was awash with much. Her hands are not hypo clean. But she didn't haul our billions into her truck. If she had, no one would call her higher into WTO. Therefore, in

this city, not all are crazy.

"Prayer: Lord! Open the eyes of our elite to see and know, that they don't need what they steal. For only a mad fellow gathers stones and pans that are needless. Don't forget when you see something say something Nigerians!!!." This is but a sharp reflection or tip of the situation of corruption in Nigeria.

Corruption has developed tap roots in Nigeria. I shed tears reading the prose represented above and, I imagine, those of you who have read it will too. However, it should be noted that sitting back and complaining about the social insanity, call it corruption and doing nothing about it will not help. Like the street trader in Terminus market, Jos, we need to be delineate: Welding the big stick and systematically fight the fantastically corrupt elements in our midst. It is true that: Corruption, the dreaded monster, also nicked named the "37th state" of Nigeria, must be killed or it will consume us all, going forward.

Institutional corruption can only be fought through institutional efficiency. But "An important thing to understand about any human institution", John W. Garden observed, "is that it does not move unless pushed." This means that human effort is inevitable in fixing problems arising from human institution.

Building strong institutions is the way to go in Nigeria. The nation cannot afford to default in this regard, especially, now that poverty is increasing in exponential proportion in the land. It was Charles Darwin who wrote and I cite to conclude this piece: "If the misery of our poor is caused not by laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sins." God forbid and may God rescue my country!

News

60 years is retirement age for law officers

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

GOV. Yahaya Bello of Kogi has approved 60 years as retirement age for law officers in the employment of the state and no longer by the length of service.

The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Ibrahim Sanni Muhammed SAN disclosed this at a two (2) - day training workshop for law officers, from Kogi State Office of the Public Defender and Citizens' Commission, PDCRC and Ministry of Justice

The training was organized by Kogi PDCRC in collaboration with Mercy Corps to scale up the capacity of PDCRC and Ministry of Justice, law officers on Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation Skills.

The Attorney General commended the Governor for graciously approving the 60 years retirement age for law officers in compliance of Section 1(1) and (4) of the Kogi State Law Officers (Harmonisation with Conditions of Service of Magistrates Etc) Edict, 1994.

The Hon Attorney General stated that this is in response to Section 82(1)(a) of the Magistrate Courts Law of Kogi State, 2020, which His Excellency assented to in September 2020 and which amongst others provides that "a magistrate shall cease to act as a magistrate where: he attains the age of Sixty (60) years".

According to the Attorney General, the approval by His Excellency would ensure that



Bello

the system benefits maximally from the skills and experience of such law officers on whom the state government has invested hugely by way of human resource development.

Muhammed said that the new Magistrate Law and the approval of sixty year's retirement for law officers has further repositioned justice sector in the state to perform optimally with experience.

"The Judiciary has commenced the implementation of this law since 2020 in the determination of retirement age for Magistrates in the State," he said

He, therefore commended the governor for extending the same gesture to law officers in the state in accordance with the Harmonization Edict.

Commenting on the

development, the Director General of PDCRC, Barr. Abdullahi Zakari, commended the governor for once again, demonstrating his commitment to the rule of law and towards the justice sector in the state.

He stressed that a lot of reforms had happened in the Justice Sector under the administration of His Excellency, and he should be commended.

According to Zakari, "of great note, is that the approval came when the Federal Government has just signed into law, a constitutional amendment harmonizing retirement age for judicial officers.

He called on law officers to reciprocate His Excellency's gesture by bringing to bare their years of experience in the discharge of their responsibilities.

FOLLOWING NIMET prediction of another round of heavy flooding this year, the management of Federal University, Lokoja recently organised first International Conference On Flood Mitigation to avert loss of lives and other valuables.

The conference with the Theme: "Flood and Sustainable Development" is in collaboration with the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPDEC), National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Nigeria Hydrological Service Agency (NIHSA) and Kogi State Ministry of Environment.

Declaring the conference open, the Vice Chancellor of the Federal University, Lokoja, Professor Olayemi Akinwumi commended Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission, HYPPDEC and other natural disaster management agencies for their untiring efforts in mitigating the impact of the havoc on citizens.

According to the Vice Chancellor, "The conference is aimed at highlighting the critical issue that threatens the lives and livelihoods of millions of people living in the Niger-Benue trough extending to the coastal

implementation of the NG-CARES programme in the areas of education, health, water and sanitation as well as nutrition.

Governor commends FMC, Azare, Provost, FCOE

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State, has thumped up the management and staff of Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Azare for the complementary role it is playing in the provision of tertiary healthcare services to the people of the state.

Mohammed gave the commendation recently when Medical Director of the Federal Medical Center (FMC), Azare, Dr. Abubakar Daudu Katagum and his management staff paid him a visit at the Government House, Bauchi.

The governor said his administration will continue to partner with various federal health institutions in ensuring that his administration succeeded in addressing the challenges in the health sector.

He revealed that he inherited a lot of challenges in the health sector when he assumed office in 2019 and he had worked hard and is still working to address the problems.

The governor further appreciated FMC Azare for its tireless support in reinvigorating the health sector of the state and pledged his administration's support to the facility as it continues to serve the people of the state.

Earlier in his address, the Chief Medical Director of FMC, Azare, Dr. Abubakar Daudu Katagum, appreciated the governor's

FUL organises International Conference on flood mitigation

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

region of Nigeria

"The Niger-Benue trough, which spans across several states of Nigeria, has experienced devastating floods that have caused loss of lives and destruction of properties as witnessed in the year 2012 and 2022. As university, we think it is necessary and crucial to come together and discuss the causes, effects and solutions to this recurring natural disaster

"I believe that through this conference, we will gain a better understanding of the ecological and environmental factors that contribute to floods in the Niger-Benue trough. We also hope to study how human actions inadvertently or directly cause these floods and how we put measures in place to ensure that they do not happen in the future."

The Managing Directors/Chief Executive Officers of NIWA, NIHSA and HYPPDEC, Dr. George Moghalu, Engr. Clement Ezeh and Alhaji Abubakar Yelwa in their separate speeches, attributed the cause of flooding to climate change, deforestation, blockade of waterways and heavy downpour among others.

They lamented that about two billion, one hundred people have been affected globally by flooding, according to available statistics.

They also recalled that in

2022, twenty-four states out of the 36 states in Nigeria, 6.12 million people were killed.

"Flooding apart from loss of lives has caused lots of damage to our economic and environment ranging from loss of lives, destruction of agricultural crops and other valuable properties".

Government at all levels should embark on construction of more dams, drainages, sensitisation of citizens on how to overcome the menace as well as the dredging of Rivers Niger and Benue among others to avert the havoc."

Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State who was represented by the Commissioner for Environment, Victor Omofaiye at the event, affirmed that the present administration in the state has lived up to its responsibility in mitigating the effects of flooding.

"We as government have continued to sensitise citizens on early warning to avert flood disaster, have constructed drainages across the state to reduce intensity of flood, have constructed embankment and canals along riverine zones, built IDP camps for flood victims."

Bello therefore, warned citizens against building houses in flood prone locations for safety.

NG-CARES: GMCSDS outlines projects for implementation

From Willie Attah,
Gombe

THE Gombe State Agency for Community and Social Development Agency (NG-Cares programme), has outlined some community based projects for implementation in the second phase of the NG-Cares programme in communities in Gombe State.

The General Manager of GMCSDA, Malam Haruna Imam, made the disclosure at the commencement of training for Local Government Review Committee Chairmen, Local Government Desk Officers, Community Project Management Committees and Group Project Management Committees on N G - C A R E S Implementation Process and Procedures in the State.

He explained that under the second batch of the programme implementation, GMCSDA will be intervening in 20 communities and 10 groups across the state with construction of classroom blocks, Primary Health Care centers, drilling of boreholes and providing nutrition services.

The training was conducted in three batches at the Science Intensive Village Academy Hall, Biu bye pass, Gombe. He appreciated Governor Muhammadu InuwaYahaya

for approving and releasing funds for the implementation of the projects.

He also commended him for ensuring that the first phase of the project was successful, which qualified Gombe State for the second phase of the NG-CARES programme.

According to him, the impact of the programme on the lives of the common man is enormous and assured of the commitment of the agency towards prompt completion of qualitative and standard facilities.

The General Manager told the participants that the training was meant to refresh their memories and acquaint them with new innovations regarding the implementation of the projects.

While stating the major objective of the training which is to provide guidelines for effective implementation of Community and Group Development plans across participating communities in the state, he explained that the level of commitment exhibited in project execution in the state determines further opportunities for more allocation of grants for projects implementation in the state.

He challenged the participants as

representatives of their groups and communities to maintain resilience in handling the NG-CARES intervention programmes for their development and of the state in general.

The Gombe State Coordinator, Cares Unit, Mr Michael Habila, in his remark, advised the participants to take ownership of the projects since they are domiciled in their various communities.

A cross section of participants, Abdullahi Jibrin from Kwali Community in YamaltuDeba LGA, Abubakar Abubakar from Tongo Community in Funakaye LGA, Isah Mai Meli from LawushiDaji in Billiri LGA and Florence Nath from Labarya Community in Shongom LGA, commended Governor Muhammadu InuwaYahaya for his concern to the plight of the poor and vulnerable and appreciated him for coming to their aid through the various interventions.

They also thanked GMCSDA for its transparent processes of the implementation of the projects and for organising the training which has further built their capacity. They promised to execute the project according to specification.

The Gombe State Agency for Community and Social Development is one of the platforms for the



Mohammed

Sports

Saka a shining light in England team

Bukayo Saka's beaming smile was the indicator of just how times have changed for England since they last took their show on the road at home. The 21-year-old - a brilliant talent Arsenal fans call 'Starboy' - gave the match ball a lingering kiss when he completed the first hat-trick of his career as the centrepiece of England's 7-0 thrashing of North Macedonia at Old Trafford. JAKE STOKES writes.

The whole stadium rose to Saka when he was substituted, and did so again for England after a richly entertaining romp to victory made it four wins from four in their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign.

It would take something wholly extraordinary for England not to qualify, especially with their toughest game done and dusted following victory over Italy in Naples.

This was all a far cry from the previous occasion, almost exactly a year ago, when England last played a home game away from Wembley.

It ended in a 4-0 thrashing by Hungary in a Uefa Nations League game at Molineux - a defeat and performance that produced such a toxic reaction from home fans that it factored into manager Gareth Southgate's thoughts as he considered whether to extend his stay after the World Cup.

Southgate decided to carry on after England lost the quarter-final to France in Qatar - and just one look at the quality at his disposal makes it easy to see why.

We must apply the usual caveat, though, as the standard of opposition - both here and in the 4-0 win in Malta on Friday - was decidedly sub-standard.

It is dealing with elite opposition where England's problems have arisen and they may not get the chance to truly test themselves until they get to Germany for next year's Euros.

It is still possible, however, to admire the quality of England's work and it is beyond question that Southgate has scintillating attacking talent at his disposal.

And the star of this particular show was Saka, with one particular relationship building in this team and already showing signs of bringing rich dividends for England in times to come.

Southgate's decision to deploy Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold in midfield was the big experiment and talking point of these two qualifiers. It has been a resounding success, especially as he appears totally tuned in to the same wavelength as Saka.

They combined in the build-up to England's first goal in Malta and were involved in the real X-factor moment of this win against North Macedonia just after half-time.

As he did in Malta, Alexander-Arnold picked out Saka with a perfect long pass. This time Saka brought it under control, in the second instance with his chest, before lashing a spectacular volley past helpless North Macedonia keeper Stole Dimitrievski.

The obvious joy of his teammates when he completed his treble - and when they sought him out with the match ball at the final whistle - showed Saka is not just lavishly talented, but extremely popular.



Arsenal fans send Chelsea supporters stinging Mudryk verdict amid Saka comparison



Harry Kane, as usual, was on target as he broke the deadlock with his 57th goal for England, then added another with a penalty. Marcus Rashford, so dangerous in the first half, scored from Jordan Henderson's unselfish pass.

Southgate was able to deploy Manchester City's Champions League-winning duo Phil Foden and Jack Grealish from the bench. The latter received a rapturous reception in the unlikely surroundings of Old Trafford, his reputation seemingly enhanced by those, shall we say, enthusiastic celebrations after the glory of victory over Inter Milan in

Istanbul.

Jude Bellingham, regarded by many as England's standout superstar of the future, was not involved as the teenager, who has moved to Real Madrid in a deal that could be worth £115m, was out through injury. He will come straight back in when fit.

Southgate now has a happy dilemma and time to find the answers, with qualification more or less assured and a real atmosphere of confidence and optimism building around the camp.

The team that beat North Macedonia will form the basis of England's team for the Euros, although Chelsea's Reece James,

when fit, will challenge Kyle Walker at right-back.

Harry Maguire will surely need to be playing regularly, presumably at somewhere other than Manchester United, to keep those with eyes on his place at bay.

Foden and Grealish will make their claims for a place on the flanks, while Raheem Sterling will hope to find his best form after a poor season at Chelsea.

But it is in midfield where eyes are already being focused after the success of Alexander-Arnold's switch to the advanced position he has occupied more recently for Liverpool.

Declan Rice will start and Bellingham's place is non-negotiable, so will Southgate opt for the safer option of either Calvin Phillips or Jordan Henderson alongside Rice or will Alexander-Arnold be the answer?

It may be a thornier problem for Southgate against better teams, but it is a pleasant problem to have.

So much depends, very obviously, on how next season pans out but England could not be in better shape to qualify for Germany next summer.

Given England's quality, there should be no excuse for them not only reaching Euro 2024, but going deep into it as they seek to go one better than their last crack at this tournament when they lost in the final to Italy at Wembley.

Gareth Southgate's side are well on course to qualify for the tournament in Germany next summer and, even though North Macedonia provided meagre opposition, England still demonstrated the dazzling array of attacking options they have at

their disposal.

And at the heart of it all was Arsenal's Saka who struck a superb treble before departing to a standing ovation with the game won.

England actually laboured in the early stages in the face of determined Macedonian defence but once captain Harry Kane scored his 57th international goal - turning in Luke Shaw's cross at the far post after 29 minutes - the floodgates opened.

Saka added the second from Kyle Walker's pass nine minutes later and Marcus Rashford scored a third on the stroke of half-time after unselfish work by Jordan Henderson.

The highlight of this one-sided affair came two minutes after half-time when Saka controlled a perfect long pass by Trent Alexander-Arnold before sending a thunderous left-foot finish high past keeper Stole Dimitrievski.

Saka completed his landmark hat-trick after racing clear on to Kane's pass, prompting Southgate to make a host of changes which allowed substitute Calvin Phillips to get in the act with a simple tap-in to make it six.

Kane scored his second from the spot with 17 minutes left after John Stones had been fouled as England went on a goal rampage to record their biggest win since the 10-0 victory over San Marino in November 2021, and inflict North Macedonia's heaviest defeat.

The attacking riches the manager can manipulate were on show among his goalscorers and England's strength in depth was emphasised as Manchester City's Champions League-winning duo of Jack Grealish and Phil Foden came off the bench while Real Madrid's new teenage superstar Jude Bellingham was not present because of injury.

This must all be framed by the fact North Macedonia were nowhere their class but England could not have done a much better job of dismantling them.

Saka grows into a more accomplished England footballer with every game and it was clear just how popular Arsenal's 21-year-old is with his team-mates by their show of sheer joy when he completed his hat-trick.

The big bonus for Southgate is that, with Alexander-Arnold's move into midfield, it has quickly become clear he and Saka are right on the same wavelength.

They combined for a goal in Malta in Friday night's win and linked again here as Alexander-Arnold picked out Saka for his second and England's fourth, a real "wow" moment as the latter applied a spectacular finish.

Saka's England colleagues sought him out with the match ball at the final whistle. He will hope it is the first of many and he certainly has the talent to collect more.

Sports



FA Chairmanship triumphs: SWAN FCT congratulates Mouktar, Edeh

SWAN felicitates with FA leadership

From Dorcas Pankyes, Abuja

THE leadership of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) FCT Chapter has congratulated Alhaji Mohammed Adam Mouktar and Barrister Paul Edeh, on their re-election and emergence as Chairman of the Federal Capital Territory Football Association (FA) and Benue State FA Chairman respectively.

The unopposed victory of Mouktar came as a result of his track record and wealth of experience in football as well as his style of administration which play a significant role in swaying voters in his favour.

Also, the overwhelming electoral victory of Paul Edeh followed his philanthropic gesture, revolutionary exploits as well as his full involvement in sports developments at

various categories. In a congratulatory message conveyed via a press statement on Sunday June 18, 2023 in Abuja, FCT SWAN Chairman, Mr. Ndubueze Chidoka said both Mouktar and Edeh deserved the victory, in view of their numerous football innovations as well as grassroots sports development.

"I have known Mouktar as a man of good track records at any position or responsibility he is faced with. I'm not surprised with the victory.

"I believe this will continue to spur him to do more in the future as one who is endowed with sound leadership skills.

"We strongly also believe in the qualities and abilities of Edeh and are confident that Benue State FA will never regret having him as their chairman because he has what it takes to lead them to the next level with regards to

football growth and development in the state.

"We implore both Mouktar and Edeh, who double as the President of Ratels Sports Development Foundation (RSDF) to keep up their good works and ensure they make sports gain greater momentum," the SWAN, FCT Chapter's boss said.

Mouktar polled 12 out of 12 cast to emerge unopposed at the elections held at Bwari Area Council, while the first Vice Chairman, Hon. Saliu Kolo lost his re-election bid with 5 Yes and 7 Nays, after initially heading to the ballots unopposed.

Edeh on the other hand, won his election following a landslide victory of 28 votes out of 29 to defeat his challenger, Coach Godwin Uwa, a former Super Eagles Assistant Coach who got only one vote in the elections held in Makurdi, Benue State.

the organisation's new office in Paris.

Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas said Infantino had "seized the opportunity to use Noel's capabilities", adding "if that means indirectly that it comes at a good time for Noel, it's a good thing".

Le Graet, who was in office for 11 years and had a mandate until 2024, has previously faced claims of sexual harassment, which he denies.

There were also calls for him to quit over his comments about Zinedine Zidane, who won the World Cup and Euros as a player for France and guided Real Madrid to three successive Champions League titles.

Le Graet said he would not take a call from Zidane about becoming France coach before apologising for his "clumsy" remarks.

The French government began the audit in October after being made aware of sexual harassment and bullying allegations at the organisation, which the FFF has denied.

Announcing his resignation on Tuesday, the FFF said it "recognises the remarkable sporting and economic performance of Noel le Graet". Referring to the audit, it

NAPOLI president Aurelio de Laurentiis has confirmed a new two-year contract offer to ace striker Victor Osimhen but said the Nigerian could leave if they receive an offer too big to reject.

Although Laurentiis did not state a specific fee, Napoli will only sell Osimhen for an amount over €100m.

The Nigerian international, after a spectacular campaign with the Partenopei, has attracted interests of some top European clubs who are jostling for his signature.

Osimhen still has two years left on his contract at the club having joined from Lille for a club and African record fee of €75m in 2020.

"We have an agreement in principle with Victor Osimhen to extend his contract for two more years". In case an exorbitant bid impossible to reject arrives, we will see and make the best decision for the club," de Laurentiis said, as per Fabrizio Romano.

Osimhen scored 26 league

We'll let Osimhen leave only on one condition - Napoli president



Osimhen

goals, including the title-clinching strike, for Napoli last season.

The former Lille man also

added another five goals in six Champions League games to end up with 31 goals in all competitions.

2023 Ballon d'Or: I deserve to win it - Mbappe

PARIS Saint-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe has said he deserves to win the prestigious Ballon d'Or award for the year.

The France international believes he has fulfilled the criteria to win the award this year despite a successful year also for the likes of Lionel Messi and Manchester City's goal poacher Erling Haaland.

Recall Mbappe guided the French national team to the FIFA World Cup final where he scored a hat-trick against Argentina only to be

pipped to the trophy on penalties.

The Frenchman, aside from picking up a silver medal, won the Golden Boot amid widespread plaudits for his inspiring performance.

Back at his club side, Mbappe helped PSG finished the season as the Ligue 1 champions.

Speaking with French television network TF1, Kylian Mbappe said his Ballon d'Or chances are high.

"The Ballon d'Or? It's always difficult to talk about an individual

trophy because you have to put yourself forward," he said.

"Do I deserve the Ballon d'Or? With the new criteria, what counts? Catching the eye, scoring goals and making an impact? I think I fit those criteria. I'd say yes, but it's the people who vote and I'm always optimistic."

The 23-year-old scored 41 goals and provided 10 goals assists in 40 appearances for PSG in the recently concluded 2022-23 season.

Graet: French Football president resigns after damning report

FRENCH Football Federation president Noel le Graet has resigned following a damning report into the organisation and accusations of sexual harassment.

The 81-year-old stood down in January while the French government carried out an audit into the federation.

"Considering his conduct towards women, his public comments and the governance failings of the FFF, Mr Le Graet no longer has the necessary legitimacy to run and represent French football," the

report concluded when it was published earlier this month.

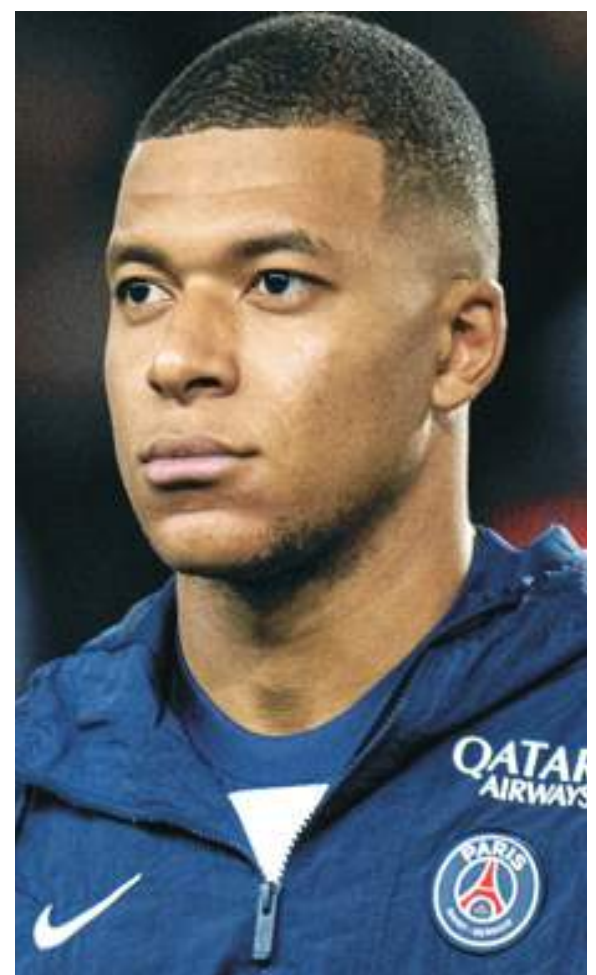
It also said Le Graet, who has always denied any wrongdoing, should not return to his role because his "behavioural excesses are incompatible with the carrying out of his functions".

Several members of the FFF have said that Le Graet will continue his role with world governing body Fifa.

In January 2022, he was appointed as Fifa president Gianni Infantino's delegate in



Le Graet has been president of the FFF since 2011



Mbappe

Sports



The Super Eagles departed Monrovia, the capital of Liberia with a 3-2 win over Sierra Leone.

Super Eagles qualified AFCON won 3-2 over

HEAD coach of the Super Eagles, Jose Peseiro says the team deserved to defeat Sierra Leone in their 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier played on Sunday at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Stadium in Liberia.

Speaking after the match, Peseiro said, **"Very hard match, my players never gave up, they fought till the final whistle. In the first half, we created up to eight opportunities but only scored two goals."**

"We deserved to win but I think it was a difficult and very good match but the team is the best in the group. We did a fantastic job against a good team. I'm happy with my players, congratulations to them."

Three goals courtesy of Napoli star, Victor Osimhen and Leicester City forward, Kelechi Iheanacho secured a place for the super eagles in the 2024 AFCON holding in Cote d'Ivoire.

Nigeria comfortably seats in group A, destroying Sierra Leone's dreams of making it to The 2024 AFCON.

Nigeria currently tops the group with 12 points from 5 matches, closely followed by Guinea-Bissau who have automatically qualified following the outcome of the game.

Sierra Leone and Sao Tome and Principe will seat out AFCON 2024 as they have 5 and 1 points respectively.

Nigeria joins 12 other countries that have booked their place for the AFCON 2024 so far.

Nigeria is a three-time AFCON winner, who last won the competition in 2013 as the Super Eagles were led to victory by the late coach Stephen Keshi.

The Super Eagles failed to qualify for two consecutive editions, but finally qualified in 2019, and came in third. The Super Eagles were knocked out in the round of 16 in the last edition of the competition in 2021 held in Cameroon.

In other news, Kanyi Daily reported that The suspended Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Abdulsheheed Bawa says only a guilty suspect will be afraid of visiting the anti-graft agency.

Bawa stated this in an interview with media personality, Chude Jideonwo.

With the win, Guinea-Bissau is now top with 7 points, while Nigeria has six points after three matches.

Taking to his official Twitter handle on Saturday afternoon, Peseiro said the team is sad and upset with the result of the match but added that the team played a good game.

According to him, the team attacked well and created many goal-scoring opportunities which unfortunately the team didn't take.

Jose Peseiro promised that the team will repeat the performance in the return leg of the match in Guinea, assuring however, that the team will score this time around.

The Eagles coach noted that

the team is going with all its commitment and sacrifice to win.

He wrote, **"We are sad and upset with this bad result. But we played a good game, very attacking, and created many goalscoring opportunities that unfortunately we didn't take."**

"We want to repeat this performance in Guinea, but scoring. We are going with all our commitment and sacrifice to win."

In other news, Kanyi Daily reported that former Kaduna Senator, Shehu Sani also reacted to the defeat of the Super Eagles of Nigeria by Guinea-Bissau on Friday evening.

Sani argued that bad luck has become Nigeria's only luck.

Nigeria U-23 team have been rewarded with a cash gift of ₦4 million by Super Eagles captain, Ahmed Musa, following their 4-0 win over Libya on Monday evening.

The team were trailing the Libyans 2-0 from the first leg last week and needed a resounding win to qualify.

The match, which was played at the Stephen Keshi Stadium, is the second leg of a qualification round for the U-23 Africa Cup of Nations.

The second leg game, which was watched by a handful of spectators, saw the Libyan team putting up a defensive play right from the first blast of the whistle.

However, the Nigerian team

took total control of the midfield, as they mounted sustained attacks on the Libyan defence.

Victor Osimhen grabbed a hat-trick and laid on the assist for the last goal, as the U-23 Eagles marched to victory with 4-0 win over Libya.

Former Media Officer of the senior Eagles, Colin Udoh, has confirmed that the former Leicester City winger has sent the money.

The Portuguese manager has called upon several familiar faces, including national team captain, Ahmed Musa and Napoli's record-breaker Victor Osimhen.

Relegated Leicester duo Kelechi Iheanacho and Wilfred Ndidi have also received invitations, with Iheanacho listed as a midfielder and Ndidi in the attack.

However, Nice's Terem Moffi did not make the squad despite his impressive performance of scoring 19 goals in all competitions across two French clubs this season.

One of the major talking points revolves around the inclusion of four NPFL players: goalkeepers Victor Sochima from Rivers United and Olorunleke Ojo from Enyimba FC, defender Chidieube Duru from Rivers United, and midfielder Divine Nwachukwu from Bendel Insurance.

The clash between Nigeria and Sierra Leone will take place at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Stadium in Monrovia on Sunday, 18 June, as Sierra

Leone currently lacks an approved stadium for international matches.

Goalkeepers: Adebayo Adeleye (Hapoel Jerusalem, Israel); Victor Sochima (Rivers United); Olorunleke Ojo (Enyimba FC)

Defenders: William Ekong (Watford FC, England); Calvin Bassey (Ajax FC, The Netherlands); Kevin Akpoguma (TSG Hoffenheim, Germany); Chidieube Duru (Rivers United); Oluwasemilogo Ajayi (West Bromwich Albion, England); Kenneth Omeruo (CD Leganes, Spain); Zaidu Sanusi (FC Porto, Portugal); Bright Osayi-Samuel (Fenerbahce FC, Turkey)

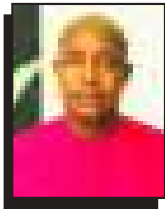
Midfielders: Joseph Ayodele-Aribo (Southampton FC, England); Alex Iwobi (Everton FC, England); Divine Nwachukwu (Bendel Insurance); Wilfred Ndidi (Leicester City, England); Frank Onyeka (Brentford FC, England)

Forwards: Moses Simon (Nantes FC, France); Samuel Chukwueze (Villarreal FC, Spain); Ademola Lookman (Atalanta FC, Italy); Victor Osimhen (SSC Napoli, Italy); Taiwo Awoniyi (Nottingham Forest, England); Kelechi Iheanacho (Leicester City, England); Ahmed Musa (Sivasspor K, Turkey)

Nigeria will first face Sierra Leone in the penultimate Africa Cup of Nations qualifier this month, followed by a match against Sao Tome and Principe in September, marking the final game.



Quest



writer

FRAGMENT

"At the moment, the Nigerian State is in acute distress, convulsing under economic haemorrhage, infrastructure deficits, fuel subsidy and electricity collapse. Nigeria can ill afford another inter-agencies rivalry between the Military, the Navy and the NSCDC over who is constitutionally empowered to protect the pipelines. One day, NSCDC operatives might bounce off the Military and Navy in the bloody clash, and assume their constitutional role of protection of the nation's pipelines and the security of oil wells."

Erasmus Ikhide

ERASMUS IKHIDE

Military, Navy to vacate pipelines protection for NSCDC

ONE of the Niger Delta former Governors, in a chat, told me late last year, how he accused the nation's current Service Chiefs at a meeting in Abuja, of their involvement in oil theft in the region. "You're the actual pipelines vandals and bunkers, beyond being precursors of oil theft". In the said encounter, if everything he told me was true; as he sat right in front of neatly kitted top brass, loaded beretta pistol tucked around their waists, with starry-eyed Military Generals, Naval Admirals, Air Force Commodores, DSS Director General, Inspector General of Police, NSCDC Commandant General, and their timid responses were accurately captured, then we're doomed as a nation?

On Friday last week, Asari Dokubo, a former Niger Delta militant, publicly exposed and disgraced the nation's Armed Forces, over their alleged involvement in oil theft in the Niger Delta. Regardless of the Military and Navy's passive denial that they're involved in oil theft – which turned out to be a national embarrassment – hardened cynics who are against Dokubo's outburst are beginning to think twice. If they're leisurely denying their involvement and cannot reveal those who are truly involved over the last three decades, and no drastic actions are taken against Asari Dokubo, then are the Armed Forces their own worst enemies?

The crust of this piece is based on Alhaji Asari Dokubo's celebrated position, that the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), which is constitutionally empowered to protect pipelines, have been intimidated, harassed, brown-beaten and chased out of their duties by the overbearing Military and Navy ratings in the Niger Delta creeks, who regularly wire millions of dollars to their 'Ogas at the top' from Abuja who post them to the lucrative oil rig beats.

The conundrum here is, how we arrive at this constitutional logjam, where the nation's Military, Naval and all other security architecture are gravitating into pipelines and oil wells crises; of phoney protection by forcefully chasing the NSCDC away with statutory power to carry out surveillance, on the pipelines across the country?

How come the Military and the Navy are falling over themselves to grab a piece of the oil cake in the Niger Delta, while terrorists



are having a field day maiming, raping and killing the citizens they're supposed to protect? What type of education and training does the nation's Armed Forces leadership give the officers concerning its constitutional role and citizens' rights? Does it include wading off external threats and protecting of the territorial integrity of the nation as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution?

(Part 11) of the Act that established NSCDC is unambiguous on the role of the security agency. The Act in the first schedule says:

"(1) The Corps shall-
(a) assist in the maintenance of peace and order and in the protection and rescuing of the civil population during a period of emergency;

(ii) seal up any private guard company which operates without a valid licence; (e) maintain twenty-four hours surveillance over infrastructures, sites and projects for the Federal, State and Local Governments-

"(i) enter and search any premises and seize any material suspected to have been used in vandalism or suspected process of vandalism; (ii) enter and search premises of any suspected illegal dealer in petroleum products or materials used by Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Postal Services, Nigeria Telecommunication or for

any other public utility or infrastructure; (vi) power transmission lines, or oil pipelines, NIPOST cables, equipment, Water Board pipes or equipment vandalism."

The Navy's constitutional duties are also well spelt out in unequivocal terms:

"The Nigeria Navy is to defend and maintain the sovereignty of the country's waters. It is responsible for protecting the country from any threats within its domain. The Navy's other function is to maintain law and order within the internal and territorial waters – contiguous zones – and exclusive economic zones. This can be done by enforcing and assisting in the coordination of national and international maritime laws acceded to by the country".

Also, it is within the exclusive power of the Nigerian Navy Department, to ensure and protect the country's prestige. Relevant officials represent and protect the interests of the nation, initiate and facilitate strategic agreements, and promote friendly relations with other countries. The Navy is constitutionally empowered by exercising control of shipping. It is responsible for ship's movement, routing, and convoy organisation. It is also involved in the tactical diversion of allied merchant shipping.

If President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

is not joking about 'Renewed Hope', he should, as a matter of urgency – redirect the Military and the Navy to their constitutional duties and urgently turn them away from pipelines and oil well protection – with stringent boundaries to avoid unwholesome inter-agencies rivalry and meddling preoccupation of the Military and the Navy?

The other accusations made by Asari Dokubo against the Armed Forces, were outright sabotage, to say the least. He told the bewildered nation that the Nigerian Military often abandoned its assigned duties of keeping the internal peace since the Nigeria Police appeared completely helpless while running after oil wells and the proceeds of billions of dollars from oil theft. By doing so, Dokubo alleged that his armed militant men with 1% of weaponry, contracted by the Nigeria Government had no choice but to clear off the terrorist-saturated Abuja-Kaduna highway. In fact, Dokubo alluded to the fact that the Military is obviously blackmailing the Government with the continuous claim that there are no arms to fight terrorists.

The former militant said, "I am a participant in this war. I fight on the side of the government of the Nigerian state in Plateau, Niger,

Anambra, Imo, Abia and Rivers. And in Abuja today, you are travelling to Kaduna on this road. It is not the army that makes it possible for you to travel to Abuja or travel to Kaduna, and vice versa. It is my men, employed by the government of the Nigerian State, stationed in Niger.

"Today, you travel to Baga, you go to Shiroro, you go to Wase. We have lost so many men and in all these engagements, we don't even have one percent of the armament deployed by the Nigerian military. One percent and we have had resounding success."

Nigerians are yet to come to terms with the revelations last year that the Muhammadu Buhari administration gave multi-billion pipeline surveillance and protection contract to a private firm called Tantita Security Services led by a former militant leader, Government Ekpemepulo, popularly known as Tompolo. Here we are again talking about contracting national security protection to a quasi-military organisation headed by Asari Dokubo, which he said has been securing many parts of the country. The question is, where are the nation's security agencies? Is it safer to engage rag-tag and unprofessional private security personnel than to retrain and overhaul the totality of the nation's Armed Forces?

In the face of glaring evidence of security men's colluding with oil mafias, what other proof is President Bola Tinubu waiting for before he flushes out the Service Chiefs when non-state actors are being employed to assume the constitutional role of the Armed Forces, to protect Nigerians and other assets in the country against internal and external aggressors?

At the moment, the Nigerian State is in acute distress, convulsing under economic haemorrhage, infrastructure deficits, fuel subsidy and electricity collapse. Nigeria can ill afford another inter-agencies rivalry between the Military, the Navy and the NSCDC over who is constitutionally empowered to protect the pipelines. One day, NSCDC operatives might bounce off the Military and Navy in the bloody clash, and assume their constitutional role of protection of the nation's pipelines and the security of oil wells. Then, this inter-security colonisation will end abruptly since the Federal Government can't think for itself.