

**Menstrual Hygiene Day: NAWOJ gifts free pads**  
P 28



**Girl-child education: Stakeholders urge policy makers on bottlenecks** Page 2

**National Assembly to grill officials over failed Nigeria Air' Carrier** Page 2

**Governor Mutwang holds first Security Executive Meeting** Page 10

# THE Nigeria Standard



VOL. 13 NO. 783

WEDNESDAY, June 7, 2023

N200

Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

# Senate approves Tinubu's request for 20 Special Advisers

**The Nigerian Senate in plenary session on Tuesday rescinded its decision on eight bills which it had earlier passed to start another process of re-consideration and passage.**

The Nigerian Senate also approved the request of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR on the appointment of 20 Special Advisers.

After the Senate President, Ahmad Lawan led the Principal Officers into the Chamber, took the official prayers and began the day's proceedings at 11:09 am, the Senate dissolved into Committee of the Whole to consider the eight reports.

The eight bills are the National Examination Council (NECO) Bill, 2023; National Drug Law Enforcement Agency

(Amendment) Act, 2023; Physically Challenged (Empowerment) Act, 2023 and the Chartered Institute of Digital Forensics of Nigeria Bill, 2023.

The others are Federal College of Education (Technical), Ako, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State Bill, 2023; Control of Small Arms and Light Weight Weapons Bill, 2023; National Assembly Library Trust Fund (Establishment)

Act, 2023; and Federal College of Education (Technical) Aghoro, Bayelsa State Bill, 2023.

Senator Sandy Onuh thereafter moved for the adoption of the Votes and Proceedings while Senator Nora Ladi Daduut seconded. The Votes and Proceedings were approved.

The Senate President, Lawan proceeded to read a letter from President

Tinubu on the appointment of 20 Special Advisers.

The Senate Leader, Senator Ibrahim Gobir moved that the Senate does consider the request of Tinubu for the approval of the Senate to appoint 20 Special Advisers.

The Senate Minority Leader seconded after which the request of President Tinubu was approved.



Lawan

## Governor accuses former govs contributing to insecurity

Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State has accused the immediate past governors of states in North-west Nigeria of contributing to worsening insecurity in the region.

Mr Sani, inaugurated as governor of the state on 29 May, spoke when he appeared as a guest on Channels TV's Sunrise Daily on Tuesday.

The North-west region has been battling attacks from a gang of terrorists locally referred to as bandits, who have been sacking rural communities, kidnapping residents and killing several others.

Apart from Kaduna, the six other states that comprise the North-west region include, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara.

Mr Sani, who represented Kaduna Central District between 2019 and 2023 in the

Continued on page 2



Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Mutwang, his Deputy, Hon. Josephine Piyo in a group photograph with the newly sworn-in appointees of government and their spouses after the oath taking ceremony last week at the Victoria Gowon Multi-purpose Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos  
Photo: DANLADI DUK

## Duplication of projects, double payment mar rehabilitation of refineries -Reps

The House of Representatives ad-hoc Committee on the state of refineries in the country, says after spending N11.349 trillion to rehabilitate the nation's refineries, it discovered duplication of projects and

double payments.

This is sequel to the report of the Committee, chaired by Rep. Ganiyu Johnson. The report was laid and considered by the House of Reps at the plenary in Abuja on Tuesday.

In its recommendation, the committee said, drawing from observations and findings, the committee established that the state of refineries in the country from 2010-2020 was comatose.

The committee said the

refineries were non-functional, unproductive and wasteful, adding that it could not ascertain the actual cost of rehabilitating the Nigerian refineries within the periods.

The committee said that

obvious omissions were noted in the submissions made by the NNPC, adding that there were seeming duplication of projects and possible double payments.

The committee noted

Continued on page 2



## News

## Governor accuses former govs contributing to insecurity

**Continued from page 1**  
Senate, said the insecurity in the country's North-west worsened because of the "wrong approach" adopted by the immediate past state governors from the region in fighting the situation.

I think we made it clear, even when I was in the Senate, that the approach by some (outgone) state governors (from the region against insecurity) was extremely wrong," he said.

Mr Sani, a member of the ruling All Progressives Congress, recalled that states within the North-west and Niger State, which shares a boundary with the region, had met to work out a framework to tackle regional insecurity in collaboration with security agencies.

He said the former governors initially allied to work together after floating a joint committee and accepting to collectively fund the fight against insecurity in the

region but later failed to work together.

"The alliance (by the then state governors) broke down when some state governors decided to start engaging the bandits and terrorists, sitting with them, dining and winning with them, compensating them, negotiating with them. Of course, we disagreed with that approach because that approach was what actually brought the entire progress backwards," he said.

Reviving the alliance against insecurity

Mr Sani, however, said he met with newly elected governors from the North-west in Abuja, about two weeks ago, to revive the alliance and, subsequently, came up with a policy framework to address the worsening insecurity in the region.

We have agreed that we have to have a common approach to the issue. And we have to move away

from the steps made by some previous governors that decided to compromise the operation in the past when they started giving money to the bandits and negotiating with them.

"But right now, it is clear that the current governors, we all agreed that we are going to work together and not only (the governors from the North-west) but we are going to reach out even to Niger State governor because we share boundaries," he stated.

The governor hinted that he and other governors from the region were making plans to seek the assistance of President Bola Tinubu in fighting insecurity in the region.

"We have to work together with a common agenda, common plan and common operation. That's the only way we will be able to fight the bandits as well as end the problem of insecurity in our own zone and our states," he added.

**Continued from page 1**

that total estimated cost of rehabilitating the Nigerian refineries may be put at ₦11,349,583,186,313.40, adding that other additional actual costs reported in foreign currencies were to the tune of US \$ 592,976,050.00 and £4,877,068.47 and £3,455,656.93.

In its recommendation, the committee said that the NNPC should take full advantage of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021, passed by the National Assembly, to fast track the rehabilitation programme of the refineries.

It further said that the NNPC and the contractor, Tecnimont SPA of Italy, be urged to ensure that phase Olone of the rehabilitation works in refinery area five of the Old Port Harcourt refinery.

This, the committee said, was with the processing capacity of 60,000 barrels per day

## Duplication of projects, double payment mar rehabilitation of refineries -Reps



**Gbajabamila**

earlier expected to be restored to 54,000 barrels per day of processing capacity, representing 90 per cent capacity utilization by March, 2023.

The committee said this should unfailingly meet the new target date of Sept. 2023, adding that the NNPC and the contractor be further urged to ensure that phase two of the rehabilitation works in refinery areas 1 and 2 of the New Port

Harcourt Refinery (NPHR). This, according to the committee, should be with an installed capacity of 150,000 Barrels per Day, restored to the estimated processing capacity of 135,000 Barrels per day, representing 90 per cent capacity utilization.

This is to deliver a combined processing capacity of 189,000 barrels per day from the OPHR and the NPHR and achieve the targeted date of December 2023, among other recommendations.

## Girl-child education: Stakeholders urge policy makers on bottlenecks



**Echobo**

Worried by the increasing number of out-of-school children in the country, stakeholders have called on policy makers to look into financial bottlenecks limiting girls from accessing quality education in Nigeria.

They identified adequate funding as a veritable factor for creating inclusive education and empowering learning environments for girls.

They made the call in Abuja at a Documentary Streaming Event titled, Empowering Girls through Education in Nigeria, put together by YouthHubAfrica with support from Malala Fund and EVA.

The organizers noted that there was a deliberate effort to figure out modalities on how decision-makers can prioritize girls' education

through a gender-transformative education system.

Recognizing the crucial role of sufficient funding, the organizers said the documentary sought to urge decision-makers to give priority to increased budgetary resources towards primary and secondary education in Nigeria.

Speaking, Malala Fund Advocacy Manager, Femi Aderobigbe, who decried a reversal in terms of the gains made in education over the years, regretted that the country lost a lot of school children during the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the ones it lost to insecurity in the North.

According to Aderobigbe, many of the school students have not been able to return to school due to the fact the

security has not been fixed.

"Nigerians have seen a reverse to education against some gains. We also lost security because of the internal displacement of persons in some parts of the country.

"I am linking my discussion to the subsidy removal which will affect the girl child in Nigeria and increase the number of out-of-school children. Nigeria can do more in developing a stable mechanism to develop girl child education.

Also speaking, the Executive Director, of Invictus Africa, Bukky Shonibare, who explained that the documentary was championed by the young girls in the country, disclosed that poverty was a factor that was highlighted by the girls, lamenting that it has truncated most girls from going to school.

According to Shonibare, the girls also highlighted the lack of infrastructure like toilets, which she said, also put the girl child away from the school during the menstruation period.

"The documentary by the girls in their school revealed the unavailability of toilets and adequate running water resulting in some girls skipping classes, some girls do not go to school during menstruation because they do not have toilets and running water.

The House of Representatives Committee on Aviation has rescheduled its investigative hearing on the controversial launch of Air Nigeria, Nigeria's national carrier, by the last administration of former President, Muhammadu Buhari.

The committee had invited relevant stakeholders to the hearing earlier scheduled for Monday in Abuja. However, representatives of most of the stakeholders had left the venue before the arrival of the committee's Chairman, Nnolim Nnaji, who came about two hours behind schedule.

The stakeholders invited by the committee include the Ministry of Aviation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, Airline Operators of Nigeria, Ethiopian Airlines as well as aviation fuel (Jet-A1) suppliers.

Nnaji, after his arrival, apologised to stakeholders who waited behind at the venue, asking that the hearing be postponed to 3pm yesterday. The source had about a week ago reported that the Muhammadu Buhari-led Nigerian government committed a major blunder in its usual deception of Nigerians by unveiling a Boeing 737-800 series aircraft as the "Nigerian Air" which actually belongs to Ethiopia Airlines.

The source had learnt

## National Assembly to grill officials over failed Nigeria Air' Carrier

that the plane unveiled as Nigerian Air is over 10 years old and belongs to Ethiopian Airlines.

According to information obtained from Plane Spotters, a platform which takes an inventory of aircraft, "The Registration Number is ET-APL and the Mode is S Q4005C. The Serial Number: 40965/4075. The first flight was an Ethiopian Airlines aircraft. Then it became Malawi Airlines on 16th February 2014. It was then acquired again by Ethiopian Airlines in 2015 and has been operating under Ethiopian Air since then.

"Then on the 26th of May 2023, it has Nigeria Air colours without changing ownership. It was first spotted in South Africa

before it flew to Nigeria yesterday"

The aircraft took off from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at 9:55 am on Friday and landed at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, at 12:43 pm.

The Buhari administration had failed to deliver Nigeria Air after eight years, over the controversy that surrounded the national carrier.

The Federal Government had boycotted domestic airlines, under the aegis of the Airline Operators of Nigeria, and signed a deal with Ethiopian Airlines to float the Nigerian carrier.

The AON had consequently dragged the government and its agencies before a court to stop the process.







# Banks begin collection of TCC on FX requests

**Commercial banks across Nigeria have announced that all Form A and Forex requests must include a valid copy of the applicant's Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) alongside other required documents on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) trade monitoring system portal.**

THIS is coming after the federal and state governments had mandated commercial banks as well as Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government (MDAs) to henceforth, implement the demand for a valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) as a prerequisite for carrying out any business transaction with individuals and organisations in the country.

reports gathered revealed that the drive, which was in line with the provisions of Section 85 of the Personal Income Tax Act (PITA), 2011 (as amended) and Section 31(5) of the FCT-IRS Act, 2015, had already taken effect in Abuja and other parts of the country.

In separate emails sent to customers at the weekend, banks said, "Please be advised that effective immediately, all Form A and FX requests must include a valid copy of the applicant's Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) alongside other required documents on the CBN's Trade Monitoring System Portal.

"The Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) is evidence of meeting tax obligations from a revenue authority and should cover three years immediately preceding the current year of assessment."

The banks further added that a copy of the individual's valid TCC will be required for all school fees payment; payment for upkeep and medical bills payment.

Personal Travel Allowance (PTA); Business Travel Allowance (BTA); Personal Home Remittances and Other Foreign Exchange transactions for which a Form A is required.

"For the avoidance of doubt, it is necessary to note that approval of your Form A request on the Trade Monitoring System (TRMS) is subject to the review/certification of the valid TCC provided", banks said.

According to a publication by the FCT- Inland Revenue Service which was seen by Daily Sun, the regulation covers applications for government loans, registration of motor vehicles, applications for foreign exchange or exchange control permission, certificate of occupancy, award of contracts by the government, and its agencies, and registered companies.

Other transactions subject to proof of TCC include approval of building plans, trade license, transfer of real property, agent license, pools or gaming



license, registration as a contractor, application for distributorship, confirmation of appointment by the government as chairman or member of a public board, institution, commission, company or to any other similar position made by the government.

Other affected transactions are stamping of guarantor's form for a Nigerian passport, application for registration of a limited liability company or of a business name, allocation of market stalls, appointment or election into public office, application for change of ownership of a vehicle by the vendor, plot of land, FCTA loan and any other as may be determined from time to time.

Under the new directive, MDAs, banks, and corporate bodies must ensure all presented TCC go through a rigorous verification process by the issuing tax authority to ascertain their authenticity. According to the FCT tax



**Emefiele**

Furthermore, banks have also on interest rate. Following the begun revising their interest recent changes in MPR, the rates following the recent interest rate on savings changes in Monetary Policy account as well as others has Rate (MPR) by the Central Bank been revised. The new rates of Nigeria (CBN). are effective immediately", "This is an important update they said.





# Business & Economy

## Senate grills AGF over N910bn MDAs loan

THE Senate has indicted the Office of Accountant General of the Federation over failure to repay short-term loans given to Ministries, Departments, and Agencies from Special Funds Accounts totalling N910bn.

The lawmakers discovered this after a thorough investigation by the Senate Public Accounts Committee chaired by Senator Mathew Urhoghide, following the submission of the 2017 Auditor General report.

According to the query, loans, and debts arising from Special Funds Accounts totalling N910.04bn showed that the balances remained unpaid throughout the year, although the loans were meant to be short-term.

But, the Office of the Accountant General in its response claimed that several letters had been written to the Minister of Finance to authorise the settlement of the loans granted against allocations of various MDAs affected.

The AGF office added that it



Lawan

had requested the minister to include the repayment of the loan in the 2017 budget.

The Urhoghide-led committee noted that there was a continuous abuse of the special funds by the executive as the withdrawals were continually made for political expediency outside the purpose for which the funds were meant.

The report read, "There is continuous abuse of the

special funds by executive as the withdrawals are continually made for political expediency outside the purpose for which the funds were meant."

The Senate, therefore, ordered that all outstanding loans should be recovered by the Accountant General of the Federation and evidence of recovery presented to the Auditor General and Senate Public Accounts Committee within 60 days.

## NNPC gives up sole supplier role, oil marketers reel

The oil marketers who promptly hiked petrol prices as soon as President Bola Tinubu said 'subsidy is gone' on May 29, are not responding well to NNPC's decision to raise prices on the products they had ordered from the corporation nearly eight months ago.

As their inventory runs out, many are now jittery over the reality that if they must remain in business they would have to source their dollars, import their own crude and truck it across Nigeria. The West African market for cheap Nigerian petrol is no longer a viable option. The Federal Government would also no

longer pick the tabs for inefficient operations.

It gets worse, some vessel owners who had been contracted by some marketers to transship crude already imported by the NNPC have to live with the reality they could bear a loss as they had paid fares using the old rate for a product whose price has nearly tripled.

Nigerian banks had been burnt due to lending to oil marketers in the past and have no appetite for further lending. Major oil marketers are better prepared to deal with the boom and bust of the oil market and the same resilience would be required of

independent marketers.

Some operators say the NNPC still has to do some hand-holding before the marketers are let loose. Left to their devices, with a hike in ex-depot prices, these marketers would manifest their outrage by competing on who could advertise the most ludicrous pump price.

Ex-depot price is the price marketers buy products at the depot and it determines the price at which they will sell to motorists.

Mike Osatuyi, national operations controller, IPMAN, in a conversation with BusinessDay confirmed the increase in ex-depot prices and noted that in two to three weeks, marketers will effect an increase in the price of PMS to consumers.

"If you want to order now for a truck, you will have like N21.8 million, we are going to increase it more than N500 because if I buy at N480/N495, what price will I sell?" he said.

He noted that going forward, it can be about N520 to N530. This will affect areas like Lagos, Rivers, Imo, Abeokuta etc. where the price is currently N488, N511, N515 and N500 respectively according to the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL)'s price update.

President Bola Tinubu during his inauguration announced that "subsidy is gone" sending the market into a tailspin as those who had the products quickly shut their pumps and

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) says Nigeria recorded N927.16 billion trade surplus between January and March.

A trade surplus is an economic indicator of a positive trade balance in which a nation's exports outweigh its imports.

In its report on foreign trade for the first quarter of 2023, the NBS said Nigeria's total exports stood at N6.49 trillion, and imports at N5.56 trillion.

The NBS report shows that in the quarter under review, the nation's total trade stood at N12.05 trillion. This is higher than the value (N7.86 trillion) recorded in the corresponding period (Q1) of 2021.

It is also more than the figure recorded in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2022 when Nigeria's trade stood at N11.72 trillion.

"Total exports increased in the first quarter by 2 percent but declined by 8.66 percent when compared to the amount recorded in the fourth quarter of 2022

long queues emerged across the nation.

The queues shortly after the NNPC released price guidance for its over 900 stations across the country which showed petrol selling in Maiduguri at N577 per litre and N488 per litre in Lagos state while other places like Abuja, Jos, Lafia, Minna and Makurdi sold for N537 per litre, etc. Other marketers have since taken it as a benchmark.

Abubakar Maigandi, National Vice President Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), said depots have started releasing new prices while he lamented about NNPC's application of new prices on old stock.

"Again, we, the Independent petroleum marketers, have already purchased the product from NNPC after eight months. Now they are saying they will give us the product for this new rate and not the old rate we paid at; these are part of the challenges we are encountering now," he said.

Already, the NNPC is set to discontinue crude oil swap in favour of cash payments for petrol imports which is part of President Tinubu's plans to deregulate the petrol market and reduce the burden on government finances.

Mele Kyari Group chief executive officer of NNPC has insisted that there will not be a reversal of the policy as there is no cash back-up to offset the subsidy payment for the month of June.

## FG records N927.2bn trade surplus in Q1 2023



Adeyemi

(N6,359.61 billion) and the corresponding quarter in 2022 (N7,102.11 billion) respectively," the report reads.

"In the same vein, total imports increased by 3.67 percent in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the value recorded in the fourth quarter of 2022 (N5,362.83 billion) but then again declined by 25.83 percent when compared to the value recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2022 (N7,495.67 billion)."

Further examination of the report shows that the majority of imported goods

in Q1 2022 originated from China, the Netherlands, Belgium, India, and the United States of America.

NBS said the value of imports from the aforementioned countries amounted to N3.1 trillion, representing a share of 55.78 percent of the total value of imports.

The bureau said the commodities with the largest values of imported products were "motor spirit ordinary, gas oil, and durum wheat".

Meanwhile, goods worth about N837.65 billion (the most) were exported to the

## FG records N930bn fiscal deficits in two months

THE Central Bank of Nigeria says the Federal Government recorded N930.8bn fiscal deficit in January and February 2023.

The CBN stated in its monthly economic report for February 2023 that, "The estimated overall fiscal deficit of the FGN expanded in February, due to a drop in the retained revenue.

"At N513.05bn, the provisional fiscal deficit of the FGN rose by 22.8 per cent relative to the preceding month. However, it was 16.2 per cent below the budget benchmark."

According to the report, the fiscal deficit was N417.75bn in January.

The report said accretion into the federation account decreased by 32.3 per cent in February relative to the preceding month, on account of the 60.2 per cent fall in oil revenue.

It added that the development led to the expansion of the overall fiscal deficit (provisional) by 22.8 per cent due to a 16.4 per cent surge in provisional FGN capital expenditure, and a 7.7 per cent fall in FGN retained

revenue. Total public debt at N46.25tn (23.2 per cent of GDP) at end-December 2022, remained within the 40.0 per cent national threshold.

It stated that, "At N1.04tn, federation receipts were below the level in January by 32.3 per cent. Similarly, it was below the budget2 of N1.58tn by 34.3 per cent.

"The decline, relative to January was attributed to a fall in collections from petroleum profit tax and royalties. Oil revenue, at N308.07bn, was 60.2 per cent below receipts in the preceding month.

"The outcome was driven, largely, by the 60.5 per cent decrease in collections from petroleum profit tax and royalties."

At N730.21bn, non-oil revenue, was below the level in the preceding month and the monthly target by 3.7 per cent and 7.4 per cent, respectively.

The decrease was largely attributed to the 10.5 per cent decline in collections from corporate tax on account of the seasonality associated with its payments.



Kyari





## Fuel importation: Marketers demand equal access to FX

**Oil marketers have projected that the ex-depot price of Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, would hit N515/litre once they source foreign exchange rate at the parallel market for the importation of PMS. Ex-depot price is the price marketers buy products at the depot and it determines the price at which they sell to motorists at filling stations.**

DEALERS under the aegis of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria has called on the Federal Government to provide opportunity for marketers to start importing petrol by enabling dealers to have access to foreign exchange.

Currently, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company is the sole importer of PMS into Nigeria, as other marketers stopped importing the commodity due to their inability to access the United States dollar.

Marketers also stated that the ex-depot price of petrol by NNPC Retail was currently N467.39/litre, and explained that this was because the national oil company was sourcing its dollars at a cheaper rate.

"The exchange rate of N761/\$ at the parallel market is what we are battling with as I'm talking to you right now, because that is where most marketers source their dollars. NNPC's ex-depot price is not realistic for other marketers, because they (NNPC) source their dollar cheaper, which is at the N461/\$ CBN rate.

"So if any marketer is importing today, the cheapest ex-depot price that has been calculated for us is not less than N505/litre; some are as high as N511/litre, while others are as high as N515/litre," an oil marketer, who pleaded not to be named to avoid victimisation, stated.

Asked whether marketers had started importing PMS, the source replied, "We have not started. NNPC is still supplying and they are asking us to come and pay the difference between the old price that they gave us, and the new price that they want to sell to us. Now they are selling to us based on the deregulated price."

Oil marketers stated that if the NNPC should continue to access forex cheaper than other marketers, it would not be fair to private dealers, stressing that it was better everyone accessed the dollar at the same rate.

Asked to state what was the ex-depot price of NNPC, the source replied, "it is N467.39/litre, and that is for NNPC Retail."

Ukadike called on the government to give oil marketers the opportunity to start importing petrol, since the commodity was now deregulated.

Although he identified the lack of the United States dollar as a challenge, the IPMAN official argued that the government should allow marketers to access the foreign exchange the same way it was being accessed by the NNPC.

Also, with respect to the cost of PMS and its imports, the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority announced that it was no longer going to fix the prices of petrol, or release templates for the commodity, rather this would be done by marketers.

"The NNPC is importing and has not given people the opportunity to join them in importing, so as to see whether private sector operators can import the product cheaper or not. So there is no competition. In a deregulated regime, there must be competition, everyone with capacity should be allowed to import," Ukadike stated.

When asked whether other marketers would now resume imports since the government had finally deregulated petrol price, Ukadike replied, "Marketers can import, but let me tell you some of the factors militating against this. The first is that there won't be availability of dollars.

"You will source your dollar from the parallel market and if you are not careful in doing this, and you go into the importation of petroleum products, you might not come out of it alive at the end of



### Forex-Market

the day.

"So what we are saying is that those advantages that NNPC has, should be shared with other major importers of petroleum products. If it is through crude buy-back, they should let us know, so that independent players such as IPMAN members, can gather to pay and be able to use it in the buy-back model.

On whether this was possible, he said, "If it is not possible, what are the incentives the government is giving to us to boost petroleum products imports and drive competition?"

"For independent marketers, the most important thing is that there should be availability of petroleum products, and the government should open up the space for importers and investors to come in."

Meanwhile, some members of the Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria also said access to dollars remained the challenge and that marketers who wanted to import already had the licence.

The immediate past chairman of MOMAN, Mr Adetunji Oyebojani, who is the Managing Director, 11 Plc (formerly Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc), said, "As an operator in the industry, we welcome the idea that import licenses would be granted. The truth of the matter is that they never really stopped granting import licenses. The only reason people could not make use of them was because they did not have access to foreign exchange at the same rate the NNPC had.

"That means if one wanted to import fuel and one's rate was higher than what NNPC was getting, then obviously, one would not be able to compete when one brought in the product. So, the truth is that we would come back to the market if we have access to foreign exchange at the same rate the NNPC has."

He said if other people could import the product, it would remove the NNPC monopoly and make fuel readily available. "But, issues around access to forex are not really clear. This is because, in the past, the CBN governor has said he didn't have any forex to give us. We wish they changed that situation and improved the structure," he added.

Similarly, a highly-placed source in MOMAN said, "We never had a problem with import licenses. I think there was a

breach in communication to the general public. That importation is open to anybody who can import fuel, the industry knows that that is half of the story. The other half of the story is around the FX issue.

"If I were to look at it from their point of view – and I am not holding brief for either the NNPC or NMDPRA – they have both spoken within the scope of their offices. The FX issue is not really theirs to solve. That is a ministry of finance issue and a CBN policy issue to solve. In a way, if you are to take them exactly by what they said, they have spoken like government persons.

"The other piece is to hear from the CBN governor or the ministry of finance to understand how that will be dealt with. I think what the NNPC has control over is crude oil, not FX. It is that crude oil that is being traded, and in the accounting, when they are working out the subsidy account, they use the official rate."

He said unless there was a policy shift that would allow credible persons that have importation licenses and have proven track record in fuel importation to have access to crude, which they could use to generate the FX that they needed, many marketers might not embrace the idea.

He added, "The reality of the matter is that there is an uneven playing field because of the access to crude. NNPC is more advantageous in terms of importation and that is why it is happening, and the other players don't have the same opportunity to import. There is a dominant player in terms of importation."

When asked what he felt could be done, he said, "The first thing is to give a percentage that, for example, MOMAN members could import this particular percentage. I think we need a framework that really shows the build-up cost for everything. We need to make it in a way that NIMASA, NPA and all other charges are transparent to all the players."

"One of those charges is paid in dollars. That increases the cost of bringing the product in. The jetty you deliver to, the port you deliver to also matter. The system has to be transparent by creating equal opportunity. The regulators should be clearer with these things, else the

operators won't be able to compete.

As oil marketers made their demand to start PMS imports, the NMDPRA explained that it would no longer fix prices or release templates for petrol.

The Chief Executive, NMDPRA, Farouk Ahmed, explained in a statement that under the liberalised market, market forces were allowed to dictate prices.

He said, "We put the regulation in place, we make sure quality control is complied with, we make sure the product is there and we give licence to a prospective importer.

"The market is now open for everybody that wants to import as far as they meet all the requirements. So, it is not about the NNPC alone. For everybody in the sector, we make sure we guide their operations whether at the depot or wherever the product.

"But we will not put a cap to say this is what the price must be. As far as we are concerned in the NMDPRA, this is not like before when the PPPRA (Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Authority) fixes the price. In a deregulated market, it is the market force that dictates the price."

Ahmed explained that the NNPC's role was to fix the prices of the petrol it imported and not take over the responsibilities of the NMDPRA.

"In the case of the NNPC, the organisation is the sole importer at this point. We told the NNPC to recover its costs because they know how much it cost them to import the product and sell it. Of course, we also know how much shipping, offshore, ex-depot and ex-pump are. But we cannot tell them to sell at a price because the market is deregulated," he said.

The NMDPRA boss also revealed that the Federal Government had officially scrapped petroleum equalisation as well as the national transport allowance.

He also stated that the NMDPRA and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission would mount aggressive monitoring of activities in the downstream sector to prevent profiteering by petroleum marketers.

Ahmed said marketers were now free to source their foreign exchange anywhere around the world to import petroleum products and then recover their costs

without impediments.

On where the importers would source their forex from, Ahmed said, "No, the CBN (Central Bank of Nigeria) will not give dollar to anyone because it is an open market. Anyone willing to import should get the dollars from anywhere to import.

"Anyone willing to open a letter of credit from any part of the world can do that to import. That marketers can source their forex from anywhere is the beauty of the liberalised market that the NMDPRA has introduced based on the provision of the law."

He, however, pointed out that though no template spelled out the pricing components of petrol price, the market would henceforth be modulated to allow the fluidity of prices.

"This means that the price will no longer be static. It will depend on the international price of the gasoline market. But this does not imply that marketers can sell at any price.

"If we find that certain prices are way above the expected profit margin, we and the FCCPC can move in to curb such excesses because that will be profiteering. The market structure will dictate the price swings at every point in time," he stated.

He maintained that the Dangote Refinery would help the nation in two ways, adding that "the refinery will give Nigeria easy access to petroleum products on-land for security reasons, because it is within the Nigerian territory. Secondly, it will increase employment for our professionals."

Meanwhile, the NMDPRA helmsman cautioned against the optimism for cheap petroleum products, as he stated that "I don't think products will be cheaper because the company will be buying crude oil at the international price. However, it is going to be cheaper in terms of freight rate, bringing of cargoes from Europe, etc.

"Dangote Refinery is a game changer in terms of accessibility. By the time the NNPC refineries and other modular refineries across the country come on stream, Nigeria will be a net exporter of petroleum products."

Source: PUNCH



## Politics

# PLHA raises alarm over increase in mercury theft

By PAULINE DALLONG

THE Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA) has in a matter of urgent public importance, called on the Jos Electricity Development Company (JEDC) to provide security surveillance on all transformers or direct security operatives in the state to safeguard them.

In a motion moved by Hon. Philip Peter Dasun, member representing Pankshin North Constituency, he expressed concern that the theft of mercury from transformers has become rampant in the state, throwing most residential areas into total darkness.

Meanwhile, the House has during plenary passed for second reading a 'Bill for a Law for the Establishment of Rural Access Road Agency/ Authority (RARA), and State Road Fund (SRF) under the Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) in Plateau State, 2022.

The bill which is sponsored by the Majority Leader and member representing Mikang constituency, Hon. Naanlong Gapyil Daniel is said to be important given the fact that it is centered on the rural areas which are predominantly agrarian.

Members in their various



contributions, called for the speedy passage of the bill considering the enormous benefits the state stands to gain from the legislation, adding that Plateau is one of the few states lucky to be part of this World Bank project.

In a separate motion, the PLHA has directed that the duly elected Chairman of Langtang North be reinstated back to office with immediate effect, in accordance with the court judgement. They added

that failure to do so leaves it with no choice than to use force in enforcing the court ruling.

After adjournment of the day's proceedings, members led by the Speaker proceeded to the Government House, Little Rayfield on a congratulatory visit to the Executive Governor, His Excellency Caleb Manasseh Mutwang on his successful swearing-in as the 6th elected governor of Plateau State.

# PLHA calls for investigation into Mangu attacks

By PAULINE DALLONG

THE Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA) has in a matter of urgent public importance, called on the Plateau State government to intervene and investigate the recent attacks on innocent citizens of some communities in Mangu Local Government Area and bring the perpetrators to Justice.

This was contained in a notice of motion moved by Hon. Bala Fwangje, member representing Mangu South constituency and seconded by Hon. Esther Simi Dusu, member representing Jos North West Constituency.

While citing Sections 13, 14 and 17 of the 1999 Constitution, the lawmaker stated that one of the fundamental objectives of any state policy is the duty and responsibility of government to put in place adequate measures that would protect its citizens from any form of exploitation of both human and natural resources.

He disclosed that some communities in Mangu Local Government Area recently came under attack by armed militias, leaving over 180 persons dead with about 30,000 displaced and currently in IDP camps, while a large number are currently receiving treatment in the hospital for various degrees of injury.

He listed some of the affected communities to include Murish, Jwat, Maitumbi, Kubat, Changal, Dan Hausa, Kinat etc, adding that goods worth over 900 million naira were destroyed

with communities still counting their losses.

Hon. Fwangje therefore, prayed on the House to resolve and call on the Plateau State government to with a sense of urgency through the powers vested on it in line with the constitution, direct SEMA and other relevant agencies to make available immediate assessment of the situation and intervene accordingly.

Secondly, investigate the carnage meted out on innocent citizens and bring the perpetrators to justice. And thirdly, stop the Fulanis from grazing in the affected communities since their presence is generating more tension in the areas.

In his contribution, the Deputy Speaker and member representing Dengi Constituency, Rt. Hon. Saleh Shehu Yipmong decried the issue of attacks and killings on the Plateau, despite the series of motions moved, noting that it was time to think outside the box in formulating lasting policies on the matter.

On his part, Hon. Timothy Dantong member representing Riyom notified the House that his people have also suffered the same fate in the last couple of months, saying that militia groups attack communities, killing and setting houses ablaze.

According to him, their aim is not far from killing the people to take over their ancestral homes. He advised that the state security apparatus must be stepped up, while the Operation Rainbow should be fully

equipped to function effectively with continuous dialogue to ascertain the root causes of the attacks.

Members in their separate contributions called for proactive measures to be taken by government. They all agreed to visit the victims with cash incentives and materials while a minute silence was observed on behalf of the dead.

Meanwhile, the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Abok Nuhu Ayuba

HONOURABLE Gbenga Agbona, the former Vice Chairmanship candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Mopamuro LGA, Kogi State, has resigned his membership of the party.

Agbona, who is popularly called "King of Boys" from Orokere-Amuro Ward 06, until his resignation was also one of the strong PDP youth leaders in Mopamuro LGA.

Agbona disclosed his decision to quit PDP in a letter addressed to the party's

## PDP stalwart dumps party

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Chairman in Ward 06, Mopamuro Local Government Area, dated June 1, 2023.

Agbona said his decision to resign his membership of the party was to pursue other pressing interests, and wished the party well in its future endeavours.

"Kindly accept this as official

communication to resign as a member of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), to pursue other pressing interests.

"I wish the party well in its future endeavours," Agbona said.

He, however promised to unveil his next line of action politically in the coming days, after due consultations with his teeming youth supporters.

## Governor Bala emerges Chairman PDP Governors' Forum

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State recently emerged Chairman of the Peoples Democratic party (PDP) Governors Forum.

The Bauchi governor took over from Gov. Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, who belonged to the PDP G5 group under the leadership of former Governor of Rivers State Nyelson Wike that became a stumbling block and worked against the interest of the party in the February 25 presidential election.

Governor Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State announced Gov. Bala's emergence immediately after the PDP Governors closed-door meeting held at Bauchi Governor's office.

The governors and other PDP



Mohammed

bigwigs, including the presidential candidate of the party, Atiku Abubakar had convened at the Banquet Hall of Government House, Bauchi for a retreat for elected officials of the party.

Fintiri said that the Governor of Rivers State, Sir Siminalayi Fubara, was also elected Vice Chairman of the forum.

He said the Bauchi State Governor was elected based on his competence and capability to steer the forum to greater heights.

In his acceptance remark, the new chairman of the PDP Governor's Forum promised to work hand in hand with his colleagues for the development of the party.

Bala Mohammed, while thanking his colleagues for finding him worthy of their choice as their chairman, described his emergence as a mark of honour to him and the entire good people of Bauchi State. And therefore urged his colleagues to support him in order to move the forum and the PDP forward to justify the confidence repose in him.

Governors who were present include Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutwang of Plateau State, Lt. Col. Kefas Agbu of Taraba State, Seyi Makinde of Oyo, Dauda Lawal Dare of Zamfara, Sir Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers, Pastor Umo Bassey Eno of Akwa Ibom and Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri of Adamawa State.

Others are: Ademola Jackson Adeleke of Osun State, Sherrif Oborewori of Delta, Douye Diri of Bayelsa, Peter Ndubuisi of Enugu State and Godwin Obaseke of Edo State that was represented by his deputy, Philip Shuaibu.

Our correspondent in Bauchi who covered the occasion reports that the one day retreat was also attended by prominent dignitaries that added color and glamour to the occasion. These include Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, 2023 PDP presidential candidate, PDP Ag. National Chairman, Ambassador Umar Aliyu Damagum, immediate past governor of Sokoto State, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, former governors of Adamawa, Boni Haruna, Kaduna - Ahmed Makarfi and Niger State- Alhaji Aliyu Babangida.

Also in attendance were, Adolphus Wabara, Acting Chairman Board of Trustees, Kogi State PDP gubernatorial candidate, Senator Dino Melayi, Sen. Philip Aduda, Senator Abdul Ningi and Hon. Tobi Okechukwu among others.

## Benue holds valedictory session for 9th Assembly

From TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi

BENUE State House of Assembly recently held valedictory session marking the exit of the 9th Benue Assembly which was inaugurated on 3rd June, 2019.

In an address, Speaker of the 9th Benue Assembly, Rt. Hon Titus Uba said the 9th Assembly has performed beyond the expectations of sceptics and added that posterity will judge them kindly.

The Speaker pointed out achievements of the 9th Assembly within the last four years to include the passage of sixty bills with fifty four assented to, took fifty three motions while one hundred and twenty one resolutions were adopted.

He also said the House within the last four years received sixty-six reports from committees most of which were exhaustively debated with resolutions taken on them for the benefit

of Benue people.

The Speaker also noted that the House asked three Parliamentary Questions, embarked on five legislative study tours, sponsored sixteen trainings for staff, received nineteen petitions and ninety seven communications in order to address issues of governance and public administrations.

He appreciated his colleagues and staff of the Assembly for their support, understanding and co-operation and wished members exiting with him success in their future endeavours.

On his part, Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon Christopher Adaji thanked the Speaker for the cordial working relationship he enjoyed from him within the period.

Majority leader, Rt Hon Damian Cheme noted the support received from the Speaker, members and staff while rating the 9th Assembly as the most productive and peaceful among the thirty

three states of the federation.

Also speaking, Minority Leader, Rt Hon Bem Mngutyo said he has acquired a lot of experiences in the course of lawmaking and commended the cordial relationship that existed among them, while thanking the leadership of the assembly for the wisdom to keep the ninth assembly as one family.

On their part, Engr. Tertsea Gbiseh who spoke on behalf of lawmakers from Benue North East, Hon. Geoffrey Agbatse for Benue North West and Hon. Peter Onche for Benue South all expressed appreciation to their constituents for the opportunity given them and promised to continue to make meaningful impact even after exiting the Assembly.

Clerk of the Assembly, Barrister Bernard Nule read the letter sent to the Assembly by the Benue State Governor, Rev. Fr. Dr Hyacinth Alia dissolving the 9th Assembly and the 9th Assembly was accordingly dissolved.



## Politics

# 'The police does not interpret the law, we do'

**"The Plateau State House of Assembly has just resumed legislative activities after weeks of being under lock and key. In this interview with the House correspondent, PAULINE DALLONG, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Abok Nuhu Ayuba speaks on what necessitated the action, the court judgement regarding Langtang North chairman and other issues."**

**Sir, you have just resumed sitting after some weeks of the House being under lock and key. What necessitated that and what should we expect from the House of Assembly going forward?**

Well, I am sure you remember that on the 4th of April, we had our sitting here after the court judgement the previous day which is the 3rd. Members were around and we sat but on the following morning, we came for the usual business of the day and met the House under seal by security operatives. We had to go to the Commissioner of Police to discuss about it and asked him why the House was barricaded. Let me tell you that when we received the court judgement, the Commissioner of Police was not left out of the ruling because it was clearly stated that he should vacate the premises of the state assembly and move his security away from that arm of government.

We had been waiting patiently for that to happen. We believe that it probably had something to do with the previous administration. But since the assumption of office of the new administration, knowing that he is a man of Justice and will not take things likely, normalcy has returned. We also decided that as we are about closing up the ninth assembly, we must sit and carry out our legislative business here whether the Commissioner of Police likes it or not.

**So, how did you then gain access into the House?**

I had to call the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) on Saturday to inform him that I, the present members and members-elect were coming to gather at the House on Monday and after gathering at the assembly complex, we will be moving straight to the stadium which is venue for the inauguration to attend the inauguration of the new administration. Of course, I also told him that we will be sitting as a House the next day and that if he dares stop us from discharging our responsibility, we are going to inform the entire country of the injustice.

I know that the Commissioner of Police and other security agencies are here to enforce the law, but they are not meant to interpret the law. They are not an arm of government and do not make the laws, so I wonder why a competent court of jurisdiction will pass a judgement and the Commissioner of Police will become adamant, barricade



**Ayuba**

the place and try to interpret the court judgement. We actually told them that we were coming and luckily for us.

**Sir, you took a very strong decision during plenary regarding Langtang North. You also just talked about a competent court of jurisdiction, what is the next step should the chairman refuse to vacate office?**

Well, it is in that regard that we found it necessary to move a motion, calling on the Commissioner of Police to do the same thing he did here by removing his security personnel in the premises of Langtang North. I do not know why two courts of competent jurisdiction, the state High Court and Court of Appeal will pass a judgement regarding Langtang North and up till now, the Commissioner of Police has refused to enforce the judgement. Imagine someone that has been removed as a chairman of that local government by a court still operating as chairman. That is impunity and we are destroying the country. I always say that all of us will live together in this

country and if we destroy it, we and our children will continue to live in a destroyed country.

**What is the next step? What do you want the police to do?**

A motion has been moved on the floor of the House that the chairman seizes to be the chairman as from today. If the Police Commissioner refuses and remains adamant, we are going to order for the arrest of the illegal chairman. Also, the state assembly will not hesitate to forward the motion to the

National Assembly, since we do not have the constitutional right to invite the Commissioner of Police. At least we have an upper chamber and our representative, we will not hesitate to use that.

**With less than two weeks to the end of the ninth assembly, what do you hope to achieve within this period?**

As you know, we have been deprived of so many things that is supposed to have been done by the state assembly if not for

the barricade to this arm of government. We would have passed so many laws in the last two months. You can see how we now do things in a hurry, and the number of hours we spent on the floor of the House today. So, we still have laws that must be passed, we have to complete and pass them so that the governor will assent to them. As you know, the tenth assembly cannot continue with left over laws from the ninth assembly, they must begin to formulate new laws.

**It is true that you have enjoyed massive support from the people of Plateau, which is why you are back on this seat today. Why do you think that is so?**

Well, a legislator is the representative of the people. And once the people of your constituency and the people of your dear state enjoy your representation, of course they will always be happy for you to be on the seat to represent them. I know that our people wish that we were in session to represent them but unfortunately, we were not given the opportunity due to what has happened. We still want to assure that we as representatives, are ready and willing to work for our people whenever the need arises.

**Finally sir, what lessons have you learnt from everything that has happened?**

Time entirely is a journey and we are always learning with the lessons remaining with us for eternity. I know I have made mistakes. Of course there are some things of which I have no regrets whatsoever. The fact is that I tried my best to say what is white is white, and what is black is black. I tried to tell the former governor that some of the things being done are against the constitution and against the citizens right. I have no regrets saying the truth and will always stand for the truth.

**"Time entirely is a journey and we are always learning with the lessons remaining with us for eternity. I know I have made mistakes. Of course there are some things of which I have no regrets whatsoever. The fact is that I tried my best to say what is white is white, and what is black is black. I tried to tell the former governor that some of the things being done are against the constitution and against the citizens right. I have no regrets saying the truth and will always stand for the truth".**



# IMAGES

## GOVERNOR MUTFWANG SWEARS-IN SGS, ATTORNEY GENERAL

*Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang last week swore-in Secretary to Government of the State, Arc. Samuel Nanchang Jatau and the Attorney General Barr. Philemon Daffi at the Victoria Gowon Multipurpose Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos*



*The 2 newly appointed officials taking the oath of office, being administered by Governor Caleb Mutfwang*



*Director General Mutfwang/Piyo Organisations, Chief Letep Dabang (left) with Youth Activist, Hitler Pwajok*



*Cross section of members-elect and members of the State Assembly at the ceremony*



*From left are, Hon. Simon V. Domle, Hon. Sir John Akans (KSM) and Hon. Davou Mang*



*Former DOPA, Mr. James Mannok (left) with onetime executive chairman of Shendam LGC, Chief Nicholas Kemi Nshe*



*Some 1st Class and 2nd Class traditional rulers that graced the swearing-in ceremony*



*Cross section of Permanent Secretaries at the ceremony*



*Hon. Sunday Abdu (right) with Hon. Yakubu Jang*



## Politics

# Nigeria's head of state: A journey through time

By  
**ITUNU AZEEZ KAREEM**

NIGERIA, often referred to as the "Giant of Africa," has experienced a diverse range of leaders since its independence in 1960. Over the years, the country has witnessed the rise and fall of numerous heads of state, each leaving an indelible mark on Nigeria's political, social, and economic landscape.

This article is divided into two parts; The Military Era and the Democratic period. We therefore embark on a journey through time to explore the leaders who have guided Nigeria's destiny, from its past to the present.

The scorecard is a personal perception of how they have performed in totality, this isn't to discredit anyone past and present.

### **Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (1960-1966)**

Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa became Nigeria's first Prime Minister after the country gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960.

A prominent nationalist and leader of the Northern People's Congress, Balewa played a crucial role in establishing Nigeria as a sovereign nation.

However, his tenure was cut short by a military coup in 1966, leading to a turbulent period for the country.

### **General Aguiyi Ironsi (1966)**

Following the coup that ended Balewa's rule, General Johnson Aguiyi Ironsi assumed power as the military head of state.

His time in office was marked by significant controversy, particularly due to his attempt to unify Nigeria under a unitary system of government.

Sadly, his tenure was short-lived as he was overthrown in a counter-coup in July 1966.

### **General Yakubu Gowon (1966-1975)**

General Yakubu Gowon emerged as the next head of state after the counter-coup.

His regime oversaw the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970), which aimed to suppress the secessionist movement in Biafra.

Gowon's leadership focused on promoting national unity and implementing economic policies to diversify Nigeria's revenue sources, such as the "Go-After-Oil" policy.

However, his rule ended abruptly in 1975 following another military coup.

### **General Murtala Ramat Mohammed (1975-1976)**

General Murtala Ramat Mohammed came to power in 1975 after leading a bloodless coup that ousted Gowon.

His short-lived administration focused on fighting corruption, pursuing social justice, and restoring public confidence.

Mohammed's regime also initiated the process of returning Nigeria to civilian rule, which was tragically cut short by his assassination in February 1976.

### **General Olusegun Obasanjo (1976-1979, 1999-2007)**

Following Mohammed's assassination, General Olusegun Obasanjo assumed power as the head of state until 1979.

Under his leadership, Nigeria transitioned back to civilian rule through the 1979 elections. Obasanjo later returned to the political scene and was democratically elected as Nigeria's president in 1999, serving two terms until 2007.

His presidency focused on economic reforms, combating corruption, and advocating for African unity and development.

### **Major General Muhammadu Buhari (1983-1985, 2015-present)**

Major General Muhammadu Buhari came to power in 1983 following a military coup.

His regime sought to restore



discipline, tackle corruption, and revitalize the economy. However, his rule was cut short by another military coup in 1985

Thus came an end to Military Era, and arose a new order

### **Alhaji Shehu Shagari (1979-1983)**

Alhaji Shehu Shagari became Nigeria's first executive president after winning the 1979 elections. His administration aimed to address the challenges of economic development and social welfare.

However, Shagari's tenure was marred by allegations of corruption, economic mismanagement, and political instability, leading to a military coup in 1983.

Led Nigeria during the difficult period of the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970) and successfully maintained the unity of the country.

Implemented various economic policies, including the establishment of the Nigerian National Oil Corporation (NNOC) and the creation of state-owned oil companies.

Launched the "Operation Feed the Nation" campaign, aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in food production.

### **Nnamdi Azikiwe (1963-1966)**

Nigeria's first president, Nnamdi Azikiwe, played a pivotal role in the country's journey towards independence. As a prominent nationalist, he advocated for self-governance and was instrumental in the development of the Nigerian independence movement.

Azikiwe laid the foundation for a democratic society and championed education as a means of empowerment.

Played a significant role in Nigeria's struggle for independence.

Served as the country's first indigenous Governor-General and later became the President of Nigeria.

Advocated for the unity of Nigeria and championed the concept of "Zikism," which promoted African nationalism and self-governance.

### **Olusegun Obasanjo (1999-2007)**

Elected president from 1999 to 2007, Olusegun Obasanjo left an indelible

mark on Nigeria. His economic reforms and anti-corruption campaigns laid the groundwork for modernization and strengthened institutions. Obasanjo prioritized infrastructural development, privatization, debt relief, and establishment of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to combat corruption.

As a military head of state, Obasanjo oversaw the peaceful handover of power to civilian rule in 1979.

As a civilian president, he focused on economic reforms, anti-corruption measures, and poverty reduction programs.

Initiated the National Identity Card scheme to address identity management issues and streamline government services.

### **Umaru Musa Yar'Adua**

President of Nigeria from 2007 until his unfortunate demise in 2010, left a lasting impact on the nation's governance and development. His presidency was marked by a focus on economic reforms, social justice, and strengthening democratic institutions.

Yar'Adua's presidency was characterized by his commitment to economic stability and poverty reduction. He recognized the need for inclusive growth and initiated several programs aimed at improving the lives of ordinary Nigerians.

One of his notable achievements was the establishment of the Niger Delta Ministry, which sought to address the long-standing issues of oil-related environmental degradation and socio-economic disparities in the oil-rich region. This move demonstrated his commitment to social justice and addressing the concerns of marginalized communities.

Under Yar'Adua's leadership, Nigeria witnessed a renewed emphasis on agriculture as a means of diversifying the economy and reducing the country's dependency on oil.

He launched the Agricultural Transformation Agenda, which aimed to modernize the agricultural sector, increase food production, and create job opportunities in rural areas. Yar'Adua's focus on agriculture as a key driver of

economic growth laid the foundation for future agricultural reforms in Nigeria.

Furthermore, Yar'Adua made significant strides in consolidating democratic governance in Nigeria. He championed electoral reforms and established the Electoral Reform Committee to address the challenges and shortcomings of the electoral process.

His administration's commitment to transparency and credibility in elections laid the groundwork for subsequent improvements in Nigeria's democratic processes.

Yar'Adua's leadership style was characterized by his humility, empathy, and commitment to the rule of law. He advocated for dialogue, reconciliation, and peaceful resolution of conflicts, demonstrating his dedication to national unity and cohesion.

Although his presidency was cut short due to his untimely death, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's legacy as the President of Nigeria remains significant. His focus on economic reforms, social justice, and democratic consolidation set the stage for subsequent administrations to build upon his initiatives.

Yar'Adua's leadership will be remembered for his commitment to improving the lives of Nigerians and his contributions to the nation's progress.

### **Goodluck Jonathan (2010-2015)**

Goodluck Jonathan assumed office during a challenging period, marked by political instability and security threats.

Nevertheless, his administration achieved significant milestones. Under Jonathan's leadership, Nigeria became the largest economy in Africa, surpassing South Africa.

He implemented various reforms, including the privatization of power and agricultural sectors, as well as measures to improve electoral transparency.

Assumed the presidency following the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and ensured a peaceful transition of power after the 2011 general elections.

Implemented several economic reforms, including the establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) and the Nigeria Mortgage Refinance Company (NMRC).

Played a key role in the resolution of the political crisis in neighboring countries, such as mediating the conflict in Ivory Coast and the successful transition in Liberia.

### **Muhammadu Buhari (2015-2023)**

Democratically elected in 2015, his focus was on combating corruption, improving security, and diversifying the economy.

Buhari initiated several social intervention programs such as the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) and the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP), aimed at reducing poverty and empowering the most vulnerable citizens.

During his first term as a military head of state, Buhari implemented various anti-corruption measures and economic reforms.

In his current tenure as a civilian president, he has prioritized the fight against corruption, terrorism, and improving the economy.

Launched the Social Investment Program (SIP), which includes initiatives such as the National Home-Grown School Feeding Program and the Conditional Cash Transfer program to alleviate poverty.

### **Bola Ahmed Tinubu (2023-Present)**

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a name we have to get used to from now on, barring court orders and any strange occurrences, has hit the ground running, and like others he has come with his bags of promises. Posterity will judge and his scorecard we shall all see.

Nigeria's presidents have played integral roles in shaping the nation's trajectory since independence.

From Nnamdi Azikiwe's fight for independence to embattled new President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's commitment to tackling corruption, each president has left their mark on Nigeria's history.

Through economic reforms, infrastructural development, education initiatives, and efforts to foster national unity, these leaders have contributed to Nigeria's progress.

While challenges remain, the achievements of Nigeria's presidents highlight the resilience and determination of the nation, fostering hope for a brighter future.



## NEWS

## Governor Mutfwang holds first Security Executive Meeting

By PETER TITLE

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau recently held his first Security Executive Meeting with security heads in the state aimed at finding lasting solutions to the security challenges that had bedeviled the state in recent times.

The meeting was held at the Government House, Little Rayfield behind closed door. It was also believed to be part of solutions to put a stop to the incessant attacks always meted on villages where citizens were killed.

Speaking with journalists after the meeting, the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, Mr Bartholomew Onyeka explained that the meeting with the governor was borne out of the security challenges in the state as well as the reinforcement of personnel to tackle insecurity in the state generally.

According to the CP, they intend to come up with solutions towards eradicating the wanton killings and destruction of property of innocent



Mutfwang

people in Plateau.

CP Onyeka further explained that the entire security council would soon embark on visits to affected places to access things for themselves. He added that crisis of any nature have never paid and will never benefit anyone.

He further revealed that the governor was saddened over the unfortunate events,

adding that he even barred his mind during his inauguration speech recently.

On the fuel scarcity and hoarding that has resurfaced, the Commissioner of Police said that the state government has a committee overseeing that. He pointed out that they were in the best position to speak about the Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) issue.

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE National Church Council of Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), has installed Rev. Ayuba Asheshe, as the new ECWA General Secretary to take up from Rev. (Dr) Yunusa Sabo Nmadu JNR, who has served in the office for over six years.

It has also installed Rev. Michael Adamu and rtd. Rev. (Dr) Isaac B. Laudarji, as the new ECWA Trustees for Zones 2 and 6 respectively. A send-forth ceremony was organised for the outgoing secretary and trustees.

This took place at the national headquarters of Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) Jos, the Plateau State capital Saturday, where well-wishers trooped in from within and without to witness and celebrate with the newly installed and also wish the outgoing individuals good luck.

The ECWA President, Rev. (Dr) Stephen Baba Panya, while speaking to journalists shortly after the installation said, "Let me start by stating that, 'soldier come, soldier go and barrack still remains'. For a Church like the Evangelical

## ECWA installed new General Secretary, 2 trustees

Church Winning All (ECWA) has a democratic structure of governance with almost four (4) tiers or levels.

"In Church, you have incoming leaders at a certain time and this is one of the transitions at the General Church Council level. And what we are witnessing today is yet another landmark in the history where the out gone General Secretary, Rev. (Dr) Yunusa Sabo Nmadu Jnr, handed over to the new General Secretary, Rev. Ayuba Asheshe.

"Also, we had two new trustees that were elected for Zone 2 and Zone 6 that are joining the leadership at the General Church Council level. So, yes, it is very significant, the heart of continuity of the Church Governance of ECWA and we are praying that the Lord will continue to guide us, lead us and take us to greater height", he prayed.

Earlier, the former ECWA General Secretary, Rev. Prof. Samuel W. Kunhuyop, who was the Guest Speaker at the ceremony urged them to throw away pride,

arrogance and overbearing attitude and self-importance to ensure good relationship because it affects the growth of the Church and society.

Responding shortly after the installation, the incoming ECWA General Secretary, Rev. Ayuba Asheshe said, "You should expect unity, love, corporation and teamwork to see that there is peaceful coexistence because without peace, nothing works and without peace, you cannot access your businesses and worship places".

However, the out gone ECWA General Secretary, Rev. (Dr) Yunusa Sabo Nmadu, thanked God for seeing him all through his six years in office. "If you asked how I feel today, I will tell you I am feeling very light and my phone will ring less now and I will be able to have time for my family. We have tried to strengthen the structure, document and rule of law. My prayer is that the same support will be given to my successor.

## Lawmaker condoles Sokoto communities for attacks

SENATOR Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko has condoled the bereaved families and the people of Tangaza Local Government Area of Sokoto State over the recent banditry attack which led to the loss of many lives.

In a press release from the Senator's spokesman, Bashar Abubakar, it stated that Wamakko, who represents Sokoto North Senatorial District, described the attack as unfortunate and ungodly, urging that the perpetrators must be brought to book to face the wrath of the law.

The senator, while condoling the people of the area prayed Allah the Almighty to forgive the deceased and reward them with Jannatul Firdausi as their final abode.

He also prayed for the quick recovery of those

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

who sustained various degrees of injuries and currently receiving treatment at a hospital.

It would be recalled that bandits ravaged some villages in Tangaza Local

Government Area of the state recently and in the early hours, where several innocent lives were reportedly lost.

On the third of May, riders on board 20 motorcycles suspected to be bandits killed 8 people

in Raka, 7 in Bilingawa, 6 in Jaba, 4 in Dabagi, 3 in Raka Dutse and 2 in Tsalewa Villages.

They also set ablaze two vehicles while one Bajaj motorcycle strongly believe to be that of the bandits was recovered at the scene.

THE Sokoto state Police has confirmed that

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

Terrorist attacked some communities in the state where 30 persons were feared dead as a result of the attack.

This came on the heels of an attempt by some members of vigilante of Raka and Bilingawa to warn villagers of Azam who are predominately Fulanis to stop attacking their villages

that are all from the same Tangaza LGA of the state.

It was reported that following the action of the vigilantes by beating up some of the villagers, the Fulanis consequently sought assistance, who turned out to be armed men suspected to be bandits from Azam. These men arrived the village on about 20 motorcycles armed for war.

The Sokoto State Police Command acting spokesperson, ASP Ahmad Rufai who confirmed the attack said the communities affected include Raka, Bilingawa, Raka Dutse, Jaba, Dabagi and Tsalewa villages.

In a swift action, the vigilante withdrew to their various villages and the bandits went after them and killed eight people in Raka, seven in Bilingawa, six in Jaba, four in Dabai, three in Raka Dutse and two in Tsalewa villages, the PPRO stated.

He also revealed that they also set two vehicles and six huts ablaze and one Bajaj. A motorcycle strongly believed to belong to the bandits was later recovered at the scene of the battle ground.



Galafe lenses



News

# NUJ congratulates newly sworn-in governor

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

THE Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Sokoto State Council has congratulated the newly sworn-in Governor of the state, Dr. Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto and his deputy, Engr. Idris Muhammad Gobir.

The union noted that their inauguration to steer the affairs of the caliphate seat in the next four years, marked yet another milestone in the political history of Sokoto State considering the unprecedented crowd that stormed the venue to witness the historic event attended by dignitaries and political personalities from across all walks of life.

Also, the Council according to a release recently, signed by its Chairman, Dalhatu Abdullahi Safiyel Magori and Secretary, Muhammad Nasir Bello respectively, deemed it sufficient to felicitate with the APC leader in Sokoto State, Senator Dr Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko and the entire APC family for a colorful inauguration of the new administration in the state.

The Council in the release seized the opportunity to



Aliyu

advise the APC led administration to carry the citizenry along, irrespective of political affiliation to further move the state forward in the interest of all and sundry.

It also extolled the 9-point agenda for hope renewal designed by the governor as his priority areas.

NUJ pointed out that all of these if squarely addressed, though resources are always scarce, the living condition of the people would be

effectively improved for the better.

The Council also advised the governor to see reason for investing in the completion of inherited uncompleted projects from the previous administrations in the overall development of the state while appealing for maximum support and prayers from the people of the state to enable the government succeed in its stewardship aimed at making Sokoto a better place for all.

## Suspected hoodlums attack Governor Bello's convoy

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

SOME suspected hoodlums on Saturday allegedly attacked the convoy of the Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Bello who was on his way from Abuja to Lokoja. In a statement issued on Saturday by Kingsley Femi Fanwo, Commissioner for Information and Communications which

was made available to journalists, it stated that the governor's convoy was blocked and attacked by people believed to be supporters of Alh Muritala Yakubu Ajaka at about 12.30 hours on Saturday.

The statement read as follows, "The attack took place near the Naval Base, few kilometres from Lokoja where the convoy of Muritala Yakubu Ajaka, having sighted that of the

Governor, blocked the road and some of his armed thugs started shooting sporadically at the convoy of the Governor.

A Tundra branded with the logo of the SDP and with SDP flags also blocked the governor's vehicle and occupants of the SDP-branded Tundra were armed with Rifles and shot guns. The governor left the scene unscathed and there is no cause for panic as the governor is in high spirit.

"Some security aides and other aides attached to the governor sustained some degrees of injuries and have been rushed to medical facilities for medical attention "We urge the people of Kogi State to remain calm as security agents are in full control to ensure the arrest of the hoodlums behind the attack. The State Government will ensure that law and order are maintained as the attackers will be brought to justice

"The governor has warned that no APC member should involve in any reprisal attack as insecurity from any quarter will be met with stiff penalties.



Bello



## Pain as part of our existence

NIGERIA has a lot of existential challenges. Since the return to democracy, the country has grappled with many of these challenges and it has shaped the experiences of leaders variously. We have struggled through the Niger Delta militancy to the demonstrations in the Western part of the country. Also, the Central part of Nigeria has not been spared the wrath of land grabbers nor has the North East and North Western Nigeria been free of the activities of insurgents who have revolted against the State first to protest against injustices and later as a way of enforcing their religious beliefs.

There is need to change the process of our leadership recruitment take charge of our destiny is here. In a few days, the Presidential and national assembly elections will be held. It is up to us to take up the gauntlet and change the narratives. We have choices to make which would either mar or make our society. The choice is ours to make. If we want to repair our fractured society, here is the opportunity, if not it is all in our hands. We must look beyond our enclosures to find leaders who can work for the general good not those who would service themselves and their own.

Unless we begin to see ourselves as one people with shared destiny, we are not likely to move forward. When we reduce everything to our small localities, we will continue to be local champions. Our society is over ripe to start churning out leaders who can be trusted to deliver the goods. If we can only replicate the good things we see outside our shores at home, we will build beyond the imagination of our

the process of our leadership recruitment take charge of our destiny is here. In a few days, the Presidential and national assembly elections will be held. It is up to us to take up the gauntlet and change the narratives. We have choices to make which would either mar or make our society. The choice is ours to make. If we want to repair our fractured society, here is the opportunity, if not it is all in our hands. We must look beyond our enclosures to find leaders who can work for the general good not those who would service themselves and their own.

Unless we begin to see ourselves as one people with shared destiny, we are not likely to move forward. When we reduce everything to our small localities, we will continue to be local champions. Our society is over ripe to start churning out leaders who can be trusted to deliver the goods. If we can only replicate the good things we see outside our shores at home, we will build beyond the imagination of our

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

who you know or don't know. All we need now is equal opportunities, capacity, ability and the drive to do that which is right. If we field the best in our society, we are sure to have quality results not what we have seen since the return to democracy in 1999 where rogues and loquacious characters have been occupying the political space and messing everyone else.

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



## Feature

# Museum, community role and partnership

By MARY J. DANLADI

MUSEUMS have the power to create unity on both a social and political level, as well as on a local one. Local Museums are able to provide a sense of community and place by celebrating a collective heritage, offering a great way to get to know the history of a particular area.

Museums, their missions, their civic, social responsibilities and their modes of engagement with communities are in a constant process of transformation in response to social and economic imperatives at local, national and global levels. There is a need for museums to stay relevant and be responsive to pressing social and environmental issues such as population, sustained social justices and indigenous rights.

This articles, focuses on the role of the museum in the community the mutual benefits of both and the critical role museum/community partnership can play in sustainable cultural development.

The focus of the new museum practice has its base in the community. The museum as the heartbeat of cultural activities ensures the survival of the

useful to the society and community partnership and collaboration. The museum helps develop people They play a role in fostering sociabl all categories, increase their economic relationship between interest in cultural affairs, museum communities and among the provides cultural activities like people as highlighted. To ensure traditional dances, music, film show, the continued survival of drama for public enlightenment, communal cultural values, the outreach exhibition, school debates, benefiting communities are museum kitchen which sells involved in the management and traditional dishes, museum crafts conservation plan of both the shops, locally brewed beer, activities tangible and intangible aspect of for children entertainment, growth their heritage.

and development, among others. Across the world today most Museum has been a channel for museums have gone into bringing cultural tools of various partnership with the community in people to one place. The museum their program and activities as gallery makes it easier for one to well as the conservation of their decipher similarities and differences cultural heritage as the museum is among these cultural groups.

created for the people thus Museums effectively manage and encouraging participation and provide a range of socio-cultural, collaboration which depends on economic and political benefits to the museums commitments. This society and communities where they needs time to establish new are located. Preservation and institutional arrangement; conservation of community's cultural make sure that the agreement and natural heritage, also offers reached is well maintained and facilities for cultural events and carried out. Here, community activities, such activities can taken in the context of active enhance the quality of people's life partners that is to say community and help in developing a sense of involvement. This involvement identity for areas in which they are and partnership can be seen in Jos located.

Museum where the MOTNA Ambrose A.K. Okokpoko say, in (Museum of Traditional and fundamental of museum practice Nigeria Architecture) with life size Museums attract visitors, tourists, structures of traditional buildings spend money within the represent the various communities in shops, restaurants, geographical zones of the country hotels and markets have the power in partnership with the to create unity both on social and representing communities a political local level. The museum partners for this well throughout creates jobs which have an economic impact on the area where the

The participation of the local omuseum is located. The museum indigenous communities in the therefore helps in developing and MOTNA project justifies the sustaining the economic strength of building of local capacity and self the community, museum activities reliance. These active also help to foster a sense of pride involvements also include getting and belonging and maintain the communities to know their traditional values.

own heritage and help them to Museums play a valuable role in realize that their active public relations and publicity by involvement and participation in administering organization where the affairs of the museum will help there are part of a range of services to keep their heritage alive provided for local people, tourist and engaging the communities visitors, their work may also help to through social inclusion, mutual links with other external organization trust, understanding and a sense of different types with consequent of national identity. It equally political and economic benefits. It is creates a museum that is more an important vehicle which people become aware of their cultural



identity, relationship with their environment, their past and the need of certain basic values. In Nigeria for example, museum contributes to national development by providing cultural education, promoting mutual understanding and respect amongst the diverse people of the country, reorienting Nigerians from materialism to the subtle values of nature and providing a tourist boost for the country's economy. Through exhibition, extension services and programmes, there is presently the growing realization of the importance of culture as a vehicle for fostering national unity. What we have in our museum are artistic expressions of the spirit of different ethnic groups which makes up Nigeria (Afigbo 1985-52).

Many people in Nigeria do not have the opportunity and resources of travelling to other parts of the country but through exhibition of cultural properties, people of different ethnic groups have the opportunity to see and study cultures beyond their own vicinity. Therefore, by spending it's resources in preserving and exhibiting cultural properties from different parts of the country in one museum on enlightenment programmes, that help in broadening the knowledge of people of different ethnic groups, thus making them to have respect for technological ingenuities of one another.

According to A.K Okpoko in his book the (fundamental of museum ethnographic historical and archaeological studies, attention is given to the collection, preservation shown that the Nok and Ife Terracotta, the Igbo-ukwu bronzes, the Ife and Benin brazes, the city walls in the Northern part of Nigeria are result of the genius of the groups that produced them as museum of natural history.

Another contribution the museum makes to the community is in rural areas in the form of reactivation of rural handicrafts and industries. It is quite obvious that traditional crafts and technologies hold the key to any meaningful sustainable development of the country. Ingenious techniques and skills form the basis of a homegrown industrial and

technological development. Folks or local museums illustrate the day to day history of man within the locality they function. They collect, conserve study and exhibit the art crafts and traditional architecture, community involvement to the museum. The involvement of the public or community where the museum is located is a security measure to the museum. If people who are living around the museum building are aware of the essence of museum collection they will play a vital role in its protection. In case of emergency like fire outbreak, theft, flood etc, people can alert security agencies to bring immediate protection to the museum. The museum workers and community must operate hand in hand. Another way the museum and community functions together is embarking on enlightenment programmes aimed at educating the public or community on the functions and the need to assists in protecting the museum in case of emergency. There is the need for proper orientation courses to be given to Nigeria security personnel's, customs and immigration officers on the value of antiquities and significance of our cultural objects to the nation in an attempt of preventing illicit trafficking.

International Museum Day is an event held annually on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, coordinated by the International Council of Museums. ICOM. The event highlights a specific theme which changes every year reflecting a relevant theme or issue facing the museum. Every year since 1977 all museums in the world celebrate annually a symbolic celebration with the aim of promoting the activities of museums to the world. The objective of international museum day is to raise awareness about the fact that museum is an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among people.

International Museum Day raises awareness of the role that museum plays in the community. Museums are the key contributors to the wellbeing of our communities and create a cascading effect that foster positive change. The museum through

international museum day provides a sense of belonging to the community by celebrating a collective heritage. Community engagement seeks to engage community to achieve sustainable outcomes, equitable decision making process and deepen relationship and trust between museums and communities since museums function is to research collect, conserve, interpret and exhibit tangible and intangible heritage. Community's involvement is notable for effective sustainability. Museum and the community benefit from each other through International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as World Heritage day, it is internationally observed 18<sup>th</sup> April each year around the world with different types of activities including visitors to monuments and heritage sites and are located within the community.

Every year 18<sup>th</sup> April (ICOMOS) celebrates the International Day for Monuments and Sites. The aim is to encourage local communities and individuals throughout the world to consider the importance of cultural heritage to their lives, identities and communities and also promote awareness of its diversity and vulnerability and the efforts required to protect and conserve it. It is internationally observed including visit to monuments and heritage site and their site are located within the community.

In conclusion, emphasis has been on the sustainability of our cultural heritage and we must evaluate and look ahead to emerging challenges. A key component of sustainability and sustainable development is citizen empowerment in decisions shaping social and cultural conditions across a wide range of settings like the museum. Community participation has been found to be one of the key ingredients in resolving the challenges around sustainability and sustainable development.

Communities have benefited greatly by virtue of the museum being close to the community or sited in the community, it is therefore, high time that partnerships and collaborations in heritage preservation, conservation and management.

**Danladi is a staff of Jos Musuem.**



## Foreign Commentary

# Middle East: Goodbye America, hello China?

**Marwan Bishara is an author who writes extensively on global politics and is widely regarded as a leading authority on US foreign policy, the Middle East and international strategic affairs. He was previously a professor of International Relations at the American University of Paris.**

IN an attempt to salvage his country's waning influence in the Middle East, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is embarking on a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia this week. But advancing "strategic cooperation" with his Saudi and Gulf counterparts may well prove an uphill battle.

In July last year, President Joe Biden attended the Gulf Cooperation Council summit in the kingdom and vowed that the United States "will not walk away and leave a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia, or Iran". But that is precisely what has been happening.

Despite US objections, the past year has seen its regional allies go hybrid: they have improved relations with Beijing and Tehran and maintained strong ties with Moscow.

Although the Biden administration has publicly downplayed the importance of the recent Chinese-brokered Saudi-Iranian agreement to re-establish diplomatic relations, it seems frantic about the growing Chinese influence in the oil-rich Gulf region and the greater Middle East.

Over the past two decades, the US has ramped up oil and gas production, becoming virtually energy independent. It may no longer need Gulf oil as much, but it insists on being in charge in the region so it is able to cut China off of vital energy supplies in the event of a conflict, and secure them for its allies.

As Blinken warned last month, "China represents the most consequential geopolitical challenge we face today: a country with the intent and, increasingly, the capability to challenge our vision for a free, open, secure, and prosperous international order."

But Beijing's autocracy may actually be an easier and better fit for the region's autocrats than Washington's democracy.

Russia's sway in the Middle East and beyond has also made the US nervous.

Fed up with their ambiguity, even complicity with Russia, the Biden administration has been ramping up pressure on certain Middle Eastern states, making clear that its patience is running out. It has been warning countries in the region against helping Russia evade sanctions and demanding they pick sides – or else face the wrath of the US and G7 nations.

But to no avail.

Saudi Arabia has thus far refused the US request to substantially increase oil production to lower its market price and offset the effect of Western sanctions on Russia. It has maintained good relations with Moscow and dragged its feet on supporting Ukraine. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's "middle finger to



**Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman welcomes Chinese President Xi Jinping in Riyadh**

Washington" has reportedly made him extremely popular in the region.

Last year, in response to Biden's threats to punish Riyadh for its presumed insolence, the kingdom went on to host the Chinese president, Xi Jinping for bilateral talks and the China-GCC and China-Arab summits. Saudi Arabia then normalised relations with Iran under Chinese auspices, just as the West was tightening sanctions against Tehran, and in a clear snub to the US, went on to repair ties with Syria.

But this new attitude towards relations with the US is not only evident in Riyadh; it is a regional phenomenon. The United Arab Emirates, another US ally, has also cultivated closer ties with China, improved strategic relations with France, and worked on engaging Iran, Russia and India. This, at times, has been at the expense of its relations with the US.

The region as a whole has been diversifying its global engagement. This is quite apparent in its commercial relations. Between 2000 and 2021, trade between the Middle East and China has grown from \$15.2bn to \$284.3bn; in the same period, trade with the US has increased only modestly from \$63.4bn to \$98.4bn.

Six Middle Eastern countries – among them Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt – have recently requested to join the Chinese-led BRICS group, which also includes Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa. This is despite the West's ever-widening sanctions regime imposed on Russia.

Of course, America has been the dominant strategic power in the Middle East the past three decades and remains so today. But will it be in the next three decades?

In a region where autocratic regimes and the general public do not agree on much if anything at all, saying no to America is a very popular stance because the majority believes it is a hypocritical imperial power that pays only lip service to human rights and democracy.

This is particularly apparent in US foreign policy on Palestine, which staunchly and unconditionally supports the Palestinians' coloniser and occupier – Israel.

On his visit to Riyadh, Secretary Blinken will likely put pressure on Saudi Arabia to normalise relations with Tel Aviv, hoping to lower its asking price, which reportedly includes a nuclear civilian programme and major security assurances.

The UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and

Sudan have already normalised relations with Israel at the expense of the Palestinians in return for American concessions, such as the sale of US-made F-35s to Abu Dhabi, US recognition of Moroccan claims over Western Sahara, and the lifting of US sanctions on Khartoum. All so that the Israeli government does not have to make any "concessions" of its own and end its decades-long occupation of Palestine.

But the Palestinian cause, which is quite close to the heart of ordinary Arabs, is not the only issue that has convinced the Arab public that America is a duplicitous power that should be kept at a distance.

Thanks to satellite television and social media platforms, people of the region saw with their own eyes US crimes in Iraq and its humiliation in Afghanistan, and do not think of it as a guardian of civilisation, let alone an invincible power. The balance sheet of US interventions in the Middle East over the past 20 years since the 9/11 attacks is firmly not in its favour.

No wonder that in a 2022 poll conducted by the Doha-based Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in 14 Arab countries, 78 percent of respondents believed that the

biggest source of threat and instability in the region was the US. By contrast, only 57 percent thought of Iran and Russia in these terms, both of which have had their own share of dirty work in the region – from Syria to Iraq and Yemen.

In his aptly titled book, *Grand Delusion: The Rise and Fall of American Ambition in the Middle East*, former US official Steven Simon estimates the US has wasted some \$5-7 trillion on wars that have resulted in the death of millions of Arabs and Muslims, and the devastation of their communities. In addition, these conflicts have killed thousands of US soldiers, injured tens of thousands and led to some 30,000 suicides of US veterans.

It is no coincidence then, that more Middle Easterners (and Americans) agree that the region's decoupling from America and at least some American disengagement from the region is as desirable as it is inevitable.

Such a turn of events would also be terribly consequential with messy long-term implications for both sides and it would be determined by whether and how America chooses to change its foreign policy.

But that's another discussion for another day. **Source: Al Jazeera.**



## Foreign News

### Kosovo open to new municipal vote after unrest-FM

KOSOVO is open to the possibility of new elections in four northern Serb-majority municipalities following unrest, but other steps need to be taken before then, according to Kosovan foreign minister Donika Gervilla-Schwarz.

Violence has flared since Kosovo authorities installed ethnic Albanian mayors in the municipalities after being elected on a turnout of just 3.5 percent, angering Serbs who form a majority in the region and who had boycotted local polls.

Gervilla-Schwarz, speaking on Tuesday after meeting the Czech foreign minister in Prague, said an end to the violence was the first condition to consider new elections.

"Yes, we are open to elections in those four municipalities but to have new elections we need steps in between," she said.

She said Kosovo also needed "a commitment from Serbia



Gervilla-Schwarz

that they will no more threaten Serbian citizens of Kosovo not to participate in the election", adding that people should not feel the threat of mob violence.

Reinforcements for NATO's peacekeeping force began to arrive in Kosovo this week following the unrest.

Kosovo declared internationally recognised independence from Serbia in 2008, although it was rejected

by Belgrade.

Serbs in Kosovo's north are seeking autonomy for their region under a 2013 deal that has not been implemented.

Last week, an aide to US President Joe Biden spoke with Kosovan Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, pushing Serbia to withdraw armed forces stationed near the border and urging protesters to remain peaceful.

Palaeontologists in South Africa said they have found the oldest-known burial site in the world, containing remains of a small-brained distant relative of humans previously thought incapable of complex behaviour.

Led by renowned palaeoanthropologist Lee Berger, researchers said on Monday that they discovered several specimens of Homo naledi – a tree-climbing, Stone Age hominid – buried about 30 metres (100 feet) underground in a cave system within the Cradle of Humankind, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Johannesburg.

"These are the most ancient interments yet recorded in the hominin record, earlier than evidence of Homo sapiens interments by at least 100,000 years," the scientists wrote in a series of yet-to-be-peer-reviewed and preprint papers to be published in eLife.

The findings challenge the current understanding of human evolution, as it is normally held that the development of bigger brains

### World's oldest-known burial site found in Africa

allowed for the performing of complex, "meaning-making" activities such as burying the dead.

The oldest burials previously unearthed, found in the Middle East and Africa, contained the remains of Homo sapiens – and were around 100,000 years old.

Those found in South Africa by the research team led by Berger, whose previous announcements have been controversial, date back to at least 200,000 BC.

"Homo naledi tells us we're not that special," Berger, a United States-born explorer, told AFP news agency. "We ain't gonna get over that."

Homo naledi, a primitive species at the crossroads between apes and modern humans, had brains about the size of oranges and stood about 1.5m (5 feet) tall.

With curved fingers and toes, tool-wielding hands and feet made for walking, Homo naledi was discovered in 2013 by Berger, helping upend the notion that our evolutionary path was a straight line.

The species is named after the "Rising Star" cave system where the first bones were found in 2013.

The oval-shaped interments at the centre of the new

studies were also found there during excavations started in 2018.

The holes, which researchers say evidence suggest were deliberately dug and then filled in to cover the bodies, contain at least five individuals.

"These discoveries show that mortuary practices were not limited to H. sapiens or other hominins with large brain sizes," the researchers said.

The burial site is not the only sign that Homo naledi was capable of complex emotional and cognitive behaviour, they added.

Berger's earlier discoveries won the interest of National Geographic, which named him "explorer in residence" and featured his work in television shows and documentaries.

The latest research has not been peer-reviewed yet and some outside scientists think more evidence is needed to challenge what we know about how humans evolved their complex thinking.

"There's still a lot to uncover," said Rick Potts, director of the Smithsonian's Human Origins Program, who was not involved in the research.

### Death toll mounts as unrest flares in Senegal

The death toll in the Senegal violence has risen to 15 as supporters of convicted opposition leader Ousmane Sonko and police continued to clash, the government said on Saturday.

While Dakar was calmer on Saturday, clashes continued into the evening. In residential neighbourhoods, protesters threw rocks at police, barricaded roads and burned tyres. The army patrolled the streets as police fired tear gas at the demonstrators, inspecting and detaining people deemed to be causing trouble.

The clashes first broke out on Thursday, after Sonko was convicted of corrupting youth but acquitted on charges of raping a woman who worked at a massage parlour and making death threats against her. Sonko, who did not attend his trial in

Dakar, was sentenced to two years in prison. His lawyer said a warrant had not yet been issued for his arrest.

Sonko came third in Senegal's 2019 presidential election and is popular with the country's youth. His supporters maintain his legal troubles are part of a government effort to derail his candidacy in the 2024 presidential election.

Sonko is considered President Macky Sall's main competition and has urged Sall to state publicly that he will not seek a third term in office.

The international community has called on Senegal's government to resolve the tensions.

Rights groups have condemned the government crackdown, which has included arbitrary arrests and restrictions on social media. Some social media

sites used by demonstrators to incite violence, such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter, have been suspended for nearly two days.

They have blamed the government for the violence and the loss of lives.

Corrupting young people, which includes using one's position of power to have sex with people below the age of 21, is a criminal offence in Senegal, punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$6,000.

Under Senegalese law, Sonko's conviction would bar him from running in next year's election, said Bamba Cisse, another defence lawyer. However, the government said Sonko could ask for a retrial once he was imprisoned. It was unclear when he would be taken into custody.

Sonko has not been heard

from or seen since the verdict. In a statement on Friday, his PASTEF-Patriots party called on people to "amplify and intensify the constitutional resistance" until President Sall leaves office.

Government spokesman Abdou Karim Fofana said the damage caused by months of demonstrations had cost the country millions of dollars. He argued the protesters posed a threat to democracy.

"These calls [to protest], it's a bit like the anti-republican nature of all these movements that hide behind social networks and don't believe in the foundations of democracy, which are elections, freedom of expression, but also the resources that our [legal] system offers," Fofana said.

### Former US VP Mike Pence officially enters 2024 presidential race

Former United States Vice President Mike Pence has formally announced he will campaign for the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential race.

The announcement sets him up against former President Donald Trump, the current frontrunner and Pence's former boss.

Pence's campaign filed a declaration of candidacy with the Federal Election Commission on Monday and the 63-year-old is expected to launch his campaign on Wednesday in the early nominating state of Iowa.

A staunch social conservative and evangelical Christian, the former governor of Indiana has increasingly distanced himself from Trump after rejecting the former president's demands that he overturn the 2020 election in his role as president of the Senate.

Pence joins a crowded and still-growing field of Republican candidates, which includes Trump, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Tim Scott and former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley.

North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum is also planning to enter the race on Wednesday, according to a person familiar with Burgum's plans, while former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie is jumping into the race on Tuesday, bringing the total number of Republican candidates into double digits.

The number of candidates vying for the nomination concerns many Trump opponents inside the Republican Party who fear the



Pence anti-Trump vote could be split, handing the party's nomination to the former president.

Pence has spent much of the last two years touring early-nominating states such as Iowa and New Hampshire to reinforce his political vision as a "Christian, conservative, Republican – in that order."

He is framing himself as a traditional Republican, concerned with fiscal responsibility and family values, who can deliver Trump's economic policies without the drama.

He has also allied himself strongly with Ukraine and refused to rule out cuts to welfare payments.

While his politics are popular among Republicans, critics question whether Pence has a constituency in a party that is more focused now on populism and cultural politics than traditional conservatism.



A demonstrator throws a rock at police during protests in Dakar.



## Feature

# The scourge of insecurity in the North

By TIMOTHY JOSEPH

Since the completion of the 2023 general elections, there has been a phenomenal upsurge in terrorist activities nationwide, notably in the North Central states of Nasarawa, Benue and Plateau among others, where hundreds of citizens have been killed in many terrorist attacks. One of the campaign promises of the Buhari Administration, was to defeat Boko Haram insurgency and terrorism in Nigeria before leaving office, but it is now clear that the Buhari government is incapable of defeating Boko Haram and terrorism in Nigeria.

Before now, northern Nigeria was only embroiled in social conflicts and armed violence but today the situation has transitioned into insurgency, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping for ransom, cattle rustling etc. As a matter of fact security landscape of northern region of the country is currently being outrun by different criminal groups with strong allegiance to continue to terrorize the locals who are apparently helpless and vulnerable without any significant protection from the state. From the north east to north west, and down to the north central, different armed groups have continued to emerged.

Over 658 abductions were recorded across the country within the period under review. A security report done by Nigeria Mourn, a violent incident tracking organisation in Nigeria, has revealed that no fewer than 1,151 civilians and 79 security operatives were killed in the first quarter of 2023. It also revealed that attacks and activities of Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) constituted 22.11% which amounted to at least 272 deaths while politically-related killings, mostly due to the recent 2023 general elections, claimed at least 7.72% which stood at no fewer than 95 deaths.

According to the report, "In what has been an unfortunate trend in our data collated in the first quarter of 2023, banditry remains the largest cause of violent deaths across the country with 29.27% (360 deaths) while an existing threat is the rise in extra-judicial killings and herdsmen related killings which constitute about 10.08% and 13.65% respectively with at least 124 and 168 deaths each "secessionist" violent campaign mostly in the Southeast part of the country contributed 6.75% representing (at least 83 deaths) while cult clashes took 4.96% (at least 61 deaths)

"Isolated attacks, mob attacks, armed robbery and communal clashes took the remaining 5.45% combined (at least 67 deaths)."

President Muhammadu Buhari-led Federal Government has repeatedly claimed to have not only reduced the activities of Boko Haram insurgents but have resolved the rising insecurity situation in Nigeria to a minimum level. However, this report indicated that there has been an alarming increase in the activities



Araboh

of Boko-Haram/ISWAP in recent times, while extra-judicial killings were mostly perpetrated by Bandits and Fulani militia herdsmen.

It further stated that within the period under review, 6.42% of all lives lost to violent killings were security personnel numbering at least 79 security operatives killed across Nigeria while the remaining 93.58% of lives lost violently are those of civilians numbering at least 1,151 deaths. Data on the brazen killings of security operatives is further divided into para-military: Police (at least 54 deaths) constituting 68.35%, NSCDC (at least 10 deaths) representing 12.66% and Military (at least 15 deaths) accounting for 18.99%. With at least 54 lives lost, Police lives lost in the first quarter of 2023 constituted the highest losses among security operatives. Overall more violent incidents were recorded in the Northern part of the country than the South - of the at least 1230 deaths recorded, there were at least 932 violent killings in the North representing 75.77% of the total killed, in contrast to the South where at least 298 were killed representing 24.23% of the recorded figure."

The report further revealed that bandits and Boko Haram/ISWAP operating mostly in the Northern region of Nigeria contributed to the largest number of victims with the North-Central suffering the heaviest number of casualties with at least 331 were recorded killed in the region due to mostly herdsmen activities in Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa States, while the Northeast had at least 312 casualties, followed by the Northwest which had at least 289 casualties. In the South, a combined 140 deaths in the Southeast were attributed mostly to the activities of a violent secessionist group. While at least 88 were killed in the South-South, at least 70 people were recorded killed in the Southwest. A notable observation from data collated for the reporting period is that all reported civilian deaths were due to violent killings in the North-

Central part of the country as a result of Herders' violent activities.

As the President Buhari Administration, it's inability to contain insecurity come to an end remained a sore point. And of the aspect of pervasive insurgency is the resurgence of mindless killings in the states of Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau. In Benue for instance, it has been a sorry tale of blood and despair, trauma and betrayed hopes, as the perennial farmers herdsmen attack has taken a new dimensions in recent times, leading to unprovoked killings, while it is illegal for unauthorized citizens to carry fire arms, it has become easier for pastoralists who roam around to move about with arms unchallenged. Specifically, in Ngban, Gumel local government council, 32 people were killed on April 2, 2023, barely a week later, eight more persons were killed in another attack at Uikpam, while another village a few kilometers from Ngban another eight more were killed at Lordye, also in the same Guma local council. Guma, one of the worst hit local council is the ancestral home of governor Samuel Ortom. Out of ten wards in the local council, only three Mbawe, Nzoro and Kaambe are still inhabited, the natives have taken refuge in the internally displaced persons camps. In Oturkpo local council, five persons and an additional 46 including the biological son and nephew of the serving Chairman of the council, Hon. Bako Ejeh were killed in the April 4th and 5th attacks. At Jato Aka in Kwande local government council, 12 people were killed on April 21, seven in Agatu on May 5, another 15 in Logo local council, hometown of Senator Gabriel Suswam on May 12 nine persons in Gwer west local council. While condemning the incident the security adviser to the governor, Col. Paul Hemba (rtd) stated that the state government cannot do more than lend its support to the security personnel posted to the state with motivation and logistics to aid their duty.

Nasarawa state, like other north central state, has lost huge farming

population to the unabating farmers herdsmen crisis. Shortly after the general elections Tattara mada, Angwan Barau, Migini villages in Kona local council was invaded by some suspected Fulani militia leaving 12 people dead in a serial attack. About three weeks later, Kokona was attacked leaving 12 people dead and many others wounded, another mada settlement in Takalafiya village, Gitata district of panda development Area of Karu local council was attacked by suspected Fulani militia. The suspected Fulani attackers invaded the village, shooting sporadically burning houses using dynamite and killing any available persons. Thirty victims were given a mass burial while many dead bodies are yet to be recovered. The Deputy Governor of Nasarawa state, Dr. Emmanuel Akabe, who led government delegation to the mass burial, condemned in strong terms, the wanton killings and destruction of properties worth million of naira. Dr. Akabe, said government would investigate the causes of the attacks and bring the perpetrators to book.

The situation is no better in Plateau State as the resurgence of killings has also reached alarming proportions. Lives have been lost and suspected Fulani militia have been having field days always killing innocent people while asleep. In April 2023, no fewer than 30 persons lost their lives to gunmen attack in villages of Mangu local council, the villages affected include Murich, Mai ant Tumbi where both the natives and Fulanis live together. Again on April 25, 2023 six people were reported killed by yet to be identified suspected Fulani militia at Farin Lamba community of Jos South local government area at night. Two more people were also killed on May 2, 2023 by what some people refer to as unknown gunmen but was later alleged to be Fulani herdsmen at Hoss community of Riyom local government council. Also, on Tuesday May 18, 2023 we were yet awoken to the sad event in Kubwat and Fungzai villages, Kombun District of Mangu local government area, where some armed suspected Fulani militia attacked the community unabated shooting sporadically. These merchants of death left in their trail a yet to be ascertaining number of persons dead, including children and women.

According to the National President of Mwachavul Development Association (MDA), Joseph Gwankat, while addressing Journalist, at the Nigerian Union of Journalist (NUJ) Press Center jos, noted that the death toll has risen to more than one hundred and twenty five persons as some persons are still not yet accounted for with bodies still floating on the rivers. This is as survivors of the attack have recounted their experience during the incident. He said that scores of lives, including children and women were killed during the attack. He also said that 20 villages in Mangu were affected badly, as they have all been pull down, while two hundred thousand people have been displaced as a result of the attack. Gwankat

lamented that the presence of government has not been felt, he added that "The humanitarian situation is overwhelming and people are either squatting with relatives, neighbors, in Churches and other available public places. They need food, toiletries, medicine and places they can lay their heads". He urged government to take immediate step towards facilitating the return of the persons that have become refugees in different Internally displaced camps by reconstructing their homes and providing security for them as well.

Given the upsurge in terrorist activities across the north at the moment, the incoming Administration of Bola Tinubu, must wage a full war against the terrorist or bandits activities before settling down in office. Overall, government must take a comprehensive and coordinated approach to combat terrorism, the incoming government must demonstrate strong leadership in the fight against terrorism. This involves setting clear priorities, communicating effectively with the public, and taking decisive action to address the threat of insecurity. The root cause of terrorism must be tackled head on which includes poverty, social inequality and political grievances, this can be done through policies that promote economic development, social welfare and political inclusion. Government should use its military forces to fight the terrorist groups, by deploying well armed and sufficient troops to the affected regions, government must further enhance its intelligence gathering mechanisms to better monitor the activities of militias, and other related groups, using advanced technology to track the terrorist movement and communication.

The Political leaders, should work to build consensus among themselves on the most effective ways of dislodging terrorist activities,. This can be achieved through dialogue, consultations and other forms of engagement, government can seek support from the international communities, including allies and multilateral organization to help in combating terrorism. This can involved seeking technical support, training and other forms of support that will aid government to defeat terrorism in Nigeria. It can also implement counter terrorism measures by securing public places, improving Border security and strengthening the country's emergency response capabilities. Government should also engage the affected communities to gain their trust, and support in fighting terrorism, this should involved building relationship with the local leaders and involving communities in the development of counterterrorism strategies and promoting community Policing.

**Timothy Joseph is of the Ministry of Information and Communication.**



# EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Being a mother: An important role of a woman

By **NORA AVARIANTOS.**

The pivotal role of being a mother is still the divine mission assigned to women alone. From a classic poem written by William Ross Wallace entitled 'What Rules the World', he said that the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world. It illustrates the influence a mother plays to her child and in the long run to the society; that as a mother strives to nurture and teach a child, she explicitly makes the world a much better place. Women are actually given an opportunity and a privilege by God to be His partner in giving life to another human being.

A Jewish proverb rightly affirms what most of us have experienced: "A mother understands what a child does not say." Indeed there exist a dynamic between mother and children. Mothers can hear sentences in the silences of their children. God has given mothers the special gift of intuition because it gives her a strong sense of what is right for her children, what they are good at, how they may excel in the future what gifts and abilities she needs to make sure are developed in their lives as God intended.

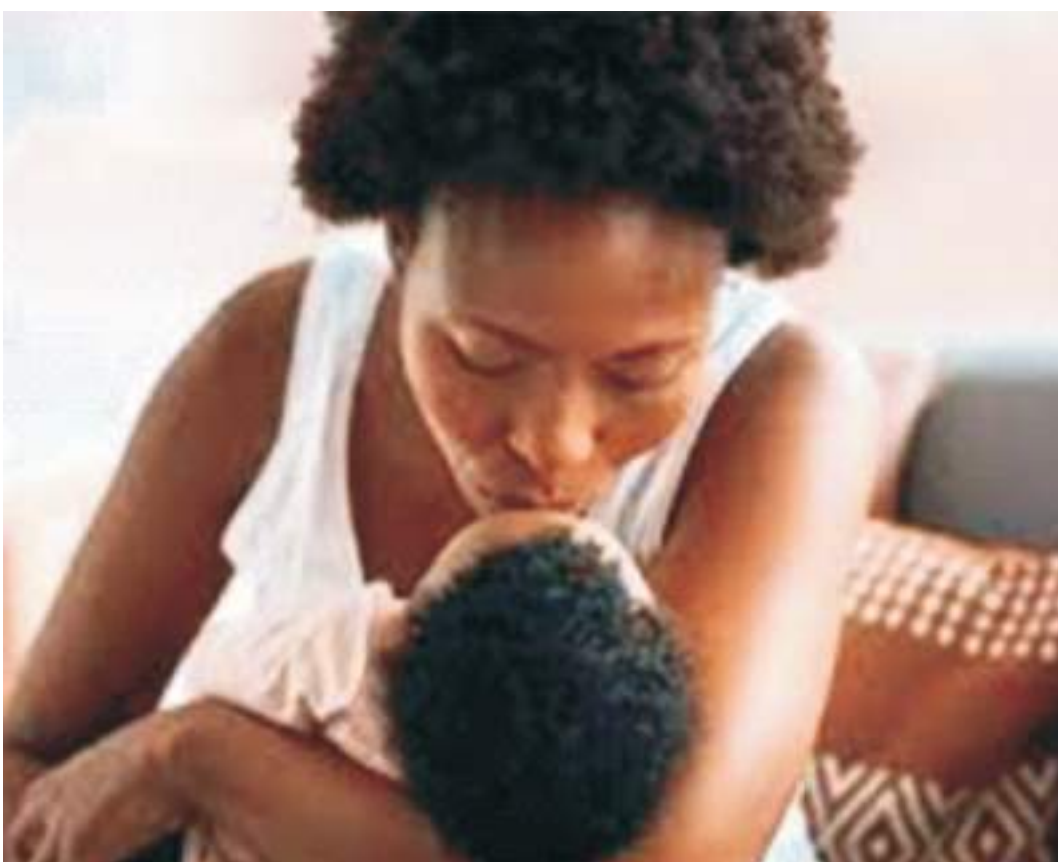
Mothers are timeless teachers in the classroom of life. Women especially mothers are the most influential educators. They bequeath to us timeless wisdom, a legacy so precious and valuable. Mothers have often shaped our world from the cradle, by rocking, nurturing and instructing children to grow up to make life changing and history-making accomplishments. For every person, there is a mother behind who fostered her child's sensibilities to their full potential.

Mothers remain some of our most powerful teachers in the hands-on laboratory of everyday living. Of all their many attributes...all that comes down to is the heart - a mother's heart. It has everything to do with the tenderness and toughness, the compassion and conscientiousness of the heart. There is nothing quite comforting as having our mother's arm wrapped around us when we are sad, lonely, or afraid.

Mothers teach us to believe in God. Mothers teach us the value of God's word through their lives, personal prayer life and



dependence on God's strength Mothers teach us to have sense of self-confidence can and wisdom. Nothing is as confidence and belief in result in a person to achieve attractive in a woman as the fear ourselves. Mothers knew from more and celebrate more. of the Lord. Knowing God, experience how important for Mother's lessons in life gives us honouring God and worshipping people to believe in themselves the space to believe in oneself as God are really the most in order for children to be whole, there is no limit to greatness one praiseworthy endeavours a strong and grow with a healthy can attain or the great things person can ever undertake. estimation of oneself. One way you can accomplish. Mothers are one of the first of parents to breed confidence in Mothers teach us the power of indications of the sovereignty of a child is to affirm and sharpen words. The words that mothers God in our lives. his/her thinking. A healthy speak have power. Words can



build up a child or tear him down.

How are we shaping our children as we speak to them? Are you like a potter, shaping the soft clay of your children's hearts with words with a light guiding hand at some times and with a gentle pressure at others? Or are you a sculptor, using your words like hammers, chisels, and knives because you are too busy and stressed to speak kindly and exercise patience?

When your children finish a conversation with you, do they look like fine pottery in the process of being molded by your words with love and care or do they look like stone, having had parts of their hearts chipped away by negative, sharp or angry words.

Be very careful with what we say. Remember that death and life, blessings and cursing are in the power of our tongue. With the words of our mouth, we can impart greatness or smallness in someone else's life. You and I can fan the flame of a dream or you and I can snuff it out. Let us use our words for good.

Mothers teach us to pray. Prayer is taught by example. It is lived and it is a legacy that is passed on to our children. A woman who can talk to God and hear from Him is a force of strengths and beauty like no other.

"An ounce of mother is worth a pound of priest", an old Spanish saying. A mother's prayers are a priceless gift, a real treasure, an earnest heartfelt force of power. If you have a mother who prays for you, you are indeed truly blessed.

Mothers teach us to live out our legacy. Scripture is certainly consistent about reminding us that we will reap what we sow, and for many of us, our mothers - the greatest women in our lives sowed beautiful seeds of truth, wisdom, joy and peace, a spiritual harvest that is now bearing fruit in us and our children. Mothers have always made a difference and will continue to do so

Mothers have often shaped our world from the cradle by rocking, nurturing and instructing children who grow up to make life-changing and history-making accomplishments. For every preacher, president, volunteer worker, employee, fashionista, technician, community worker, doctor, caregiver among others, there is a mother behind them who fostered her child to reach his/her full potential.



# THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

# Why you have itchy nipple

It's fine to give your arm or back a quick scratch when you're out and about. But an itchy nipple? Not so much. Thing is, the area can be surprisingly prone to irritation. So if you're dealing with itching or dryness that won't ease up, you'll want to find a way to solve the problem stat.

It's not uncommon for nipples to be a site of skin inflammation. The skin is thin and susceptible to dryness, low humidity and irritating fabrics. Stress in any form can trigger itching.

Plus, like any part of your body, nipples can itch for a variety of reasons. Here's a look at some of the most typical triggers for itchy nipples and what you can do to find relief:

### Your skin is dry

Parched skin can be itchy, tight, scaly or flaky in general. And since nipple skin is so thin, it can be particularly prone to dryness.

Sometimes dry skin can be related to an underlying condition like eczema (more on that later), but other times, it's just a matter of an arid environment. Cold, windy conditions can dry out your skin.

### You're dealing with chafing

Rubbing up against rough fabrics, especially when you're active, can cause nipple skin to become chafed and irritated, Dr. Goldstein notes. For some people, that soreness might translate to itching.

**Fix it:** Look for bras or tops made of soft, smooth fabric like 100 percent cotton, or if you're active, choose bras or tops designed for your specific sport.

### You're having an allergic reaction

Recently started using a new laundry detergent, soap, lotion or even began wearing a different kind of fabric? If the skin around your nipples is red, itchy, swollen, flaky or burning, you might be dealing with a case of contact dermatitis. These allergic reactions can occur when skin comes in contact with an irritant.

**Fix it:** While these allergic reactions can be uncomfortable, they'll typically clear up within a week or two as long as you steer clear of whatever caused the rash.

### You have eczema

If you're experiencing an eczema flare, your nipples might be dry or inflamed, feel itchy or painful or have discharge. It's also common to develop a patchy or crusty rash or small bumps that ooze fluid, notes the Cleveland Clinic.

**Fix it:** While eczema is an incurable condition, there are some strategies that can help alleviate itchy nipples. These including moisturizing, taking corticosteroids (either topically or orally), avoiding triggers and phototherapy (aka light therapy), per the Cleveland Clinic.



### You're pregnant

Shifting hormones and stretching skin during pregnancy can make you more prone to itchy, sensitive skin. And your nipples are no exception, says Ohio-based ob-gyn and Medzino medical advisor Kimberly Langdon, MD. While mild itchiness during pregnancy isn't usually cause for concern, pay attention if your itching becomes intense, especially when you're trying to sleep, according to the Mayo Clinic. These could be signs of a cholestasis of pregnancy, a serious complication that requires medical attention.

**Fix it:** Try avoiding soap on your nipples, which can dry them out, according to Sutter Health. Using unscented lotion and avoid lengthy

exposure to hot water can also help alleviate itchiness, per Sutter Health.

### You're breastfeeding

Itchy nipples might stick around after pregnancy if you're nursing. "Breastfeeding can make nipples itch as milk dries on them. Dry, cracked nipple skin — which is common in the early days of breastfeeding — can contribute to itching too.

**Fix it:** If the skin on your nipples is flaking and scaly as well as itchy, it could be a sign of an infection, per Mount Sinai. Your doctor can recommend treatment options. If you don't have these symptoms, try avoiding soaps and placing breast milk on your nipples after nursing to care for your nipples while

breastfeeding.

### You — or your baby — have a yeast infection

If you're breastfeeding, itchy or cracked nipples accompanied by a feeling of deep, stabbing pain in your breast could be the sign of a nipple yeast infection. Cracked or broken skin around the nipples can make them more prone to becoming infected, as can warm, moist environments (like a milk-dampened bra), the Cleveland Clinic notes.

**Fix it:** Try applying a topical antifungal medication to your nipples, per the Cleveland Clinic. If your baby has oral thrush, they'll need to be treated as well. Your health care provider can recommend an appropriate treatment.

### You're going through menopause

Menopause can make your nipples itchy too. As your body's levels of the hormone estrogen drop, skin becomes drier and thinner. That can make it more prone to itching and irritation.

**Fix it:** The at-home remedies noted for dry skin — such as moisturizing and avoiding harsh soaps — may help ease this itchiness.

### Serious causes of itchy nipples

Itchy nipples aren't usually a sign of a major health problem. But it's possible that an itchy or scaly breast rash could be a sign of certain breast cancers including inflammatory breast cancer or Paget's disease, Dr. Goldstein notes. These cancers are rare, but if your nipple or breast symptoms aren't going away, it's important to have them checked out.

### How to treat itchy nipples

You can often manage itchy, irritated nipples just like other types of dry skin. Depending on what's causing your discomfort, these soothing strategies may help.

• **Apply an anti-itch cream.** Slathering on an anti-itch ointment containing 1 percent hydrocortisone can ease itching fast. Try Aveeno 1%

Hydrocortisone.

• **Try a cool, damp cloth.** If you don't have an anti-itch ointment handy or would prefer not to use one, this can also ease itching.

• **Use a nipple balm if you're breastfeeding.** A moisturizing balm can keep nipple skin supple and hydrated, reducing the risk for dryness, cracking and irritation.

• **Keep baths or showers short.** Just dealing with a case of dry skin? Limit your baths and showers to 5 to 10 minutes max and stick with warm water instead of hot.

• **Apply a heavy-duty moisturizer.** A thick ointment or cream will lock in hydration after bathing and protect your skin from the elements.

• **Run a humidifier.** A humidifier adds moisture to indoor air to help combat dryness, especially in the winter. Try one of these expert-recommended picks.

• **Look at your personal care products and detergents.** Suspect a new soap, lotion, fragrance or detergent is making you itchy? Stop using it and see how your skin responds. If the itching clears up, you've found your culprit.

• **Stick with natural fabrics.** Steer clear of bras and tops made of synthetic materials when possible. Cotton is gentle and breathable, so it's less prone to irritating delicate skin or causing itching.

### When to see a doctor

There's a good chance your itchy nipples will ease up with at-home measures. But if those changes aren't doing the trick, let your doctor or dermatologist know. Reach out to your doctor, too, if nipple itching is associated with signs of a possible infection, like a rash, oozing, crusting or fever.

**Source: Medical news.**





Editorial

Economic expectations and new administration

HIS Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) was sworn in as Nigerian President on May 29th 2023. He began by removing oil subsidy, which sent a clear message that it won't be business as usual. Many thought he would take over, settle down, make some key appointments before making such earth-shaking pronouncements. The ideal thing is for the administration to remove petrol subsidy with minimum shocks to the economy and the citizens. That was the expectation of the people.

UNFORTUNATELY, the Nigerian economy has been in shambles and in dire need of a new direction, and so the expectations of Nigerians in this regard is sky-high. This was clearly pointed in the public, and in some instances private discourses held leading up to the general elections. Most Nigerians felt that the political transition offers an excellent opportunity to chart a new course, like in our case, bring us back from the brink.

ANYTHING short of quality economic governance that is consistent with tested economic principles and empirical evidence, that is contextualized within socioeconomic peculiarities, would be seen as failure. It is critical from the onset of the administration that investors' confidence is boosted. A committee on the economy must be set up to come up with propositions of what needs to be done differently and ensure the delivery of quick solutions in a short time. This technically sound economic team would give guidance and direction on general economic policies.

AFTER studying the situation on ground, the administration is expected to focus on fiscal consolidation, foreign exchange reform, trade and tariff, agriculture, industrialization, and financial sector reforms. There is need to expand the role of markets for value delivery and boosting of private enterprise in the economy, because it is a common belief that state-owned institutions do not have the capacity to manage enterprises. In this case, it is closely related to the rot in the system characterized by the endemic corruption in the system. Corruption has eaten deep into the Nigerian state, and is almost a part and parcel of governance.

FURTHERMORE, on the issue of fiscal consolidation, we urge this administration's tax regime to ensure efficiency in tax administration, reduce tax evasion and tax avoidance and eliminate multiple taxations. The N7 trillion estimated annual fuel subsidy payment was expected to be eliminated before the takeoff of the Tinubu administration. Another thing is the expected elimination of the foreign exchange subsidy. This would unlock a minimum of N3 trillion revenue annually from the sale of CBN forex to the official foreign exchange window. Other revenue generating agencies would be expected to work on ways to unlock more income streams through enhanced efficiency of their operations.

THE tariff regime on trade should be drawn up to adequately protect local industries. Production cost are high for most sectors, so import duty on intermediate products and critical industrial inputs should be reviewed to reduce production costs. There is need to prioritize trade facilitation and removal of all non-tariff barriers to trade.

THE last time Nigeria had a substantive minister of Petroleum Resources was during the time Goodluck Jonathan, in the person of Diezani Allison-Maduike. In order to promote professionalism and transparency in the sector, the practice of the President assuming the role of Minister of Petroleum should be discontinued.

WE suggest the need for a holistic agriculture policy, and must focus on the entire value chain so as to derive maximum benefits. The availability and costs of inputs, the application of technology, marketing, processing and storage must be given the due attention it deserves.

PRESIDENT Bola Ahmed Tinubu's inauguration speech was loaded, and seemed to have addressed a lot, and looks like a way forward for Nigeria. However, it is just a speech. We expect good governance. What is left is matching the words with action, because we have had one too many beautiful speeches that fell short after they settled in office. Good roads, education good transportation system, healthcare, increased wages, among others should be part of the new administrations topmost priorities.

THE challenges that the administration of Tinubu inherited are enormous. In putting together his team, Mr President must get the right people. Round pegs cannot be put in square holes anymore.

ALCOHOLISM has rendered many youths in different communities to be unproductive, as well as caused serious damages to their well being.

Alcohol and tobacco are among the top causes of deaths in Nigeria today. The use of alcohol is associated with an increased risk of injuries and accidents even a single episode of excessive drinking can lead to negative outcome. Alcoholism and chronic use of alcohol are associated with numerous medical, psychiatric, Social, and family problems. Family members including children are exposed to a first degree related alcohol problem.

Children of a parent with alcohol addiction, for example, show higher rates of alcoholism than children who do not have parents with alcohol addiction.

It is important for social workers to keep in mind that alcohol and alcohol problems affect the health safety, and well being of people. Smoking is not good for the health; it causes so many illnesses, like cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung disease, diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

There is need for government to prevent diagnosis and treat alcoholism in communities throughout the country.

For example, bringing in educational campaign to middle and high-school students help raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol.



Effects of alcoholism among the youths

There are many ways civic groups and community organizations can develop programmes and services to promote long-term recovery to bring about change in policy to increase education and awareness of alcohol misuse.

Health fairs, rallies, festivals, running races, prevention campaigns and other wellness events. Help raise awareness and limit the social impact of alcohol use. Most times when you see those that smoke or drink, you can't compare them with someone that doesn't smoke why, because, smokers even in their appearances you

can't compared to some one that doesn't.

So am pleading to all the youths that know they drink or smoke should please try and stop, so that your future will be better. I know it will be hard, but there is a saying that says, a journey of a thousand miles begins with a step.

Over thousands of youths out there do smoke and abuse drugs why? Because they don't have job opportunities, most of them are graduates so am pleading on behalf of them, let the government do something about this to employ more youth so that our country will be free from all this abuses. **Nansel John, is an IT student from PLAPOLY Jos**

The fear of God is the beginning of Wisdom

MY brothers and sisters, Youths in particular be afraid of the Creator only and do the right thing, honour your father and your mother and your days will be long. Whether you are a true Muslim, a Christ's follower, a pagan, or a free thinker you must obey the rules and regulations of your Maker and of the Government or law makers in your country, protect the image of your country and leave a good legacy. God is the creator of law why can't we obey the law and order of the society. The Creator is order and orderly He took His

time to create so we must also do same. Be responsible, accountable, credible, reliable, authoritative, a good planner, or in whatever way you find your self do it right.

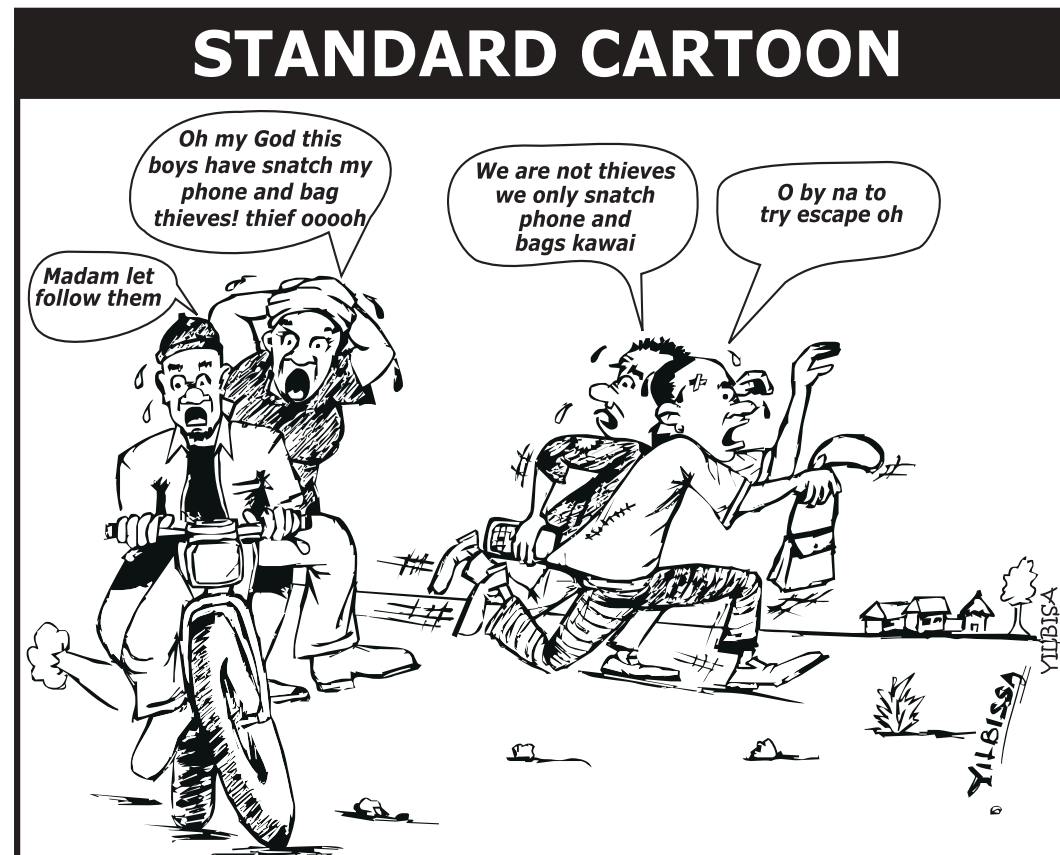
For instance, the forthcoming Gubernatorial and House Assembly elections, by now the highlighted problems of voters should be taken into consideration for better and brighter Nigeria. For instance these were the complaints of voters, I heard during this presidential elections!

In my own view, I think the

people need a prayerful, educative Creative, industrious and an accountable, credible. A good decision maker, planner and God fearing Leader who would carry the people along and as such, I plead with the government to look into this comments and proffer solutions to them.

However, in my own opinion, Despite all efforts INEC have made to clarify issues of the masses, the masses are pleading for creation of more polling units. It is now or never.

**Gonyok Francis Rebecca, Jos.**





## Opinion

## The person needed for president Tinubu's NSA

NAMES are being dropped, mostly in security and media circles, on the person likely to become appointed as Nigeria's next National Security Adviser (NSA) by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The current holder and longest-serving NSA in Nigeria, Babagana Monguno is a retired Military General.

Apart from the former Chief of Army Staff and Minister of Interior, Major General Abdulrahman Dambazau (rtd.) and retired police chief and pioneer Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, other serving security, as well as intelligence, chiefs are being touted as possible candidates for this very important position.

A major bone of contention has the debate on whether the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) is one essentially reserved for those with a military background and persons who are preferable in the rank of a General in the country's armed forces, whether still serving or retired.

While most of the former and current holders of the position of NSA have been retired Army officers, national security issues are beyond the exclusive ken of the military, whose main task and mandate is defence of the territorial integrity of the state and its interests against external armed threats or aggression.

In response to the challenges of terrorism as faced by Nigeria, the Terrorism Prevention Act 2011, as amended in 2013, was signed into law by President Goodluck Ebele .

The Act designates the Office of the National Security Adviser

By YUSHAU A. SHUAIB

(ONSA) as the coordinating body for all the security and enforcement agencies of the government. This Act also gives the ONSA the mandates to "support and ensure the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive Counter Terrorism Strategy and build capacity for the effective discharge of the functions of relevant security, intelligence, law enforcement and military services."

The following year, precisely on 18 March, 2014, the then National Security Adviser, Colonel Sambo Dasuki (rtd.) rolled-out Nigeria's soft approach to countering terrorism through the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST), developed through the concert and support of international partners, experienced academics and select non-state actors.

The NACTEST, according to Dasuki who was its facilitator and enabler, sought to act proactively by preventing violent attacks before they happened, while equally anticipating and neutralising the factors that lead people to becoming terrorists in the first place.

The soft approach to countering violent extremism (CVE) comprises a vertical programme involving the three tiers of government – from the federal to the state and then local – alongside a horizontal programme that engages with the civil society, academics, and traditional, religious and community leaders, towards stemming the tide of radicalism.

The soft approach to countering terrorism, as identified by the Dasuki-led ONSA, provided Nigeria with a framework outlining the roles

and responsibilities of every segment of the society with regard to job creation, poverty alleviation and economic development.

In a nutshell, the Office of the National Security Adviser pulls together and encompasses different major professional capabilities, including those of the military, law enforcement, intelligence services, international relations, financial controls, in addition to bilateral and multilateral engagements.

In its role of offering advisories to the president, the ONSA considers what could be the appropriate approach to dealing with terrorism and other security threats, which is either hard or soft powers. While the hard power usually entails a very physical manner of dealing with issues, which involves the threat or use of military force, the soft power is one that responds to concerns through the utilisation of economic and cultural influence in persuading others from negative inclinations like unbecoming acts. This is the antithesis of the use of force in achieving a, possibly, more sustainable and wholesome outcome.

It is necessary to point out that there are all sorts of security challenges embedded within the notion of "national security." These include economic security, energy security, cybersecurity, environmental security, health security and food security, which all seek to neutralise different threats and deleterious situations.

In his book National Security Strategies, Mukhtar Yau Madobi, a first-class graduate and defence researcher, states that, "national security does not only entail the protection of lives and properties of

people but also goes in a wider dimension. It includes security in education, transportation, health, economy, infrastructure, environment, food and agriculture, politics, religion, culture, society among others."

It is therefore not surprising that in the United States of America, where Nigeria adopted its brand presidential system from, they believe in non-military ideas of national security, which is evident in the calibre of people appointed as National Security Advisors. These are serious professionals from across the spectrum of academic, research and intelligence work etc., with solid and crosscutting knowledge bases on national security issues.

In the US, the appointment of persons with military backgrounds to the office of the National Security Advisor is usually the exception rather than the norm. Military persons who have functioned in the position of the NSA included General Collin Powell under President Ronald Reagan; Brent Scowcroft under President Gerald Ford and later President Bush (Snr); and James Jones, who served for a year in the first term of President Barack Obama.

Many of the appointed NSAs in the US have had no military background, while being well versed in national security matters. Whereas some of them were diplomats with intelligence backgrounds, others have been legal practitioners and academics, etc. Some of these NSAs have included George McBundy under President Kennedy; Walter Rostow under President Johnson; Henry Kissinger under President Nixon;

Zbigniew Brzezinski under President Carter; Condoleezza Rice under President Bush (Jnr); Susan Rice under President Obama; Robert Charles O'Brien (Jnr) under President Donald Trump; and Jacob Jeremiah Sullivan under current President Joe Biden.

The NSA is not like any other political appointment that could be carried out to satisfy political patronage, as the officer to be so assigned is expected to be well-informed and extremely knowledgeable enough to provide serious and spot-on advisories, while effectively coordinating security matters of state, diplomatic efforts, being in tune with economic policy, and the intelligence services, towards a peaceful and prosperous country that is fully engaged in a holistic sense of national security.

While the offices of the Chief of Defence Staff and Minister of Defence are already reserved for serving and retired military officers respectively, yet there is nothing wrong if any of the personalities traditionally appointed into the foregoing positions are equally considered for the ONSA.

However and importantly too, President Ahmed Tinubu should not only reflect the federal character principle when appointing individuals to sensitive posts like that of the National Security Adviser, but he should also saliently consider the pedigree, courage, accomplishments, sincerity, and dispositions of the person to be so appointed. Such a person can also enhance harmonious inter-agency collaboration rather than the occasional rivalry witnessed in the recent past.

IN the past, we had FOUR (4) REFINERIES. Two (2) in Portharcourt, One (1) in Warri and another One (1) in Kaduna.

Crude oil was pumped into those four REFINERIES and we got all the products we wanted.

Even at that time, the Four Refineries couldn't meet our consumption in Nigeria and we had to import the balance.

I am not sure anybody bothered to find out why the Four Refineries couldn't meet our domestic needs for fuel, perhaps we were servicing Benin and Niger Republic and God-knows how many other Republics we serviced.

There was the ATLAS COVE JETTY built somewhere on the faraway bouy, off the Lagos coast, very far from town where all products were received by the NNPC.

It is owned by the NNPC. There were NNPC FUEL DEPOTS all over the country.

There is one in Mosimi in Sagamu, Apata in Ibadan, Ilorin and so on and so forth. We also had the MAJOR MARKETERS at the time: Mobil, Texaco, Shell BP which became NATIONAL OIL, AP etc.

Each of the Major Marketers had their DEPOTS at a place in Ijora-Apapa.

That area was DESIGNATED IN THE MASTER PLAN OF LAGOS for Fuel Depots.

I believe the Depots of the Major Marketers received their consignment directly from the ATLAS COVE. I believe there was a network of underground pipes which conveyed the products from the Atlas Cove to the Ijora-Apapa Depot's and also to the Mosimi depot. I believe Mosimi pumped fuel to Ibadan and Ibadan to Ilorin and so on and so forth.

The Major Marketers distributed petrol around Lagos with the tanker trucks. I believe, and infact there are evidences to show, that most of the fuel going to the Northern parts were transferred through special rail tankers and not road trucks.

FUEL WAS PUMPED to the depots all over the country and road trucks only executed local transfers from depot to filling stations.

The world was a lot saner then.

It was the period before AMERICA came with PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM, IMF, WORLD BANK AND SAP. It was the period of sanity just before the ZIONISTS just got their own INSPIRATION which was around that period too.

How very coincidentally that the three SET OF CROOKS came into the country at about the same time in that 1980s!!!

CORRUPTION which we were hiding to do before suddenly became INSTITUTIONALIZED by the military Government of Babangida.

CORRUPTION which the society frowned at before suddenly became PROSPERITY in the hands and mouths of the people suddenly men without known

## Fuel subsidy: The genesis and nemesis

BY ADEDAMOLA ADETAYO

or honourable means became glorified and exalted in the society.

Sometime in the middle 1980s, during the regime of Ibrahim Babangida, I believe, the Federal Government gave notice that it was going to embark on a TURN-AROUND MAINTENANCE [ T.A.M ] of some or all of our refineries.

As a result of the shortfalls expected, and also because NNPC was the major importer and administrator of FUEL matters in Nigeria and wouldn't be able to cope with the anticipated shortfalls, licences were given to private actors to also import fuel into the country along side NNPC. Those people were called INDEPENDENT MARKETERS. The TAM was targeted for 18months at the time.

But that was nearly 40YEARS ago and we may NEVER have that TAM completed. The refineries NEVER returned from that TAM. They were actually grounded, destroyed and never to function again till this day. We created emergency billionaires called independent marketers and they are the MONSTERS which we have fed and battle till this day. AMERICA will not allow us understand our FOREX since that time.

The ZIONISTS were all out to destroy the refineries to enable their own schemes which are nourished through IMPORTATION. The PASTORPRENEURS kept on preaching PROSPERITY to fuel the corruption, damage our VALUES, emasculate our MORALS, divided our ATTENTION, threw VIRUSES into our SOCIAL HARMONY and ensured that we were perpetually zombified and permanently distracted from the main issues but instead glued to the channels of the kingdom of Heaven.

NAIRA was just falling hard, POVERTY accelerating and the people were totally incapacitated they will never be able to bring useful persons from their midst to form responsible Government that could ever be able to do anything in the revolving socio-economic crises.

By the way, ALL of the system mentioned in No. 2 above have been destroyed.

Pipelines have been severally attacked and vandalized, ofcourse with insider help from same Government officials in NNPC.

You couldn't vandalize a petroleum pipeline without insider help.

They have destroyed everything and now you see thousands of fuel tankers on Lagos-Ibadan expressway carrying fuel to as far away places as

Sokoto and Maiduguri. Those trucks destroy the roads and kill many Nigerian citizens through fire accidents.

THE CRUX OF THE MATTER.

What has then happened is that we got a set of CRIMINAL PEOPLE who call themselves independent marketers who IMPORT FUEL. We got another set of CRIMINAL GOVERNMENT people in the civil service of NNPC and POLITICIANS/MILITARICIANS. The Government FIXES A PRICE FOR PETROL

The Marketers get licence, get FOREX and they go to import fuel but the Government MUST first assure them, more or less, to OFFTAKE THEIR TRADE RISKS.

The Marketers are traders doing but who MUST get guarantees from Government to more or less buy their products AT THEIR OWN QUOTED PRICES before even setting out. So the marketers go to Europe for example to buy 30 MT OF FUEL and they will report a LANDING PRICE "according to exchange rates" of about N500/litre for example.

Since the Government has fixed N180/litre as pump price, then the Government is under obligation to pay the balance of N320/litre.

This N320/litre, for this example, is what I believe is and understand as the FUEL SUBSIDY. And this is where the problem lies. A man can import 10MT of petrol then he will run to PPPRA in Abuja to report that he brought in 60MT.

Ofcourse there is an arrangement with some crooks in that agency of NNPC and the relevant Government departments. The man will collect N320.00 x 60,000,000 litres [ For 60MT instead of 10MT ] settles the necessary people and simply go back home with BILLIONS OF NAIRA.

On Sunday he will go and do Thanks-giving to his Pastor and him Jet.

He can afford to build 200 Mosques inside 3 months and send 1,000 people to Mecca to pray.

What has then happened is that the first set of people, GOVERNMENT PEOPLE who already cornered 50% of our income to themselves as SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES will also through and in conjunction with the second set of crooks, the MARKETERS, swallow another 25% of the balance through the FUEL SUBSIDY SCHEMES

Meanwhile, the same people already SHORTCHANGED THE COUNTRY RIGHT FROM INCOME SOURCE THROUGH CRUDE OIL THEFT.

These people: GOVERNMENT, MARKETERS, RELIGIOUS MERCHANTS AND ZIONISTS are altogether probably less than 10% of the population. The poor Nigerian Masses who are about at least 90% are left to grope in the dark to manage less than 25% of the remaining balance of

our income.

From that 25% , there will still be found some small crooks amongst the masses - Armed robbers, Agberos, Vandals, Area boys, Shylock traders etc - who will corner 5% to themselves.

In short the 90% MASSES POPULATION [ ABOUT 180M PEOPLE ] WILL HAVE ONLY ABOUT 20% OF NIGERIA'S INCOME TO LIVE ON.

My Arithmetic tells me that will NEVER make sense. BUT THIS CORRUPTION IS AN INSTITUTIONALIZED SCHEME.

You can't fight easily. The surest way to fight it is with the help and support of the MASSES.

The same MASSES YOU WANT TO RESCUE.

The first thing the marketers will do, and which they have done, is to lock up their Depots and filling stations.

They are not interested in FREE MARKET TRADE. You HAVE TO give them subsidy to be in Business. Once you stop it they will also lock up shops.

And there will be FUEL SCARCITY.

FUEL SCARCITY is music in the ears of groups like the opposition parties, especially in this age of the ever hateful ZIONIST Obingos.

They will instigate the same MASSES to revolt.

Unless a Leader is extremely strong, he will eventually back down and continue to allow the SCAM.

If he doesn't back down, he will be seen as wicked and anti-people and Obingos will be excitedly going about with the news.

Then you will hear " Bread was N100 during Buhari, it is now N200 during Tinubu"

If he backs down, things will only become worse.

Solution

Remove subsidy and damn the consequences. Totally Hands of fixing of fuel prices. If you are an independent marketer, go and import fuel and sell at your price, even if it is N1,000/litre.

It is free Market.

Government can charge the banks to assist those marketers who are serious with business with credits. Let it continue like that and allow market forces to determine the final prices and the exact quantity of fuel we need.

We will only have a few months to feel the pains but many years to enjoy the fruits. Nigerian have the decision to make. Mr. Dele Alake and all lovers of Asiwaju and Nigeria should spread the message to enlighten our people.

The Obingos will surely feast on this and we must not allow them. Open borders, reset the security infrastructure and you will see prices of food stuff will drop to counter balance the prices of fuel. In One year, I believe we will know the truth of FUEL SUBSIDY.



# Change of Name

<p><b>UMEJI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ONYEKA HAPPINESS ONYINYECHI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UMEJI HAPPINESS ONYEKA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ESTHER</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ESTHER SANI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ESTHER HARUNA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>CORRECT OF DATE OF BIRTH</b></p> <p>I <b>PWOL GYANG JOHN</b> wish to state that my correct date of birth is 26/09/1994. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DAMBOK</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KINGS NAOMI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAMBOK NAOMI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>HAPPINESS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ZENRET BENJAMIN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HAPPINESS BENLE DUNA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ALASINRIN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABDULKADIR HUSSAINI ALASINRIN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ALASINRIN HUSSAINI KEHINDE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>KYENPIA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>EVELYN KYENPIA</b> and <b>KYENPIA EVELYN SUNDAY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KYENPIA, EVELYN SUNDAY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>GWOM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PAM HAPPY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GWOM HAPPY PAM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DASHE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MARY DASHE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DASHE LOHWOR MARY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DASHE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DAWAM ELIZABETH FOE'AN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DASHE ELIZABETH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MA'AJI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JOCK HELEN SHUDUA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MA'AJI HELEN HASSAN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>PATRICIA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PATRICIA MICHEAL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PATRICIA MICHEAL DAKUP</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>HANATU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>HANATU ELIAH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HANATU ILIYA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DINATU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DINATU SUNDAY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DINATU JOHN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SELCHUM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANYAK LUCY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SELCHUM LUCY NANYAK</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANWOR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PAUL VENZIR GIMBIYA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANWOR PAUL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>VENDIP</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YENDIP TIMZING JULIUS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>VENDIP TIMZING JULIUS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>PAUL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KWADA ISA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PAUL ISA</b>. My correct date of birth is 28/08/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMAD FIDDAUSI SALIS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD FIDDAUSI SANI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>JWANCHIN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JWANCHI MURNA PAUL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JWANCHIN MURNA PAUL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LUKA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUSA ASABE LUKA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LUKA ASABE MUSA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ISHAYA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KWEDE VICTORIA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISHAYA UFWIL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>OVIE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABEKE JOY OVIE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OVIE JOY QUEEN ADIAPKONU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SUMAYYA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SUMAYYA RABIU IBRAHIM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SUMAYYA ZAKARIYYA ABDULLAHI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>BITRUS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BARAJA MARTINA EDITH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BITRUS MARTINA MUSA</b>. My correct date of birth is 25/04/1980. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>CORRECTION OF DATE BIRTH</b></p> <p>I, <b>PAM SIMI PRISCILLA</b> wish to state that my correct date of birth is 28/01/1997. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LYDIA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LYDIA ISHAKU SALLAH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LYDIA ISHAKU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>GOAR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ISHAKU LANGKAT LAPSHAK</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GOAR LENGAKAT ISHAKU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>PAM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PAM CHUNG STEVEN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PAM CHUNG BWAI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SAMUEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MISS. SAMUEL JOAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. SAMUEL JOAN DANGANA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>SAHEED</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SAHEED ABIODUN ABDULYAKEEN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SAHEED ABIODUN ADEDEJI</b>. My correct date of birth is 28/12/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>BUTKO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DOMINION DANALDI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BUTKO, DOMINION DANALDI</b>. My correct date of birth is 22/09/2006. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>RUVO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>EMMANUEL MOSES</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RUVO EMMANUEL DARO</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANJUL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YARO NANJUL DAVID</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANJUL PIRTIM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DASHEL NANMUNG</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MONDAY DASSUWAL</b>. My correct date of birth is 04/02/1982 not 15/05/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>UMAR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>UMAR HAWAU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>UMAR HAUWAW</b>. My correct date of birth is 01/01/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>NOAH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NOAH GRACE OTITI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NOAH GRACE ADAMU</b>. My correct date of birth is 09/02/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>OKOLIE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>RAY CHARLES</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OKOLIE CHARLES RAY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AYOOLA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>OWOYOKUN JOHNSON AYOOLA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AYOOLA JOHNSON OYEWEMI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LAMI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LAMI PAM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LAMI PAM TOK</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AJIK</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AZI, ASHOM AJIK</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AJIK, ASHOM AARON</b>. My correct date of birth is 14/03/1998 not 12/09/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TOK</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BARDE, LAMI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TOK, LAMI PAM</b>. All former documents remain valid. NIMC, other concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>BITRUS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY PLANGNAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BITRUS PLANGNAN NANCY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MAGYUM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>IBRAHIM JOSEPH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MAGYUM JOSEPH YELKANG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANCIN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANCIN HABU CHIROMA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANCIN SIMEON PETER</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NORO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AUGUSTINE NORO SUNDAY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NORO AZI SUNDAY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>KAMOH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MAPIS GOODNEWS DANIEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KAMOH GOODNESS DANIEL</b>. My correct date of birth is 12/02/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>KASUWA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DAAR NANLO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KASUWA NANLO SHELSHAK</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>WUYEP</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BLESSING CLETUS AKENE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>WUYEP LOHFE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY LAMI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SUNDAY LAMI WANKA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DUSU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>FIBI DUSU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DUSU NGO PHIEBI</b>. My correct date of birth is 02/01/1936 not 02/01/1935. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DANJUMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DANJUMA MARCUS SIMON</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANJUMA MARCUS FWANGMUN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>CHUKWUMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>CHUKWUMA MARY ISHAKU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHUKWUMA MARY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DUNG</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DUNG ASTITA SOLOMON</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DUNG ASTIRA SOLOMON</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>SIMON</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ISHAYA SIMON</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SIMON HABILO ABIWUYA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY LAMI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SUNDAY LAMI WANKA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TAMBA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ELLEN FABIAN MICHAEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TAMBA KILINGNAN FABIAN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TAPERÉ</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>TAPERÉ AYOMIDOTUN FAITH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TAPERÉ AYOMIDE FAITH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>BAKO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABDULLAHI SALIM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BAKO SALIM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SHEHU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>TITUS DAGAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SHEHU TITUS DAGAN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>



## Feature

# President Tinubu: Please review subsidy removal

BY ALIYU U. TILDE

SUBSIDY is for everybody. Complete removal is bad for the economy. Suspend removal. Constitute a credible committee to get you actual fuel consumption figures to fix a new price. Maintain some level of subsidy. Disband NNPC management. Your family and friends should stay clear of its forbidden fruit. Probe the scam, recover the loot and jail the criminals. Be with your citizens. Privatize the refineries. Make Nigeria a big exporter of refined oil products.

As a supporter of your Presidency, I feel compelled to write this piece of advice for your benefit and that of the nation. It is not a one-off. Many of its kind may follow whenever there is a hot issue at hand that warrants the flow of my ink.

My President, you have surely, as expected, hit the ground running with an audacity that is unmatched in the Presidency for over a decade. The public is left in no doubt that the driver on the wheel is a 'Bawa Driver' of the 1940s who never decelerated in deference to sharp bends or even collapsed bridges.

Excising the tumour of fuel subsidy was an operation which the past three presidents avoided. Few minutes after your swearing in, you announced your intention to carry out the operation instantly. The previous administration was defiant to calls by experts for a unified Dollar exchange rate. You answered the call instantly. The following day, you summoned the NNPC and CBN chiefs for your orders. A day after that meeting, the subsidy was removed and the CBN is also at the instance of announcing a unified rate of exchange for the Dollar.

On the third day, the DSS barricaded EFCC personnel from entering their Lagos office. If it were during the previous administration, the situation would be left to degenerate into fatal fracas which no one at the top would intervene to stop. But by the end of the day, you told the DSS to back off. The following day, you called the service chiefs and read the riot act for them: You will not tolerate their working at cross purpose with one another and they must immediately come up with their blueprint to address our urgent insecurity matters like banditry and oil bunkering.

These are signs of a responsive and responsible leadership which if blended with accountability and wisdom will make you stand out among your peers. The first two characteristics seem to be your default setting, so I will not discuss them. Today, I will discuss the wisdom aspect as it relates to fuel subsidy removal and leave accountability part for another day.

The dust of the fuel subsidy removal has not settled. Labour, this time with the massive support of the public, will shut down the country come Wednesday. There are 27 days before the provision of the budget on the subsidy elapses. I feel the time is sufficient to review the issue of the subsidy withdrawal such that a common ground is found between the agitated citizenry and your government. The review is necessitated by the need to probe the half-truths that experts peddle about the subsidy and suggest ways by which actual statistics of our consumption can guide us to arriving at a new rate that is palatable to both government and the citizens.

Yesterday, Engr Mele Kyari, the NNPC boss, was on BBC Hausa program where he explained that subsidy means government paying



Tinubu

for the difference between cost of buying, storing and distributing refined fuel that the NNPC buys from the international market and what the citizen pays as pump prize. Every time the NNPC goes back to buy the same quantity of fuel for us, government must top up with billions of naira.

In the program, Mr. Kyari agreed that every government subsidizes life for its citizens, sometimes even on items as basic as bread. The problem, he said, is that the 'top up' money has become so colossal that the half-empty coffers of our government cannot afford. Therefore, Nigerians, he pleaded, should be patient with the new rate, for now, until government can afford to pay; then subsidy can be reintroduced and the price can be reviewed downward.

Here, we have the first half-truth debunked by the NNPC magnate himself: that subsidy is evil to the economy. How can a global practice be deemed as an unnecessary evil in Nigeria? Why must Nigeria be the only country to buy the false testament of zero subsidy? Why cannot it be like the advanced countries that we are eager to copy and listen to?

Another big lie peddled by experts is that subsidy is for the rich. In the past three days, this lie has been debunked by the reality of subsidy removal. The poor are the ones suffering. The rich can afford to fill their tanks even at N100,000. Parents cannot afford to send their children to school in other towns, villages or neighbourhoods. The number of out of school children will skyrocket. Workers cannot go to work five days a week. All sectors of the economy and society will be affected once movement is impeded by high cost. It is not enough for a body to have blood. The blood must circulate, otherwise there will be an instant death. That death is what N600/litre petrol portends.

The statistics regarding the rich are also false. For example, so much is mentioned of the rich having four cars fueled by government subsidy. Having four cars does not translate to a quadrupled consumption rate. You can have ten cars but must use only one at a time. Even where a family has four utility cars, which is

very rare, it is better for the economy because more drivers will be employed, more mechanics and spare part dealers will be patronized and so on. Consumption of the rich is good for the economy. The rich is not an enemy, anyway, but only another citizen of the country.

My President, please agree with me now—the simple way—that subsidy is for everybody, but more especially the poor who form 99% of your voters and whom you must keep at all cost against 2027. I agree that there is in its administration a scam perpetrated by a cartel and whose activity I will address now.

All experts tell us that government cannot afford the subsidy. And they eagerly roll out intimidating figures to convince us. Listening to them, what they quote falls between the range of N12billion to N18billion per day with a petrol consumption rate of up to 66.8million liters per day. But how true are these figures? Do we accept them because they are coming from NNPC? How do we trust the testimony of the culprit so easily?

My President must not rush to accept these figures at their face value. Even experts like the former CBN governor, now Muhammadu Sanusi II, have on several occasions questioned the authenticity of such claims. In one of his interviews, he outrightly rejected the idea that there is enough storage capacity for the volume of imports claimed by marketers back then. Many others say we just do not have the capacity to consume up to 50 million litres of fuel per day.

Efforts were made to justify the huge figures by factoring in smuggling to neighboring countries. When someone, I think NLC, computed the number of trailers that must be crossing our already sealed borders every day for such a level of smuggling, the factor did not make any practical sense. Yes, there is smuggling into Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroon and it will continue naturally, but not at the scale of 20 or 30 million litres per day. Those countries do not even have the population, not to mention the vehicles, to consume that much fuel.

My submission here is that we must know our actual daily consumption rate before deciding whether government can or cannot pay for the

subsidy, in full or in part. And the NNPC cannot be a trusted journalist for the crime it commits.

That is why there is a consensus even among experts that the fuel subsidy administration in the country is marred with corruption. It is often referred to as a scam. During the campaigns, Mr. Peter Obi, the Labour candidate, called it "an organized crime". The people behind it are now regarded as so powerful that no government can fight. So the best way to beat them is not to try and stop them but removing the carpet from beneath their feet by withdrawing the subsidy and then saying to the citizens, "Sorry, you have to suffer because government cannot fight these few criminals."

But this was only true before your arrival, My President. I cannot throw my weight behind your ticket had I considered you lacking in the courage to fight criminals. You cleared ghost workers in Lagos and even fought a sitting President over the rights of its citizens. On your journey to the Presidency, tall hurdles were placed on every inch of your path. Enemies of all kinds came after you. You successfully jumped over every hurdle, crossed every ditch and fought every enemy so much so that I was proud of sticking my neck out for you. How can you now submit to a cartel of few individuals whom you, as our President, can summarily lock up when you unleash your arsenal—the police, EFCC, ICPC, NFIU and so many others at your disposal? How can you prefer the suffering of millions of Nigerians in submission to a band of criminals? No, you cannot. You are the Jagaba.

Now, let me quickly submit my suggestions: Make a tactical withdrawal. Forget the idea that there will be no subsidy. Rest your mind that subsidy is not evil or bad to the economy, that it is still part of the responsibility of governments to their citizens even in our post-communist era. It is only when it is hiked by corruption to unreachable heights that it becomes bad. All governments do subsidize the needs of their citizens, each according to its wealth and income level of its citizens. Ours cannot be different.

Put aside the fictitious figures that the NNPC and liberal experts are pushing down your throat. Dig out the facts yourself and know precisely the quantum of subsidy that the nation needs from verified consumption figures. Then base your decision on these facts.

Constitute a committee: To arrive at the actual supply and consumption statistics, form a committee of people of impeccable character and competence, with no connection to the NNPC at all, drawn from the private sector, academia and labour. Give them 3 weeks to submit a preliminary report that is revealing enough to give you a good projection of the final figures. They can investigate further in the maximum of 2 additional months and give you concrete data and suggestions. It is not a tall order. It can be done.

Supplementary budget: At the end of June, send a supplementary budget to the National Assembly before proposing an extension of the subsidy until September when actual decisions on the matter would be taken. Adding only 3 months to decades long practice can be easily understood.

Fix a new price. Based on the outcome of the findings by the committee, engage stakeholders to arrive at a reasonable amount which government can afford as subsidy and what citizens would themselves sacrifice without disruption to their

lives. Transparency at its best.

Avoid the forbidden fruit. Disband, now, the present NNPC management and show no personal interest in the outfit. Replace its members with trustworthy individuals who can use whatever means possible to truly rid the Company of corruption and ensure that the subsidy monster does not resurrect.

To achieve this, neither you nor any member of your family or friends must be interested in the Company or be appointed into its management. We have seen some previous presidents make their girl friends or daughters Ministers of Petroleum or NNPC Board members. This was how they were neutralized by the subsidy cartel. To you, NNPC has become the forbidden fruit. Resist the temptation of eating it, else you commit an original sin.

Take on the cartel. As the Jagaba, probe the NNPC and the subsidy cartel. Recover the loot and jail its criminals. I do not mind if you give them Prince Muhammad bin Salman's treatment. He locked up all the corrupt Saudi royals and made them part with the loot they made from the Kingdom. You are our Bin Salman. The scammers are the criminals. Go after them, recover the loot and be assured of the full support of Nigerians. If you run away from confronting them today, you will live to fight them tomorrow. Never be misled to fighting the citizens or labour. Fight the criminals.

8. Review the Petroleum Act to rid it of the contradictions that will undermine your good services to Nigerians. Since it became a Company under the Act, NNPC has become a sacred cow. It does not account for anything. It declares profit of any kind at will, post its wish into the consolidated revenue account and tell the nation to take it or leave it. We do not need such a monster. It must be regulated by government so long as oil remains the government's main source of cash.

Privatize the refineries. Along with Dangote and other upcoming refineries, make Nigeria a big exporter of refined oil products. It is achievable.

The benefits from adopting my suggestions above will include the endearing fairness that you treat your citizens with, the wisdom of taking knowledge-based decisions, deflecting the lethal fury of the citizenry against you, and the ridding our cash cow of a cancer that has debilitated it for years.

Yes, the NNPC has been suffering from a debilitating cancer. Corruption has made it inept for three decades now. It cannot even refine oil, repair our refineries or build new ones, something that Dangote did alone in few years and which all oil exporting nations do easily. Thanks to its cancer, we are the only OPEC country that imports refined oil. It is time, now that the nation is under the Jagaba, to rid the company of its malaise.

If my suggestions are adopted, I am confident that Nigerians can get petrol at not more than N300/litre. It will demand some affordable subsidy from government but its pregnancy with 'organized crime' will be aborted, as in other nations.

Finally, I assure you that nothing in this proposal will demean you or diminish your powers. Instead, adopting it will make Nigerians hail you as a considerate, responsive, audacious, wise leader who is ready to put their interest first. A tactical withdrawal to re-strategize is an art of war.



**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.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>MAFWIL VICTOR</b> , late of Plateau State died on the 3rd Dec., 2022, at Access Hospital, Abuja	<b>MATEK COLLINS MAFWIL</b> of Matelem Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>AWUA MOSES TONGOMO</b> , late of Taraba State, died on the 16th Dec., 2022, at Wukari, Taraba State	<b>MOSES YOBE JUNIOR</b> of Wukari LGA, Taraba State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>MAMDAM GIDEON HARUNA</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 2nd Jan., 2022. At Bassa, LGA, Plateau State	<b>PONFA HARUNA MAMDAM</b> of Fed. Low-Cost Bassa, Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Nephew of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>ILIYA KAGA GAJERE</b> of late of Plateau State, died on the 10th Oct., 2022. At Tumu Bassa LGA, Plateau State	<b>ZAKA ILIYA GAJERE</b> of Tumu, Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>LEKMUT KOPTIT</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 28th April, 2021. At JUTH, Plateau state.	<b>LEKMUT TWANGDET KOPTIT</b> of Angwan Mission Opp. Police Station Garkawa Mkang LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>LAMI WANKILING BITRUS</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 7th Feb., 2016. At Jos.	<b>BITRUS DAVID KUDAN</b> of Bah Gyel Road Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>JOSEPH DADA AYOLO</b> late of Kogi State, died on the 8th Feb., 2023, at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>EMMANUEL TEMITOPE AYOLO</b> of Kwa Trade Center Kuru, Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>MARGIT HARUNA</b> late of Plateau State, died on th 6th March, 2022, at Gada Biu Jos, Plateau State	<b>MARGIT MATTHEW</b> of No. 50 Angwan Soya, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>YARIMA HARUNA MBUTU</b> late of Kaduna State, died on the 23rd Aug., 2022, at Jos, Plateau State	<b>PAULINA HARUNA YARIMA &amp; HANAN HARUNA YARIMA</b> all of behind Murna Hotel Rukuba Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>GYANG ABEL SOLOMON</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 19th March, 2023, at Abuja, FCT.	<b>SAMUEL KIM GYANG</b> of No. 7A Etobaba Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>EDWARD CHRISTOPHER LOT</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 1st Mach, 2021, at Ibadan.	<b>SUMINBA ESTHER SULE LOT</b> of Flat B120 Ribadu Road, Dodan Barracks Ikoyi Lagos State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>MAKAMA DABUP</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 10th Sept. 2022, at BHUTH Jos, Plateau State.	<b>DABUP WALLAT JOY</b> of St. Joseph's Catholic Church Garkawa, Mikang LGA, Plateau State Lawful sister of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>SAMSON WOPTET</b> late of Plateau State, Died on the 18th July, 2022, at Garkawa, Mikang LGA, Plateau State.	<b>BITRUS SAMSON</b> of Garkawa, Mikang LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>NANMWA JOHN NIMYEL</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 15th Aug., 2022, at Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	<b>WUYEP TELDIR COCIN</b> Church Gusum Lomak, Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>NIMMYEL HANGWANG</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 14th Feb., 2021, At Ugwelli, Delta State.	<b>NANGWANG EMMANUEL &amp; NANGWANG EUGENE TIMZING</b> of Twanghik Tudun Wada, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>JA'AFARU AHMED</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 27th Dec., 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>JA'AFARU CHRISTOPHER AHMED</b> of Diye Zarmaganda, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>BULUS VOU DALYOP</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 11th Aug., 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>BULUS DAVID DALYOP</b> of Jevicho Filing Station, Bauchi Ring Road, Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>HASSAN DANJUMA KUMZING</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 25th July, 2019, at Sabon Gida, Langtang South LGA, Plateau State.	<b>GAMPYAL KUMZING</b> of Sabongida, Langtang South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>FLT. LT. PIYO HENRY PIYO</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 21st Feb., 2021, at Abuja, FCT.	<b>LYOP PIYO</b> of T61B Busa Buji Street, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sister of the said deceased.	<b>SGT. JOHN GYANG</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 26th Feb., 2023, at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>JANG SUNDAY GYANG</b> of Mazaram Top Rayfield, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>GOLU GOKAS</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 29th Dec., 2022, at Gen. Hospital Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	<b>DAKUP GOKAS</b> of Holy Cross Church Pankshin, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>PAUL SIMON</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 2nd Jan., 2023, at OLA Hospital, Jos, Plateau State.	<b>SIMON DESTINY DAVOU</b> of Zawan, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>AWELEWA OLUWAYEMISI ADUFE</b> , late of Oyo State, died on the 4th March, 2020, at NAF Hospital, Jos Plateau State.	<b>AWELEWA OLAKUNLE SULEIMAN</b> of Zone 3 Diye Dahol behind Daisyland Octopedic Hospital Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>ADONDOAVER JOSEPH UKUSU</b> late of Benue State, died on the 23rd May, 2022, at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>UKUSU MAGDALINE</b> of Near Excellent Academy, Sabon Gari Tudun Wada, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>YONGSUK JOSEPH</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 31st April, 2023, at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>TAKFUNAAN YONGSUK &amp; MICHAEL DANLADI</b> of Kwall Quaan Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son Brother of the said deceased.

**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**MAAMBIAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (MACODA)**  
The general public is hereby notified that the above named association has applied to the Cooperate Affairs Commission for the Registration under part "F" of the company and allied matter act, 2020  
**TRUSTEES:**  

- Patron - Longshal David Danjuma
- Chairman - Saliyu Adamu Markus
- Vice Chairman - Maigari Katoon Francis
- Secretary General - Saliyu Naanlong Naanlong
- Assist. Secretary General - Longshal Nyelong Noel
- Financial Secretary - Saliyu Rangnaan Henry
- Treasurer - Abe Akere Roseline
- Welfare Officer - Maigari Afiniki Naanshep
- Public Relation Officer - Maigari Naanshep
- Provost - Longshal Tanko Godfrey

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION:**  
**MACODA** is exclusively a Cultural and Development Association Aimed at Uniting all Maambial sons and daughters, Harnessing and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Maambial People as it relates to welfare of members ("Tal mi"), protecting the interesting of all Maambial sons daughters, fostering the spirit of Educational Advancement and Community Development amongst the Maambial sons and daughters and Ensuring the observance of our Cultural Festival ("Bit Maambial") amongst others.  
 Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General cooperate affairs commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja within 24days of this publication.

**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

**ABUBAKAR**  
I, formerly known as **ABUBAKAR RUKAIYA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR RUKAYYA**. My correct date of birth is 06/09/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

**MAKAMA**  
I, formerly known as **FELICIA ANTHONY TARO & FELICIA MAKAMA BADUNG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FELICIA MAKAMA ANTHONY**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

**Signed**  
**(ANDRAWUS MAIKAI)**  
**PROBATE REGISTRAR**  
**PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS**



# What is Nigeria's priority?



By FRANCISCA ADIDI

THERE is no doubt to the fact that every Nigerian knows that the polity is heated given the fact that the 2023 elections are at the corner and politicians are forming caucus and negotiations are going on in order to bring in good results and to also belong to the credible or profitable platforms.

Nigerians are also aware that the too many problems of Nigeria are glaring. But the leadership is pretending not to see nor is doing enough to find any solutions to ending or reducing them.

The problem started since the previous administration who could not solve it. This present

government came and promised to end corruption and other lingering problems, yet neither the corruption nor the security problem Boko Haram nor banditry have reduced. Rather, the country has become too corrupt that only God will intervene.

It seems that the only language that is understood in Nigeria today is the language of politics. This is because politicians have taken so much and have overshadowed the polity that our leaders do not think of any development both physical and human but only themselves.

In most states, salaries of workers are not paid, while so many infrastructural developments are left undone with bad roads, hospitals unequipped, education neglected, just to mention but few. Yet our leaders complain of lack of funds to fix these sectors.

Surprisingly, today, politicians are buying forms for political offices with millions of Naira, where are all these monies coming from? What is Nigerians priority? Politicians are buying nomination forms with huge sums of money while our children are home waiting for ASUU strike to end. All these actions are proof that to our

politicians, politics is a business rather than rendering service and representation.

Nigerians have reason to ask our politicians how they all got this money to buy nomination forms while so many problems are left unresolved. This is because politicians are promoting class distinction and the use of power, money and position to usurp the various political offices of the nation.

Today, very few poor politicians can win elections in Nigeria. Unless if the poor will write one day and rise against the opinion of the rich, thus very good candidate may never win elections. Our type of politics is driven by money which is in the hands of other people who may not have the qualities but only have the money to buy the power.

Meanwhile, Nigerian universities are closed down. Nigerians did not see the strike coming, with some seeing it as unwarranted, given that Universities have been on and off from ASUU strike and the 2020 Covid-19 shutdown of the country for more than three months.

Nigerians also think that both ASUU and Federal Government



are wrong on this occasion judging by the disposition both displayed in allowing another strike. Also, Nigerian students

are tired of this unending lingering issues between ASUU and the federal government.

The question is, why can't the parties be considerate to the feelings of weary students and their families and the damage the incessant strikes have done on the University system? Why is ASUU not tired with the frequent strikes and disruption of academic activities? And also, why is the federal government so obstinate and unyielding to the demands, of ASUU on ensuring quality education?

We have more of private hospitals, than good government hospitals. The prices of petroleum products is on the increase. Many Nigerians are homeless because of the too many attacks on communities by bandits.

Today, the country is regarded as Africa's country with the

highest unemployment rate. And as a means of surviving, many unemployed adolescents have turned to internet fraud while huge sum of money is in the bags of many politicians.

Nigeria's economy situations is deteriorating every day with the purchasing and selling situation depressing as a result of inflation which is one of the country's great issue.

Nigeria's political leaders have not helped to improve the country's situation for they have a history of engaging in corrupt practices.

It is unfortunate that those who seek to govern Nigeria are made to cough out so much money to purchase forms just to signpost their original intention as persons who see only objective would be to hits recoup their huge investments and to further impotent the citizenry.

Nigeria's priority should be that her citizens live in peace and are comfortable irrespective of where they live.

Adequate measures should be made to ensure that our youth are well placed in all sector of life.



By JENNIFER YARIMA

THERE are certain professions that bring one in close contact with realities of what victims or survivors experience before others get the details. They mostly get first hand information by either witnessing incidences at the scene of occurrence or they are given narration by eye witnesses or survivors themselves. This looks attractive from outside because the public relies on the outcome of findings to be better informed. Some of these categories of people are health personnel, security agencies, Psychologists and Journalists etc.

Recently, yours sincerely was attracted to a lecture I keenly listened to online which highlighted the trauma journalists who report gender based violence go through as they discharge their lawful

duties. It's so good to keep the public well informed about certain things that are happening in the society, but no one understand the stress and pressure you undergo for the celebrated stories. That is to say that one should be mindful not to allow himself to be overworked.

The mental state of someone's well being is necessary towards achieving greater feat in everything one does in life. Health, welfare and emotional stability of the journalist need to be given attention to enable one does the work with ease. Every journalist should endeavor to make regular medical checkup a priority. This if done will help in understanding one's status to enable such a person work within specification. Don't be deceived by the remarks of people who term you a super person, the work is a thankless job. So go slowly and carefully.

Certain stories no doubt get one to think uncontrollably around the event. It didn't happen to you directly but because of your experience, you start thinking differently. It was interesting to note that it's not a weakness for one to say no to a story if your emotion is not strong enough to carry you through. The

challenge here is that a reporter is mostly assigned to a bit or instructed to report an incident. This therefore means that in most cases; it's not optional but a must do work.

In journalism profession, the significance of dateline need not be over emphasized because the editor gives the timeline that certain stories should be given due consideration for publication or to be aired depending on the medium where one works. This development entails that at certain times, one must work under pressure to meet up these datelines. The biggest question however is; what stories get you traumatic?

One is reminded of the much celebrated photojournalists Kevin Carter, whose fame in photography earned him a Pulitzer Prize award that he was globally recognized but it did not go down well with him at the end because he ended up killing himself as a result of the traumatic experience of his work. The agony of the photojournalist emanated when he reported the severe famine in Sudan where many lives were lost and many people struggled for survival.

While covering events that unfolded then, one of his best shots captured by New York

Times on March 26, 1993 captured a vulture waiting for a starving Sudanese girl to die and feast on her carcass. He was celebrated on major news channels and networks world for such an exceptional photographic skill. The readers' reactions were intense and not positive. Some people said the photographer who took the photo was inhumane. That he should have dropped the camera to run to the little girl's aid.

The interesting thing about journalism and the society is the fact that negative stories are best sellers for the public than any other. That of course was probably the driving force that diverted the humanity of Kevin than the thought of rendering immediate help. His depression started when during one of his interviews which he granted, someone asked him what happened to the child, Kevin replied that he didn't find out after the photograph because as he had a flight to catch. They replied him that there were two vultures on that day, one had a camera.

His constant thought of that statement and the gory images he saw almost on daily basis turned out that it took its toll in Carter's case fatally. Carter grew up in

South Africa during apartheid; he became a photojournalist because he felt he needed to document the sickening treatment not only of the blacks by whites but between black ethnic groups as well like those of Xhosas and Zulus.

In a few years, he saw countless murders from beatings, stabbings, gunshots and neck lacing, a barbaric practice in which a tyre filled with oil is placed around the victim's neck and lit on fire. It was evident that even if he had offered to help, the armed Sudanese soldiers wouldn't have allowed him. He talked about the guilt of the people he couldn't save because he photographed them as they were being killed.

To avoid trauma that comes with the stress of the work, experts have suggested some therapy to keep one on the job relevant. You need to know your limit or how far you can go. Disconnect from your normal schedules and do what works for you. Talking to a confidant is a healing balm, sharing your problem with a loved one matters a lot. Of course good time to hang out and have proper rest is of essence.

Celebrating yourself and the work you are doing gives you reason to keep on.



**BY CHIMEZIE GODFREY**

STAKEHOLDERS in the Nigerian environment eco-system, the Vivian Bello Foundation (VBF) and Environmental Friendly Initiative, (EFI), have declared the need for the review of the country's climate credentials.

The stakeholders made their observations known in a joint press statement issued to mark the 2023 World Environment Day (W.E.D) with the theme, "Solutions to Plastic Pollution".

According to the statement, the world environment day is a very suspicious moment for the country to pause and take an intrinsic look at its environment balance sheet/score card as a nation.

It pointed out that with issues bothering Environment/Climate Change taking the front row of priorities for both the United

Nations and virtually all countries across the globe generally, and with the increasingly

huge and potent threat and disruptions climate change continues to pose to all

segments of human existence and endeavors across the board, the priority and urgency

are by no wise misplaced. It recalled that the Paris Agreement came into effect on November 4, 2016. Nigeria, as well as over 195 countries signed unto, an Accord that binds nations to actions that will keep global temperature within 1.5°C, which is imperative to help save the planet from total

destruction from climate-fueled catastrophe.

The statement commended Nigeria's efforts in laying what seems to be good foundations for the tackling of environmental and climate change issues, pointing out that on its own too and leaning largely on the Accord, Nigeria has developed and set out for itself other elaborate environmental and climate goals.

It stated that these goals includes; the National Determined Contribution (NDC), the Climate Change Act 2021, National Council on Climate Change inaugurated in 2022, Net zero 2060 target, the National Policy on Plastic Waste Management ban on single-use plastic from 2028 amongst other national frameworks and policies. It also has a full-fledged Environment ministry, the Department of Climate Change, all seeming to show

the country's commitment to the environment.

"However, commendable as these may appear, a closer examination of steps, actions, and activities in regard to the attainment of the Country's Climate Goals shows not only a wide gap between these Goals and actual actions but to a significant extent, even outright contradictions.

To all intent and purposes, the country has seemed to shun or rather chose to turn a blind eye to the unmitigated perils of Fossils and has shockingly, instead of doubling - down on these, upped the ante by committing billions of naira to explore for fossil fuels in the shores of Chad Basin, commissioning new crude production upstarts in the inlands of States as Nasarawa, Borno, Kogi, Anambra etc in appalling walk-away from both its domestic climate policies and frameworks as well as its international obligations.

"Nigeria has only recently commissioned a fossil refining complex (Dangote Refinery) famed as the biggest in Africa and among the largest in the world.

Many have hailed this crude refinery complex as a great business acumen but in all of it and when the seeming euphoria around it all dies down, the reality that stares all in the face and from which no one can run is that the Climate/Environment takes the hit from it all.

"In both the new crude projects and the existing ones, as well as the upcoming ones combined, billions of Dollars have been invested into

sensitive to policies that would reduce oil demand. This might go far in helping us understand how a country that actively strives to lead West Africa and the rest of the continent in so many other areas, including trade and security, has been mostly quiet on climate actions.

"While other Countries around the world are tediously pushing to exit their economies from dirty fuels and climate-destroying economic,

consumption, living, and business patterns, taking in many cases hard decisions and enacting and strictly enforcing non-compromising environmental and climate-conscious legal instruments, policies, and actions, Nigeria on the other hand, seems to be sleep-walking boldly into climate crisis.

"To be clear, the Theme of this year's WED; #Solutions to Plastic Pollution, is very apt to Nigeria; all plastics originate from petroleum crude. They are largely non-

biodegradable and constitute about the largest source of pollution globally and compromise nature's biodiversity, food security, sanitation, public health, fuel poverty, and conflicts among several other implications it portends.

"Given its root sources and origin, and beyond the efforts at tackling it with recycling and etc, which has only produced very weak results, tackling it from its root, that is, doing away with fossil fuel petroleum crude will ultimately stifle

it's supply breadth-line and steadily bring an end to the crisis of plastic pollution and a healthy planet which is a win-win for all.

"Until this is done particularly by countries such as Nigeria whose government has demonstrated near-zero interest in transitioning the economy to a clean and climate-friendly one, humanity especially in this part of the world will continue to live with not just a continuation, but now amplified climate crisis of massive flooding, relentless draught, food crisis, Sea-level rise, extreme weather conditions amongst others. With the level of contribution that Nigeria is making via fossil fuels to global warming, there's no gainsaying that Nigeria's Climate Credentials need to be re-evaluated," it said.

The stakeholders further explained, "Here in Nigeria, young people's involvement particularly on the theme is also crucial and indispensable to achieving set goals in ending plastic pollution specifically as well as on climate goals generally.

"To this end, we will be mobilizing the School Eco Clubs across Nigeria this Monday, 5 June 2023, and facilitating a "Community Cleanup Plastic Audit" across school communities in Nigeria. This will seek to remove the

country from sitting among the top 20 countries contributing to marine plastic pollution in the world.

"We hope that the new administration will seek to strengthen existing frameworks with the School Eco-Club Community for fruitful engagement and real progress."

Many have hailed this crude refinery complex as a great business acumen but in all of it and when the seeming euphoria around it all dies down, the reality that stares all in the face and from which no one can run is that the Climate/Environment takes the hit from it all.

"In both the new crude projects and the existing ones, as well as the upcoming ones combined, billions of Dollars have been invested into sensitive to policies that would reduce oil demand. This might go far in helping us understand how a country that actively strives to lead West Africa and the rest of the continent in so many other areas, including trade and security, has been mostly quiet on climate actions.

"While other Countries around the world are tediously pushing to exit their economies from dirty fuels and climate-destroying economic,

consumption, living, and business patterns, taking in many cases hard decisions and enacting and strictly enforcing non-compromising environmental and climate-conscious legal instruments, policies, and actions, Nigeria on the other hand, seems to be sleep-walking boldly into climate crisis.

"To be clear, the Theme of this year's WED; #Solutions to Plastic Pollution, is very apt to Nigeria; all plastics originate from petroleum crude. They are largely non-

biodegradable and constitute about the largest source of pollution globally and compromise nature's biodiversity, food security, sanitation, public health, fuel poverty, and conflicts among several other implications it portends.

"Given its root sources and origin, and beyond the efforts at tackling it with recycling and etc, which has only produced very weak results, tackling it from its root, that is, doing away with fossil fuel petroleum crude will ultimately stifle

it's supply breadth-line and steadily bring an end to the crisis of plastic pollution and a healthy planet which is a win-win for all.

"Until this is done particularly by countries such as Nigeria whose government has demonstrated near-zero interest in transitioning the economy to a clean and climate-friendly one, humanity especially in this part of the world will continue to live with not just a continuation, but now amplified climate crisis of massive flooding, relentless draught, food crisis, Sea-level rise, extreme weather conditions amongst others. With the level of contribution that Nigeria is making via fossil fuels to global warming, there's no gainsaying that Nigeria's Climate Credentials need to be re-evaluated," it said.

The stakeholders further explained, "Here in Nigeria, young people's involvement particularly on the theme is also crucial and indispensable to achieving set goals in ending plastic pollution specifically as well as on climate goals generally.

"To this end, we will be mobilizing the School Eco Clubs across Nigeria this Monday, 5 June 2023, and facilitating a "Community Cleanup Plastic Audit" across school communities in Nigeria. This will seek to remove the

country from sitting among the top 20 countries contributing to marine plastic pollution in the world.

"We hope that the new administration will seek to strengthen existing frameworks with the School Eco-Club Community for fruitful engagement and real progress."



## WED: Time for review of Nigeria's climate credentials



them, showing clearly, beyond its lip service and rhetorics of a Green Economy or fighting climate change, where its priorities lie. Nigeria's shyness on the climate front actually illustrates the tensions between solving the climate crisis and developing countries along the "Western" model of resource-intensive economic growth.

"Indeed, Nigeria is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially on

agriculture, coastal flooding, and desertification. Yet its economy is

consumption, living, and business patterns, taking in many cases hard decisions and enacting and strictly enforcing non-compromising environmental and climate-conscious legal instruments, policies, and actions, Nigeria on the other hand, seems to be sleep-walking boldly into climate crisis.

"To be clear, the Theme of this year's WED; #Solutions to Plastic Pollution, is very apt

to Nigeria; all plastics originate from petroleum crude. They are largely non-

biodegradable and constitute about the largest source of pollution globally and compromise nature's biodiversity, food security, sanitation, public health, fuel poverty, and conflicts among several other implications it portends.

"Given its root sources and origin, and beyond the efforts at tackling it with recycling and etc, which has only produced very weak results, tackling it from its root, that is, doing away with fossil fuel petroleum crude will ultimately stifle

it's supply breadth-line and steadily bring an end to the crisis of plastic pollution and a healthy planet which is a win-win for all.

"Until this is done particularly by countries such as Nigeria whose government has

demonstrated near-zero interest in transitioning the economy to a clean and climate-friendly one, humanity especially in this part of the world will continue to live with not just a continuation, but now amplified climate crisis of massive flooding, relentless draught, food crisis, Sea-level rise, extreme weather conditions amongst others. With the level of contribution that Nigeria is making via fossil fuels to global warming, there's no

gainsaying that Nigeria's Climate Credentials need to be re-evaluated," it said.

The stakeholders further explained, "Here in Nigeria, young people's involvement particularly on the theme is also crucial and indispensable to achieving set goals in ending plastic pollution specifically as well as on climate goals generally.

"To this end, we will be mobilizing the School Eco Clubs across Nigeria this Monday, 5 June 2023, and facilitating a "Community Cleanup Plastic Audit" across school communities in Nigeria. This will seek to remove the

country from sitting among the top 20 countries contributing to marine plastic pollution in the world.

"We hope that the new administration will seek to strengthen existing frameworks with the School Eco-Club Community for fruitful engagement and real progress."



# IMAGES

**GOVERNOR MUTFWANG SWEARS-IN SGS, ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
*Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang last week swore-in Secretary to Government of the State, Arc. Samuel Nanchang Jatau and the Attorney General Barr. Philemon Daffi at the Victoria Gowon Multipurpose Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos*



*Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang (left) shaking hands with the Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Abok Nuhu Ayuba and the representative of Chief Judge, Justice Ishaku Kunda*



*Plateau State Deputy, Hon. Josephine Piyo (right) discussing with the PDP State Chairman, Hon. Chris Hassan*



*From left are, Speaker, Abok Nuhu Ayuba, Justice Ishaku Kunda, Grand Khadi Justice Umar Ibrahim Abdullahi, representative of PCCA and the Miskakham Mwaghavul, HRH Da John Putmang Hirse*



*Cross section of some former LGC Chairmen at the ceremony*

## Congratulatory Message

*From*  
**THE PLATEAU STATE SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, JOS**  
**ON THE INAUGURATION AND SWEARING-IN**  
**OF A NEW ADMINISTRATION**



The Members of the Governing Board, Management and entire staff of Plateau State Specialist Hospital, Jos heartily felicitates with His Excellency, **Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinibu (GCFR)**, President and Commander-In-Chief, Federal Republic of Nigeria and **Sen. Kashim Shetima (GCON)**, Vice President, His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, the Executive Governor of Plateau State and **Ngo (Hon) Josephine Piyo**, Deputy Governor, Plateau State on their inauguration and Swearing-In as President/Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Executive Governor/Deputy Governor, Plateau State respectively.

Your Excellencies, your resounding victories at the polls are testimonies that you are the People's Choice and 'the voice of the people is the voice of God'

Our Governor, as you ascend the mantle of leadership of our dear and cherished state, we wish to pledge our unflinching support for the provision of a better and improved specialize healthcare for the people of Plateau State as our Institution has been repositioned in alleviating the health plights of the People on the Plateau and Its environs in that regard.

Your Excellency may wish to be informed that the hospital will soon commence the training of Medical professionals in collaboration with the Plateau State University, Bokokos.

Your Excellency Sir, We pray that you consolidate on the achievements of your predecessor, His Excellency Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong having transformed the hospital to a specialized Healthcare Institution with a world class Radio Diagnostic and Imaging Center.

We wish to use this medium to appreciate the outgoing Governor, and the Members of the State House of Assembly for accenting and gazetting the law establishing the specialist hospital and also actualizing the dream of a world class Radio Diagnostic and Imaging Center.

We remain united in purpose, vision and mission. Through this collective strength and progress, we have nothing to lose but so much more to gain. We ask God to lead His Excellency as he guide us to the promise Land. We pray for a greener plateau and **'THE TIME IS NOW'**

Long Live Plateau State Specialist Hospital!  
 Long Live Plateau State!!  
 Long Live Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

Signed:  
**Talatu Achan Angi ANIPR**  
 For: Management  
 Plateau State Specialist Hospital





Odd World

# Spine-chilling recording catches 'ghost crying for help'

GHOST hunters in Ireland claim that they've recorded the voice of a tortured spirit begging for help.

They said they caught a ghoul at 12th-century Lackeen Castle near Abbeville in Co Tipperary calling out: "Help me."

The group, Paranormal Awakenings Ireland, believes it's the first-ever audio recording of a ghost in Ireland.

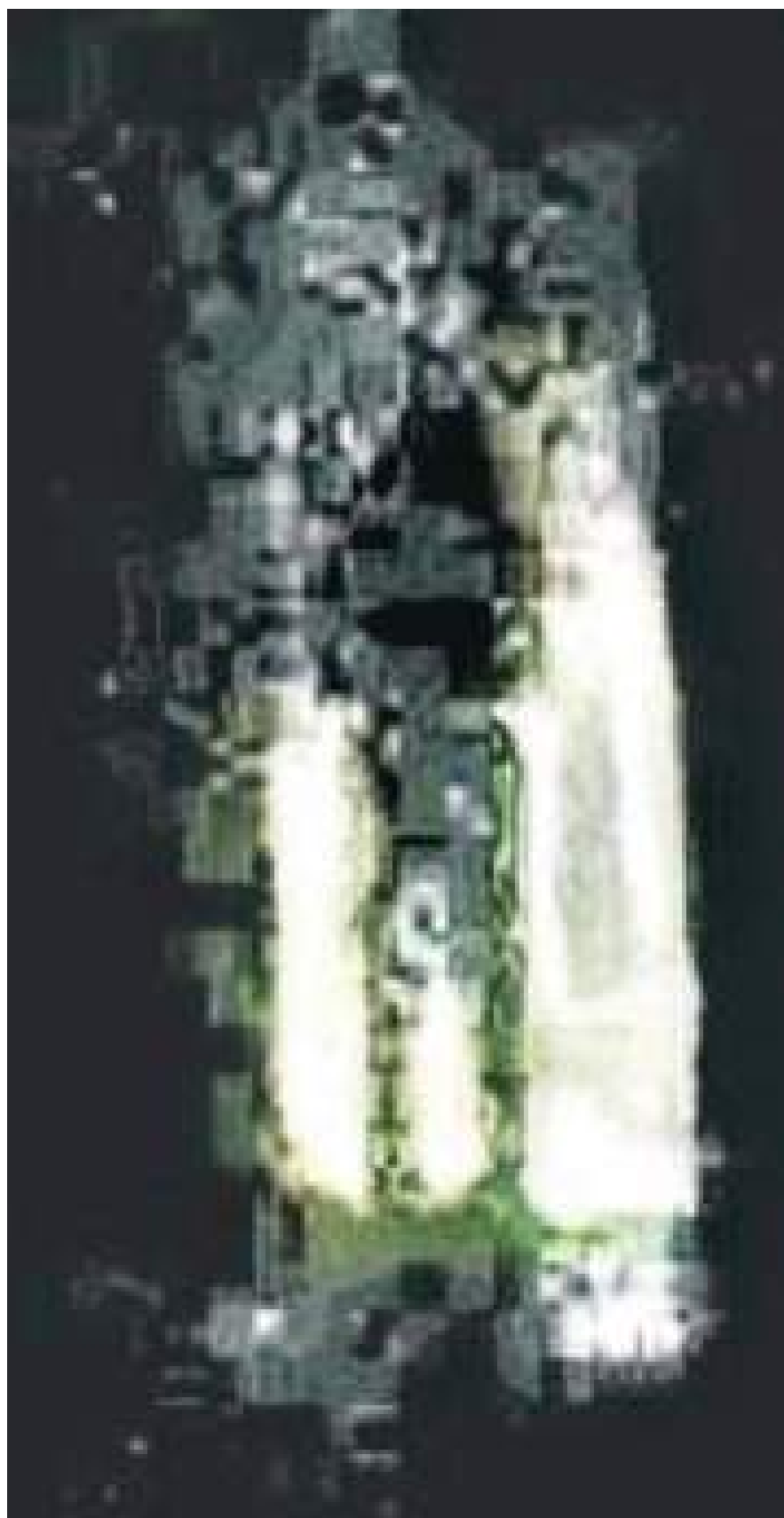
PJ Kavanagh, 63, who made the recording with teammate Philip Costello said it was so rare an "American paranormal society, which includes sceptics, ARE dedicating a podcast to it."

The video was recorded on a camcorder's night-vision mode on May 26.

The ancient building, also known as O'Kennedy Castle, was rebuilt in the 16th century. It was owned by Irish chieftain Brian Ua Cinneide Fionn, who died in 1588.

A famous religious 9th-century manuscript called the Stowe Missal – which is a small Mass book of the early Irish Church – was found there and may have been written at the spot, according to the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin.

Source: The Mirror



SMS Only: 08111186564. E-mail: wolfcatcher2004@yahoo.co.uk

## When the media is muzzled

LAST week, the Russian government went for the arrest of a television journalist Marina Ovsyannikova for allegedly carrying out a grievous offence against her country. Even though she left the country after authorities put her on wanted list, the defiant journalist under the protection of a European state has continued to stick to her guns on her stance over the ongoing war in Ukraine. Before Ovsyannikova fled, she was placed under house arrest even as Russia is still insisting on her prosecution over allegations of distribution of information deemed false by the government.

Trouble started for Ovsyannikova after she staged an on-air protest over the ongoing war on Ukraine by her country. The journalist who was the former Editor at Channel One last March busted into the studio during a TV broadcast with a placard reading "Stop the war" and "They are lying to you".

Should the journalist be convicted, she will at least spent the next 10 years of her life in prison. For many who have not been following unfolding developments, some months back, Russia's President Vladimir Putin had unjustifiably invaded neighboring Ukraine against international laws and justified such a move.

Even as the global community was trying to come to terms with Russia's recent move against this journalist, a state in northern Nigeria also launched an attack against some media organizations including the Nigeria Television Authority, (NTA) and Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, (FRCN) over what was described by stakeholders as the highest degree of unprofessional conduct ever imagined. Giving reasons for the closure, the Zamfara State government had alleged that these media organizations violated its provisions of the law and should be disciplined as such.

It's no longer news that media organizations in the world have in recent times been subjected to one form of intimidation or another. Just recently, an Aljazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh on assignment in Jenin in the occupied West Bank was killed by Israeli forces while performing her lawful obligations. Another Al Jazeera journalist, Ali al -Samoudi was also wounded by a bullet in the back at the sene.

According to the Committee to Protecting Journalists, about 34 journalists have been killed so far in 2022. Many others have also been attacked and wounded or found themselves in unpleasant situations while carrying out their legitimate work.

In Africa, unwarranted attacks on media organizations and journalists have been more pronounced in recent years. Even in practicably democratic nations of the continent, the media and journalists are not tolerated by the powers that be.

In most cases, media organizations and journalists are not accommodated by these leaders owing to the fact that many of them do not want their acts of personal aggrandizement and misrule be highlighted for people to see. For record purposes, of the many media organizations and journalists unjustifiably sanctioned and or incarcerated, leaders of such nation states have not for once been condemned for carrying out any of such brutal acts.

Some days back, while lamenting over the precarious conditions media organizations and journalists in developing nations of the world are going through, a friend of mine confident in me that such deliberate sanctions are deliberately employed by our leaders to muzzle the media from performing its constitutional roles. Most of these leaders who have no clue of transparent leadership and self centered are

convinced that they are above the laws of the land.

While many of them patronize the media during campaigns, most of them think that the operational activities of the media ends after they win their elections. It is therefore in their ideology that the press which is regarded as the fourth estate of the realm lacks obligatory mandate to supervise and monitor activities of the political class.

Thus, the hostile trending disposition of our political leaders and their consistent hostility towards the media and journalists has kept many issues away from public glare. For the fact that there are continuous problems of misinformation and lack of public understanding of government policies and programmes; this situation goes a long way in suggesting the fact that the media has unabatedly been muzzled and not allowed to perform its constitutional responsibility.

Evidently, the systematic backwards experienced in Nigeria today could be attributed to the way and manner media organizations and journalists are negatively treated in this country. When human rights are violated, the media is looked upon as a voice for the voiceless. Each and every time there is a disaster, the media is seen as the only tool anticipated to disseminate sufficient undiluted information to garner support for vulnerable victims. The media has also continued to play its role in the sustenance of democracy and ensuring that dividends of democracy are equally shared amongst the multifaceted and heterogenous communities in the country.

In terms of good governance which we are all desperately yearning for, it is only an independent media that can monitor and supervise the behavioral attitude of our political class to ensuring better comprehensive attitudinal change in our society. Since this same media and journalists fought for the liberation from the shackles of colonialism of many countries of the world securing democratic principles, any enemy of press freedom is not a friend to our global comity of nations.

This is the more reason why journalists should and or must be respected owing to the obvious fact that they have continued to sacrifice their all for the betterment of our society. Consequently, it's high time the media and its practitioners are provided an enabling environment for them to contribute to the betterment of our global community.

In this case, we must all rise in condemnation of acts of brutality and disrespect accorded media practitioners wherever they find themselves. If we intend to create a more civilized communities and establish nations based on good governance, the media must be respectively acknowledged and given the opportunity to play its constitutional role.

Practicably seeing the unending negative unfolding developments as regards unpleasant treatments meted vulnerable journalists across the world, stakeholders must begin to sanction countries that deliberately embark on unwarranted attacks against media organizations and journalists. Its high time stakeholders in the media industry also begin to hold political leaders to account on how they have unconstitutionally muzzled the media the world over.

Since we all agree that the media and journalists have sacrificed a lot towards transforming our respective societies for the better, we must also do the best we can towards protecting journalists and encourage them do their work efficiently. The bottom-line however is, nobody should be allowed to muzzle journalists as their expected obligations are aimed at transforming nations of the world for the better.



## View Point

## Removal of oil subsidy: Tightening the noose around our neck

By OBOLI AUGUSTINE

Crude oil, the black gold was first discovered in Nigeria, in the rural community of Oloibiri, present Baysa State in 1956. Before this interesting find, Nigeria knew Cocoa, Oil Palm, Cotton, and Rubber as major export tree crops and foreign exchange earners. However, like a jinni, the spill of oil from the earth of Oloibiri changed everything. There was a lot of money to be made from oil and everybody started talking about oil. The Cocoa, Cotton, Palm, and Rubber farmers all wanted a bite because oil was booming. They abandoned the trade they have been into for decades and so everything become an oil business, no pun intended.

Yes, oil business indeed.- because oil is one commodity that touches nearly every aspect of daily life. Petroleum products are used to propel vehicles, heat buildings, and produce electricity. In the petrochemical industry petroleum is used as a raw material (a feedstock) to make products such as plastics, polyurethane, solvents, and hundreds of other intermediate and end-user goods.

And you wonder, what life was like without oil? Perhaps the same question my son has had cause to ask: Daddy how did you live before the invention of cell phone and social media? My usual response is that people in every stage of human development have a way of making meaning and finding purpose and satisfaction with whatever life presents.

But beyond the facade of my answer, every new invention creates its demand and has an uncanny way of making itself an essential of life. And without which life may be hard, uninspiring, and meaningless.

This is the situation of Petroleum with the Nigerian citizenry nay people elsewhere. It revolves around any and everything critical to our daily lives. Invariably, whenever anything happens to the supply or cost of petrol, it reverberates in other sectors of the economy. The market woman and the man on the street feel it because of the linkage between their activities and petroleum. For instance, the market woman buys commodities from the farmer directly or the middlemen, this commodity is transported from the farm to be sold and an increase in the price of petrol will also reflect on the transportation charge which the farmer will pass on to the market woman who in turn does the same to the buyers. The buyer who is a service provider, say, a barber or car mechanic will also pass the burden to his clients, therefore it becomes vertiginous and uncontrollable.

A single action on the repricing of petrol has had unintended consequences and impacted everything and everybody.

Aware of the critical place of petroleum in national development as a foreign exchange earner and engine



Tinubu

for domestic economic growth and development, the Nigerian government introduced an oil subsidy to cushion the effect of rising global oil prices in the 1970s. Defined as a sum of money granted by the state or a public body to help an industry or business keep the price of a commodity or service low, a subsidy is not a bad thing in itself. It is the abuse that surrounds the process and implementation that is the problem. With the level of corruption brought into it, the dominant argument is that subsidy is a scam and a crime against the Nigerian people. A valid proposition to a large extent but then it is a crime of the elites against the masses. They get cheap money in the process while the average Nigerian suffers because it is befuddlingly to hear that we don't have accurate data on daily oil consumption in Nigeria. Concocted figures are churned out for subsidy to be paid. How tragic!

But isn't confusing and deceptive that the same elites represented in various governments are the ones fighting to remove or oppose the removal of oil subsidies at different times? Altruism? Unsustainability? No, the issue of subsidy is more than meets the eye. The elites don't have anybody's interest. It is the elites' class war between the beneficiaries of the subsidy scam and those left in the wood: a clear case of if we can't

all have it nobody will.

Many reasons have been advanced to justify the removal of oil subsidies. Some of them are to free funds to develop other sectors of the economy and to deregulate the upstream sector of the oil industry to be able to attract private investors to the business. Permit me to quickly run through the history of subsidy removal in Nigeria in the last three decades. General Ibrahim Babangida has an inglorious record of being the first on the subsidy removal train. Within five years, he removed subsidies in various degrees to increase the pump price of petrol. He started in 1986, and 1988, and did it twice in 1989 and 1991 shortly before he bowed out. Chief Ernest Shonekan who headed the interim government as if borrowing from his benefactor did it in 1993 before he was sacked by General Sani Abacha, who also increased fuel prices twice in 1994. When he passed, his successor General Abdulsalami Abubakar copied his template. He also increased the price in 1998. General Olusegun Obasanjo also increased the price in 2000 and 2002. The showdown with labour over the increase was what made Adams Oshiomole, the Nigeria Labour Congress leader then, a national figure and a household name. I can recollect how he scaled the fence of NTA channel 10 in Area 11, Abuja, to

make the point that the increase was unacceptable to the Nigerian masses. Well, times have changed. He is now on the other side with our traducers.

In 2012 President Ebele Jonathan attempted what he has learned from the oracles before him. Nigeria stood still as it was occupied by now President Tinubu, Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, Pastor Tunde Bakare, and co for two weeks. Then came President Mohammed Buhari who had campaigned vigorously that subsidy is a scam and alien as it never was when he was the Petroleum Minister in the 70s. Yet he subsidized petroleum in what was called under-recovery. He increased fuel prices in 2016 and another silent one in late 2021.

That was the story until May 29, 2023. While the previous efforts were minor adjustments, the inauguration pronouncement by President Bola Tinubu was like a knife through our throats. Still smarting and unsettled by the hardships of Buharinomics, the over two hundred percent increase in the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit tantamounts to tightening the noose around our neck.

Admitted that there may not be budgetary provisions for subsidy as inherited by the new leader, there could have been a better way to proceed. Dropping the bomb on us is certainly not an element of the Renewed Hope promised. Hopelessness now rules the land. We have been called to court hardship while anguish, pain, and suffering ravage the weakest and most vulnerable amongst us.

Why do our leaders always start with a faltering step? Buhari came into power with the best spell of public support and started on the wrong note. The proponents claimed that his intentions were good and that they may be initial pains, reminding us that cries may only endure for the night while joy will come by the day. Buhari has come and gone, and we are not better than

we were eight years ago. Things even got worse for most of us.

Now, the sing-song is that Tinubu meant well. We should tighten the belt and enjoy it later. But they seem to be missing something, you must live through today to contemplate tomorrow. In Nigeria, most of us are not living the life, we are merely existing.

By the last estimate filling up my car on an empty tank will gulp a whopping sum of forty-five thousand nairas at the current rate. And the last time I checked the minimum wage in Nigeria is still thirty thousand naira which many state governors have refused to pay. Imagine what a commercial cab operator will charge the passengers after paying so much to fill up the car tank. As a consequence of the subsidy removal, prices of everything essential to life have gone up to over two hundred percent in response to the fuel hike. In some places, prices tripled. Just a few days since the hike prices of foodstuffs and other basic needs have soared to high heavens. The impact and shock waves came wide and strong. It is indeed hard times.

Spin doctors have been in overdrive to convince us that the over four hundred billion nairas to be saved from this enterprise will be channeled into improving the national sick child - 'tertiary education' and rebuilding the collapsing infrastructures across the land to boot. Sounds nice and even romantic. But the sense of deja vu is all too real. We have heard this for the umpteenth time. The little that was done before, how well were the accrued monies utilized? Is it not simply taking from Paul to satisfy Peter? Won't the corruption that crippled the subsidy regime not move over to the utilization of the saved funds, knowing that corruption is endemic in our land? We have seen in the recent past where recovered Abacha loot was re-looted. It is a proven fact that defeating corruption in Nigeria is a will - o - the - wisp.

In civilized climes, subsidies are applied to agricultural and other productive sectors critical to national development. However, if oil subsidy in Nigeria is inflicted with corruption and has outlived its usefulness, it should truly be done away with for Nigeria to forge ahead. But the process has to be measured, structured, planned, and staggered. The current approach is counterproductive and has not gone down with the people even those who fervently believed that it is the right way to go.

The pronouncement was not carefully thought through, since the government is now found on the back foot and reactionary when it should be proactive. Perhaps there should have been some social safety nets put in place to ameliorate the anticipated effect of the petroleum price hike.

For anybody caught in the economic limbo occasioned by the removal of the oil subsidy, the bottom line is what the Tinubu administration has in stock to cushion the hardship. Thus, we urge the new government to put the thinking cap and figure out a way out through a delicate balance, because the fundamental purpose of government is to attend to the needs and welfare of the people, give succor and hope, and not create suffering.

**"In civilized climes, subsidies are applied to agricultural and other productive sectors critical to national development. However, if oil subsidy in Nigeria is inflicted with corruption and has outlived its usefulness, it should truly be done away with for Nigeria to forge ahead. But the process has to be measured, structured, planned, and staggered. The current approach is counterproductive and has not gone down with the people even those who fervently believed that it is the right way to go."**



News

# Our lives are in danger

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

ALHAJI Muazu Zabira, one of the business tycoons in Sokoto State has cried foul following series of violent attacks on properties and lives of residents of Kano.

In a chat with the Correspondents Chapel, recently, Zabira said their lives are in danger considering the number of attacks on them and their properties by APC thugs in the state.

Zabira, who is one of the PDP chieftains in Sokoto revealed that APC stalwarts attacked his mall six times right from the moment APC was announced as the winner

of the 2023 general elections in Sokoto.

He further averred that despite reports made to D S S , P o l i c e Commissioner, Civil Defense, no active security action was taken to safeguard their lives and properties.

He said despite the advice by the security to leave the state for some days, that did not solve the organized vandalism on his personality, District Head of Wamakko and host of others.

"The stalwarts/thugs numbering over one hundred on motorcycles and motor cars storm the areas intending to harm

-Business mogul

myself and those around me at around seven o'clock in the evening.

"Now I am telling the security agencies who failed in performing their duty and the APC chieftains, we can do and undo. We are only following the provision of law, but as you failed we shall not sit back when next it happens," he affirmed.

He said he is a human being and has the right of security like every other Nigerian.

Zabira said among other things vandalized were motor cars, mall grasses and several other things.

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

A chieftain of All Progressives Congress (APC) and gubernatorial Aspirant in Bauchi, Alhaji Sani Al \_Ameen has urged President Bola Ahmed Tinubu , to appoint immediate past Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Tetfund), Professor Sulaiman Elias Bogoro as education minister when forming his cabinet.

Sani Al'ameen made the remark in a press statement made available to journalists in Bauchi recently, where he explained that Professor Bogoro, performed creditably well when he served as

## Appoint Bogoro as education minister- APC chieftain



Tinibu

the executive secretary of the Tetfund. He pointed out that he is capable of addressing the lingering problems of the education sector.

The APC Chieftain advised President Bola Tinubu to appoint competent people such as Professor Bogoro to serve in his administration, hence he was tested and trusted with national responsibility in the past and had succeeded.

While congratulating President Tinubu on his inauguration as president, he expressed optimism that Nigeria would be great if Tinubu's plans of working with experts and technocrats are "religiously and meticulously" implemented, Al'ameen said.

He said that the country is facing myriads of challenges such as high level of insecurity, poor and nose-diving economy, derelict infrastructure, youth unemployment and hydra-headed corruption among others that require urgent and decisive actions.

According to Alhaji Al'ameen, Nigeria is facing setback in education, health care, adding that almost all critical sectors are rotten.

The APC chieftain however, said, "with experts and technocrats like Bogoro, they can offer their best to correct the woes of the past".

Al'ameen who said that Nigeria is endowed with

adequate human resources that can turn her fortunes around, insisted that the president should select the best hands to enable his administration deliver.

While describing Bogoro as an "intellectual colossus and untarnished technocrat", Alhaji Al'ameen said his footprints on the sands of public service remain irreversible.

He said Prof Bogoro has not only provided inspiring moments of irrevocable commitment to hard work but his life epitomises nationalism and patriotism across various divides that define the Nigerian state.

According to him, Prof Bogoro is a study in unfathomable humility and unrivalled intellectual prowess in providing leadership. He added that he never looks back once his hands are put to the plough.

Alhaji Al'ameen who recalled that Prof Bogoro was appointed as the Executive Secretary of TETFund by former President Goodluck Jonathan in 2014, said he was later relieved of his appointment by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016.

"His brief absence at TETFund abruptly came to an end when he was returned to the Fund where he was later nicknamed 'father of Research and Development' by the APC

## 'Collaborate with stakeholders to curb challenges in education'

COLLABORATION of stakeholders in the education sector remains one of the critical factors for curbing the menace of out-of-school children in far northern Nigeria.

Alhaji Muhammadu Ilyasu-Bashar, the Emir of Gwandu in Kebbi State stated this during a courtesy call by TESS Foundation, a non government organization

From ANENE AIKE, Birnin Kebbi

at Abdullahi Fodio Palace, Birnin Kebbi recently.

The Emir said that the collaboration would not only reduce the number of out-of-school children but would also aid in strengthening the education sector

He gave the assurance that the foundation is

ready to extend necessary support and co-operation to achieve its set goals and objectives while commending the foundation for its efforts in uplifting the standard of education in Northern part of the country.

Earlier in his address, the leader of the delegation, Malam Abubakar Abdussalam,

told the Emir that they were in his palace to seek royal blessings and support to move the education sector forward.

He said the essence of the foundation was to provide assistance to students in the North western states of Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Katsina, Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara, to gain quality education.

## Menstrual Hygiene Day: NAWOJ gifts free pads

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

A large number of women and adolescent girls have enjoyed free sanitary pads from the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) Bauchi State chapter as part of activities to mark this year's Menstrual

Hygiene Day in the state.

The sanitary pads were distributed free to the beneficiaries by Bauchi NAWOJ in partnership with a Non Governmental Organization known as PLAN International.

The day which was celebrated on 28th May of every year was aimed to celebrate women and girls and to highlight its importance.

Speaking during the distribution exercise in Dan Iya Ward of Bauchi Local Government Area of the state, Chairperson of NAWOJ, Rashida Yusuf unfolded the importance of sanitary hygiene in the life of women and girl-child.

She encouraged husbands and fathers to be involved in the life of their women and give them the necessary support in tackling challenges faced by girls during their menstrual flow.

A resource person with PLAN International, Zainab Sabitu while giving a talk on menstrual hygiene, listed factors that can affect aspects of a girl's life during the period.

She said girls miss school during their periods due to lack of facilities or necessary supplies to keep them clean.

Saying her dignity is affected as she suffers from discomfort, as she endures shame from friends and as a result, her participation in school

is affected. One of the beneficiaries, 18 year old Aisha, appreciated NAWOJ for the gesture.

According to her, her period started when she was 15 years, expressing delight that she doesn't experience heavy flow or dysmenorrhea.

In his remarks, the Dan Iya of Bauchi Emirate, Suleiman. A. Bashir, commended NAWOJ and PLAN International for bringing the programme to his community.

He called on parents to be particular in counseling their daughters on menstrual hygiene, adding that cleanliness is next to godliness.

In her vote of thanks, Asama'u Mohammed appreciated the women journalists for the enlightenment and promised to step it down to those that were not in attendance.

She noted that the lessons learned will go a long way in addressing major difficulties faced by girls during their menstrual periods.



Mohammed



## Sports



*The story of a golden era for tennis*

### How a generation of tennis players changed the world

A new BBC documentary series - Gods of Tennis - takes viewers back to the 1970s and 1980s to explore how a generation of megastars truly put the sport on the map.

Over the course of two decades, players such as Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Billie Jean King, Arthur Ashe, Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova became tennis' first major celebrities.

Tracy Austin, who won the US Open in 1979 aged just 16, remembers Borg being treated by fans as if he were one of the Beatles.

Commercial success followed, and some players used their increased profile to help drive social change.

Austin describes Ashe and King as "incredible champions" but adds what they did off the court was "probably bigger".

Across three hour-long episodes, Gods of Tennis speaks to the players who were there.

Here are just a few takeaways...

In 1973, Ashe was the first black professional to play in the South African Championships. It came at a time when the country was still under Apartheid rule.

Ashe, who grew up under segregation in Virginia in the United States, made his participation contingent on one stipulation.

"He demanded the tournament had to be integrated," says South African author Mark Mathabane.

For the first time in South African history, Mathabane adds, black people were able to play and spectate at the tournament.

Ashe may have been beaten in the final by fellow American Jimmy Connors, but to Mathabane he was the real winner.

"He made numberless black people in South Africa realise Apartheid is based on a lie," he says.

Already a US Open winner by that stage, Ashe went on to win the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

When Billie Jean King won the 1972 US Open, her prize money was \$10,000. The men's champion - Ilie Nastase - took home \$25,000.

The following year, King formed the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), with a mission to achieve equal pay.

Later in 1973 came an unlikely episode in that campaign - a bizarre, one-off match known as 'The Battle of

The Sexes' in which King, 29, took on 55-year-old former men's world number one (and self-proclaimed male chauvinist) Bobby Riggs.

Austin told BBC Sport it "wasn't just a tennis match, it became an event around the world".

In the build-up to the televised match, Riggs made it plain he felt women were inferior to men. King saw him off in straight sets.

Briton Sue Barker, who would later win the French Open, recalls how important it felt. She remembers her coach calling to say: "Your hobby has just become a career."

Later that year, the US Open introduced equal pay for male and female players. The Australian Open began offering equal prize money in 1984, but reversed that decision in 1996, then again in 2001. The French Open and Wimbledon introduced parity in 2007.

The series shows how Borg became tennis' first pin-up in the 1970s.

Towards the end of the decade, though, a perfect foil for the smooth Swede emerged in the form of brash American McEnroe.

The New Yorker became infamous for his on-court outbursts.

"Every time he played a match at Wimbledon, he was basically going against the decorum of the event," says Austin.

In 1981, McEnroe yelled the immortal words "you cannot be serious!" after umpire Edward James called a ball out. It became a catchphrase.

McEnroe admits in the series he felt "misunderstood" at the time.

"I knew I was right," he says. "But they wouldn't say 'look, I missed it, sorry' just once."

Borg won 11 Grand Slam singles titles before retiring at the age of 26. McEnroe retired with seven to his name.

Chris Evert v Martina Navratilova was an era-defining rivalry for women's tennis.

Navratilova won nine Wimbledon singles titles and 167 singles titles overall on tour - both of which are records.

Despite those achievements, she was "always searching for people to love her and understand her", according to rival Evert.

Navratilova was born in Prague but defected to the United States.

She came out as bisexual in 1981 - months after King was publicly outed - and has since identified as a lesbian.

The emotion of it all came to the fore at the US Open final that year, when the crowd gave Navratilova a standing ovation as she received her runners-up medal.

Northern Ireland's Tom McKibbin has won his first DP World Tour title with a two-shot victory at the European Open in Hamburg.

The 20-year-old carded a three-under-par 70 to finish nine under and beat home hopes Maximilian Kieffer and Marcel Siem, with France's Julien Guerrier also finishing on seven under.

McKibbin started the day in a six-way tie for the lead but seized the initiative in the final round with birdies at the fourth, seventh and ninth holes.

A wayward drive at the par-five 11th spelled a bogey and he dropped another shot at the par-four 13th.

He got lucky at the par-five 15th when his second narrowly avoided the water, allowing him to get up and down for a birdie.

The Hollywood man closed out the win in style with a birdie at the par-five 18th.

"It's pretty amazing, yes, it's been a good day," McKibbin told Sky Sports.

"I was in a good group with Jordan [Smith] and David [Law] so it was pretty nice. It was just nice to go out there and put a really, really nice round together."

"I've learnt that I am good enough to win. I always thought I was but to prove it today was pretty special."

"I guess I have learnt a lot from failures and missing cuts by a shot and just missing things ever so slightly. So to take all of those things that I have learnt and to put them into play tonight was really nice."

"It will probably not sink in until tomorrow. To have my dad here, he comes most weeks, is pretty special. To win in front of him is pretty amazing."

Tour rookie McKibbin started the week ranked 335th in the world, his previous best finish on the DP World Tour being a tie for 10th.

He graduated from the Challenge Tour in November and had shown signs of form last week with a top-25 finish at the KLM Open in the Netherlands, ending a run of three missed cuts.

"I didn't cry because I lost the match," says Navratilova. "I cried because I felt accepted. I always wanted to belong and now I'm a citizen and I'm gay and they're still clapping."



## JOS NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

### Notice of Revocation of ownership titles on properties located at all the Jos North Local Government Council Layout.

Jos North Local Government Council has viewed with concern the level at which the layout allocated 5 - 10 years ago has suffered major neglect and abandonment of which the refusal to develop these plots by the allottees has hampered the entire areas from enjoying the basic social infrastructural services.

The allottees have not been paying the annual ground rent as at when due.

In view of the above therefore, the council is by this notice revoking all undeveloped plots in its whole layout.

All C of O, R of O and other titles of the undeveloped plots stand revoked with effect from Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

Signed:

**METHEW YOILA SHIKAM**

(Land Officer)

For: Chairman,

Jos North Local Government Council

## ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION RE: YAKUBU GOWON FOUNDATION

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-up of the above named Organization by the Federal High Court, Jos Division, was on the 18th day of May, 2023 presented to the said Court by Counsel to the Petitioner, Ada Akonani Esq. And that the said Petition is directed to be advertised and sat down for mention before the Court sitting at High Court 1, Federal High Court, Jos, on the 28th day of June, 2023; and any creditor or contributory of the said Organization desirous to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time in person or by his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any Creditor or contributory of the said Organization requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Signed:

**Ada Akonani Esq.**

Address: No. 4B Barracks Road, Jos.

**Note:-** Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any), and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than 48 working hours before the date the petition is for mention in Court.



## Sports

### Seven punished over racism against Real Madrid player



Vinicius Jr singled out those responsible for the racial slurs at Valencia during the game

Seven people have been punished for acts of racism towards Real Madrid's Brazil forward Vinicius Jr.

Four men were fined 60,001 euros (£51,700) and given a two-year stadium ban for hanging an effigy of Vinicius near Real's training ground in January.

The four men were arrested 11 days ago and released on bail by a Madrid court.

Three other people were fined 5,000 euros (£4,300) and banned for one year for making racist gestures during Real's game at Valencia on 21 May.

Those three are aged between 18 and 21, the police said, and were detained two days after the game.

The sanctions were given by Spain's State Commission against Violence, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Sport, said the country's Sports Commission on Monday.

Vinicius, whose red card for violent conduct late in the Valencia match was rescinded, later said the Spanish league "belongs to racists".

La Liga president Javier Tebas and the league's handling of the incident was

widely condemned after he told Vinicius on social media that "you need to inform yourself properly".

Tebas later apologised to Vinicius, saying he did not mean to "attack" the 22-year-old.

The Brazilian government called for severe sanctions against those responsible for the racial slurs and La Liga said it will seek "more sanctioning powers" to ensure it can punish such incidents.

Brazil will play friendlies against Guinea and Senegal in Lisbon on 17 and 20 June, as part of an anti-racism campaign.

Tottenham Hotspur have appointed Ange Postecoglou as their new manager on a four-year contract.

The 57-year-old leaves Celtic after winning successive Scottish Premiership titles in his two seasons in charge.

He is Spurs' fourth permanent manager since Mauricio Pochettino led them to the Champions League final in 2018-19, following Jose Mourinho, Nuno Espirito Santo and Antonio Conte.

"We are excited to have Ange join us," said Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy.

"Ange brings a positive mentality and a fast, attacking style of play. He has a strong track record of developing players and an understanding of the importance of the link from the academy - everything that is important to our club," he added.

Spurs have been searching for a new manager since Conte's departure in March, with Cristian Stellini and then Ryan Mason taking charge on an interim basis.

Postecoglou - the first Australian to manage in the Premier League - arrives at Tottenham after winning a domestic treble in Scotland, where he has claimed five of the six trophies available to Celtic during his two campaigns

### Postecoglou leaves Celtico to become new Spurs Manager



Postecoglou

with the club.

He is one of only five managers - along with Jock Stein, Martin O'Neill, Brendan Rodgers and Neil Lennon - to secure a domestic clean sweep with Celtic.

"It has been a pleasure working with Ange, a great football manager and a good man. He has served the club with such energy and determination and delivered a phenomenal level of success," Celtic chief executive Michael Nicholson said.

"Of course, we wanted Ange to stay at Celtic and while there is real disappointment we are losing him, he has decided he wants to look at a new challenge, which we respect."

Spurs have spent 10 weeks searching for Conte's successor, with Julian Nagelsmann, Luis Enrique, Arne Slot, Graham Potter, Julen Lopetegui, Rodgers and Pochettino all linked with the role at some point.

Since losing 2-0 against Liverpool in the 2019 Champions League final, they have claimed just one top-four finish in the subsequent four seasons.

Postecoglou is no stranger to arriving at a club facing a significant task though, having taken over Celtic in the summer of 2021 after they had finished the season 25 points behind champions Rangers.

When he arrived at Celtic, chief executive Peter Lawwell had been replaced by Dominic McKay, Nick Hammond stepped down as head of football operations and long-serving captain Scott Brown left to join Aberdeen.

There are several similarities as he walks through the door at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, with chairman Levy searching for a new sporting director following the exit of Fabio Paratici, who resigned after losing his appeal against a 30-month ban from football.

Addressing the uncertainty surrounding the future of striker Harry Kane - with Real Madrid showing interest in the England captain - will be high on the agenda this summer as the new manager looks to shape a squad capable of taking Tottenham back into the Champions League.

Postecoglou's playing career was spent in Australia, primarily with South Melbourne, where he played under Ferenc Puskas, the legendary Hungarian to whom he attributes his coaching philosophy.

He stepped into management in 1996 with South Melbourne before winning back-to-back A-League titles with Brisbane Roar between 2009 and 2012.

After a season with Melbourne Victory he became manager of Australia in 2013 and guided his country to the 2014 World Cup as well as victory in the 2015 Asian Cup.

Further silverware followed during his time in Japan with Yokohama F Marinos, where he ended the club's 15-year wait for a J-League title in 2019.

Few in Scotland knew much about Postecoglou when Celtic appointed their new manager two years ago, but after initially struggling he delivered five trophies across two seasons.

### Para-cycling World Cup: Brown & Graham win gold

Britain claimed seven medals, including two golds, on the final day of racing at the Para-cycling Road World Cup.

Fran Brown and Fin Graham both followed up time trial wins earlier in the event in Alabama, USA, with victory in Monday's road races.

Graham beat team-mate Ben Watson into second place in the men's C3 event, while GB's Jaco van Gass was fifth.

Brown was the only rider in the women's C1 event, finishing in one hour 49 minutes 18 seconds.

Britain narrowly missed out on a clean sweep of the men's C3 medals after Van Gass was edged out in a four-way sprint for third-place. Spain's Eduardo Santas Asensio claimed bronze.

Three other British riders won silver. Morgan Newberry finished second behind New Zealand's Nicole Murray in the women's C5, while time-trial gold medallist Daphne Schragger just missed out on adding the women's C2 road title after losing to Switzerland's Flurina Rigling in a sprint finish.

Steve Bate and pilot Chris Latham claimed their second silver medal of the meeting after losing a tight battle with the Netherlands tandem pair of Tristan

Bangma and Patrick Bos in the men's B road race.

William Bjergfelt completed Monday's medal haul for the British team with bronze in the men's

C5.

The GB riders will be back in action next at the UCI Cycling World Championships in Glasgow, which run 3-13 August.



Double Paralympic silver medallist Fin Graham also won the men's C3 time trial in Alabama



# Sports



The story of a golden era for tennis

## How a generation of tennis players changed the world

A new BBC documentary series - Gods of Tennis - takes viewers back to the 1970s and 1980s to explore how a generation of megastars truly put the sport on the map.

Over the course of two decades, players such as Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Billie Jean King, Arthur Ashe, Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova became tennis' first major celebrities.

Tracy Austin, who won the US Open in 1979 aged just 16, remembers Borg being treated by fans as if he were one of the Beatles.

Commercial success followed, and some players used their increased profile to help drive social change.

Austin describes Ashe and King as "incredible champions" but adds what they did off the court was "probably bigger".

Across three hour-long episodes, Gods of Tennis speaks to the players who were there.

Here are just a few takeaways...

In 1973, Ashe was the first black professional to play in the South African Championships. It came at a time when the country was still under Apartheid rule.

Ashe, who grew up under segregation in Virginia in the United States, made his participation contingent on one stipulation.

"He demanded the tournament had to be integrated," says South African author Mark Mathabane.

For the first time in South African history, Mathabane adds, black people were able to play and spectate at the tournament.

Ashe may have been beaten in the final by fellow American Jimmy Connors, but to Mathabane he was the real winner.

"He made numberless black people in South Africa realise Apartheid is based on a lie," he says.

Already a US Open winner by that stage, Ashe went on to win the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

When Billie Jean King won the 1972 US Open, her prize money was \$10,000. The men's champion - Ilie Nastase - took home \$25,000.

The following year, King formed the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), with a mission to achieve equal pay.

Later in 1973 came an unlikely episode in that campaign - a bizarre, one-off match known as 'The Battle of The Sexes' in which King, 29, took on 55-year-old former men's world number one (and self-proclaimed male chauvinist) Bobby Riggs.

Austin told BBC Sport it "wasn't just a tennis match, it became an event around the world".

In the build-up to the televised match, Riggs made it plain he felt women were inferior to men. King saw him off in straight sets.

Briton Sue Barker, who would later win the French Open, recalls how important it felt. She remembers her coach calling to say: "Your hobby has just become a career."

Later that year, the US Open introduced equal pay for male and female players. The Australian Open began offering equal prize money in 1984, but reversed that decision in 1996, then again in 2001. The French Open and Wimbledon introduced parity in 2007.

The series shows how Borg became tennis' first pin-up in the 1970s.

Towards the end of the decade, though, a perfect foil for the smooth

Swede emerged in the form of brash American McEnroe.

The New Yorker became infamous for his on-court outbursts.

"Every time he played a match at Wimbledon, he was basically going against the decorum of the event," says Austin.

In 1981, McEnroe yelled the immortal words "you cannot be serious!" after umpire Edward James called a ball out. It became a catchphrase.

McEnroe admits in the series he felt "misunderstood" at the time.

"I knew I was right," he says. "But they wouldn't say 'look, I missed it, sorry' just once."

Borg won 11 Grand Slam singles titles before retiring at the age of 26. McEnroe retired with seven to his name.

Chris Evert v Martina Navratilova was an era-defining rivalry for women's tennis.

Navratilova won nine Wimbledon singles titles and 167 singles titles overall on tour - both of which are records.

Despite those achievements, she was "always searching for people to love her and understand her", according to rival Evert.

Navratilova was born in Prague but defected to the United States.

She came out as bisexual in 1981 - months after King was publicly outed - and has since identified as a lesbian.

The emotion of it all came to the fore at the US Open final that year, when the crowd gave Navratilova a standing ovation as she received her runners-up medal.

Northern Ireland's Tom McKibbin has won his first DP World Tour title with a two-shot victory at the European Open in Hamburg.

The 20-year-old carded a three-under-par 70 to finish nine under

and beat home hopes Maximilian Kieffer and Marcel Siem, with France's Julien Guerrier also finishing on seven under.

McKibbin started the day in a six-way tie for the lead but seized the initiative in the final round with birdies at the fourth, seventh and ninth holes.

A wayward drive at the par-five 11th spelled a bogey and he dropped another shot at the par-four 13th.

He got lucky at the par-five 15th when his second narrowly avoided the water, allowing him to get up and down for a birdie.

The Hollywood man closed out the win in style with a birdie at the par-five 18th.

"It's pretty amazing, yes, it's been a good day," McKibbin told Sky Sports.

"I was in a good group with Jordan [Smith] and David [Law] so it was pretty nice. It was just nice to go out there and put a really, really nice round together."

"I've learnt that I am good enough to win. I always thought I

was but to prove it today was pretty special.

"I guess I have learnt a lot from failures and missing cuts by a shot and just missing things ever so slightly. So to take all of those things that I have learnt and to put them into play tonight was really nice.

"It will probably not sink in until tomorrow. To have my dad here, he comes most weeks, is pretty special. To win in front of him is pretty amazing."

Tour rookie McKibbin started the week ranked 335th in the world, his previous best finish on the DP World Tour being a tie for 10th.

He graduated from the Challenge Tour in November and had shown signs of form last week with a top-25 finish at the KLM Open in the Netherlands, ending a run of three missed cuts.

"I didn't cry because I lost the match," says Navratilova. "I cried because I felt accepted. I always wanted to belong and now I'm a citizen and I'm gay and they're still clapping."



McEnroe was nearly ejected from Wimbledon in 1981 for his outbursts





TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1972

WEDNESDAY, June 7, 2023

www.nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

*"The Nigerian startups' ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit captivated investors and industry experts at GITEX Africa. Their ability to identify pressing challenges and develop innovative solutions not only showcases Nigeria's potential but also highlights the vast opportunities available for investors seeking to tap into the country's vibrant tech ecosystem. Nigeria's commitment to fostering an enabling environment for startups, including regulatory reforms and investment incentives, further enhances its appeal as an investment destination. Beyond the startup showcase, Nigeria's digital transformation efforts were part of the discussion at the event".*

**Mubarka Umar**

**Quest**



**writer**

**Mubarak Umar**

## GITEX africa and Nigeria's phenomenal display of innovation

NIGERIA'S participation at GITEX Africa, held in Morocco from 31st May to 2nd June 2023, has been nothing short of phenomenal, leaving a lasting impression on attendees from around the world. The outing provided a glimpse into the country's vibrant tech innovation ecosystem which has been thriving in recent years.

GITEX Africa, brought together industry leaders, innovators, investors, and policymakers to explore the latest advancements in technology and digital transformation across the continent. Nigeria, known for its thriving tech ecosystem, participated in the event with a strong delegation, showcasing the country's innovative startups, its commitment to digital transformation and digital literacy.

Nigeria's participation aims at attracting investment and foster partnerships with global stakeholders. The country's delegation focused on showcasing the country's innovative startups, which have been making waves in various sectors, including fintech, healthtech, proptech agritech, and e-commerce. These startups are at the forefront of Nigeria's digital revolution, bringing cutting-edge solutions to pressing challenges and contributing to the country's economic growth.

The Nigerian startups' ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit captivated investors and industry experts at GITEX Africa. Their ability to identify pressing challenges and develop innovative solutions not only showcases Nigeria's potential but also highlights the vast opportunities available for investors seeking to tap into the country's vibrant tech ecosystem. Nigeria's commitment to fostering an enabling environment for startups, including regulatory reforms and investment incentives, further enhances its appeal as an investment destination. Beyond the startup showcase, Nigeria's digital transformation efforts were part of the discussion at the event.

In his numerous engagements, Director General, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Kashifu Inuwa, CCIE, who was represented by Dr. Aristotle Onumo, Director of Corporate Planning and Strategy, stressed



the importance of collaboration between governments, industry and academia including the entrepreneurs and venture capitalist in order to accelerate digital transformation in Africa. He called on African countries to work together to develop common standards and regulations for the digital economy with a focus on a single digital market for Africa and to promote the adoption of digital technologies across all sectors of the economy.

Inuwa also said outlined how Nigeria is investing heavily in digital skills development, with a number of initiatives aimed at training young people in the latest digital technologies. He listed various initiatives undertaken by NITDA, such as National Adopted Village for Smart Agriculture (NITDA), National Adopted School for Smart Education, Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support (TIES) Scheme, and Digital Literacy Programmes among others, to promote digital economy in Nigeria.

Inuwa further expressed Nigeria's commitment to collaborating the secretariat of the Smart African Alliance and the Council of African

Information and Technology Agencies (CAITA) and other African nations to collectively address challenges and explore opportunities in the digital realm, while emphasising the need for increased investment in research and development, capacity building, and policy harmonisation to foster a vibrant and inclusive digital ecosystem across the African continent.

Engr Ya'u Garba, National Director of Nigeria's National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR), delivered a compelling presentation on AI and its impact on various industries.

Garba highlighted Nigeria's progress in AI research and development and emphasised the country's potential to become a leader in AI innovation.

He discussed the application of AI in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, transportation, and education, and how AI-driven solutions can address critical challenges and improve efficiency.

The Special Assistant to Director General of NITDA on Strategy and Innovation, Mrs Iklima Musa also spoke on Nigeria's efforts to bridge the digital divide and enhance digital

skills among its citizens. Musa emphasised the importance of digital literacy in driving inclusive growth and empowering individuals with the necessary skills for the digital age.

She highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the Nigerian government and various organisations to provide digital training and capacity building programmes, ensuring that all Nigerians have the opportunity to participate in the digital economy.

Sixty-seven (67) Nigerian startups participated at the inaugural edition of GITEX Africa, which reaffirmed the country's burgeoning tech ecosystem, and provided a platform for them to exhibit their cutting-edge ideas, gain invaluable exposure from the global tech community, and attract potential investments that will catalyze Nigeria's digital economy.

As the curtains of GITEX Africa was about to close, Nigerian startup, Nearpays Technology Limited emerged best in the Fintech and Blockchain category of the Supernova Challenge, and was awarded a cash prize of 10,000 US Dollars and free all-expenses trip to GITEX Global

that will be hosted by the Dubai World Trade Center in the United Arab Emirates, in October, 2023.

Nearpays, co-founded by Victor Daniyan, is a full-service financial payment platform that acts as an end-to-end financial service for clients. It has various features to simplify online payments as much as possible, based on the principle that payments should be seamless. It also offers a wide range of services including personal and corporate banking, virtual debit cards, and online banking.

The participation of Nigeria at GITEX Africa has not only raised the country's profile but also reinforced its position as a key player in the global tech ecosystem. By embracing innovation, fostering entrepreneurship, and actively promoting digital transformation, Nigeria has laid a strong foundation for sustainable growth and development.

Nigeria invites investors, visionaries, and tech enthusiasts from around the world to join in its transformative journey. The opportunities for collaboration and investment in Nigeria's tech ecosystem are immense, and the time to seize them is now.