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Tinubu

**President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has assured the business community of his government's commitment to policy consistency and better business climate to attract investment.**

The President spoke Monday while receiving the delegation of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) led by the Global Upstream Director, Ms Zoe Yujnovic at the State House, Abuja.

President Tinubu welcomed the SPDC's offer for more investments in the Nigerian oil and gas sector, adding that such investments are needed now more than ever, to

## Nigeria ready for business, consistency in policy-Tinubu

enable Government meet its obligations.

The President recalled that attracting fresh investment was "a promise I made personally to Nigerians. Whatever it takes, I will fulfill that promise to Nigerians."

President Tinubu reiterated that Nigeria is

ready for business, assuring the Shell management and other investors of his administration's willingness to maintain an open-door policy and address their concerns.

"We are open for business. We are serious. I give you the assurance of

consistency in policy," he said.

The President also assured that his government was removing all forms of bottlenecks in order to ensure Nigeria becomes an attractive investment destination.

Addressing the President earlier, Ms Yujnovic

applauded what she described as "incredibly strong start" of the Tinubu presidency and expressed optimism that the "bold" steps taken by the government would renew Nigeria's pride of place as an investment destination.

Yujnovic said SPDC was willing to ramp up

investment in the country especially in the areas of gas and deep-water assets by pumping in billions of dollars.

She said Nigeria remains a strategic investment country for the company in view of the long history between the two entities and the prospects held by the county's oil and gas sector.

## Governor Mutfwang flags-off monthly sanitation

By PETER TITLE

Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State last Saturday flagged off the monthly Environmental Sanitation. He promised to sustain the exercise for the betterment of the society.

He further declared that every last Saturday of

every month would be observed as Sanitation Day.

According to him, the sanitation exercise was part of his vision of maintaining a clean and healthy environment so as to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The Executive Governor

who flagged off the exercise along Federal Secretariat road, Tudun Wada in Jos noted that the sanitation would be replicated at the end of every month across the 17 local government areas of the state.

Mutfwang said the government would take

definite steps to reinforce what it started from May this year, when it declared a state of emergency on environmental sanitation. In that regard, a task force has been saddled with the responsibility. So far, they are doing a good job, the governor commended them.

"The issue of cleaning the environment is beyond the task force," the governor pointed. "It is something that must become a way of life for us."

"We are not dirty people, we are people that live a life of cleanliness. And therefore, we must pick up the courage to begin again to ensure that our neighbourhoods are kept clean to ensure that the entire city is kept clean," the governor stressed.

According to him, beyond the state capital, all other areas including the 17 local government areas should maintain the same drive towards ensuring cleanliness in their local government areas. He further explained that sanitation exercise should

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Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang flagging off the State Monthly Sanitation exercise last week Saturday in Jos, the state capital

PHOTO: OFFICE OF DOPPA, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, RAYFIELD, JOS

**NNPCL to install filling stations' charging ports**

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## News

### Governor Mutwang flag-off monthly sanitation

Continued from page 1

not be left to the government alone.

Mutwang therefore enjoined every neighbourhood to organise itself to maintain and ensure cleanliness which is in line with the vision of the present administration.

The governor also made it clear that at the next sanitation day, Sanitation Mobile Courts would move round to sanction people who do not share in the vision of keeping the environment clean.

He stressed that "I don't want anybody to be caught on the wrong side of the

law. That is why we are educating our people to make sure that there is compliance".

The Chairman of the Task Force on Environmental Sanitation, Mr Albert Chaimang commended the governor for setting up the committee to ensure a clean and habitable environment.

Mr Chaimang who is also the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment, explained that the committee was determined to work round the clock to support the vision of the governor who believes that Plateau

people would fare better in a clean environment as he added "Cleanliness is next to godliness".

Our correspondent reports that the governor was accompanied by his wife, Barrister Helen Mutwang, Deputy Governor, Ngo Josephine Piyo, Secretary to the Government of the State, (SGS), Arc Samuel Jatau, the Chief of Staff, (CoS) to the Governor, Builder Jeremiah Satmark and the Special Adviser on Political Affairs, Chief Letep Dabang as well as members of the task force.

### NNPCL to install filling stations' charging ports



The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited has announced plans to install charging ports across its filling stations nationwide to charge electric vehicles, as part of moves to reduce carbon emission.

It also said the company would be investing in Electric Vehicles to meet local demand, as the NNPC was currently discussing with an indigenous firm involved in this.

The Managing Director, NNPC New Energy Ltd, Kanayochukwu Odoe, disclosed this in NNPC's latest quarterly publication released on Monday, and obtained by our correspondent in Abuja.

NNPC New Energy Ltd is the subsidiary of NNPC involved in the development and advancement of renewables by the national oil company.

Commenting on the plans of the oil firm in promoting the use of electric vehicles in Nigeria, Odoe said, "There are two things we are looking at. There is a start-up from Maiduguri that is into renewables and electric vehicles. It's a Nigerian start-up.

"We are currently discussing with them to expand their capacity to meet local demand in Nigeria. It's something I believe we should invest in not just because it's our own, but also because they are doing something that hasn't been done before, at least, in this part of the world. So, when we invest in the company, we can have a foothold in the electric vehicles market.

"The next part will be how to provide access to charging ports for the electric vehicles. We have NNPC Retail stations scattered around Nigeria,

we are currently having a discussion on how to install charging points in the stations to serve electric vehicles. These are some of the things we are doing in that area."

Odoe also stated that the company was currently working on a bio-diesel plant in Cross River State.

"We have signed an agreement with Kebbi State for a bio-ethanol plant. Also, we are currently in talks to transform waste into energy that can be used for electricity and cooking fuel. That way, we will reduce the felling of trees while reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere," he stated.

Odoe further stated that the firm was looking at embarking on solar projects to supply power to the masses, especially in areas where the services of power

President Bola Tinubu, on Monday, held his maiden meeting with the new service chiefs and the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, with a marching order to secure Nigeria.

Those at the meeting held at the State House, Abuja, were the Chief of Defence Staff, Christopher Musa, a Major General; Chief of Army Staff, Taoreed Lagbaja, a Major General; Chief of Naval Staff, Emmanuel Ogalla, Rear Admiral; Chief of Air Staff, Hassan Abubakar, an air marshal; and the acting Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, They were appointed on

### What Tinubu told us in maiden meeting -Ribadu, security chiefs

19 June.

Briefing State House correspondents at the end of the meeting, which commenced at 3 p.m. Mr Ribadu said Mr Tinubu asked them to work as a team to accomplish the task of keeping the country secure.

"We're here to thank Mr President for the opportunity he gave us to serve our country and to serve his own government. We also pledged our loyalty to him, Nigeria and Nigerians.

We believe the choice he made is the right one, the correct one, and we know what he wants for this country.

"We're going to work tirelessly to ensure that we accomplish that objective of securing our country, establishing peace, stability, and let's get our lives back.

"He gave us the assurance that he's with us hundred per cent. He told us that we must work as a team and that there's work to be done; he'll expect us to deliver, and we're grateful for the opportunity. That's why we are here," the NSA said.

On how the new security

### Disregard misleading information, Mutwang tells Muslims

By PETER TITLE

The Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Mutwang has urged Muslims in the state to disregard all the misleading information being peddled around by enemies of progress that he was ready to send out Muslims that are resident in the state.

Instead, he assured them of his administration's willingness of providing leadership that would embrace all, irrespective of ethnicity, faith as well as place of residence.

Governor Mutwang stated these recently when Muslim ummah in Plateau State led by the Emir of Wase, Alhaji Mohammed Sambo 11 and Chairman, Jama'atu Nasir Islam (JNI) paid him the traditional Sallah homage at the Old Government House in Jos.

According to the Governor, it was time for both Christians and Muslims in the state to find a common ground in

order to foster peace and unity for the sake of development and progress of the state.

Mutwang therefore solicited for the support of the Muslim community in his determination to build a new Plateau where he said Muslims would be able to embrace Christians in their communities while Christians alike would protect and preserve Muslims in their communities.

He said throughout his life, he has always maintained very cordial relationships with his friends who, he noted, are both Muslims and Christians. He urged all people to channel their energies towards what would prosper the state and not what would divide it.

The Governor appreciated the 14th Emir of Kano, Alhaji Sanusi Lamido Sanusi who was in the state for condolences but joined the Muslim community for the Eid -El - Kabir visit. He described him as a great asset to Nigeria.

The former Emir in a brief



Ribadu

chiefs will take off to accomplish their mandate, Mr Ribadu said, "Where we are today, and you can see already things are improving in our country.

"If you see the record of crimes and activities of criminals are going down, it will continue to go down. We'll secure this place.

Nigerians have seen the quality of the people that are given opportunity, they are probably some of the best we have, and they are not going to fail you; they'll certainly deliver. Thank you very much"

### Bamidele, Umahi, Ndume named as Senate principal officers

The Senator representing Ekiti Central, Opeyemi Bamidele, has been announced as the Senate Leader and Dave Umahi representing Ebonyi South, was announced as Deputy Senate Leader for the 10th Senate.

Ali Ndume representing Borno South, was announced as Chief Whip

of the Senate, while Lola Ashiru representing Kwara South, was announced as Deputy Chief Whip of the Senate.

The announcement for the principal positions was made at a plenary presided over by the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, on Tuesday upon the resumption of members

of the upper legislative chamber.

Mr Akpabio said the newly appointed principal officers were consensus candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) caucus of the Senate.

After the announcement was made, Mr Akpabio directed the newly principal officers to be seated at their

appropriate seats in the front row.

Other members of the Senate congratulated the newly appointed principal officers.

The Senate President, after that, announced a closed-door session.

The consensus candidate for the position of minority leader of the Senate has yet to be announced.



Akpabio

support to his administration in its efforts in bequeathing enduring legacies for the development of the state.

They used the visit to pray for God to restore peace in Bassa, Riyom, Barkin -Ladi, Bokkos and Mangu Local Government Areas of the state where there have been attacks in recent times leading to loss of lives and property.

Top government functionaries joined Governor Mutwang in receiving the Muslim ummah on the Sallah homage.





## Journey towards Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023

**The Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023 was signed into Law by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR on the 12th of June 2023. The Law effectively positions Nigeria to take its pride of place in the comity of nations in the very important aspect of data protection and data privacy. ISA ALI PANTAMI, writes.**

\*The Nigeria Data Protection Regulation, 2019\*

In this article, I will discuss the timeline and catalogue the series of events that have led to the signing of the Data Protection Bill. The first landmark event took place on the 25th of January 2019 when, as the Director-General and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), I signed the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR). This was a subsidiary legislation that derived its powers from the NITDA Act 2007, with specific reference to Section 6.

Prior to the signing of the NDPR 2019, Nigeria had no policy instrument that focused on supporting data privacy and data protection in the country. Issues bordering around data protection were marginally mentioned in Section 37 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended which says "The privacy of citizens, their homes, correspondences, telephone conversations and telegraphic communications are hereby guaranteed and protected." It was also briefly mentioned in the laws of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and a few others, but none had data protection as its primary focus.

On assumption of office as the CEO of NITDA in October 2016, I realised that there was a huge gap in the area of data protection. This, as well as my strong interest in datafication and my conviction that it would serve as a catalyst for Nigeria's effective participation in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, (4IR) informed my decision to lay a strong emphasis on Information Technology Law at NITDA, as well as partner with leading universities in Nigeria to establish a course on Information Technology Law. This approach enabled us to develop the requisite capacity for developing our indigenous version of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and a number of African countries eventually partnered with us to study and adapt the NDPR in their countries.

In just 2 years of the implementation of the NDPR, a novel sub-sector of the economy was created, Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty (7,680) Nigerians were



**Pantami**

employed. Nigeria was implementing the NDPR 2019 appointed as the Vice Chair of the Data Protection Laws Harmonization Working Group at the African Union (AU) and was the only country in Africa to publish a data protection report in two years.

\*Establishment of the Nigeria Data Protection Parastatals\*  
To further consolidate the gains made through the NDPR 2019, I sent a memo to the former President, His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, on the 13th of January 2022 citing "an urgent need to establish an institution as a government protection and privacy for the country. An independent Authority is a pre-requisite for international acceptance of Nigeria's data protection law. The Adequacy referential of the European Union's Article 29 Working Party; Convention 108 on the Automatic Processing of Personal Information; the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (EU-GDPR) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) all prescribe this standard."

The institution would be an offshoot of NITDA, the Agency that developed and was

automatically becomes NDPC.

\*Presentation of the Nigeria Data Protection Bill to the Federal Executive Council (FEC)\*

As part of the process of ensuring that Nigeria has a principal legislation for enabling data protection and privacy, a draft data protection bill was developed after several stakeholder engagements, comprising institutions and individuals in both the public and private sectors. I presented the draft bill at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) on the 25th of January, 2023. After a very robust discussion at the Council and a few amendments, the draft bill was approved. Three (3) Senior Advocates of Nigeria, who were also members of the Federal Executive Council, made contributions that significantly enhanced the draft bill and most importantly, converted the Bureau's status to a commission.

\*Transmission of the Enhanced and Approved Bill to the National Assembly\*

Following the approval of the draft bill, the Council mandated me to liaise with the Attorney-General of the Federation and Honourable Minister of Justice to forward the bill to the

National Assembly as an Executive Bill for passage in both chambers of the National Assembly. Following the transmission of the bill to the National Assembly, I also had several engagements with the National Assembly to promote the bill and give clarity where required.

\*Approval by Both Chambers of the National Assembly\*

The draft bill was independently reviewed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, after the letter of transmission of the Executive Bill from the President was read in both Chambers on the 4th of April, 2023. After comprehensive deliberations in both Chambers, the Senate passed the Bill on the 3rd of May 2023 and the House passed it on the 23rd of May 2023.

\*Signing into Law by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu\*

His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR assented to the harmonised bill on the 12th of June 2023. The fact that the journey between the transmission of the Executive Bill to the National Assembly and the signing into law by Mr. President took just 70 days is a testament to the fact that the Bill was given the pride of place that it deserves in our digital economy journey as a country.

The signing of the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023, along with the Nigeria Startup Act 2022, both of which I had the unique privilege of midwifing, are very critical and have created a very good foundation for the development of a robust digital economy and a sustainable knowledge - based economy. I would like to extend my hearty commendations to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR and the former President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR for their invaluable support towards the signing of the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023. I am confident that these laws will accelerate the digitalisation of the different sectors of the Nigerian economy and history will be kind to all those that played a role in the process.

**Professor Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami) CON, former Minister of Communication and Digital Economy is Professor of Cybersecurity, Federal University of Technology Owerri, Imo State.**





# Business & Economy

## Investigate N426b NEP grant, group tasks Tinubu

A Civil Society Organisation, Coalition of West African Investigative Journalists, (COWAFIJ), has called on President Bola Tinubu to initiate an investigation into the spending of over \$550m (N426 billion) repayable grant by Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP).

NEP, a unit in Rural Electrification Agency (REA), according to COWAFIJ at a press conference in Lagos at the weekend, obtained the loan from World Bank and African Development Bank under the incumbent Managing Director of REA.

Speaking at the event, the watchdog journalists' group's General Secretary, Comrade Gboyega Adeoye said since December 2019, NEP's repayable grants from World Bank and African Development Bank to improve access to electricity in underprivileged communities across Nigeria, which is its core mandate has totalled over \$550m, approximately N426 billion.

The grant, Adeoye claimed, has been misappropriated, adding that several contracts awarded in respect of the loan are also in violation of public procurement law.

"It is worrisome that in spite of the huge sum at the disposal of NEP, access to power is still a mirage in virtually all disadvantaged communities in the country.

"In fact, there is no way anyone can palliate, disguise or deodorise the wasteful



Tinubu

spending of the humongous sum that is devoid of internal review, external oversight or accountability, with violation of public procurement law.

In any case, the Federal Government is duty-bound to repay the grant and so, it behoves it to know how it was spent, particularly when it is obvious that the money has not answered its purpose as energy poverty among the poor groups is on the rise.

"It is based on the foregoing that we call on President Tinubu to step in and do the needful by instigating probe of the over \$550m loan of which \$350m is from World Bank," he said.

Adeoye also urged World Bank to stay action on its plan to give NEP a fresh \$750m

grant until the spending of the initial grant are accounted for.

"Some days back, we listened with surprise and sadness the announcement by World Bank Director of Strategy and Operations, Western/Central African Region, Ms. Elizabeth Huybens that this coming August, another \$750 million will be made available to NEP in grant.

"We entreat the bank to tarry until those currently charged with managing the affairs of NEP, particularly as regards the loan and contract awards concerning the grant and past spending are subjected to close scrutiny by relevant enforcement agencies," Adeoye said.

## Farmers' ₦518bn default shows anchor borrowers underbelly

THE failure of farmers in Africa's biggest economy who benefitted from the Anchor Borrowers Programme to repay about N518 billion extended to them by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) underscores the weakness in the intervention initiative.

The N518 billion accounts for 47.4 percent of the total N1.08 trillion the apex bank disbursed to farmers under the intervention programme since 2015 when it kick-started.

BusinessDay learnt that many beneficiaries who got the ABP loans were not actual farmers and those who were farmers often saw the money as their share of the country's national cake.

"Most of the beneficiaries who got the loans were not farmers. Keke nape drivers were getting the ABP loans meant for farmers. You can ask people in communities where they disbursed the loans for confirmation," Abiodun Olorundenro, manager of operations, Aquashoot Limited.

"Majority of the actual farmers that got the loans are not willing to pay back. They believe that is their part of the national cake," Olorundenro said.

Also, Yunusa Yabwa,

national secretary of All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) in March alluded that the loans were not disbursed adequately, hence the difficulty in ensuring repayment.

Yabwa said that the programme was abused, adding that it did not meet expectations to boost food production.

He alleged that most beneficiaries of the programme were not farmers. "Many people collected the loan to invest in other projects, not farming, and that is why it is difficult to ensure repayment."

"The anchor borrower is a laudable programme but there are challenges of recovery. Some of our members benefited from it, but most people that benefited are not farmers."

Musa Mohammed a rice farmer in Kebbi said he initially taught the loan what a gift from the government to support farmers to boost production.

"Initially, I taught it was a gift to support us in boosting our productivity and later after farming with it for a season we were now informed it's a loan," he said.

I wanted to pay back but I

noticed that several of my fellow farmers were not paying so I decided not to as well," he explained.

He added that the loan is the first thing he has benefitted from the government despite being a farmer for over two decades.

Launched in 2015, the ABP scheme was aimed to provide farmers with the critical funds and inputs needed to increase local production.

In eight years it has disbursed loans to about 4.57 million smallholder farmers across the country who cultivated on over 6.02 million hectares of 21 commodities with rice benefitting the most, according to the apex bank.

Despite the investments, yield per hectare in Nigeria has remained low compared with other emerging economies.

Nigeria's yield per hectare for rice is 3.4, whereas it is 6.3 in Brazil, 3 in Ethiopia, 2.8 in South Africa, and 4.2 in Kenya, according to data from the FAO.

Also, growth in the sector through the eight years of the intervention programme was inconsistent.

The sector recorded 3.72 percent growth in 2015 when it was launched and a growth rate of 1.8 in 2022 when funds were last disbursed to

THE Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), latest revenues fact sheet indicates that Nigeria earned about \$11 billion from crude oil exports in the first half of the year.

which revealed the figure, also projected that the country's earnings would increase to about \$29 billion in the same period 2024.

According to the report published by the America Energy Information Administration (EIA), the figure represents a huge decrease from \$34 billion earned in the same period last year.

The report revealed that Angola, which is the closest rival to Nigeria in the continent, made about \$12 billion in oil export, within the period, while Saudi Arabia, the highest oil producer in OPEC realized \$97 billion within the period.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had earlier revealed that Nigeria exported 0.86 million barrels of crude oil per day (mbpd) in February; 0.82mbpd and 0.73mbpd in May 2023.

Meanwhile, the entire OPEC members earned about \$888 billion in net oil export revenue in 2022. The revenue rose nearly 43 per cent compared with the previous year, according to the EIA.

"The increase in net export revenue in 2022 is mostly attributable to higher crude oil prices, and to a lesser degree to higher petroleum

## Nigeria rakes in \$11b from oil exports



liquids production," the EIA said.

OPEC's total oil output rose to nearly 34.2 million barrels per day in 2022 and increased by 2.5 million barrels per day year on year, the EIA outlined in the fact sheet.

Looking at 2023, the fact sheet projected that OPEC's net oil export revenue would fall to \$656 billion.

"This decrease is attributable to lower OPEC production as a result of the extension of the OPEC+ agreement, along with a decrease in crude oil prices," the fact sheet stated.

"We expect OPEC total oil liquids production to decrease to 33.5 million barrels per day in 2023, while the forecast Brent spot price will fall from \$101 per barrel in 2022 to \$80 per barrel," it added.

The organisation projected that OPEC's net oil export revenue will go on to increase in 2024.

"In tandem with a forecast increase in OPEC output in

2024, based on the June 2023 STEO, we expect that OPEC net export revenue will rise to \$682 billion (real \$)," the EIA stated in the sheet.

"We forecast that global crude oil prices will increase in 2024, reflecting global oil inventories that will decrease in each of the next five quarters," the EIA added.

According to the fact sheet, the top five OPEC countries in terms of net oil export revenue will remain the same as 2022 and 2021 in both 2023 and 2024, although the exact figures will alter.

The report revealed that Saudi Arabia had the highest net oil export revenue among OPEC members last year at \$311 billion. The fact sheet placed Iraq in second, with \$131 billion, the United Arab Emirates in third, with \$119 billion, Kuwait in fourth, with \$98 billion, and Iran in fifth, with \$54 billion.

The fact sheet sees Saudi Arabia's net oil export revenue coming in at \$215 billion in 2023 and \$223 billion in 2024, Iraq's net oil export revenue at \$96 billion in 2023 and \$103 billion in 2024, the UAE's net oil export revenue at \$91 billion in 2023 and \$92 billion in 2024, Kuwait's net oil export revenue at \$74 billion in 2023 and \$77 billion in 2024, and Iran's net oil export revenue at \$44 billion this year and \$48 billion next year.

investments and address the ease of doing business rather than cash handout for farmers," Olorundenro said.

Ibrahim Kabiru, national president of AFAN said the government is not directly supposed to be involved in the disbursement of loans to farmers but through appropriate associations with clear guidelines

According to him, this would ensure constant monitoring and evaluation as well as ensure the funds get to the real farmers.







## AGRICULTURE: Revolutionising catfish value chain in Nigeria

**The demand for catfish in Nigeria is on the rise by the day and the vast and fertile waters of Nigeria offers a hidden treasure that lies beneath the surface. Catfish with its immense nutritional value, economic potential has the power to transform lives and boost the economy. ADEGWU JOHN writes.**

HOWEVER, unlocking the true value of the catfish value chain in Nigeria has been a challenge. Although a promising wave of innovation and entrepreneurship is sweeping through the industry which has offered a glimmer of hope and endless possibilities for Nigeria's catfish farmers and stakeholders.

Moreso, catfish farming has long been a traditional practice in Nigeria, mainly carried out by small-scale farmers but limited access to modern farming techniques, inadequate infrastructure, and fragmented markets have hindered the growth of the catfish value chain. Despite these challenges, catfish remains a symbol of opportunity, with its potential to alleviate poverty, create jobs and improve food security.

Besides being Africa's most populous nation, Nigeria is also the world's largest producer of African catfish, with an estimated annual production of one million tonnes in 2021, worth around \$2.6 billion.

The catfish value chain in Nigeria involves several stages: breeding, fingerling production, grow-out farming, processing, marketing, and consumption. Each stage presents its unique challenges and opportunities.

Currently, the industry is characterized by small-scale operations, with many farmers lacking access to quality fingerlings, feed, and modern farming techniques. This has resulted in low productivity and profitability and in addition, lack of proper processing and storage facilities often leads to post-harvest losses, further reducing the industry's profitability.

A value chain analysis conducted by FISH4ACP and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development show that Nigeria has an estimated 285, 000 producers of catfish with small-scale farmers represent over 60 percent. The catfish value chain itself also offers employment to some one million people.

To unlock the catfish value chain's potential, a multi-faceted approach is required. This involves addressing the challenges at each stage of the value chain and leveraging the opportunities that exist.

Recently FAO in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development launched the implementation phase for the sustainable development of the catfish value chain in Nigeria.

The project, Fish4ACP which is



currently funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OCAPS) to contribute to food security and nutrition, economic prosperity and job creation.

The initiative aimed to ensure the economic, social and environmental sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the aforementioned states and will analyse the catfish value chain, create employment opportunities, foster capacity development, facilitate access to business investment and enhance competitiveness in the sector.

At it launched in Abuja, FAO representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Fred Kafeero said the project remains an excellent opportunity to reiterate the organisation's commitment for a blue transformation of the catfish sub-sector, vital for food security, the economy and people's livelihoods.

Kafeero said Nigeria remains a very important and strategic member state in the development and upgrading of the catfish value chain.

According to the European Union (EU) delegation to Nigeria, by supporting the catfish strategy, it strive to address the challenges faced by catfish farmers and entrepreneurs in

Nigeria and beyond, including strengthening the capacities of African countries to sustainably manage their fisheries resources, enhance the competitiveness of the sector, and foster regional cooperation.

The delegation represented by Frank Okafor at the event said the union is committed to supporting Nigeria and other African countries in achieving their sustainable development goals through technical assistance, capacity building, and financial resources to ensure the success of the African Catfish Strategy.

In his remarks, the permanent secretary, ministry of agriculture and rural development, Dr Ernest

Umakhihe said the ministry is committed to further increasing aquaculture production by an additional 250,000 metric tonnes in order to meet domestic demands and reduce fish import.

Overall, unlocking the catfish value chain in Nigeria is a task that requires the collective effort of all stakeholders, including the government, farmers, researchers, and the private sector. With the right strategies and interventions, the catfish industry can become a significant contributor to Nigeria's economic growth and development. It's time to unlock the potential of the catfish value chain and reap the benefits that it holds.



## Politics

# The return of SAP

**Is Nigeria back to implementing the cardinal policies that made up the IMF-recommended Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the late 1980s? A review of the actions of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu since taking office on May 29, 2023 will suggest so. In this event, what should Nigerians expect? Will the outcome be any different from that of the eight years of SAP under Ibrahim Babangida? ADETAYO, writes.**

In the early 1980s, Nigeria faced tremendous economic headwinds, not exactly dissimilar to what obtains now. The national debt skyrocketed to over \$20 billion. Export was almost exclusively limited to crude oil and the collapse of its price in the international market meant huge budget deficits. Budget deficits meant that many social services, including health and education, were hugely under-funded, leading to statements like, "hospitals had become mere consulting clinics"; inflation was through the roof. The economy was simply in a bad state.

When the economic downturn started under the Shehu Shagari presidency, a quick-fire set of solutions, referred to as "Austerity Measures", were put in place. One of these was the listing of certain goods as "essential commodities" (Essenco), for which import licences were granted to certain players in the economy. This was done to encourage local production and the patronising of non-essential "commodities" as means of limiting the huge foreign exchange losses from importation.

Getting an import licence became one of the fastest ways of getting rich then. But the "Austerity Measures" failed to turn the tide until the military forcibly took over the reins of government in December 1984.

The military arrived, under Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, and imposed even more draconian economic measures. The national currency was changed with little notice; borders were closed to stem smuggling; importation was severely restricted; "illegal aliens" were sent packing from the country in order to create more job opportunities for citizens, and lessen the pressure on infrastructure and the government's expenses; and a fight against corruption and indiscipline was implemented with military-style enforcement.

None changed the country's economic fortunes. After 20 months, Buhari was removed by his peers and Ibrahim Babangida (IBB) took office.

IBB started off by confronting the emotive issue of a \$2.5 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund, which was to be used to aid the recovery of the economy. But rather than take a decision, he put it up for a national debate. After three months, the national consensus was to not take the loan. Ever the populist (at least during the early part of his administration), IBB announced that Nigeria will not take the loan. Instead, Nigeria implemented a Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP).

Instructively, SAP was inspired by the "conditionalities" that were tied to the rejected loan from the IMF. So while Nigeria did not take the loan, it proceeded to implement key elements of the IMF's recommendations.

These include the privatisation and commercialisation of government-owned businesses; devaluation of the naira; setting up of a Second-Tier Foreign



**Anti-SAP**

Exchange Market (SFEM); removal of subsidy on petroleum products; reduction of public spending on social services (especially education); expansion of the tax net; and dissolution of the commodity marketing boards.

The implementation of SAP caused massive social and economic upheaval. The middle class was essentially wiped out, as real income dwindled in the face of the depreciation of the naira. This led to large numbers of well-trained Nigerians choosing to migrate to more clement climes. Several protests by students and the organised labour tasked the patience and efforts of the military to maintain peace and order. Elder statesmen protested in their own way, with a former Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo, publicly berating the government and demanding that it should implement its economic policies with "a human face and milk of kindness".

To ameliorate the situation, the IBB government also implemented what, in current parlance, will be termed as "palliatives". These included setting up the Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI), with a remit to build infrastructure in

the rural areas and support farmers to ensure better outputs; the Better Life for Rural Women (under the then First lady, Maryam Babangida), which focused largely on women's needs; and the "donation" of buses to states and labour unions for mass transit purposes.

In the final analysis, SAP failed. The economy never truly got off the ground, despite an almost religious implementation of the policies. Household income remained low and never got close to peak-1981 levels; the economy's dependence on petroleum exports was unceasing; and subsidies returned as the value of the naira continued to depreciate.

To compound matters, the national debt grew to over \$30 billion. Although the economy grew at a five per cent rate, the three per cent growth in population negated most of this (World Bank Report on SAP, 1994). Things got to a head when IBB admitted in an interview with Channels TV in 1992 that his administration's economic policies had failed and the economy had defied any conventional solutions.

Against this background, a review of the economic policies of President Tinubu so far, as well as those outlined by the President's Policy Advisory Council, show several similarities with SAP. The

removal of subsidies is straight from the SAP template.

This has already been implemented for petrol, with prices more than doubling since the president's inauguration. So is the desire to diversify the revenue base away from the sale of crude oil, a long-term pursuit of successive Nigerian governments.

The planned convergence of the naira exchange rates, which will inevitably lead to a depreciation, is also SAP-inspired. The privatisation and or sale of the government's stake in corporate assets; and the likely reduction in government subventions to some key sectors, including tertiary education, were all part of SAP policies.

Even the "palliative" discussions of today also mirror those of 35 years ago, especially the promised investments in infrastructure like roads and rail, and the supply of mass transit (electric) buses.

Given the similarities, what is on ground to give Nigerians any assurance that the outcome of these policies will be different? That is the work that is staring the Tinubu administration in the face. True, the country does need "structural adjustments" and tough decisions need to be taken. The population growth rate is outpacing that of the

economy and several policies of the Buhari administration did not help the cause of growth and development. Change is needed.

In many ways, the Tinubu Administration is lucky. For there is elite consensus on many of the decisions that it is taking or will take, including the removal of subsidy, and the convergence of the exchange rates of the naira and its attendant devaluation. Even better, despite the sky-high inflation that these policies have engendered, labour unions and student bodies have responded with relative calm and an uncharacteristic show of understanding.

But the government should not be fooled. While Nigerians know how to give leadership a chance, extended suffering will force a reaction. It is therefore in the interest of the administration that it ensure that its policies deliver on economic growth, reduced inflation, higher household income and production. Having chosen to re-run the same policies of a previous era, it must ensure that it delivers a better outcome, one that puts smiles on the faces of the suffering masses. It cannot afford to fail Nigeria cannot afford another SAP failure.

**Adetayo is a national and international affairs analyst.**



## Politics

# Governor Mutfwang: Starting on a sound footing

**If you want to measure the degree of animosity against any government in Plateau State, all you need to do is to wait until an election has been completed and a new government is installed. No matter what anyone thinks about the administration of Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang in the last one month of its coming on board, a lot has happened for which there are many positive takeaways to run to town with. GYANG BERE, writes.**

What is more, it is in the realization of the enormous responsibilities placed on his shoulders that many citizens have asked questions on where the state should be heading to, on account of the promises made during the electioneering campaigns.

The opportunity presented for constructive criticism through citizens' civic responsibility is to help government face the task of administration.

In more ways than one, Mutfwang's administration has welcomed all shades of criticisms and opinions from day one. But no matter the amount of propaganda against its reputation, doing things differently has, thankfully become its middle name.

Thankfully, most have come to realization that the new administration is doing things to satisfy the generality of the citizens of Plateau State. That the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barr Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, was prepared to go into governance even during the electioneering days which enabled him traverse the length and breadth of Plateau.

Considering the enormous goodwill he received from Plateau people and the party to get power back from the APC, he couldn't contemplate failure as an option.

Some of the challenges the new government met on ground in various sectors of the economy of the state, any patriotic person would read meanings into them. They appear to have been carefully programmed as booby traps set up to crush the PDP administration, whose philosophy and clear-cut vision is to champion the course of humanity and better the lot of the people.

Given the mess on ground, some pundits have even concluded that had the All Progressives Congress won the gubernatorial election on March 18, 2023, the challenges it would have met on ground on assumption of power would have overwhelmed it, the acceptance of the Peoples Democratic Party by the people is helping to change the concept of governance.

It is common knowledge that in the midst of the daunting challenges, under which any governor may lose sleep and wonder what may have hit him, Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, who kick started his administration about a month ago, firmly believe that despite the banana peels lined up for him and his party, failure wasn't on his agenda.

One of those is the inheritance of unpaid salaries running into 11 billion naira. He may not get help from the federal government as it was for the last administration where several tranches emanating from the Paris Club refund were able to upset wage bills, hence his resolve to get a loan of 15 billion naira from United Bank for Africa to pay salaries and engage in other development projects.

If the supporters of the government that had just departed thought he would easily cave in on account of the slimy but slippery grounds, all eyes were set on him, particularly the opposition APC to watch his dancing steps; and praying silently with mischief in mind to slip for obvious ridicule.

They must have felt appalled, with consternation, but more disappointed that Governor Caleb



Mutfwang's take-off was a clear demonstration that he was indeed prepared and equipped with sufficient capacity for the journey that would tackle myriads of challenges inherited from the previous administration. No wonder, they have remained at the level of malevolence, plotting at each turn what could be done to ensure he became a laughing stock, while he lasted in power.

They say it is during adversity that the resolve of a leader could be tested. The political courage summoned by him to provide the needed leadership and maneuvering his way out of the slippery ground by taking off strongly; wielding enormous political will to deal with the swelling resurgence of insecurity that confronted the state weeks before his inauguration.

Many would recall that for over two decades, the state has been embroiled by recurring violent attacks, which left several lives lost and property sadly destroyed. However, the ferocity of the attacks in Mangu, Bokkos, Barkin Ladi and Riyom few days before his inauguration are enough to test his will power. He immediately sought the attention of Mr. President and the former Inspector General of Police to have their buy-in of ways to tackle the crisis for deployment of more security personnel in the trouble areas.

However, determined to make

the right mark, Governor Caleb Mutfwang rightly remained focused, steady, firm and unshakable, by drawing strength from the rule of law. He was the more, divinely inspired in taking critical and tough decisions with the sole aim of returning the state on the path of recovery, growth and development. It was nonetheless his point of departure with some elements that preferred that things should be operated in the old order.

Those who have followed his activities over time are aware from the onset, Governor Mutfwang never complained nor cast aspersion on the state of dilapidated infrastructure, collapsed government institutions, widening religious and ethnic division and of broken walls of friendship inherited from his predecessor on the door steps of individuals. He took the bull by its horns by raising standards that will satisfy the hearts of the people he is now their governor.

His first day in office, after the famous and well attended inauguration at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos on May 29, 2023 was heralded with prayers, to seek divine guidance and interventions to commence the journey of rebuilding Plateau on a sound footing. That symbolic start, for all intent and purposes couldn't have been lost in a man whose relationship with God is not a matter of conjecture.

Worried by the extent of destruction on communities by marauding terrorists over the years, immediately after his inauguration,

he swung into action by convening a State Security Council meeting where he was furnished with detailed security challenges and what is needed to assure people that his government cares.

To make meaning out of his engagements with security chiefs in the state, the need for closer collaboration with the existing security apparatus at the federal level, using multifaceted human approaches to secure innocent communities who are terrorized daily by bandits suspected to be herdsmen militia became manifest.

What more, to feel the pulse of the victims, the following day, Barr Mutfwang was on the road to visit all the flash points where people were attacked, maimed and killed without any reason. To get to the root of the attacks for a solution, a crack Brig-General, Gakji Shipi has been brought on board as the Security Adviser.

His first point of call was on displaced persons in Riyom and Mangu Local Government Areas whose communities were invaded by enemies of Plateau a few days before his inauguration. The Governor came with a message of hope by assuring the people that help was on the way, even as it became clear to all, who wanted to know that the killings were genocidal in nature. The suspension of local government chairmen and councilors must be noted was based on the recommendation of the Plateau State House of Assembly. Taking a look at the new Transition Implementation

Chairmen, it can be observed that they young persons imbued with fresh ideas to transform the local government areas.

The suspension was based on the inability of the local government chairmen to make available records of their income and expenditures to the House which contravened the principle of transparency, accountability and fairness to which the current administration professes and holds in high regards. This action was necessary to provide a common ground for the House to investigate activities of the chairmen within the period of office.

Certain categories of employment made in the twilight of the last administration have been suspended due largely to non adherence to due process. Those who have come hard of this administration on the issue will soon discover when a report is made on the findings that all did not go well.

Already, some critical appointments spread across the three zones have been made to stabilize the government. It is instructive to note that all those that have been appointed are coming with fresh ideas that are capable of catapulting the administration that hit the road running from day one into prominence. In the coming days and weeks, more of such would be made, and it is possible all sectors of the state would be given fair treatment and representation.

Even when it has been reported that the governor does not intend to look back to investigate the last administration, there are some infractions made by it or its officials that will not be left unchecked. Leaving them unchecked will amount to acquiescence by his administration; a path he has sworn to avoid taking. If tough decisions have been taken to right the wrongs of the past, it is because sanity has got to be injected for once.

The reason Governor Mutfwang set up machinery in motion is for the purpose of effective service delivery, having constituted a committee headed by a retired Permanent Secretary, Nde Isaac Wadak. The committee has among other terms of reference to identify and trace all government properties that were purportedly auctioned across the country ascertain whether or not due process was adhered to in the exercise; and recover all government assets that were purportedly /or inappropriately acquired by individuals/groups or corporate entities. Doing so will restore confidence in government and reclaim public assets that were illegal sold out in a mischievous manner for the purpose of self enrichment by officials and supporters in the previous administration.

Although many have interpreted the action as witch-hunt, Governor Mutfwang has his mandate clearly cut: Return Plateau from the precipice and make it great again. The Time is now to unite and make Plateau great. Together, we are greater as a people, the Time is Now!

**Gyang Bere is the Director of Press and Public Affairs to Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang.**



# IMAGES

## GOV. MUTFWANG RECEIVES MUSLIMS UMMAH ON SALLAH HOMAGE

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang recently received on Sallah Homage Muslims Ummah of Jos and environs at Government House Rayfield, Jos



Governor Caleb Mutfwang (left) presenting kolanuts to the leader of delegation and Chairman, JNI, HRH (Dr.) Muhammad Sambo Haruna, Emir of Wase



Governor Caleb Mutfwang (right) discussing with his Deputy, Hon. Josephine Piyo



From left are, Plateau State Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo, Governor Caleb Mutfwang, former Emir Sanusi Lamido Sanusi with other royal fathers



Chief of Staff Government House, Engr. Jeremiah Satmak (left) with the Secretary to Government of the State, Arc. Samuel Nanchang Jatau



Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, Prof. Shedrach Best shaking hands with Muslims Ummah during the visit



Barr. Caleb Mutfwang (left) in a handshake with Khalifa Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, former CBN Governor



A cross section of state government functionaries during the Sallah Homage



Governor Caleb Mutfwang (left) exchanging pleasantries with the leader of delegation, HRH (Dr.) Muhammad Sambo Haruna, Chairman JNI and Emir of Wase

PHOTOS: OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT HOUSE RAYFIELD, JOS



## Politics

# Lack of equal representation of women in government

*Despite significant progress in achieving gender equality in many aspects of society, the representation of women in government remains a critical issue worldwide. Women continue to be underrepresented in political decision-making bodies, including national parliaments, cabinets, and local governments. This lack of equal representation has profound implications for governance, policy-making, and the overall well-being of societies. FUNMI ADEKOYA-OJO, writes.*



Tinubu



Akpabio



Abbas

According to a United Nations Women report on Women representation in Nigeria National and State Assemblies, only 75 women make up the National Assembly and State Assembly representing 5% of the 1459 total seats. In the State Houses of Assembly, out of 990 seats, women occupy only 55 representing 6 per cent.

Out of 36 states of the federation, 14 states Houses of Assembly do not have women as representatives, including Osun State House of Assembly with 26 constituencies. The implication of this in Osun State is that only men is taking the policy-making decisions.

According to gender advocate and Executive Director, Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre, Dr. Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, this low representation of women in political positions could be linked to the challenges encountered by women while venturing into politics.

Akiyode-Afolabi noted, "There's a lot of violence around politics in Nigeria. when you are woman, you are labelled a prostitute in politics, there is also cultural inhibitions that women

should not participate in politics. The male hegemony within the political parties will tell women to step down for men.

Having a very low representation of women in the Legislative arm of government as unhealthy for Nigeria democratic system, "Given the record that we have now, if you look at the National Assembly, we don't have up to 7% of women. There are some Houses of Assembly in Nigeria where we have just one or in some places where we don't even have any woman at all in the parliament, and if you look at that in terms of representation that is quiet embarrassing especially in a democratic society where participation is critical", Akiyode-Afolabi added.

To another gender advocate, Mr. Bukola Idowu, The Team Lead, Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) promoting women representation in governance, particularly at the legislative level must be a deliberate programme of political parties by conceding at least 30% to 35%

percent of their candidacy to women.

Osun state, one of the state with no women representation in the 2023 election, has 3 Senators, 9 members of the House of Representatives and 26 members of the state House of Assembly, plus the Governor and Deputy Governor, all being male.

As if that is not enough, some of the appointments made so far are still in favour of the male gender. The SSG, the Chief of Staff, the Governor's Spokesperson as well as the media Aides and others to the Governor were all men.

To crown it all, the Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Hon. Adewale Egbedun's composition of staff were all

men. It will not be a surprise to have all the Senators and members of the House of Representatives also appoint male assistants.

One of the primary consequences of low women representation in government is the inadequate consideration of women's perspectives and experiences in policymaking. Women's unique concerns, such as reproductive rights, gender-based violence, and economic empowerment, may not receive sufficient attention or priority in legislation and policy development. Without diverse representation, governments risk overlooking issues that disproportionately affect

women, perpetuating gender inequalities, and hampering social progress.

Diverse perspectives are crucial for effective decision-making and governance. When women are underrepresented, the perspectives of half the population are not adequately reflected in policy discussions. This lack of inclusivity can result in policies that do not address the needs and aspirations of women, leading to suboptimal outcomes for society as a whole. Increased women representation in government facilitates inclusive decision-making, enabling a broader range of voices to shape policies and contribute to more equitable outcomes.

**“Given the record that we have now, if you look at the National Assembly, we don't have up to 7% of women. There are some Houses of Assembly in Nigeria where we have just one or in some places where we don't even have any woman at all in the parliament, and if you look at that in terms of representation that is quiet embarrassing especially in a democratic society where participation is critical.”**

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News

# Support government with prayer to end insecurity

- Islamic cleric

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan

AN Islamic cleric, Sheikh Khalifa Kabiru Qasimu Awwalu has appealed to Nigerians to support governments at various levels with prayer.

Awwalu who is the leader of Zawiyar Sheikh Qassimu Awwalu Sabo Ibadan, noted that this is necessary in order for the government to end insecurity occasioned by Boko Haram insurgency, kidnapping and other social vices across the country.

The cleric made these disclosures shortly after he led Muslim congregation at the premises of St. Gabriel Secondary School Alao Akala Road Sabo Ibadan to observe the two Rakah obligatory Eld-Kabir prayer on Wednesday.

The Eld-Kabir festival falls on the 10th day of Dul-Hajj, the twelfth month of Islamic calendar and it was observed by Muslims across the globe on Wednesday.

Awwalu while addressing journalists after the prayer, insisted that Nigerians have the duty to support governments at all levels so as to halt insecurity across the country.

The cleric while speaking further, explained that Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State has assisted non-indigenes just the way he had done for the indigenes of the state.

He added that the Eld-Kabir festival is a festival of sacrifice and obedience to the command of God.

Awwalu, said, "We thank God for the success of this Eld-Kabir. It is the festival of sacrifices. We have been praying in this place at St. Gabriel Secondary School Alao Akala Road Sabo Ibadan for some years.

"We, the clerics are supporting the



Abubakar

government with prayer to end insecurity in the country. We have been praying for the government to succeed.

"I want the people, all Nigerians to support the governments to stop these menace of Boko Haram, insurgency and other social vices.

"The people should support the government for peace to reign in the state and Nigeria in

general.

"Makinde has recognised the non-indigenes just like the indigenes. He has given us the opportunity like the way he gave the indigenes.

"Those who have lost in the elections and are still going to court should wait for their own time. The governor has won the election already. Those who are agitating should exercise patience".

## Igbo APC leader challenges youth on youth

From TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi

THE leader and Chairman, All Progressives Congress (APC) Igbo Forum Benue State, Captain Ogwochukwu Emosi has challenged youths in the state to position themselves for leadership positions.

Captain Emosi threw the challenge recently at the state secretariat of the All Progressives Congress in Makurdi during the 40th birthday celebration of the state chairman, Comrade Austin Agada. He said with the way and manner the state chairman has

handled the affairs of the party in the state, it was clear that the youths who are often referred to as future leaders are ripe to assume leadership positions in the country.

According to him, since his emergence as state executive of the party, he has always ensured to carry everybody along in his scheme of things, irrespective of tribe, religion and other trivialities.

The business mogul affirmed that the state party chairman has started on a sound footing but however, advised him to

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

## Stakeholders in education sector commend UNICEF

CRITICAL stakeholders in education sector were delighted with the continued support, backing and intervention accorded by UNICEF in Adamawa State of the Bauchi Field Office.

In a field visitation by team of UNICEF officials and journalists to some schools in Jada and Guyuk Local Government Areas to observe the impact of training to curb the incidences of stigmatization, non attendance of school, non adherence to hygiene during menstrual periods and other harmful practices, teachers and school children, expressed gratitude with the development.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD correspondent from the Bauchi Field Office who covered the visitation reports that the training for the stakeholders was funded by the Netherlands Director General for International Co-operation Accelerated Sanitation and Water for All programmes 11 ( DGIS \_ ASWA 11 ) in conjunction with UNICEF.

The beneficiaries of the programme in Adamawa State, who were teachers, male and female school children were trained on the need to adhere to the best practices. The training

remain focused and more innovative in order to record more victories in the party's future outings.

While congratulating Comrade Agada on his 40th birthday, Captain Emosi maintained that forty years was an age of wisdom since life and everything that makes a man begins at forty. He expressed the hope that the state APC chairman will leave the party better than he met it by the time he is leaving office.

He said with the turn of events during Agada's chairmanship, the youths were no longer future but present leaders since Comrade Agada's performance has brought enough conviction that the youths can handle any responsibility that they are saddled with. The chairman urged other youths to borrow a leaf from Comrade Agada.

The Igbo leader advised all Igbo indigenes resident in the state to put behind their bitter experience in the last political dispensation and forge a common front. He emphasised that Benue was their home having established their businesses across the length and breadth of the state.



Russell

centred more on personal hygiene of female school children relating to menstruation during school hours and at home.

"But with the intervention of UNICEF, stakeholders say they were now on same page and discussing the issue freely without any strings attached".

The outcome, according to the stakeholders has become a win-win situation for the growth of education in the targeted points.

The stakeholders observed that " Now young girls are making money as a result of the training from the new entrepreneurship opportunity owing to their abilities to manufacture reusable menstrual pads locally which is cheaper and can be reused for up to six months".

During the one day field visit to Tsohon Tikke Primary School, one of the schools which benefited from the training by UNICEF, stakeholders confirmed to the visiting team of reporters how the intervention changed their world views about menstruation completely.

In an interview with Mallam Musa Umar, Head Teacher of the school, he noted that the contributions of the partners especially UNICEF can never be over emphasized. Adding that what used to be in the dark has been brought to the daylight courtesy of the training. It shed light on issues surrounding menstruation freely tabled in the open.

"In a conservative society such as ours, it was just hitherto seen as moral bankruptcy to talk about issues like that. In fact, when the issue was first muted to me, I shrank with excitement and fear because i could not see myself, a Fulani man

discussing such issue with my students.

"But as it is now, the training has led to a seamless relationship between the parents, teachers and the students. And whenever any friction arises as a result of misconception, we usually address it in a friendly manner", he said.

He observed that most of the issues around menstruation especially concerning new starters have been nipped in the bud because of the massive awareness. Both students, teachers and parents have built mutual trust on the subject.

He heartedly commended UNICEF for equipping the school with a borehole, and modern toilet facilities for boys and girls, noting that the development has improved learning atmosphere in the school.

The Coordinator of WASH in Jada Local Government, Mr. Obadia David, also appreciated and thanked UNICEF for reasons that no fewer than 60 children from the age of 13 to 17 across 20 schools in the area have been impacted and therefore urged other well meaning individuals and organizations to complement the good gesture of the international organization that changed the life of our children for good.

Aisha Sulaiman, one of the beneficiaries told THE NIGERIA STANDARD that the knowledge impacted on them would go a long way in changing the narrative without fear of any repercussions.

She said making the local pads has solved the challenges of skipping classes due to menstrual flow as well as monetary pressure of having to buy the pads, which go at an extortionate price.

See something, say something! Stop the killings give peace a chance!



Kefas



# News

## Tribunal receives 2 witnessed

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Plateau State Governorship Election Tribunal sitting at the High Court Jos, has received two witnesses and duplicates of voter's register for over eight hundred and twenty-two (822) Polling Units in ninety-two wards of fifteen (15) Local Government Areas of as subpoena in a petition filed by Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe (APC) against INEC, PDP and Caleb Mutfwang.

A director of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Abuja, Festus Aisien, delivered these documents Monday at the tribunal following an order by the Governorship Election Tribunal Committee last Friday to submit the duplicates of voter's register as evidence before the tribunal.

Presenting the documents, the director said he has brought two "Gana-Must-Go" bags containing duplicates of voter's register for 822 polling units of 95 wards in fifteen (15) out of seventeen (17) local government areas of the state with the receipt of payment made.

However, Counsel to the 1st Respondent (INEC), Barr. CD Gyang, suggested that the documents should be marked as presented to avoid rising objections that may delay the proceedings of this hearing because they have limited time to handle this petition.

On his part, Counsel to the



Okoye

People's Democratic Party (PDP), Emeka Etiaba, SAN, raised concern that the petitioners did not follow the documents to mark them accordingly before bringing them to the tribunal to avoid unnecessary delay of the proceedings.

Responding, Counsel to the petitioner, Ade said, the documents were requested by the tribunal and they have no jurisdiction to temper or hijack the subpoena or rather, receive on behalf of the tribunal and submit them as subpoena.

In the same vein, one Emmanuel Nannil, of Batkilang Polling Unit who was APC Returning Officer of Zamko Ward, Langtang-North LGA, has testified before the

tribunal that there was no collation of results because of over voting at Zamko Central (EC8 009) and the result was cancelled, but wondered how the document given to him at the tribunal was indicating contrary.

Also before the tribunal, was one Nanbol Nimmyel Nwale, of Langtang-North LGA who was the APC Agent at Zamko Central Code 009. He raised an alarm that the result sheet was forged because he did not sign the result due to over voting but that the document presented to him to verify has the name of one Gampyal Pyenzai as APC agent who signed the result sheet instead of him, the authentic APC agent.

## Bauchi NBA inaugurates new executive committee

From  
**ABBAS GUNGURA,**  
Bauchi

The Bauchi State chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has inaugurated its newly elected executive officers to run its affairs for the next two years starting from July 2023 to 2025.

In his speech after the inauguration at the High Court No 1 Bauchi, the chairman of the occasion, Justice Lamido Kabir Umar, congratulated the newly elected officers of the association. He urged them to carry all members along in the interest and progress of the association that will make members happy to be associated with their leadership.

While calling on the new executive officers to justify the confidence reposed in them, Justice Lamido Kabir used the occasion to appeal to all members of the association to join hands and support the new executive for the good of the association. He also wished them well.

The immediate past chairman of the association in the state, Barrister Jibrin S. Jibrin, appreciated members of the association for giving him the opportunity to serve them for the past two years. He

said he had enjoyed a good working relationship with all the members which was responsible for achieving what he had achieved during his tenure.

He therefore called on members to support the new executive officers of the association in order to make their fruitful contributions for the upliftment of NBA in the state and the country as a whole.

Earlier in his inaugural speech, the newly elected Chairman, Dr. Ibrahim Danjuma described the NBA as the matchless professional association in Nigeria and the largest and most vibrant Bar association in Africa. He also commended the senior members of this branch both from public and private bar.

The NBA chairman promised not to take this position lightly or for granted. He pointed out that "I fully understand the responsibilities that you all have bestowed upon me, the great opportunity you have provided us, with your votes and support, is inexpressive. We feel deeply grateful and admired".

Dr. Ibrahim further explained, "Whether or not you voted for me in the just concluded election of our dear branch, I want you to know that I am dedicated to serving you. When we work together,

not as S.G. Idrees or U.B. Babayo Camp, but as members of one and united branch. I know that we can accomplish great things during these uncertain times".

"I must not fail to pay special tribute to my co-contestants for the office of the chairman. The participation of three of us was a very keenly contested race and any one of us could have ended up, fittingly, as chairman of our dear branch. I want to use this medium to extend my hand of friendship to both of them to join hands with me in working for the elevation and growth of our branch. I shall persist, undeterred, in this endeavor until success is achieved by the grace of God".

The chairman thanked members of the electoral committee for a job well done and for their patience and cooperation throughout the election period.

Highlights of the occasion as reported by our correspondent in Bauchi was the taking of Oath of Office by the newly elected executive committee members.

The exco is made of Dr. Ibrahim Danjuma as Chairman, Barrister Auwal Ibrahim as Secretary, Barrister Adamu Tanko Jibrin, PRO and Barr. Muhammad Sani Umar respectively among others.



## Finding creative solutions to our problems

IT has often been said that health is wealth and that a healthy nation is a wealthy one. This cliché, had defined our society and lives in the past so much that the fear of the sanitary inspectors was the beginning of wisdom.

Growing up in the early days, one witnessed the arrival on monthly basis of this once important personalities to our various communities to ensure that every community met the basic conditions of healthy living. Our young and impressionable minds then often wondered why sanitation would be enforced. Having grown up, I now understand why it had to be enforced. Nigerians do not on their own follow simple and basic instructions unless someone forces them to do it.

That explains our stunted development. We do everything in total disregard of what is right. Take open defecation for instance, this is still being practiced in our society despite the health implications this practice present. Our towns and villages are often littered with faeces so much so that cholera has found a permanent home in our localities.

We have often had to wait on the international community to help us out each time we are faced with preventable calamities such as this. It is to curb the above that we call on government to bring back the sanitary inspectors of old. This would not only ensure a healthy and thus wealthy society but would serve as a source of employment for our teeming youth.

There is no gain saying that our communities are in dire need of creativity on the part of the leadership. Ways, albeit creative ones need to be sought to bring back our society to the path of growth and development. This is even more so that present day realities have made it so hard to exist in our communities. How for instance, can we wriggle our way out of the drug problems that have come to define our society?

Our youth are on a mission to destroy themselves and the whole community in the process unless something fast and quick is done. Because they

do drugs, cultism has become a norm. And as a result, our social and collective well-being is threatened and is on the verge of total collapse. Indeed, bringing back sanitary inspectors would add to the IGR of the state as defaulters would have to pay for defaulting.

Because of our society's penchant at committing wrongs, we have failed to make our mark as a nation often running to other climes to enjoy what they have sweated to build over the years. We must look inwards and reawaken the creative talents in us and begin to rebuild and reconstruct our society so that posterity would judge us kindly.

Our roads are crying for attention

Driving on our roads these days is not only risky but it is dangerous. Apart from banditry and kidnappings that have taken over and are defining our relationships, our roads are not in the best of states. We lose so many man hours doing journeys that should ordinarily be

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**The ever-present danger posed by articulated vehicles parked on our major roads is a major challenge that needs to be solved. These vehicles not only pose danger to human lives but reduce the lifespan of our roads. And, to solve the problem, parks need to be built by the different corridors leading to our capital cities. This will have the twin effects of extending the lifespan of our roads and putting some money into the pockets of government. Indeed, security would be dealt with too as government would have a register of those that would use the facility from time to time.**  
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done in very short time. The wear and tear on our vehicles is another cost that is incurred because of our bad roads. As a matter of fact, the lifespan of our vehicles are shortened. And, in a depressed and an unhealthy economy such as ours, it is often not funny. Government, therefore, needs to bring back the toll gates so as to have a source of funding for the maintenance of our road infrastructure. After all, it is standard practice the world over to have road taxes. Parks should also be built for heavy duty trucks at various locations to provide safe corridors for such vehicles and put money into the pockets of government. This too would enable government carry out its task of providing social infrastructure.

The period when we sit back and lament is over. Everyone needs to be up and about to ensure that our society works. Government cannot do it alone as we all owe our society the responsibility of developing it. When we put on our creative thinking caps, the many problems we encounter on daily basis will begin to fizzle out and we would have started on the part to recovery and reclamation of our society and our country.

The ever-present danger posed by articulated vehicles parked on our major roads is a major challenge that needs to be solved. These vehicles not only pose danger to human lives but reduce the lifespan of our roads. And, to solve the problem, parks need to be built by the different corridors leading to our capital cities. This will have the twin effects of extending the lifespan of our roads and putting some money into the pockets of government. Indeed, security would be dealt with too as government would have a register of those that would use the facility from time to time.

Our states too must cue in to take advantage of the opportunities inherent in creative thinking. The era of waiting for largesse from the centre has come to an end. This was made even more evident by the Covid-19 pandemic which exposed our soft underbelly. We must, therefore, seek options and alternatives if we are to make headway as a society.



## News

### Winners emerge in statewide quiz competition

From **MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan**

WINNERS have emerged at the 2022/2023 finals of the state-wide quiz competition organised by Steno Memorial Foundation in Ogun state.

Our correspondent reports that the finals of the quiz competition was held at the premises of Anglican Girls Grammar School, (AGGS) Ijebu Ode penultimate recently.

The event was attended by eminent personalities including the Elesugbon of Esugbon land, Kabiyesi, Oba Muideen Hassan, founder of DAKA Foundation, Dr. Kazeem Adesina Olasupo and Mr Ahmed Sanni who flew from overseas for the programme.

Others include staff of the state Ministry of Education, Science and Technology led by Mr. Akindele O. S and the Chairperson of Ijebu bloc ANCOPSS, Mrs. Osodi.

The quiz contest according to the founder of the non-governmental organisation, Dr. Olufemi Saani, began in the 2014/2015 academic session with Ijebu East Local Government Area as its pilot local government. From there, it went to Ijebu division of the state in the 2015/2016 edition before it became a state-wide contest in the following year.

He added that the competition which is a baby of the foundation's education programme department is a manifestation of one of the cardinal mandates of the foundation.

This year's finals had eight schools qualifying for the stage. The practice is usually to conduct the local government zonal phase with written test in English language, Mathematics and general knowledge for students representing each school across the local government areas.

The best three from the zonal stage will then proceed to the divisional level. The best two schools from the divisions then meet at the state finals.

St. Anthony's Grammar school, Ijebu-Imusin and Moslem College, Ijebu Ode (Ijebu Division); Remo Secondary School, Sagamu, Ogunlesi Model College, Sagamu; Abeokuta Grammar School, Abeokuta, Akin-Ogunsola Model College, Ewekoro; and, Egbado College, Ilaro, and Iganmode Grammar School, Ota were the eight finalists that took part in the final stage of the competition.

At the end of the keenly contested and brain-racking quiz contest, the students of Iganmode Grammar School, Ota took the first



Abiodun

position.

The second and third positions went to Ogunlesi Model College, Sagamu and Akin Ogunpola Model College, Ewekoro, respectively.

Oba Hassan, in his remarks, lauded Dr. Sanni, for his doggedness, commitment to the project, and commendable resolve to give back to society and build future generations of leaders.

He urged the students to be outstanding in their studies in order to stand out among their contemporaries as education is the only gift someone can give them but can never take back from them.

The winners went home with a trophy, medals, Lenovo Laptop, one each, for the two students, cash reward and several other items.

The second and third positions also went home with gifts like medals, iPads, phones, cash rewards and other souvenirs.

Dr. Sanni, noted that apart from these rewards, the two winners; Mamood Raji and Kayode Deborah of Iganmode Grammar School,

Ota, will enjoy partial scholarship of their tertiary educational pursuits sponsored by the Steno Memorial Foundation.

He added that this has been the tradition since the foundation started this competition.

He advised them to be up and doing, resilient. He urged them to be ready and willing to give back to society when they eventually make it in life.

### Taraba Central marginalized since 1999

From **VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

A political pressure group in Taraba State, the Taraba Central Zone Youth Coalition for Peace, Justice and Social Development (TCZYCPJSD), has decried the continued marginalization of Taraba Central Senatorial Zone by successive governments since 1999 in the appointment of ministers from the state.

Leader of the group, Bakari Dorofi, who expressed concern over the trend at an interactive session with journalists in Jalingo noted that of the

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

THE Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has concluded a one day training programme for no fewer than eighty (80) young men and women on cassava processing, value addition as well as packaging in Gombe State.

The training which took place at the Fadama 3 Project Conference Hall, had the eighty youths drawn from the eleven local government areas of the state.

Mr Baba Garba, the State Coordinator and officer in charge, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Gombe State office, said the training was meant to teach the young men and women profitable ways of processing, packaging, value addition and utilization of cassava in the North West, North East and North Central regions of the country.

He also explained that the training was aimed at making the trainees knowledgeable on products that can be made from cassava and its byproducts which are used for the production of several other products.

Mr. Jonathan Maina Awan, the Gombe State

### FG trains youths on cassava processing, value addition



Umakhihe

Programme Manager of the Gombe State Agricultural Development Programme (GSADP), charged the trainees to ensure utilization of the training by putting what they have learned into practice for their own benefit and that of the society.

One of the resource persons at the training, Mrs Salomi Musa Ephraim, gave an overview of cassava farming in Nigeria, its nutritional value and benefits when properly

harnessed, methods of farming, processing, storage among others.

Some of the trainees, Mrs. Halima Sani and Asaph Gambo, who spoke to our correspondent, expressed delight over the training. They attested to the fact that, it would increase their capacity on cassava farming.

They said it will also better their living standard and mitigate food insecurity in their respective domains and the country as a whole.

eleven ministers so far appointed in Taraba since 1999, seven are from the Southern Zone while four are from the Northern Zone while the central Zone has not produced even one minister.

Dorofi insisted that the trend smacks of gross injustice as the Central Zone remains the political nerve centre of the APC in Taraba State and has consistently delivered to the party.

"Gentlemen, let me quickly draw your attention to a very sad development that has been going on since the return to democracy in 1999. We have had eleven

ministers from Taraba since 1999 till date and seven of them are from the Southern Zone. They are: Gen. T.Y. Danjuma from Takum LG, Alh. Idris Waziri from Ibi LG, Mrs Salomi Jankada from Donga LG, Mr. Obadia Ando from Takum LG, Mr Alhasan Zaku from Ibi LG, Mr. Joel Danlami Ikenya from Wukari LG and Governor Darius Dickson Ishaku from Takum LG.

"We also have four ministers from the Northern Zone and they are Dr. Muhammed Shatta from Karim Lamido LG, the late Sen. Aisha Jummai Alhassan from Jalingo LG, Engr. Sale

- **APC Group**

Mamman from Jalingo LG and Hon Muazu Jaji Sambo from Jalingo LG.

"Meanwhile, we don't have a single minister from the Central Zone that has become the home of APC in Taraba State. Let me remind you that bulk of votes for the APC in Taraba at both state and federal elections come from Taraba Central Zone.

"Let me quickly remind us that the Central Zone was the first geopolitical zone in the state to identify with the All Progressives Congress APC and has since remained in the area where APC garners more votes for all presidential elections since the inception of the party in 2015.

"Going by analysis, the Central Zone has produced APC Senator for two terms, (Sen. Abubakar Yusuf) currently. We are the only zone in the state that has produced four APC members at the State House of Assembly, figures don't lie. We gave the highest votes during the recent presidential election from the state.

"The people have reasons why they vote. If their aspirations are not attended to, they may be tired of coming out to cast their votes in coming elections. It is our sincere hope and prayer that our amiable President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will break this spell and duly reward this zone by considering one of our sons for ministerial slot in the interest of justice and fairness," he said.

### Mutwang declares observance of monthly sanitation exercise

By **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutwang of Plateau State, has formally declared every last Saturday of the month as Environmental Sanitation Exercise Day.

In line with keeping Plateau State clean, he urged citizens, particularly, commercial motorists traveling with their passengers, to properly dispose of dirt generated in the course of traveling to help keep Plateau clean.

He made the declaration Saturday while flagging off the monthly environmental sanitation exercise at the Federal Secretariat Jos, the state capital. This followed his recent declaration of a state of emergency on environmental sanitation, a day after his inauguration as governor, on May 30, 2023.

The Governor said,

"Indeed, today is a day we are taking up a definite step to re-enforce what we have already begun to do since the 30th of May when I declared a state of emergency on environmental sanitation on the Plateau.

"The issue of cleaning the environment is beyond the taskforce. It is something that must become a way of life for us. We are not a dirty people. We are people that love cleanliness and therefore, we must pick up the courage to begin again to ensure that our houses, neighborhoods and the entire capital city can be kept clean.

"Therefore, from this day onwards, we want to declare that every last Saturday of the month will be observed as sanitation day on the Plateau. We want to urge our people to ensure that this is not left alone to the government. But ensure that every neighborhood must organise

itself because we are going to ensure enforcement", he warned.

While commending members of the taskforce for the wonderful work of keeping the City of Jos clean since their inauguration, Mutwang, warned that in a week or two, a mobile sanitation court would begin to move around to sanction people who do not share in the vision of keeping the environment clean.

He however, promised to ensure that all local government areas in the state were mandated to be part of the strive towards launching this environmental sanitation exercise. "We want to ensure that, this new orientation of keeping the environment clean becomes a way of life and a culture on the Plateau.

"We are educating our people to ensure that things are properly done. Motorists

must ensure that dirt that is generated in the course of their traveling with their passengers are properly kept and disposed appropriately so that people will begin to admire the state capital city as a place they will enjoy living in", the governor enthused.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary of the Plateau State Ministry of Environment, Engr. Albert Chaimang, who doubled as Chairman, Special Taskforce on Environmental Sanitation, thanked the governor for the confidence reposed in them to take this task.

The governor thereafter, undertook inspection tour starting from NTA Park, Old Airport Junction, Zarmaganda Road through Express Way to Bukuru Market and back to Rayfield all in Jos, the Plateau State capital.



## Foreign Commentary

# China in focus as EU leaders prepare for summit

**The heads of the 27 member states are set to meet in Brussels for a two-day summit this week during which they will discuss foreign policy issues on Friday, including the bloc's China strategy. In his invitation letter to the leaders, the EU Council chief, Charles Michel, said that the summit will be an opportunity to "reconfirm" the bloc's united stance towards Beijing. But, the 27 members of the European Union often struggle with unanimity when it comes to dealing with a wide array of internal issues, from migration to subsidies. PRIYANKA SHANKAR, writes.**

It is no different in foreign policy: How the EU plans to deal with China has been gnawing at the bloc over the past few years.

Grzegorz Stec, analyst at the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) in Brussels, told Al Jazeera that policy divergences persist among member states regarding China.

"Some view the economic security as the key issue, while others see Beijing's position on Russia's invasion of Ukraine as the key order of the day. These differences in priorities, at times, lead to frictions," he said.

During the past few years, the EU's stance on China has hardened for a number of reasons, including differences over the handling of the coronavirus pandemic, the rise of China as a tech and economic power – viewed by some EU countries as threatening, Beijing's military actions in the Taiwan Strait and most recently, China's lack of condemnation of Russia's war in Ukraine.

To some diplomats in the West, that China downplayed the mutiny of Russia's Wagner mercenary forces over the weekend reflected the country's strong alliance with Russia's President Vladimir Putin – an alliance that has made them wary of Beijing.

Amid the geopolitical tensions with China and Russia, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said before a trip to Beijing in March that the bloc should focus on "de-risking" with China, rather than "de-coupling".

Since 2019, the EU has referred to China as a "systemic rival" and "economic competitor".

Von der Leyen revealed the EU's plans to "enhance economic security" last week, saying that while "global integration and open economies have been a force for good", the EU also has to be "clear-eyed about a world that has become more contested and geopolitical".

While her plan did not openly specify that it was an economic strategy directed at China, some EU-China experts have said one of the main targets of the strategy is Beijing.

Fu Cong, China's ambassador to the EU, told Al Jazeera that while China understands the EU's ambitions for a resilient supply chain, the bloc "should not conflate economic security with national security, making it hurt free trade".

Last week, the EU imposed sanctions on Chinese entities that are allegedly supporting "Russia's military and industrial complex in its war of aggression against Ukraine" as part of an 11th sanctions package against Moscow.

Prior to the announcement of the ban, Fu said China has not committed to stopping companies from helping Russia, but he hoped through "dialogue, misunderstandings could be resolved".

The EU also decided to relaunch its "dialogue over human rights" with China in February, two years after they had stalled talks on the issue, following rounds of tit-for-tat



**China's President Xi Jinping, his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen meet in Beijing**

sanctions.

In March 2021, the EU imposed sanctions on four Chinese government officials for human rights abuses in the country's Xinjiang province and Beijing retaliated by sanctioning members of EU entities, including those in the European Parliament.

Human rights groups have said that discussing human rights with Beijing was meaningless.

Beijing has been criticised for abusing the rights of Uighurs, as well as cracking down on lawyers and activists within the country, particularly in Hong Kong and Tibet.

Earlier this week, several rights groups penned a letter to EU leaders before their summit, calling for "pro-actively mainstream efforts on human rights in China across all of EU-China relations, avoiding opening any dialogue on mutually recognised international human rights commitments in the name of discussing divergences and instead adopting a concerted, strategic approach to challenge Chinese government policies, practices and narratives that undermine human rights".

Amid technology ban proposals, sanctions and human rights dialogues, individual member nations of the bloc have continued to prioritise their individual national security interests instead of committing to a common China strategy.

"Eastern and Central European states will be more inclined to support Washington's approach and tone to China," Joris Teer, EU-China analyst at the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, told Al Jazeera.

"[This is] in part because of their reliance on the US to guarantee their security vis-a-vis Russia. At

the same time, the notion that China's central role in global value chains and technology development comes with high geopolitical risk is shared among EU governments."

The Baltic nations and Poland have been particularly frustrated with China over its renewed "no limits partnership" with Russia, making them rethink their trade ties with Beijing.

Last August, Estonia and Latvia announced that they were quitting the 16+1, an economic forum set up by China with Central and Eastern European countries 10 years ago to boost business relations.

Lithuania had already quit the forum in November 2021 and has also often backed imposing sanctions on Beijing. It has also called for reducing economic dependence on China not only because of Beijing's alliance with Moscow, but also because of China's actions in the Taiwan Strait.

"On Taiwan, the EU's position remains consistent and based on its 'One China policy'. Any unilateral change of the status quo and any use of force would have massive economic, political and security consequences," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told reporters in May.

He also said that the EU must prepare for all scenarios and engage with China "in maintaining the status quo and work to de-escalate tensions".

Meanwhile, the Western European nations who often steer the EU's internal and foreign policies, such as Germany and France, have pushed to tone down the bloc's harsh rhetoric towards Beijing over Taiwan, hoping to maintain and boost trade and

business relations with China.

Last week, during a meeting in Berlin, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said he had mainly urged China's Prime Minister Li Qiang to exert "even greater influence on Russia in this war" and also ensured him that Berlin did not plan to "decouple" from Beijing, seeking to maintain trade relations.

Meanwhile, France's President Emmanuel Macron, who also met Li in Paris last week, shared a similar notion. But he avoided discussing Taiwan, after he was criticised for his comments on Taipei during his China trip in April.

In an interview with the news outlet Politico and daily Les Echos, Macron had said that the EU should not be drawn into a crisis over Taiwan due to an "American rhythm and a Chinese overreaction". Instead, he pushed for strategic autonomy.

Mathieu Duchâtel, resident senior fellow and director of international studies at Institut Montaigne in Paris, told Al Jazeera that "Taiwan is emerging as a new divisive issue within the European Union."

"A debate has surfaced between those who think the EU should be more proactive in taking steps that help maintain the status quo, and those who think that the EU should remain unconcerned," he said.

With EU leaders set to debate what "de-risking" with China could mean for future relations and try to agree to a united "China strategy", Borrell said in a speech at the EU Institute for Security Studies this week that "it is not always easy to say objectively where de-risking ends and de-coupling begins."

"So, we need a real debate in Europe on this. Keeping in mind that the institutions can propose, but it is member states that decide," he said.

According to a draft of the EU Council conclusion seen by Politico, EU leaders are expected to say that the bloc "does not intend to decouple or to turn inwards" – nor does it design policies "to harm China nor to thwart China's economic progress and development".

"De-risking is the consensual conclusion," Duchâtel said.

"It clearly signals that only a fragment of trade, investment and people-to-people relations between the EU and China is being securitised. This reflects the reality," he said.

Duchâtel also said that the transatlantic partnership with the US could weigh in as a "structural determinant of European foreign policy".

"It is natural for the EU to coordinate with its more important ally on China policy, especially as the EU and the US converge on their assessment of China's domestic governance trends and international ambitions," he said.

"There is, however, a force within Europe that seeks to prevent an excessively aggressive China policy by the US and the EU. Europe is both a faithful ally and a brake," Duchâtel said.

"Of course, China's support for Russia has seriously undermined China's image across Europe, and so far Chinese diplomacy has failed at its attempt at damage control," he added.

Stec, the MERICS analyst, expected policy divergences to continue between EU member states. "A fully united EU policy on China would require a fully united EU foreign policy overall. This, in turn, would require a revision of EU treaties and that seems unlikely at this point," he added.

**Source: Al Jazeera**



Foreign News

Israeli military launches major operation in West Bank



Netanyahu

There have been intense exchanges of fire between Israeli forces and armed Palestinian militants in Jenin refugee camp, in the occupied West Bank.

The Israeli military began what appears to be one of its most extensive operations in the territory in years with drone strikes early on Monday.

Eight Palestinians have been killed and 50 injured, health officials say.

Israel said it had "dealt a heavy blow to terrorist organisations", but Palestinians accused it of a war crime.

An Israeli military spokesman said there was no specific timeline for ending the operation, but that it could take "hours or maybe a day or two".

Jenin has become a stronghold of a new generation of Palestinian militants. It has seen repeated Israeli military raids in the past year and local Palestinians have been linked to multiple shooting attacks targeting Israelis.

In 2002, during the second Palestinian intifada, Israeli forces launched a full-scale incursion in Jenin. At least 52 Palestinian militants and civilians and 23 Israeli soldiers were killed and much of the camp

was flattened during 10 days of intense fighting.

As well as the hum of drones overhead, there are regular bursts of gunfire and the loud thuds of explosions coming from the densely populated refugee camp, which is home to some 14,000 people and is now a closed Israeli military zone.

The Israeli military said its first drone strike overnight targeted an apartment that was being used as a hideout for Palestinians who had attacked Israelis and as a "joint operational command centre" for the Jenin Brigades - a unit made up of different Palestinian militant groups including Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Drones were used for further air strikes and thousands of Israeli troops were deployed in what a military spokesman described as a "counter-terrorism operation" focused on seizing weapons and breaking "the safe haven mindset of the camp, which has become a hornet's nest".

Amid intense gun battles between the troops and Palestinian militants, the Jenin Brigades said: "We will fight the occupation [Israeli] forces until the last breath and bullet, and we

work together and unified from all factions and military formations."

Ahmed Zaki, a resident of the camp, told the BBC that "columns of Israeli army vehicles penetrated the outskirts of the camp from several streets".

Palestinian ambulance driver Khaled Alahmad said: "What is going on in the refugee camp is real war."

"There were strikes from the sky targeting the camp, every time we drive in around five to seven ambulances and we come back full with injured people," he told Reuters news agency.

The Palestinian health ministry said eight Palestinians had been killed by Israeli forces, including three in the overnight drone strike. They all appeared to be young men or in their late teens - some confirmed as belonging to armed groups.

The ministry warned that the death toll might rise because 10 of the injured were in a critical condition.

Another Palestinian was killed by Israeli fire during a related protest near the West Bank city of Ramallah, it added.

The Israeli military spokesman said its forces had "neutralised" seven Palestinian "terrorists" in Jenin overnight.

Israeli Defence Yoav Gallant later declared that the Jenin operation was "progressing as planned".

"We dealt a heavy blow to the terror organisations in Jenin and managed to record impressive operational achievements," he said.

Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said Israel was not intending to expand the operation to the rest of the West Bank.

"Our goal is to focus on Jenin, and our goal is to focus only on the terrorists and their cells," he told reporters.

Protests called against Senegal leader seeking third term

The Senegalese opposition leader Ousmane Sonko has called on the public to "come out en masse" to protest against President Macky Sall seeking a third term.

The incumbent is scheduled to give a speech later to announce whether he will run for president in 2024 - something most legal experts say would violate the Senegalese constitution.

Last month, thousands of protesters took to the streets of various Senegalese cities after Sonko was sentenced to two years in prison for the crime of "corrupting youth".



Members of the Senegalese community in France held a protest against a possible third-term bid by President Macky Sall last month

US President Joe Biden is to travel to the UK to meet King Charles and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak later this month.

It is the first time the US president will have met the King since the Coronation in May.

Mr Biden's overseas diplomatic trip - in which he will also travel to Lithuania and Finland - will take place from 9 to 13 July.

Buckingham Palace confirmed King Charles was due to meet the president at Windsor Castle on Monday, 10 July.

Mr Biden did not attend the King's coronation in May - but his wife, First Lady Jill Biden, and his granddaughter went instead.

The Bidens were at Queen Elizabeth's funeral at Westminster Abbey in September. On the eve of the funeral they attended a reception hosted by the King for world leaders.

His visit follows Mr Sunak's two-day trip to Washington in June, where both leaders discussed Ukraine, a post-Brexit economy and the pros and cons of Artificial Intelligence.

This month's meeting would "further strengthen the close relationship

Joe Biden to meet King Charles, Rishi Sunak in UK

between our nations", the White House said. "We'll set out further detail in due course."

Downing Street put out a similar statement, saying that Mr Biden's upcoming visit "reflects the strong relationship" between the UK and US. Earlier this year, Mr Biden stopped in Belfast to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, and briefly met Mr Sunak.

After the UK, the US president will travel forward to welcoming President Biden in the UK for the President Biden in the UK Nato summit, which takes place on 11 and 12 July.

On his final day, he will visit Helsinki, Finland for a US-Nordic Leaders Summit, and US, building on a series of bilateral visits and is expected to be the meetings earlier this year. Russia-Ukraine war.



The US President will meet King Charles III in London for the first time since he was crowned King. Here Mr Biden is seen with the then Prince of Wales at the Cop26 summit in Glasgow.

France riots ease as mayors hold anti-violence rally

Riots in France appear to be calming, after five days of violent protests in response to the shooting of teenager Nahel M during a police traffic stop.

Sunday night saw violence subside and fewer arrests were made.

However, President Emmanuel Macron has asked the interior ministry

to keep a "massive" police presence on the streets. One of the children. The incident is being treated as attempted murder.

On Monday, mayors called for rallies to be held outside town halls to protest the violence and looting. A visibly emotional Mr Jeanbrun said: "We saw the real faces of the rioters: they are murderers... They wanted to kill my wife and my two young children in their sleep by burning them alive."

In Nanterre, Nahel's hometown, mayor Patrick Jarry said he was pleased the violence had subsided, but added that "we shouldn't lose sight of the incident that sparked this situation and the continuing need for justice".

Later in the afternoon, several hundred people attended a rally in L'Haÿ-les-Roses in support of Vincent Jeanbrun, the mayor whose While Sunday night was far calmer, authorities were rioters who fired rockets at his fleeing wife and children, breaking her leg and injuring Monday.

The clashes were the deadliest in recent memory. Sonko's supporters and some political observers say the case was an attempt to block him from running in next year's presidential election.

The president announces a third-term bid it was "incumbent on all the Senegalese people to stand up, to face him".

The constitution limits presidents to two terms in office but Mr Sall's supporters argue that this should be reset because a new constitution was adopted in 2016.

An attempted third-term bid by then President Abdoulaye Wade in 2012 plunged the country into violence, leading to 12 deaths.



Macron



## Feature

# Prostitution as reversed civilisation

**Prostitution is one of the age old problems of man. Though an underground or shadow practice in many countries, it is estimated in the report of Foundation Scelles (2016) in Encyclopaedia Britannica (2023) that, globally, there are between 40 - 42 million people practicing commercial sex out of which between 8 - 8.42 million were thought to be men. In Nigeria, the estimate of women who are into transactional sex is put at 103,506 as reported UNAIDS in 2019 and the number is counting. AYUBA, YILGAK'HA, writes.**



IN Plateau state, there are no short of prostitutes in major towns, especially, the Jos Bukuru metropolis. A drive around old airport junction, Hill Station Junction, Gada Biu-Zaria road, Double-Dollar, Bukuru express, etc. will convince anyone of how bad the situation has become in the highly religious state capital.

Basically, prostitution is the practice of engaging in sexual activity for payment. The phenomenon, also called "hook up" in local jargon, is a form of disservice to one's self and humanity. It is evidence of poor value judgement which seeks to pursue wealth through unacceptably lazy and leisure means rather than hard but legitimate means. This has a destructive repacuation as contained in the book of Proverbs 21:25: "The desire of a lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labour."

Against the erroneous insinuation that prostitution is better stealing, the practice of transactional sex is a dent on human progress. It is a demeaning orientation that does not project human dignity. It is dehumanising, degrading, immoral and perverted means of survival which can be ranked side by side with criminal tendencies like drug abuse; pornography, trafficking in persons, contrabands, bunkering, etc.

No legitimate economy can be created or made from these rotten moral enterprises called prostitution. To be under any of the underground ventures and feel comfortable is to be under a subtly toxic, corrosive and

destructive spell which erodes one's personal dignity and pride in the community of people, that is, if the practitioner(s) survive it; otherwise, it kills outright!

Prostitution is a degrading adventure. It creates an illicit and unlawful economy which is not tax worthy. It is a broad way to pleasure but gateway to shame. It is a runway to pleasure but crumbling and shortest distance to the grave.

Prostitutes are naked. No matter the quality of fabric they wear, the clothes have holes and their nakedness is evident. The simple reason is that many including nerds, dirty people both in character and physical appearance.

One of the major problems with prostitution is not prostitution itself but patronage. Prostitution sets a profound problem: Why is it that a practice so thoroughly disapproved, so widely outlawed in western civilisation, can yet flourish so universally? Asked a sociologist Kingsley Davis in an article titled, 'The sociology of Prostitution'.

Like all other illicit ventures such as the sell and consumption of hard drugs (doing drugs) or indulging in criminal activities such as armed robbery, cybercrime, smuggling, cultism, examination malpractices, Rape, etc, prostitution is a dangerous gateway and point of contact to hydra-headed social problems like addiction, Sexually transmitted Diseases (STDs), etc. A prostitute is an untamed

possibility in crime and an active suspect in the act of aiding and abating criminals or criminality.

Even though, men can be prostitutes, prostitution is associated more with the female folks. It is a misguided and dishonest activity that is tended toward messing up the practitioners in the most subtle manner. In the words of Oliver, a contact on my phone, dated June 30, 2023, "Once you place your value on money as a lady, there are men who are willing to pay just to mess you up. There is no honest way to state the obvious than this. The prostitute gets the money but the expense of her human dignity!

Prostitution for all intents and purposes is a profile in reversed civilisation. It is a moral disorientation that tends to make a jest of the collective sensibilities of humans. The practice of it can only make sense within the realm of 'animal spirits, that is, randomness which cannot be explained. The irony is that even animals do not indulge in it.

Prostitution is a bestial social order. It is an activity of altered species of mankind who are bereft of the capacity to create value. It is socially unacceptable service of perishing folks who do not want to die alone. Indeed, prostitution is a drag net toward eternal demnation. It is a crusher on one's self worth.

Having x-rayed prostitution for what it true means, there is need for reorder and reorientation

among females folk who are into it or contemplating a trial. Here is a profound counsel from "The Female Hustlers", a female social media platform which focuses on promoting the dignity of women in the social space: "Find yourself... Don't be a female with no sense of direction, thinking of nothing but looking good, turning up and seeking a man. Don't ever be the type of girl who is worth nothing more than just a pretty face and body to lust for and sleep with. Increase your value and preserve it." Reading and meditation on this counsel could help a great deal.

Understood, those engaged in commercial or transactional sex will obviously cite economic frustrations for it but the excuse is not morally and economically correct. For emphasis sake, it should be recalled that there is no legitimate economy in prostitution but an illicit drain legit economy of gullible me. Prostitution is a dubious message on the drive towards vain orgies. It is a morally cheap armed robber which stripped weak men of their sense of personal honour and discipline.

Difficult times could trigger desperate tendencies or actions in men but it can be managed with strong character. Hear what John Maxwell has to say: "A difficult time can be more readily endured if we retain the conviction that our existence holds a purpose - a cause to pursue, a person to love, a goal to achieve!"

When a man is strong willed and character stable, he must stand for upper ends in his fragile life. In this light, John Foster has this to say: "He who would do some great thing in this short life, must apply himself to the work with such a concentration of his forces as to the idle spectators, who live only to amuse themselves, looks like insanity." This means that lazy and dubious practices prostitution is a failure of reason, focus and the will to dare to achieve great things through hard work.

The most honourable thing to do in trying times is to always learn to adjust and face the difficult situations in the most responsibly decent manner not to concede to weak and regrettable actions. On this one Zig Ziglar counsels as follow: "When obstacles arise, you change your direction to reach your goal, you do not change your decision to get there!". The goal is a constant but strategy can change to make it more effective, efficient and, more importantly, morally decent.

If you stand for something, you cannot fall for just anything or everything. There is no place for prostitution in the kingdom of sane and hard working people. Only the lazy and morally derailed minds do that and I hope the one reading this is not or should not be one, no matter the hardship!



# EYE'S ON THE WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

### 7 handy tips to maintain peace of mind

MAINTAINING your peace of mind is the most important thing right now. Image courtesy: Shutterstock

The inability to sleep can be caused by the lack of productivity. No one can be a happy soul; if they do not do things that utilise their energy. That's why to stay at peace, limit mindless scrolling.

**Move your body**

It is a proven fact that exercising helps in boosting the happy hormones in your body. So, take some time out. If that's not possible, try to take breaks between work, and move around rather than just lying down or sitting all day.

**Start focusing on things that are in your control**

There are a lot of things that are not in your control, therefore, there is no point in wasting your time on those. But more than that, there are things that are totally in your control, so you must focus all your energy towards those things. This will make you more productive, and who knows, you might achieve your peace of mind?

**Be very conscious while doing that self-talk**

Self-talk can have both a positive and negative impact on you. That's why be very conscious to keep negative comments aside, and attune your brain to talk optimistically. In case you are unable to do that, the best thing is to keep yourself occupied.

Be kind to yourself because negative self-talk is not good for your mental health. Image



courtesy: Shutterstock

**Maintain some personal boundaries**

The biggest problem with some of us is that we forget that every relation has a boundary. The moment that's crossed, your peace of mind goes for a toss. That's because at times, these



courtesy: Shutterstock

**Live in the present**

We are all hell bent on thinking about the future that we forget to think about our present. If you are organized and happy in your present, only then will you be able to plan for a beautiful future.

boundaries limit you to do what you actually want to, and that can impact you emotionally.

**Don't choke your to-do list**

Only your boss can like a long to-do list. But in doing so, you forget that you only have four to five productive hours to accomplish that. If your to-do list is not prepared properly,

basically, without prioritising, then it will exhaust you both mentally and physically. And in the end, you will be left all stressed out.

So, segregate your tasks on the basis of priority, and divide them accordingly.

Make realistic goals. Image





# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Parenting

# Discipline children the right way

By **BETH ROYBAL**

HOW can you provide discipline to your child so that they can function well at home and in public? Every parent wants their children to be happy, respectful, respected by others, and able to find their place in the world as well-behaved adults. Nobody wants to be accused of raising a spoiled brat.

Discipline is the process of teaching your child what type of behavior is acceptable and what type is not acceptable. In other words, discipline teaches a child to follow rules. Effective discipline uses many different tools, like positive reinforcement, modeling, and a loving and supportive family. Sometimes, punishments are also an effective tool-but that doesn't mean that good discipline is mostly about punishments.

Parents run up against barriers when trying to teach good behavior. Your responsibility as a parent is to help your child become self-reliant, respectful, and self-controlled. Relatives, schools, churches, therapists, health care professionals, and others can help. But the primary responsibility for discipline rests with parents.

An authoritative parent has clear expectations and consequences and is affectionate toward their child. The authoritative parent allows for flexibility and collaborative problem solving with the child when dealing with behavioral challenges. This is the most effective form of parenting.

### Discipline techniques

What you choose may depend on the type of inappropriate behavior your child displays, your child's age, temperament, and your parenting style.

### Reward good behavior

Acknowledging good behavior is the best way to encourage your child to continue it. In other words, "Catch him being good."



Compliment your child when they show the behavior you've been seeking.

**Natural consequences:** Your child does something wrong, and you let the child experience the result of that behavior. There's no need for you to "lecture." The child can't blame you for what happened.

**Logical consequences:** This technique is similar to natural consequences but involves describing to your child what the consequences will be for unacceptable behavior. The

consequence is directly linked to the behavior.

**Taking away privileges:** Sometimes there isn't a logical or natural consequence for a bad behavior -- or you don't have time to think it through. In this case, the consequence for unacceptable behavior may be taking away a privilege. For example, if a middle schooler doesn't complete their homework on time, you may choose to take away television privileges for the evening. This discipline technique works best if the privilege is related in some way to the behavior

- Something the child values
- taken away as soon as possible after the inappropriate behavior (especially for young children)

**Time outs:** Time outs work if you know exactly what the child did wrong or if you need a break from the child's behavior. Be sure you have a time-out location established ahead of time.

Time outs often work best with younger kids for whom the separation from the parent is truly seen as a deprivation.

Corporal (physical) punishment, such as spanking, isn't recommended.

### Tips for Maintaining discipline

Guide your discipline techniques to fit well with your child's temperament. The key to effective discipline is to understand who your child is, especially their temperamental style, and use your discipline to help them achieve their potential given those talents and tendencies. But your goal

should not be to turn them into someone they are not.

**Communicate your discipline plan:** Discipline techniques shouldn't come "out of the blue," especially if you're trying something new. To children who are old enough to understand, during a planned discussion (not in the heat of the moment) explain the technique, why you are using it, and what you hope it will accomplish. Older children may be included in choosing which rewards and consequences would be appropriate.

**Be respectful of your child:** If you show your child respect even when disciplining your child your child is more likely to respect you, other family members, and other people in their life. If you "lose it" or overreact with disrespect, apologize. Behave the way you want your child to behave.

**Be consistent:** Any technique will fail if you don't follow through or enforce consequences consistently. If you say, for example, that toys will be off limits for a week, then take them away if the offending behavior continues.

Don't break your discipline rules by giving in during public exhibitions of bad behavior, such as a child throwing a tantrum while shopping. If you give in to the child's demands, the tantrums will continue.

Try to keep your goals and your techniques consistent over time. If more than one adult is

responsible for the child's discipline, be sure you agree about the approaches you will use.

When it's done, it's done. After the consequence is over or the time has been served, don't ask for apologies or continue to lecture about the behavior. Help your child return to an appropriate activity.

**Look for the "why" behind behaviors:** If you notice a pattern of inappropriate behavior, part of the solution is to look for "whys." For example, perhaps your child is upset about something else, such as a friend moving away. Maybe your child had a bad day at school. Perhaps your child feels stressed about family problems. Maybe they are tired or hungry.

These explanations don't excuse the behavior, but trying to understand why it happens can help you and your child find ways to prevent it from happening again and again.

### Know When and Where to Go for Help

Give yourself a break. Even if you have the best discipline techniques and parenting style, there are some days when nothing seems to work. Or perhaps you've had a bad day, too. Developing skills for positive discipline takes a lot of practice and a lot of time. If you feel you have made a mistake, be honest. Apologize to your child and explain how you plan to change your response the next time.





**Editorial**

**Can Nigeria Build Resilience to Flooding?**

IT is a known fact that Nigeria is one of the most flood-prone countries on the west coast of Africa, and this is evidenced by the many areas that experience flooding on an annual basis, which is most severe during heavy rainfall.

Flash floods are considered the deadliest hazards related to extreme weather, which Nigeria is increasingly prone to. Heavy rains over the West African Sahel is a predictor of floods in the country.

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in its 2023 Climate-related Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Strategies warned that flooding is predicted to result from rising sea levels and tidal surge in the states. It says that this year's forecast has indicated that there is a high risk of coastal flooding due to expected rise in sea level and tidal surge. Saying this is likely to negatively impact agriculture, human settlements and transportation, especially in Bayelsa, Delta, Lagos, and Rivers states.

THE Director General of NEMA, Ahmed Mustapha Habib, said that "flash and urban floods are also forecast over many cities and towns due to poor drainage systems and the lack of compliance with town planning and environmental regulations."

SADLY with the rains already wreaking havoc, it is incumbent on governments who haven't put in place any measures of mitigating such occurrences curb or minimize the usually colossal losses that come with these disasters, such as experienced in the Lugbe area of Abuja, particularly, on the Trademore Estate. Lives were lost, and houses were submerged, according to reports received.

UNFORTUNATELY in 2022 alone, NEMA says that several lives and properties were lost to floods which affected about 33 states. 665 people died and 3181 others were injured as a result of flooding. And had over 200 thousand people who were displaced. And about a million farmlands were partially or totally destroyed by flooding. The economic value of damage is put at about N4 trillion.

EVEN with the almost annual flooding being experienced, residents of vulnerable areas seem to have no solution. They are not resettled, and seem to have been left to their fate, as the floods continue on a yearly basis, unabated.

THE idea of having these predictions is so that authorities would do the needful by putting measures in place to check the awaiting disaster. The era whereby authorities wait until it happens, is most unfortunate. Early warning must be matched with early action.

HOWEVER, NEMA has written letters to all the 36 State Governments and the FCT Administration with specific mention of LGAs at risk and actions that are expected to be taken by responsible authorities. This is a right step in the right direction. They have also produced flood risk maps of areas at risk and uploaded them on their official website and social media platforms so that the public can access such materials.

WE advise for the protection of life and property, the issue of flooding in Nigeria must be given proper attention, because of the urgency such weighty matters carry. Government cannot shy away from this responsibility.

APPARENTLY the floods this year could be similar or worse than what occurred in 2022 if adequate preparatory steps are not taken. Early, adequate action to mitigate or avert possible disaster is non-negotiable. Sensitisation of the public on the predicted floods has commenced. State governments is urged to establish Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC) in areas where they do not exist.

WE cannot afford to incur another N700 billion loss in agricultural investment as was the case last year according to the National Agricultural Extension Research Liaison Services (NAESRLS). Many states are yet to recover from the impact of the devastating floods of 2022.

GLOBAL sea levels are expected to rise between 2 and 7 feet in this century, which would adversely affect coastal communities in the most vulnerable parts of the world. Nigeria is one. The question remains; how prepared are we for this? Increasing ocean flooding, permanent submergence, and coastal defense costs are likely to deliver profound humanitarian, economic, and political consequences. And this would happen not just in the distant future, but also within the lifetimes of most people alive today.

THE country therefore needs to improve on key interventions needed. One such area is addressing the problem of poor drainage. Proper dam management and tree planting etc. For Nigeria, these are actions that would sure help to build resilience to floods.

THE Bukuru Cattle Market is said to be one of the oldest in Northern Nigeria but not much has been done to keep it in and better condition.

The cattle market which is located in Jos South local government area of Plateau State dates back to the Nigerian colonial Period where traders and other business activities usually take place and is popularly known as Karra Market.

Recently, traders in the market were asked to quit by the local government authority which it was gathered that contract was awarded to a company for its modernization but uptill now not much has been seen in terms of work on the site.

Although traders at Bukuru Cattle Market have raised concern over the quit notice given to them by the Jos South Local Government Council. I wish to therefore suggest that instead of demolition of the market and relocating them, to a new place, why not modernize the present market to a better standard in order to generate more revenue



**Government should renovate Bukuru cattle market**

for the local government and the state at large. In view of the influx of business activities in the market.

Considering the importance of the market as a business hub, I wish to appeal to the Plateau State Government under the able leadership of His

Excellency, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong, to kindly wade into the lingering issue surrounding the modernization of the cattle market for the local government and the state at large.

**Fatima Abdulkarim Taye is an IT student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.**

**Rikkos community needs portable drinking water**

I want to use this medium of THE NIGERIAN STANDARD to appeal to the Plateau State government to come to the aid of the people of Rikkos community with the provision of portable drinking water.

People of Rikkos community have

to go through difficult challenges on a daily basis trying to source water for their daily cooking and other domestic usage due to the absence of pipe borne water.

The people now depend on water vendors, wells, River ponds

which are the main sources of getting water in the area.

As we all know, water is life, it makes life much easier and without modern water facilities, the health implication could be devastating with cholera and diarrhea and other health hazards which can be contracted due to the inability to access good water.

However in order to safeguard the health of the people of the area, there is need to provide water for the well being of the people in that community.

I also want to appeal to the Plateau State government to assist the people of rikkos communities with pipe borne water in other to ease their daily suffering of going to search for water at odd time of the day and the need for boreholes and the provision of clean water to be provided in the area so that the people can have a cause to have this basic amenity for domestic use which can be of great benefit for all the citizens and also give them a sense of belonging.

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

**PLSG, please place priority on early child education**

A child's early foundation for his or her future development provides a strong base for a life long learning abilities.

Children who are enrolled in every child education programme tend to achieve more success at school with better career opportunities. This is necessary for holistic development of a child's social, emotional and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for life long learning and well being.

A good discipline in early childhood education programme also helps the child in the future while it is important to note that early childhood education can

expose and expand the child's scope of learning and growth in the environment and expose his or her understanding in terms of knowledge and development particularly in the acquisition of learning skills.

I therefore wish to appeal to the Plateau State Government to as a matter of priority place emphasis on compulsory education for every child. This policy would lay a foundation for a better and prosperous future for our children as well as for the overall development of the country.

**Ibrahim Khadija Hassan is an IT student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.**

**Standard Cartoon**





## Opinion

# There was a country

By OSITA CHDOKA

AS I visited my Muslim friends and enjoyed sumptuous ram-themed dishes commemorating the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) in total obedience to God's directive to sacrifice his son, I wondered why the two Abrahamic religions in Nigeria have not elicited obedience to rules as a matter of course. As I pondered, I remembered a story I heard recently that reminded me that we were not always a lawless country.

I had to use Chinua Achebe's book title to tell this story of a meeting I had with a Man a few days ago. He is from Yobe and in his 60s. In the course of our discussion, he mentioned that he spent one year at Nike Grammar School Enugu in 1976. I got curious. How did that happen? Was your father a federal civil servant or soldier? He answered in the negative.

"In the early 70s Borno State and Anambra state had a student exchange programme that after the state common entrance examination those selected for the exchange program got two admission letters one to a school in Borno and the other to a school in Enugu." I listened with rapt attention.

In his case, he got admitted to a school in Maiduguri and Nike Grammar School in Enugu. His

father, an uneducated man who lived in present-day Yobe, elected that he should go to Enugu. He was sad as this was a few years after the war, and he had grown up on a diet of widely held false notions fed by war propaganda about Igbo people.

His father took him to Kano and put him on a Bus to Enugu. He was barely 12 years old. He cried most of the journey. An Igbo man seating next to him promised to take him to Nike Grammar School upon arrival at Enugu. He kept his promise.

At Nike Grammar School, he was received warmly but was told he came a week early as the school had not resumed. The principal handed him over to a teacher and he stayed in his house for one week.

On resumption, other Borno students arrived by a Bus provided by the Borno State Ministry of Education. All the Exchange Programme students stayed in school from the first term to the third term before going home. During the first and second term holidays, the school looked after them, provided meals, and ensured they were

comfortable.

At the end of the third term, the Anambra State government provided a Bus that took them to Maiduguri and handed all of them over to the Borno State Ministry of Education. It was an experience for him. To his regret, he changed schools to GSS Maiduguri without his father's consent.

Upon school resumption, he left home and resumed at GSS Maiduguri. When his father found out, he was disappointed. He asked him why he did not return to Enugu. The young man said it was far. He further asked him whether he was mistreated in Enugu. He answered in the negative and said he enjoyed it but the distance from home and the fact he had to spend a whole year before coming home was an issue for him.

His father told him that he sent him to Enugu because he wanted him to be bigger and better than him and his mates around their home. He sent him because he believed that he had the capacity to withstand the difficulties which is why he did not send the sister. As a true Muslim, his father told him, he believed that he had not hurt anyone

knowingly in his life, and as such no evil will befall his family no matter where they go. His father told him that those who have friends across Nigeria will be the leaders of the Nigeria of the future.

At GSS Maiduguri, he bonded with the Anambra students on the Exchange Programme, who were excited that he was at Enugu for one year.

His one year in Enugu redefined his perception of Igbo people and framed his future interactions with other Nigerians. To this day, he maintained contact with his Igbo friends at Nike Grammar School. Three of them ended up as Lecturers and are still in touch with him. Some of the Igbo students at GSS Maiduguri are still in touch with him and consider him a brother. A few years back he got in touch with one of them, who is now a Pastor in Umuahia.

I was sober as his narration ended. I had never heard of this student exchange programme between States in the 1970s. The story was another sad testament to our failure as a nation. I thought can I send my 11-year-old son alone on a bus

from Enugu to Maiduguri today even with mobile phones and GPS tracking? Can a government school in any part of the country be entrusted with students for one whole year without parental visits?

Our bureaucracy is badly damaged almost irretrievably. As a nation, we took a wrong turn at some point and need to press the reset button NOW. The idea of a deliberate and intentional promotion of national integration should be pursued with renewed vigour. Unity in diversity should be a national aspiration and a measurable indicator of our journey to nationhood.

The man who told me this story is today the Acting National Chairman of the PDP, Ambassador Umar Iliya Damagun, former Nigerian Ambassador to Romania. He wished he finished at Nike Grammar School, and I wish his father was alive to see how his vision for his son turned out.

There was indeed a country. **Osita Chidoka is a politician, public servant and administrator. He was Nigeria's Minister of Aviation under President Goodluck Jonathan.**

## A way forward micro, small size, medium business

By TIMI OLUBIYI

AS businesses grow, many decisions come to bear, from marketing to funding, expansion, investments, operations, logistics, staffing, technology adoption, and so on, all to enhance business productivity. Without a doubt, just like individuals make poor choices and bad decisions, businesses do too.

Business leaders and entrepreneurs make bad decisions, not because they are not clever or experienced, but because they are humans. Certainly, humans are never perfect decision-makers at all, a bad decision can occur once in a while or repeatedly and such is the case with business leaders, entrepreneurs, top management, and/or owner-managers of businesses around as well.

As important as decision-making is in business operations, the good news is that business failures have been identified largely to be due to poor decision-making by operators, owners, or business managers. Why is this good news? In my opinion, understanding the major cause of past business failures could help restrain many entrepreneurs or businesses from repeating this error clearly. Since poor decision-making has been identified as a major concern for business sustainability, therefore, making a good choice most of the time is important for any business, though this can be argued.

In business, no matter the structure in place, decision-making is key and is one of the main indicators of a high-performing business or one of the indicators of how healthy a business is. Remember, not having a decision-making process is, in itself, a decision on its own. I have observed keenly that a large number of businesses, be it large or small in Nigeria, particularly the ones in the industrialised States and areas, relish taking shortcuts as a normal practice and they hardly ever have an articulated decision-making process within their businesses. It is rather worse in small-scale businesses, where decision-making could be the sole responsibility of the operators or business owners.

In fact, in small-scale businesses, the most common cause of poor decision-making is that the operators are so dominant with excessive managerial control that they see

decision-making as their sole right without any recourse to the ideas or opinions of employees or others. This is the big issue really.

Furthermore, no initiative or contributions from employees and subordinates are ever considered, key decision-making is never participatory and this sometimes leads to business concerns. A decision-making responsibility before, during, and after any implementation of a task in a business should not be the entire decision of the business owners. Playing the obvious role of the sole expert in all departments, units, and concerns of the business operations by the owners is never sustainable but damaging, this action has been captured as one of the major causes of the incidence of widespread business failures amongst small-scale businesses in the country.

A good decision can enable a business to thrive and survive long-term, while a poor decision can lead a business into failure. A common behaviour of leaving things to chance when decisive action ought to be taken is also a decision, but a poor one at that, which can bring huge consequences on the business. This worrying development amongst small-scale business operators has cost many their fortune, particularly with the advent of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), which has been impacting the economy and businesses negatively. It should be a time for decision-making for businesses and not a time to operate aloof. The coronavirus pandemic has changed the world and also signaled a new era for businesses, therefore, there is a need for business operators to take strategic decisions, most notably in the manufacturing, retail, and service sectors due to technology disruptions. Yet business operators in these mentioned sectors disregard this all-important activity. The failure of any business or venture in making good and quality decisions could be a result of many factors, such as inexperience, lack of time, stress, overwork, and pressure from stakeholders among others. All these can lead to poor decision-making and the eventual failure of any business. The quality of

decisions in any business directly impacts its performance and overall business outcomes.

Small business operators should understand that it is healthy for staff to disagree over decisions if the views defer. It only helps to make a proper and effective decision for the business at the end of the day. Leaders should purposefully create a culture where debate and disagreement are welcome.

Remember, decision-making is the action or process of thinking through possible options and uncertain outcomes and selecting the best option concerning the business. This decision-making could border on marketing, financing, customer satisfaction, investment, and technology usage in the business.

It is often shocking that once-known and thriving businesses can suddenly go under and cease to operate as a result of what most times seem to be poor decision-making and mismanagement. In the case of big and widely known multinational businesses like Kodak, Nokia, Motion Blackberry and Motorola, their management ignored the technological shift. They failed to be decisive in their decision making particularly on innovations until it was too late despite the vantage position.

Though Nigeria has a tough operating environment and harsh economic factors, however, many of the small businesses and start-ups in the real estate, retail, manufacturing, corner shops, and service sectors among others have lost their relevancies due to poor or lack of prompt decision-making. For instance, just on Ogudu road via Ojota in Lagos State businesses that were once the toast of teeming residences and customers such as Cherries superstore, Terminal 3 restaurant, CCD stores, and The Mr Biggs eatery, Ogudu branch, have all now remained permanently closed, failed, sold off or shut down to what seems to be poor decision-making from the management. This is the fate of so many of the medium-small scale businesses in Lagos State and indeed Nigeria, they disappear after a few years of operations and never grow to become intergenerational businesses.

One of the worst things to do in business is to ignore customers' preferences, revolutionary innovations and also fail to adapt to changes

within the business environment as quickly as possible. The high business mortality rate in Nigeria is mainly due to these reasons. Entrepreneurs and operators try to protect what they already have going for them, instead of having a decision-making process that can always suggest innovation and ways of doing things better to meet and surpass customers' expectations. Many businesses still follow this rigid path, particularly in the manufacturing, services, and retail businesses, lacking the foresight of the advent of online presence, e-commerce, and technological shift occasioned by COVID-19. In my view, businesses need to have a sound decision-making policy that is in tune with the current realities of aggressive social media and internet usage. We have experienced a major cultural shift in customers' behaviour with COVID-19, and businesses need a decision-making process to review their activities from time to time. This will help to adapt to the economic and environmental changes accordingly.

Multiple studies have suggested that engaging employees in the decision-making process can impact businesses positively, make them more committed to business success, have stronger connections with the businesses, increase engagements and also help produce higher quality results. Therefore, building a participatory decision-making culture is recommended for businesses particularly small-scale businesses at this time. This strategy will more than likely improve the competitive position and effectiveness of the management, operators, and business owners. Because making decisions is a critical component of effective leadership, hence involving employees in the process will help businesses make better decisions. Let the truth be told, inexpensive and reasonable businesses built around clothing, housing, potable water, medical care, education, home essentials, shopping and food items will always have economic demands. Thus, as much as the adequate and proper decision-making process or policy is in place, that should give the needed competitive advantage and make businesses not ordinarily fail. Good luck!

**Dr Timi Olubiyi, an Entrepreneurship & Business Management expert.**



# Change of Name

<p><b>SUNDAY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY ROSEMARY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SUNDAY ROSEMARY KOTDIE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>GLORY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GLORY ONIOVOSA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GLORY DANLADI ONIOVOSA</b> of No. 7 Pst. Glory Danladi Street Kangang, Rantya Gyel Jos South. 08033939172. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>LAMI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LAMI DUNG PEI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LAMI EMMANUEL THOMAS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>TOKA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>REBECCA T SAMBO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TOKA RABECAH SAMBO</b>. Correct date of birth is 10/2/1967. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>CHOJI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LENGE CHARITY CHRISTOPHER</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHOJI CHARITY JACOB</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>LUKA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PATIENCE DUNG CHOLLOM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LUKA PATIENCE PAM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>AMINU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BOT JULIANA LAWRENCE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AMINU JULIANA BOT</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AFAMEFUNA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>EJIM PATIENCE UCHE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AFAMEFUNA PATIENCE UCHE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>JONATHAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DAVOU DINATU PWAJOK</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JONATHAN DINATU GYANG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>OKALI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>OKALI ECHHEDOM VINCENT</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OKALI CHUKWUECHEDOM VINCENT</b>. Correct date of birth is 26/08/1978. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>HAWAU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>HAWAU SULAIMAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>HAWAU SULAIMAN UMAR</b>. Correct date of birth is 15/01/1968. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>DAWAM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ANAME AMOS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAWAM ANAN'AEN AMOS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>WAKYUR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DOKA TONGRET YILMAK</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>WAKYUR TONGRET BENYASH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>GAVOU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GYANG GAVOU ADAMU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GAVOU PANKYES MUSA</b>. Correct date of birth is 2/12/1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TYOS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JOSEPH YAKUBU DAVOU TYOS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TYOS JOSEPH DAVOU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>LYDIA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LYDIA BENJAMIN GOKUM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LYDIA ISHAKU SUNWAR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMED SABITU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD SABITU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>NAPHTALI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NAPHTALI ABISHAI ABISHAI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NAPHTALI ABISHAI HAMMAN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>MATHEW</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MATHEW PETER</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MATHEW PETER DUNG</b>. Correct date of birth is 31/8/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DADO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PLANGAN DIYEN, GODIYA INK DIYEN, GODIYA DIYEN, GODIYA INK and DADO GODIYA DIYEN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DADO GODIYA DIYEN</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 AUDU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ESTHER ANAH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANYHI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JAMES WANWAMICIT NIMMYEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANYHI WANWAMICIT JAMES</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TA'AZIYA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>USMAN TAAZIAH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TA'AZIYA USMAN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ELIZABETH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ELIZABETH EMMANUEL OLORUNDARE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ELIZABETH OMOLOLA OLORUNDARE</b>. Correct date of birth is 22/7/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>JACOB</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JACOB GYANG RIN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JACOB RIN GYANG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ABUBAKAR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SALI SALISU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABUBAKAR SALISU ABDULLAHI</b>. Correct date of birth is 7/3/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>DORCAS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DORCAS ANTHONY TABITHA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DORCAS PANKYES GAMAJE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>ILIYA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ILIYA MAINASARA AUDU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ILIYA AUDU</b>. Correct date of birth is 28/5/1968 not 5/5/1968. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>SHIKBUAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SHIKBWAN DANIEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SHIKBUAN DANIEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MRS LINDA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MISS LINDA BENCHI JAKHAM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS LINDA PUKAT SHEHU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>SYLVESTER</b></p> <p>I, <b>CHIRMAN BINBOL SYLVESTER</b> that my correct date of birth is 13/11/1965. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AFENA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AFENA MARK NGUWAR and AFENA ALFRED E. DIKOROM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AFENA ALFRED DIKOROM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>EBIGBEMI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GOYIT NANCY BULUS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EBIGBEMI NANCY SEYIFUNMI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ADIKWU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ADOLI REGINA ONYAGUNDA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADIKWU, REGINA ONYAGUNDA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MRS. ALHERI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MISS. TITUS ALHERI MUTYUWEI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. ALHERI KOERLAT ABRAHAM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ANNA MALLUM BAWA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MONDAY, ANNA BAWA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>ABDULLAHI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMED SANI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABDULLAHI SANI IZANG</b>. Correct date of birth is 03/02/1987 not 15/03/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ISHAKU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>FWANGDER ANGELA SALE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ISHAKU ANGELA LONGJI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SILAS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>COMFOR ZAKARIA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SILAS COMFORT MIRI</b>. Correct date of birth is 2nd February, 1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANBAM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DOKA NANBAM YILMAK</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANBAM LUKA BARDE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MOHAMMED SHEHU ISA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD SHEHU ISA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AVU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ELISHA AVU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AVU ELISHA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>RE ARRANGMENT OF NAMES</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>FLORENCE BENTU JOSHUA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>FLORENCE JOSHUA BENTU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LARABA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LARABA KWASU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LARABA KWASU AMANI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>EBERECHUKWU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>EBERECHUKWU JOSEPHINE AGUBA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EBERECHUKWU JOSEPHINE DRAEKWE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>GOBEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GOBEL JIRITMWA MONICA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GOBEL MONICA GOGWIM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>JOHN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY BLESSING</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN BLESSING</b>. Correct date of birth is 9/4/1990 not 9/4/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>ZAINAB</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ZAINAB ABUBAKAN MOHAMMED</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ZAINAB ABBA MADAKI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>ABDULRAHMAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>UZAIFA ABDULLAHI ABDULRAHMAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABDULRAHMAN UZAIFA ABUBAKAR</b>. Correct date of birth is 15/3/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ADAMSON</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>HITLER ADAMSON</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAMSON RABWO MOSES</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>NAFISATU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NAFISATU ZAKARI DANDINA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NAFISATU DANDINA ABDULKARIM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MARY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JOHN MARY HARUNA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY AYUBA TIMOTHY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>SYLVIA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SYLVIA OGOCHUKWU ARACHIE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SYLVIA OGOCHUKWU MBONU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ADAMS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SHUT MANG ADAMU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADAMS CHRISTOPHER SHUTT</b>. Correct date of birth is 24th december 1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>DIANA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DIANA KUZAYET ISHAKU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DIANA KUZAYET DANIEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AMAWU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LAQI ISTIFANUS AMAWU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AMAWU LAQ ISTIFANUS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SPACE FOR SALE</b></p>	<p><b>SPACE FOR SALE</b></p>	<p><b>SPACE FOR SALE</b></p>	<p><b>SPACE FOR SALE</b></p>



News

# Governor puts smiles on pilgrims faces

**From Lawal Umar Abubakar Bauchi**

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State has distributed 300 Saudi Riyals to over 3000 Bauchi pilgrims in the holy land of Makkah.

This is contained in a statement issued by Alhaji Mukhtar Gidado, Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to Governor Mohammed, made available to newsmen recently.

It been observed that 300 Saudi Riyals is equivalent to N66,000 given to each of the Bauchi pilgrims at the holy land.

He said the governor made the donation when he visited Bauchi camp of the over 3000 pilgrims who participated in this year's Hajj exercise

Gidado explained that the gesture was to complement their expenses during their stay in the holy land.

According to him, the Governor during the visit to their Munna tent, appreciated them for their good conduct throughout their stay in the holy land.

"Mohammed commended



**Mohammed**

them for respecting authorities both in Nigeria and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

"He assured that his administration will not relent in supporting the state Pilgrims Welfare Board in order to provide the best services to the pilgrims," he said.

Gidado also said the state government would partner the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) to address

some of the challenges being experienced by the state's Hajj commissions while in the holy land of Saudi Arabia.

He said Gov Mohammed expressed his profound gratitude to the pilgrims for their prayers for the success of his administration, urging them to sustain the tempo for the best interest of the state and its citizens.

The Federal University Lokoja (FUL) has matriculated 4,347 newly admitted students for the 2022/2023 academic session.

Speaking at the event on Tuesday in Lokoja, Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Olayemi Akinwumi, warned the students to desist from cultism, drug abuse, examination malpractice and other social vices.

"Today marks the beginning of a transformative chapter in your lives, and I assure you that this university community is here to support and guide your steps to fulfill your divine destiny.

"The record before me shows that we are today matriculating 4,347 students for the 2022/2023 academic session across six faculties, including the College of Health Sciences.

"This matriculation oath means you have embraced the university's values and ethos, which signifies your

## FUL matriculates 4,347 students, warns against social vices

**From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

commitment to academic excellence, personal growth, and the pursuit of knowledge

"At Federal University Lokoja, our mission is to provide quality education, foster critical thinking, and produce thorough bread graduates who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to the society," he said

Akinwumi explained that the vision of the institution is to become one of the leading universities in the country, adding that the institution would continue to thrive for excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement.

"These guiding principles

serve as the compass that is driving this institution toward academic innovation, social responsibility, and transformative impact which requires the students to take their lectures seriously.

"So, we advise you against all social vices, abide by the rules and regulations of the university.

"Respect the code of conduct, honour academic integrity, and treat fellow students, faculty, and staff members with dignity and kindness," Akinwumi advised

The vice chancellor also advised the new students to take their studies seriously, adding that such move would enable them excel in their future endeavours.

## 'Make use of security knowledge to guarantee safety'

**By JIDAUNA DARING**

STAFF of Plateau State Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (RAAMP) have been charged to make good use of the knowledge impacted to them on security awareness at a workshop so as to guarantee their safety while discharging their official duty at any given site in the state.

A senior director who oversees the office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development and

Chairman, State Project Monitoring Committee, Mrs. Esther Pwaspo gave the charge while declaring open a one-day training workshop on security awareness for RAAMP staff, held at De-Eden Hotel Jos, recently.

Mrs. Pwaspo expressed delight with the choice of the training on security matters for the RAAMP staff, saying that the staff lives need to be protected while on site at all times.

She pointed out that the RAAMP

project or activities have made a lot of work easy for them in the ministry, looking at the significance and the areas of focus of project in the state.

Mrs. Pwaspo said that Governor Caleb Mutwang of Plateau State is also passionate about the RAAMP project. She added that the ministry would continue giving RAAMP the needed support, so as to achieve the desired results of the project in the state.

Earlier in his opening remarks, RAAMP, Plateau State Project Coordinator (SPC), Engr. Matawal D. Mafwil expressed optimism with the workshop, saying that they thought it very expedient to organize the workshop as also directed by the World Bank who are the sponsor of the RAAMP project across 20 states of the federation after looking at the insecurity in the country.

He maintained that it was in view of the insecurity that the World Bank advised every RAAMP beneficiary state to appoint RAAMP security focal person or adviser, whose responsibility is to keep them abreast with security situation before they go to any given site.

He explained that the RAAMP mission is to provide rapid sustainable development in the rural areas through the application of international benchmark project management best practices in the delivery of public sector projects.

Mafwil while appreciating the staff for their impressive turnout during the workshop, described it as a total commitment towards ensuring the success of the project.

In his presentations, Plateau State RAAMP Security Focal Person (SFP) CSP Noel Pringkwap (rtd) told the participants that the increasing rate of insecurity has become a major concern, especially when it comes to security threat.

CSP Pringkwap said that the objectives of the training workshop was to create an understanding of the overall concept of security and build awareness in the minds of project staff about the need to be security conscious at all times.

He added that other objectives include: to help the project staff identify the various threats and their risks and area of prevalence within the state. And to also educate the project staff of the needed action in the event of any security breach anywhere around them among others.

Our correspondent reports that the workshop featured paper presentations by CSP Noel Pringkwap (rtd) on understanding the concept and scope of security, identifying security threats, risk/mitigating factors, surviving a hostage kidnapping situation, identifying security threats and likely risks and mitigating measures and group work among others.

## VP tasks governor on maintaining peace with monarch

**From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto**

THE Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Kashim Shettima has urged the Sokoto State Governor to by all means pursue peace and never in any circumstances trigger or allow any misunderstanding between him and the Sultan of Sokoto.

The Vice President was on a visit to Sokoto where he also stated that His Excellency Bola Amed Tinubu's administration remains loyal to the traditional institutions in Nigeria.

The VP was recently in the state, on Sallah homage to the Sultan Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III. He pointed out that the present administration led by President Ahmed Tinubu has very strong regard for all the nation's traditional leaders.

He said the visit was directed by the President was to convey Sallah best wishes and greetings to the Sultan and the Sultanate, adding that he and his entourage were in the palace to seek for the blessings of the royal father especially as a royal traditional institutional head.

He also promised to continue paying respect to the traditional institutions

leaders which is unshakable and will always remain so as far as this administration remains in focus.

He also stated that he has counselled the governor not to allow misunderstanding between him and Sen. Aliyu Wamakko and to always regard and respect the sultan as according to him, this is in the best interest of running an administration that is more acceptable to the people.

The VP also stated that there was the need for the Northern leaders to continue to embrace peace with one another

toward facing its challenges.

That they are all aware of the numerous challenges in the region, ranging from insecurity and poverty, among many others. He added that the North should embrace one another, join hands together in addressing its challenges for the best of the people, the region and the country in general.

In his speech the sultan appreciated the president and Shettima for the visit, while assuring them of the Sultanate Council's commitment to support the administration to succeed.

## Ex minister cautioned on ethno-political division agenda

**From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

KOGI State Information Commissioner, Mr Kingsley Fanwo has accused the Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum, Arch Gabriel Aduku of "using the platform of the ACF to fan his ethno-political division agenda in Kogi State".

He said the Arewa Chief was "promoting tension, fear and division in a state that is largely peaceful."

Arch Aduku had earlier raised the alarm over what he called "politically motivated insecurity in Kogi State", saying the November 11 Governorship Poll might not hold in the state if "authorities do not do something about it".

He said "innocent people are killed and their properties destroyed in the past few

weeks". Responding to Aduku on Plus Politics, a political programme on Plus TV Africa, Fanwo said the pains of the supposed elder statesman was understandable. He accused him of being an interested party, who had failed to impose an unpopular candidate on the people of the state.

He said, "We can understand his pains. He led a faction of an ethnic-based group to endorse an unpopular candidate, but Kogites are standing their ground to sustain the unity of the state. What he tried to use the platform of the ACF to achieve is borne out of frustration and desperation.

"Is Arch Aduku saying he belongs to the same political interest group with a notorious murderer, kidnapper and



**Shettima**

He said the visit was a institution's struggle homecoming, adding, "It toward providing the best is highly encouraging the for the society".

gunrunner who was neutralised while he was attempting to kill security agents? He needs to tell Nigerians what he knows about the building of arms around the now deceased person, who the security agencies have described as the leader of a notorious criminal gang.

"The security agents explained why he was neutralised but the Chairman of a highly respected organisation as the ACF is justifying criminality and raising false alarm.

Fanwo said the state had improved dramatically in the area of security. He said anyone who attempts to disturb the peace of the people of Kogi State would be dealt with decisively.

"Governor Yahaya Bello owes the people of Kogi State,

regardless of political, ethnic and social leanings, a safe society where they can aspire to greatness. He will maintain that until his last day in office," he said.

The Information Commissioner said political candidates were campaigning freely in the state because it is their right to aspire to political offices.

He insisted that only those building "political militia" were crying wolf, having discovered that "Kogi is programmed to deal decisively and uncompromisingly with insecurity".

Fanwo said the state would provide a peaceful environment for a free, fair and credible poll on November 11 to the disappointment of ethno-political division agents.



**Feature**

**Nigeria's manufacturing activity climbs, but business confidence ebbs**

HIS expectation is that inflation could touch 30 per cent by year-end from the current 22.4 per cent on the heels of the abolition of petrol subsidies and a 40 per cent weakening of the naira in June.

"Petrol pump prices have increased by an average 176% countrywide. This may drive transport inflation further up (it contributes 7.5% to the inflation basket) as major transportation vehicles 'intra-state' use petrol," Mr Oni said.

The survey is envisaging inflation in Africa's biggest economy to hit 27.5 per cent come December. Nigeria lengthened the run of growth in its factory output to three months in a row in June as manufacturers raced to increase goods in stock to beat potential spikes in inflation.

According to Stanbic IBTC Bank Nigeria PMI issued on Monday, an end to a popular but expensive fuel subsidy scheme in Africa's biggest economy recently caused price pressures to quicken last month, slowing the pace of rise in new orders.

At 53.2, the headline Purchasing Manager Index (PMI) – an indicator of the performance and business conditions of private sector manufacturing

firms – is weaker when set beside May's 54.0.

Nevertheless, it points to growth.

A PMI reading above 50 means expansion, while any below that point shows deterioration.

"Input prices increased at the fastest pace since Aug 22, while the rate of selling price inflation accelerated sharply as firms passed higher costs on to their customers," said Muyiwa Oni, team lead for Equity Research West Africa at Stanbic IBTC Bank.

The lender partners with Nigeria's statistics agency to prepare the monthly survey with support from New York-based market intelligence firm S&P Global.

An older PMI survey, started by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in 2015, ran aground in December 2020, with no issue published ever since.

Business confidence for June sank to the second-lowest level since the record began. Yet, the outlook is upbeat for the short term, premised on the expectation that investment, projected market drives and business growth plans will boost output.

The most closely watched business surveys worldwide, PMIs are favoured by financial markets,



economists as well as business decision-makers.

The newly released data will likely guide Nigeria's monetary authority when the committee assembles next to decide the rate in an economy where price levels are pushing near their peak since September 2005.

On Monday, Bloomberg cited Tatonga Rusike, Bank of America's economist for sub-Saharan Africa, as saying the country may

have to raise rates by a minimum of 700 basis points by December to stand a chance of reining inflation in.

His expectation is that inflation could touch 30 per cent by year-end from the current 22.4 per cent on the heels of the abolition of petrol subsidies and a 40 per cent weakening of the naira in June.

"Petrol pump prices have increased by an average 176% countrywide. This may drive transport inflation further up (it contributes 7.5% to the inflation basket) as major transportation vehicles 'intra-state' use petrol," Mr Oni said.

The survey is envisaging inflation in Africa's biggest economy to hit 27.5 per cent come December.

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**CBN frowns as borrowing cost rises, banks growth decline**

THE cost of borrowing has continued to rise, while growth in the banking industry is declining, according to the Central Bank of Nigeria.

In the personal statement made by the Deputy Governor, Financial Stability Directorate, CBN, Aishah Ahmad, at the last Monetary Policy Committee meeting which was released by the CBN, she noted that sustaining banking sector lending to critical sectors of the economy as monetary policy tightened to contain inflation remained paramount.

Ahmad said, "Given the positive correlation of market lending rates to the MPR, borrowing costs have risen, while growth in credit has slowed.

"Industry credit increased by N4.54tn between end-April 2022 and 2023 with significant portions of the

Medium Enterprises, were currently at single digit to stabilise access to affordable finance for employment generating sectors.

This, she noted, should be positive for the macroeconomy, stimulating further output growth and positioning businesses to maintain strong cash flows, while minimising default risk and preserving financial stability.

The banking industry soundness indicators also remained strong as of April 2023, with capital adequacy ratio at 12.8 per cent, non-performing loans ratio at 4.4 per cent (from 5.3 per cent in April 2022) and liquidity ratio at 45.3 per cent (above the 30.0 per cent minimum) even as credit to the real sector continued to grow, she noted.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**JOS NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL**

The Jos North Local Government Council wishes to announce to the general public on her earlier Announcement Date July 7, 2023.

Following the expiration of the notification, all undeveloped plot on her residential lay out stand revoke as from July 4, 2023.

**Signed:  
Mathew Yoila  
Land Officer**





BY JENNIFER YARIMA

GONE are the days when people suffer and die in silence over their inability to open up on issues that negatively affects them. One of such issues bedeviling our society and left conspicuously hidden under the auspices of conspiracy of silence is the rampant case of sexual molestation and other forms of violence being experienced by mostly women and children in the society today. After enduring these difficulties for long, many people now have learned to open up and not die in loneliness as the case used to be in the past.

Certainly, times are changing and many people are becoming more informed and aware of their rights and privileges which had eluded them as a result of culture and traditions that had caged most victims of this carnage

in slavery.

The common saying, "when you see something say something" has been of immense help for people to be each other's keepers and sensitive to their environment particularly when it comes to issues as such. Yours

laboratory or offered to the gods but termed as sacred on the basis of outdated and harmful laws.

Her abusers who were mostly youths subsequently forced the middle aged woman who is a widow to carry the basket of the snails



## Jungle justice, not our way of reasoning

sincerely has always wept over the wreck-less behaviors being exhibited by some people who have no regards for human dignity. Such people are not at all remorseful over the increasing cases of the maltreatment meted the vulnerable in our society.

One was recently shocked to the bone marrow concerning the show of shame displayed by some unscrupulous elements who paraded themselves as 'vanguards' of Agunese Affam-Mmaku community in Enugu State, following a viral video of a naked woman which trended on the social media alleging that she was caught stealing a basket of snails from a sacred forest.

Fortunate though, voices of reason have risen to condemn the inhuman treatment meted this woman who was stripped of her pride over allegations of stealing meager pieces of snails. It hurts to know that these snails were either manufactured in the

on her head. It's sad that a mob made up of these youths had to beat her up stripping her naked, tied palm fronts round her naked waist and neck before parading her round the community. This traumatic experience not only weighed the woman down but her children and relations who were left wondering how their mother would eventually overcome such shame.

The pathetic aspect of the misfortune is that it has drawn the attention of interest groups and the public, particularly women groups in Enugu who have described the act as

dehumanizing. In a joint statement, the women groups said it was inhuman to strip a woman over allegations of stealing a mere basket of snails. It has gladdened the hearts of many that elders in the land have not also tolerated the ruthlessness of these young men who carried the law into their hands.

Their collective voices have demanded for the prosecution of the perpetrators of this dastardly act. Therefore, many stakeholders are stuck to their guns that the culprits must be brought to book. One had however wished that

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**One had however wished that such an ugly situation never took place. The woman had denied that she did not commit the crime, but was just transacting her normal business. How much longer will the womenfolk continue to be victims of societal ridicule and trash is the question many people are asking. One is not giving any excuse for any crime if it's genuinely committed, but we must not resort to jungle justice in such a cruel manner.**

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such an ugly situation never took place. The woman had denied that she did not commit the crime, but was just transacting her normal business. How much longer will the womenfolk continue to be victims of societal ridicule and trash is the question many people are asking.

One is not giving any excuse for any crime if it's genuinely committed, but we must not resort to jungle justice in such a cruel manner. As a people, we must come to the reality of the fact that there are more decent ways of addressing crimes than resorting to a situation whereby laws are taken into our hands through the exhibition of jungle justice rather than ensuring that suspects undergo legal judicial process before they are convicted.

Therefore, it would have been more for these youths to have considered her plight as a widow and treated her fairly. If her husband were to be alive, I am pretty sure that it wouldn't have been this bad with no respite to the woman.

## Between betrayal and ambition



BY KENNETH DARENG

I monitored closely how events unfolded at the just concluded national convention of the Peoples Democratic Party [PDP] and the political intrigues that led to the emergence of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar who picked the party's nomination for the 2023 Presidential election after defeating his closest rival Governor Nyesom Wike with a hundred plus votes.

All that is now confined to the

history books but what has remained a talking point is, how Governor Aminu Tambuwal of Sokoto State, also a Presidential aspirant decided at the 11th hour to abandon his close ally Wike and stepped down for Atiku Abubakar which automatically threw the spanners in Nyesom Wike's political ambition to fly the PDP's flag as its presidential candidate at the convention.

Many political observers have ascribed Tambuwal's action as an act of betrayal. Wike himself at a reception organized for him shortly on his return to Port Harcourt from the convention alluded that he was on his way to victory if not for Tambuwal.

Perhaps, by now the word "BETRAYAL" should not be strange to most individuals as husbands, wives, brothers, friends, colleagues, friends, political associates or generally as Nigerians or as

Africans whom might have at one point or the other felt betrayed. Indeed such a pain does not go away, it serves as a constant reminder to the person carrying such burden which can be for a life time.

Ironically if Wike felt betrayed, then what would Chibuke Amaechi be telling him? I heard supporters of Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu calling Vice President Yemi Osibanjo a traitor then forgetting what their principal did to former Lagos state Governor Akinyemi Ambode.

History has shown betrayal has lived with mankind from ancient days till date with the examples in ancient Rome BC, Julius Ceasar was betrayed by his closest friend Brutus who at the point of dying after being stabbed by his friend, asked; "et tu Brute..." [even you Brutus?].

Jesus Christ was betrayed by one of his disciples Judas and so it has been with different forms of betrayals across all

strata of society today. Sometimes it is the quest for personal or group interest that leads to such actions which also depends on the motive and at what cost. Some would even smile and say it is matter of interest with no permanent friend or enemy. But whether we like it or not our conscience must prick us at that moment when a betrayal is about to be committed that is if that individual has any.

In Africa, we have seen quite a number of such instances like that of Thomas Sankara who was brutally assassinated by his childhood friend Blaise Compaore who later took over power in Burkina Faso. And here in Nigeria we have had many of such right from the post-Independence era where Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe was said to have been betrayed by the power brokers of the South West by supporting the North in installing Sir Abubakar

Tafawa Balewa as Prime Minister while he was a mere ceremonial President. So it went during the 1966 military coup which changed the narrative from one betrayal to another which has today succeeded in creating a deep wound in some cases. For example, the Coup that toppled General Gowon was announced by his friend and fellow Plateau man Major General Joseph Nanven Garba, while the coup that terminated General Muhammadu Buhari was spear headed by General Ibrahim Babangida.

Therefore, it may be right to say that betrayal is always driven by ambition which not only hurts the other person it also creates a gulf of personal hatred and anger with dire consequences which now penetrates across political, ethnic and religious divide with the potency to divide even what is call Nigeria.



By **LUCY CHINDABA**

SIR Gabriel Aguliash Attah a quintessential man who came, saw and conquered was born on the 25th of January 1940 in Sha village, Bokkos LGC of Plateau State and died on 26th of February 2002 but left his prints on the sands of time. Reason why over 21 years after his passing, the Attah family called friends and family together to the unveiling of the Sir Gabriel Aguliash Foundation for Humanity (GAAFH). According to the organisers, they were remembering the man for his love for hard work, simplicity, love of family and a profound faith in God. Sir Aguliash they also said was a consummate teacher for decades and years after his passing they have had the privilege of meeting several of his past students and pupils, who have shared personal testimonies of how he touched their lives one way or the other in the several schools where he worked as a teacher, headmaster, counselor and principal.

The family in describing the great man said he was a scientist, devout Catholic, and a Knight of St Mulumba who was very committed to family life and every other thing he did. The Sir Gabriel Aguliash Foundation for Humanity (GAAFH), a Non Governmental Organization (NGO), which was birthed out of a desire to immortalise their patriarch and will be committed to using education, healthcare and peace building as catalyst for development in Central Nigeria in a bid to create a bright future for the people.

To be able to achieve this, the organisers of the event said they will be collaborating with local partners, government agencies and other stakeholders to be able to make lasting impact by implementing sustainable development projects through capacity building and advocating for policies that address the underlying issues affecting Central Nigeria.

The foundation's mission also includes a desire to empower communities, uplift lives, foster lasting positive change as they strive to build a society where every individual has an opportunity to thrive and contribute to the progress of the nation.

To be able to achieve this, the foundation has chosen some thematic areas which include: healthcare, peace building, education, environmental sustainability and empowerment. Under the area of healthcare, the foundation will offer healthcare interventions for the elderly and vulnerable individuals thereby promoting their wellbeing and improving their quality of life. Also they will provide access to primary healthcare services such as immunizations, maternal and child healthcare as well as secondary and tertiary healthcare services such as surgery, cancer treatment and mental healthcare.

In the area of peace building the foundation will foster peace building initiatives in communities by promoting dialogue, understanding and conflict resolution by training community leaders and stakeholders, support mediation and dialogue between conflicting parties as well as promoting interfaith and interethnic dialogue. The third thematic area of education with education as a veritable tool for human development, the programs will include providing access to quality primary and secondary education, providing scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds as well as supporting teacher training and development. The environmental sustainability effort is reflected in eco-friendly practices that are incorporated into

their programs and operations and are committed to reducing environmental impact by using sustainable building practices and also using renewable energy sources, recycling and composting.

The last part of the thematic areas is that of empowerment among youths and disadvantaged groups in Central Nigeria through initiatives such as skills training, leadership development, and entrepreneurship programs.

Prior to the date for the launch and unveiling of the foundation, the

taking peace or making peace where you are? He lamented recent happenings of insecurity on the Plateau and the country at large, and urged all to seek peace and pursue it. He said there is no country on the face of the earth like Nigeria, hence the need for all to strive to live together as one, live peacefully with one another. He pleaded that we live as one, see each other as brothers and sisters. He particularly commended the family for coming



**Events, People & Places**

## The unveiling of Sir Gabriel Attah Foundation



group had undertaken a pilot project which was the GAAFH Deworming and Peace Advocacy Project in which a deworming exercise was carried out at St John Vianney Minor Seminary Barkin Ladi. This was to honour of their mother and the wife of Mr Matthew Attah son of the man being remembered, Mrs Rosalyn Jipkat Attah, as she clocked 60 years on the 21st of June, where about 500 students and teachers of the school were administered deworming tablets, provided with lunch and given a talk on the importance of deworming and peaceful coexistence.

The exercise they said is expected to have a significant impact on the health, well being and social life of the students of the seminary by deworming the children, the project will help to improve their physical and cognitive development, reduce their risk of infection and quality of life.

A feedback is expected in three months as the group will be visiting the school to access the level of success of the deworming as well as the peace talk.

At the unveiling event, members of the board of trustees were inaugurated, they include: Mrs Rosalyn Jipkat Attah, chairperson, Ms. Elizabeth N. Attah Esq. Secretary, Mr John Agam, member, Mr Kyzitor K. Dakyen Esq. member, Mrs Martina Onari Ibrahim member, and Mr Ande Ikaa member. Others members are: Mrs Jessica Adakara, Mr Lohnan Sanda and also Mr. Magaji Shuwa Esq.

Rev. Sylvester Dachomo, who was guest speaker, in a remark at the launch urged all to reflect on, are you

up with the foundation and for choosing this very key area of humanity. He noted that disease, poverty or other ills do not know religion or tribe. Ensure what they preach they also practice not just by words of mouth and called on all to be people who do what they say seek peace and pursue it not just by words of mouth.

Rev. Dachomo also enjoined all present to give the foundation support not just in kind but financially as well as they need funds to survive, to carry out the works that they intend to do. Adding also that, We need to support our own projects and the prayer of St Francis of Assisi holds sway in this case.

On his part, Engr. Naanmen Gamde while unveiling the brochure enumerated some of the virtues of Sir Gabriel Aguliash Attah who he revealed was a teacher par excellence.

He commended the family for putting up such a laudable and commendable foundation and urged all to give it their maximum support and encouragement.

Rev. Fr. Godfrey Gopep in a remark called on the political class to please collapse their party and other differences and come up with an agenda that will bring lasting peace on the Plateau and the country at large. He warned that unless something is done urgently the situation will consume all of us as a people. That the issue is now taking a scary dimension hence the need to act swiftly.

The Sir Gabriel Aguliash Foundation for Humanity, GAAFH, is



a volunteer-driven organization and is counting on spirited individuals, groups, with a passion for community development and philanthropy to join hands, partner with them to be able to serve humanity together.

On the whole, the event afforded

people the opportunity to be part of the foundation by contributing not only in kind but in cash and some made commitments to send in their donations monthly, quarterly as the case may be.

Looking forward to getting feedbacks on progress made so far and success stories.



# REPEAT IMAGES

## PLATEAU STATE DEPUTY GOVERNOR RECEIVES ALMA-MATER BOYS BRIGADE

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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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

PHOTOS: OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RAYFIELD, JOS



**Odd World**

**Mum with 800 tattoos banned from pub, school for life**

MELISSA Sloan is famed for being covered from head to toe in ink. The mum-of-two believes she is the 'world's most tattooed person' - and wants a Guinness World Record to prove it.

But despite loving her inked body and face - and continuing to get three tats a week - Melissa is all too familiar with being left out because of the unique way she looks.

The tattoo addict, from Wales, has been banned from many aspects of life, including work, tattoo parlours, schools and even pubs, because of her collection of tats.

Melissa, 46, misses heading down to her local boozer for a pint and chatting with locals at the bar, but says there's "nothing she can do about it" now.

"I can't get a job. They won't have me. I applied for a job cleaning toilets where I live and they won't have me because of my tattoos," she told the Daily Star.

It's not just work that Melissa struggles with, but at the end of last year, she was allegedly barred from her children's school.

She claims she was made to watch her child's nativity play through the window, as people can't see past her alternative appearance.

"No Christmas parties and when I go to my child's school, I don't get invited," Melissa said.

Even getting tattooed is an issue, as artists have shut the door and refused to work on her face, over fears of her ink addiction.

"They won't do it because I'm beyond help - because I've gone too far," Melissa explained.

And before she was banned from entering tattoo shops, the mum was barred from the boozer.

"I've been banned for life from pubs in the past because of the tattoos. I have

gone into pubs and had people look at me like I'm nobody," she said.

Every inch of 46-year-old Melissa's face is covered in ink, with intricate designs of flowers and crucifixes covering her cheeks, chin, and forehead.

The mum-of-two, from Wales, decided she wasn't happy enough with one layer, so she started inking over the old designs until she'd covered all of her face twice.

Since, she's done it a third time and thinks she must have the most ink out of everyone in the world.

"I'd like to be a record holder, it's just something different," she told the Mirror. "I'm trying to get into the Guinness book of records."

"I've got three layers on my face, I probably have the most tattoos in the world, and if not then at the rate I'm going on I probably will have in the end - I keep going over and over them."

Previously, she reported how Melissa couldn't 'get a job' due to her extensive inkings, even when she covered her designs with makeup.

She said that she is 'addicted' to tattoos and gets three new designs each week - often letting her partner do it himself, to keep the costs down.

"I'm addicted to tattoos, I get three a week and I'll never stop - if I make it to 70 I'll still be getting them," Melissa said.

"Every bit of skin will be covered even if I'm turning blue, my face is already turning blue - I look like a Smurf."

"I could do a bit more on my legs perhaps, I'll go blackout in the end - once you go over it enough times it won't work, it goes black or blue."

"I'm still carrying on, I never stop. I've had a Playboy bunny on my back, my head is covered in tattoos so I'm working on new areas."

*The Mirror*



**Lamentations of the weak**

I woke up a few days ago thinking of many people in Nigeria who have not eaten food perhaps for some days now. After all, I was recently made to understand that Nigeria presently tops the list of nine African countries with the highest cost of white bread. This is followed by South Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, Ghana, Mauritius, Egypt, Morocco and Kenya. But again, I stand to be corrected, had our successive leaders managed our resources well, none of these nations would have gotten closer to us in terms of systematic development and prosperity. Aside the rising cost of bread, it takes an extra sacrifice to buy many other commodities in our markets today.

I was also deep in thoughts about those who are presently sick but cannot effort to go to hospital for treatment due to lack of resources. Come to think of this with a sober reflection, since the advent of this democratic dispensation, our leaders who vowed to transform our country for the better are almost failing us. Most of them promised us heaven on earth even as we detested broken promises but the indicators of Human Development Index are not at all palatable.

Today, our narratives are that most hospitals in this country are becoming but visiting clinics. In our rural areas, the debilitating condition of most healthcare facilities constantly make tears freely flow out of our eyes. Beyond this pragmatic dilemma, I am equally thinking of many innocent citizens in kidnappers den for months and years forgotten by our leaders who are by constitutional provisions anticipated to protect us. As I write, I am aware of many innocent Nigerians held hostage in bushes begging for their lives to no avail. Many unlucky ones have been killed following the inability of their loved ones to raise ransom for payments.

A few days ago, many citizens of this country became so traumatized after hoodlums who kidnaped commuters along Abuja-Kaduna in a passenger train decided to display their victims' pictures calling on the Federal Government to do the needful if their relations intend to see them alive again. The video was so heart-touching considering the fact that even toddlers were not spared from this horrendous and nasty experience of video marketing for bargain. It is so pitiful knowing too well that all my life, I have never imagined that one day, human beings would be bargained for in such an agonizing and dehumanizing manner.

Today, many citizens of this country are perishing in afflictions, while for others, their hearts have failed them. No doubt, the wicked has risen against the church even as many are yet to decode these happenings. Our political leaders are playing politics with human lives while innocent souls are in a vulnerable situation left at the mercy of these unrepentant criminals

and terrorists.

Thus, it takes much more courage to survive in this country than any other place in this world. There is no justice and equity in the land even as our leaders continue to fumble without success in navigate us out of the present socio-economic and political dull-drum. Many within the political class are consistently manipulating us and the entire system to ensure that we continue to be subservient to their intrigues and administrative ingenuity without any revolt. The point however is; how can a nation be happy when some of its citizens have been chased out of their ancestral homes and are refugees in their fatherland? How can we be happy seeing our children staying at home as all universities remain closed for only God knows how long? Why should we be happy knowing too well that the resources of this country are not used consistently for the benefit of all?

What kind of a nation is this that in the midst of this calamity we have found ourselves in, speaking to power is a crime? Why must we continue to remain silent when all the odds are overwhelming us? Thus, I see nothing wrong with the constructive criticism offered by the Bishop of the Diocese of Sokoto, Rev. Fr. Mathew Hassan Kukah who recently spoke truth to power over the worsening situations in this country. I hold in high esteem Fr. Matthew Kukah who moved by the pains and trauma of the citizenry had to chastise the powers that be in such an appreciable manner.

Left in the middle of the ocean with no other place to go, many of our younger ones have equally lost hope of a better tomorrow. As it is, more than ten million children of this country are out of school mostly for no fault of theirs. Unfortunately, these same Almajiri children and other vulnerable ones roaming our streets are amongst those who have continued to give us sleepless nights. They are the ones who have joined forces with the derailed Boko Haram sect causing unbearable havoc in almost all the regions of this country.

Knowing too well that these increasing number of out of school children will not be in the best interest of our nation, our institutions have continued to be under lock and key. Many of these undergraduate students are becoming vulnerable and easy recruits for evil-doers and drug peddlers even as most of them have been knocked-off by challenges of life and do not think of a brighter tomorrow. This life has certainly been unfair to many innocent citizens of this country who for no fault of theirs have continued to wallow in abject poverty. This is definitely not the kind of Nigeria our founding fathers prayed and or dreamt of.

However, no matter how high a stone is thrown up; it must certainly come down someday. Therefore, whether the devil likes it or not, it is settled in heaven and very soon, the Egyptians we see, we shall see them no more. We must however be wise enough to play our part with all sincerity of purpose and responsibility towards opening a new chapter for this country.



## View Point

# Profile in arrogance of shame

**There was a mythical king who lived in Germany called Kaiser. Because of his obsession with materialism and popularity, the king ran himself into many disgraceful adventures. At funerals, King Kaiser would wish he was the coffin; at weddings, he would wish he was the bride or the groom; in hospitals, he would wish he was the patients; in aircraft, he would wish he was the pilot; in football pitches, he would wish he was the man of the match, etc. Everywhere he went, he craved being the centre of attraction. AYUBA YILGAK'HA, writes.**

GENERALLY, any man who is obsessed with fame, falls for anything provide doing so, in his estimation, will add to his popularity. King Kaiser was so vulnerable and prone to deception in that sense. A classical example of the king's vulnerability was an encounter a vain Emperor (probably King Kaiser himself) had with some three imposters as contained in a folktale titled "The Emperor's New Clothes" which was written by Hans Christian Andersen, a Danish author in 1837 and reproduced here.

The three impostors came to the king who loved beautiful clothes and told him they were cloth-weavers, and could fabricate a cloth of so peculiar a nature, that a legitimate son of his father could see the cloth but if he were illegitimate; though believed to be legitimate, he could not see it. The king was much pleased at this, thinking that by this means he would be able to distinguish the men in his kingdom who were legitimate sons of their supposed fathers from those who were not and so be enabled to increase his treasures.

In the culture of the Moors, only legitimate children inherit their father's property. Therefore, the king ordered a palace to be appropriated towards the manufacture of this cloth and for the three impostors to convince him that they had no intention of deceiving him, they agreed to be shut up in this palace until the cloth was manufactured and the king was satisfied with the king idea.

After the weavers were supplied with large quantity of gold, silver, silk and many other things, they entered the palace and, putting their looms in order, made everybody understood that they were working all day at the cloth. And after some days, one of weaving imposters came to the king and told him the weaving of the special cloth had commenced and that it was the most curious thing in the world. He described the design and construction and then pleaded with the king to honour them with a visit but begged he would went alone. The king was much pleased but wishing to have the opinion of someone first, he sent the lord Chamberlain, one of his most reliable men to see it to enable him know if they were deceiving him or not.

When Lord Chamberlain saw the workmen and heard all they had to say, he dared not admit he could not see the cloth. He returned and told the king and that he had seen it. The king sent, yet, another who gave the same report. With the favourable feedback, he decided and went there himself.

On entering the palace and



saw the men at work. They began to describe the texture and relate the origin of the invention, the design and the colour in which they all appeared to agree, although, in reality they were not working. When the king saw how they appeared to work and heard the character of the cloth so minutely described, he began to feel very uneasy. His fear was that he might not be the son of the king who was supposed to be his father and that if he acknowledged he could not see the cloth, then he might lose his kingdom. To avoid that, therefore, the king began praising the fabric, describing its peculiarities in the manner the workmen did. After all, the lord chamberlains earlier sent brought the same feedback.

On the return to his palace, the King related to his people how good and marvelous was the cloth. Even he had the suspicion that something was wrong, he kept that to himself.

Two or three days past and the king requested his Alguacil (officer of justice) to go and see the cloth. When the Alguacil entered and saw the workmen who, as usual, had described the figures and pattern of the cloth the king had gone to see but he could not see it himself; he doubted his legitimacy as the son of his father. For fear that he would lose his honorable position, he started praising the cloth even more highly than the others who had gone there before him.

When the Alguacil returned with the feedback that he had seen the cloth and describing it as the most extraordinary production ever seen in the world, the king was much disconcerted. He and concluded within him that he was not the legitimate son of his father as was generally supposed, since Alguacil could see what he did not see. He, therefore, did not hesitate to praise the excellency of the cloth and the skill of the

workmen who made it.

Messengers after messenger went and came with the same feedback. The king had been deceived as no one dare say he did not see the cloth for fear of being illegitimate. Things, therefore, went on this way until there came a great feast where all, especially, requested the king to be dressed in some of the cloth. The workmen were ordered and they brought some rolled up in a very fine linen and inquired of the king how much of it he wished them to cut off. The king gave orders on how much and how to make it up and that was done.

The D-day of great feast came, there was no cloth but the king there not mentioned that. When the king had professed to dress himself in this suit, he mounted on horseback and rode into the city. It was summertime and the people seeing his majesty come completely naked were much surprised but knowing that those who could not see this cloth would be considered illegitimate sons of their fathers, kept their surprise to themselves, fearing consequential dishonour that could come upon any one who made any honest declaration. However, there was a negro who distinguished himself.

The negro who notice the king's nakedness (it was obvious, really) and determined he has nothing to lose, came to him and said "Sir, to me it matters not whose son I am, therefore, I tell you that you are riding without any clothes". On this the king began beating him, saying, he was not the legitimate son of his supposed father. But no sooner had the negro said this, that others were convinced of its truth and said the same.

At this point, the king and with all the people lost the fear of declaring the truth and saw through the trick which the impostors had made them the victims. When the weavers were sought for, they were found to

have fled, taking with them all they had received from the king.'

The story reproduced here was fictional but the reality of it is before us today. We live in a society where everything is faked. Nobody values the truth anymore but lives in total denial of our nakedness even in high places. Because everybody wants to belong, people have lost common sense and have chosen to go with the band wagon in pursuit of relevance.

The author is unknown who said kings are men before God and gods before me. Also, 'those whom the gods wish to destroy, Heaven Proverb says, 'they first make mad.' The action of king Kaiser in our story reflects the tragedy of a king whom the gods have rejected and wants to destroy, I imagine. It is only a kind that is destined for utter ruin could stoop so low to the extend of deceiving even himself. The action of the king was a profile in arrogance of shame which will leave his people in perpetual ridicule in the eyes of their neighbours.

That a whole kingdom and its revered king were tricked with ease by imposters revealed how cheap the kingdom was. It is even more worrisome considering that the king who should have insight and see beyond his subjects could not resist the deception of imposters that invaded the land. When a high king obliged to dance naked in a public square, then, his subjects are doomed except otherwise they rise to the occasion to defend themselves.

It was George Orwell that says, "in time of universal deceit - telling the truth is a revolutionary act." In times like this, the revolutionary act of the negro is the way to go to save the political situation facing the land. In doing this, the king might beat us but truth shall, eventually, win to the utter shame of the ruler!

It is high time we call a spade a

spade. People who desire equity and freedom must delight in the truth. The primary responsibility of a shepherd king is to lay his life for the sake of his flock but ours has abdicated from this responsibility. Our king is defecating everywhere and even under every shed in town. Transition fever is compounded the king's problem and I dare ask: Where shall he run to at the expiration of his reign? Your guess is as good as mine!

As this piece gets close to conclusion, let's borrow from words of Festus Adedayo who wrote in his January 16, 2022 article entitled, "Why Bola Tinubu must Never be Nigeria's President" which reads as follow: "It should gladden us that Yoruba are the ones revealing the maggots in their home so that when they expose the maggot in others, they will occupy a higher moral ground. It is better for Yoruba not to lift a presidential leg forward than lift one that is riddle with a festering and putrid sore. In any case, what Nigeria needs is a president that is a leader who is not crippled by ill health and is adequately schooled in the nuances of 21st Century solutions to our self-inflicted, existential challenges."

Yorubas are credible stakeholders in the Nigerian Project. For the avoidance of doubt, the concern here is not about having a President of Yoruba extraction, not all. In fact, two Yorubas have been democratically elected into power in this country: Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and MKO Abiola, although, the latter's victory was annulled. The issue at stake here is the Muslim - Muslim ticket in which the justification for it as provided by the presidential Candidate of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) was found to be unsettling; yet, our king who should know better is a cheap chief promoter. Anyway, that is democracy for you: Everyone is entitled to his opinion!

Democracy or its derivatives, it is a worthy reminder to caution ourselves in the words of Dwight Moody who said: "Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but succeeding at something that doesn't really matter." Whatever is not authentic and virtuous can never be validated by self delusion or fear of rejection. The reality of crass hypocrisy and deception is with us in this country today and we must act fast to redeem ourselves before perceived 'imposters' trick us and disappear with our common heritage. Our nation - state must survive. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria and its component units for which Plateau State is one!



## Feature

### Open defecation: Nigeria needs 3.9 million toilets annually – UNICEF

MS Bevan said that current toilet construction in the country stood between 180,000 – 200,000 toilets annually, describing it as inadequate.

By Agency Report July 3, 2023 Reading Time: 2 mins read

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says Nigeria will need to build no fewer than 3.9 million toilets annually to meet the ending open defecation practice by 2025 target.

Jane Bevan, UNICEF Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), said this on Monday at the opening of a two-day Maiden Toilet Business Owners Conference in Abuja.

Ms Bevan said that current toilet construction in the country stood between 180,000 – 200,000 toilets annually, describing it as inadequate.

She said the conference was timely as toilet business owners were key to ending open defecation challenges in Nigeria.

According to her, there is a need to do things differently by creating demand for toilets. The private sector could play a huge role in sustainability and strengthening sanitation markets in the country.

Ms Bevan, quoting the 2021 WASH National Outcome Routine Mapping on Nigeria's sanitation status, said 48 million people practice open defecation, while 95 million were without access to basic sanitation services.

"About 1.3 per cent of GDP or N455 billion is lost annually due



to poor access to sanitation – health, health care savings and productivity.

"Every dollar invested in water and sanitation results in economic benefits ranging from 3 dollars to 34 dollars.

Nigeria cannot continue business as usual or it will miss the target of 2025 and 2030. There is a need to strengthen and scale up proven strategies to reach the country's goals.

"The private sector must work closely with all tiers of government and communities

to actively create sustainable solutions to address the sanitation needs of unserved and underserved communities and help grow capital investment and human capital."

Didi Walson-Jack, the permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, expressed optimism that Toilet Business Owners (TBOs) would complement the government's effort towards the realisation of the objective of ending open defecation in Nigeria.

According to her, Nigeria is ready for business and the market is expansive for quicker and bigger returns on investment as long as we are prepared to think outside the box.

The permanent secretary noted that the outcome of the conference would reinforce other existing initiatives in achieving the national and global goals for the water, sanitation and hygiene sub-sector.

"TBOs are part of the Micro,

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that would help in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"This is particularly noteworthy in Nigeria where the SMEs have contributed approximately 48 per cent to the national GDP over the last five years as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Moreover, the SMEs in Nigeria accounted for 96 per cent of all businesses in the country and employed 57.7 million people, representing 84.02 per cent of the workforce in 2016.

"I am therefore confident that with this level of SME participation in the economy, this conference will equip the participants with a better appreciation of the potentials of these enterprises for the Sanitation Sector."

Earlier, Chukwuma Nnana, Executive Director, Toiletpride Initiative, said one of the biggest challenges in realising an open defecation-free environment was the lack of enabling environment for these sanitation businesses to thrive.

Mr Nnana, who is also the convener of the conference, said that TBOs and sanitation entrepreneurs were yet to be mobilised to their full potential.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the conference was designed to showcase and create awareness of the contributions of private sanitation enterprises in scaling up sanitation service delivery in Nigeria. (NAN)





# Sports

## Players to watch at 2023 Women's World Cup

Several veterans such as Brazil's Marta make the list, along with some younger stars such as Jamaica's Khadija Shaw. The Women's World Cup is due to begin on July 20, with co-hosts New Zealand set to play Norway in the opening match.

As excitement builds over what promises to be a summer of top international football, we take a look at the players you should keep an eye on:

### 1. Sam Kerr, Australia

Big things are expected of Australia's superstar striker as she returns to captain the Matildas after a hugely successful season in England with Chelsea.

Kerr, 29, played a pivotal role as Chelsea won a fourth consecutive Women's Super League title and scored the decisive goal in the Blues' Women's FA Cup final victory over Manchester United.

Kerr boasts a prolific international goal-scoring record with more than 60 goals. She finished top-scorer at the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup in India, bagging seven goals in only four matches. She scored five at the 2019 World Cup, including four goals in a single game against Jamaica.

### 2. Marta, Brazil

A veteran of the game at 37 years old, Marta is set to play in her sixth World Cup.

The six-time winner of the FIFA World Player of the Year award will travel to the World Cup, already boasting the record for the most goals in World Cup tournaments – men's or women's – with 17.

She was a doubt for the World Cup following a season-ending ACL injury in 2022 while playing for the Orlando Pirates but has since been named in the squad and is now expected to play.

### 3. Alex Morgan, United States

The undisputed superstar of the US squad, Alex Morgan, has notched up more than 200 caps for her country and scored 121 goals in a glittering international career that has seen her win two World Cups and an Olympic gold medal.

At 34-years-old, Morgan may be entering the twilight years of her football career, but she shows



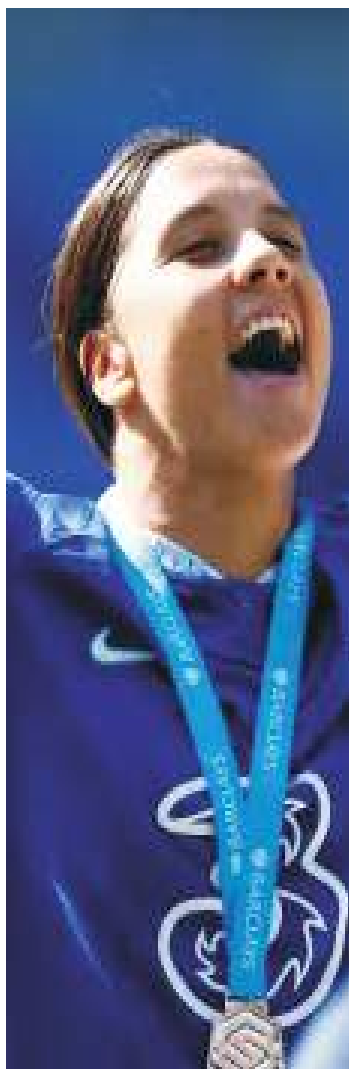
**Oshoala**

no signs of letting up after scoring the winner in the final of the 2022 CONCACAF Women's Championship. She was also named player of the tournament.

### 4. Khadija Shaw, Jamaica

The Manchester City forward heads to the World Cup on the back of a historic 2022-23 campaign for her club, scoring 31 goals in 30 games.

Shaw, affectionately called "bunny" by fans – a nickname given to her by her brother – is Jamaica's all-time leading goal scorer in both men's and women's football, with 56



**Kerr**

international goals to her name. A huge achievement made all the more impressive by the fact she is only 26 years old!

### 5. Alexia Putellas, Spain

Putellas is arguably the best player at the World Cup, having won the Ballon d'Or Féminin, the Best FIFA Women's Player, and European Women's Player of the Year in both 2021 and 2022.

The 29-year-old was forced to miss nine months of football after suffering a knee injury but returned to FC Barcelona in April in time to help the Catalan giants win the treble.



**Lucy**

In September, she had protested against Spain coach Jorge Vilda's handling of the team along with several other players who threatened to leave the team. However, she has been included in the squad for the 2023 World Cup.

### 6. Ada Hegerberg, Norway

The Lyon forward, who turns 28 on July 10, will mark a return to World Cup football, having missed the 2019 tournament due to a five-year, self-imposed exile from international football. The decision had been in protest at the treatment of the women's game by the Norwegian Football Federation, which had left her "mentally broken".

As the all-time UEFA Champions League's top goalscorer, Hegerberg's return will be a huge boost to the tournament.

Hegerberg has won an astonishing six Champions League trophies and eight Division 1 Féminine titles in France.

### 7. Lena Oberdorf, Germany

The versatile 21-year-old midfielder who plies her trade at VfL Wolfsburg won best young player at Euro 2022 and was included in the tournament's best XI by UEFA coaching staff.

The tough-tackling Oberdorf can also play in central defence or as a full-back, making her an incredibly useful resource for a talented Germany team.

The Guardian named her the fifth-best player in the world in 2022.

### 8. Yui Hasegawa, Japan

The Manchester City star is as adept at going forward as she is at



**Khadija**

her defensive duties, making her an important asset in a talented Nadeshiko side.

At 26-years-old, Hasegawa already boasts an impressive CV, having made 65 appearances for her country and netting 14 goals. She has also tasted success with Japan, winning both the AFC Women's Asian Cup and Asian Games in 2018.

### 9. Lucy Bronze, England

The Barcelona right-back is no stranger to success. During her illustrious career, the 31-year-old has won Euro 2022 with England and notched up four Champions League wins with two different teams. She has also topped the domestic leagues in England – with Liverpool and Manchester City – in France with Lyon, and in Spain with FC Barcelona.

### 10. Asisat Oshoala, Nigeria

The 28-year-old Barcelona forward became the first ever African player to win the Women's Champions League in 2021, only to go and win it again two seasons later – although she was injured for the final.

She is also a five-time African player of the year and the first African to be nominated for the Ballon d'Or Féminin.

Oshoala scored in Nigeria's 2015 and 2019 World Cup appearances and will hope to guide a strong Nigeria side out of the group stages, where they are matched with Ireland, Australia and Canada.

**Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies**



FC Barcelona's Sandra Panos, Alexia Putellas and Patricia Guijarro celebrate with the trophy after winning the Women's Champions League Final



Sports



Elumelu received Osimhen

# Osimhen meets Nigerian Billionaire Tony Elumelu

NAPOLI striker Victor Osimhen today met with Nigerian businessman Tony Elumelu at the entrepreneurs palatable mansion today.

A massive supporter of football, Elumelu received Osimhen's Napoli Jersey, and was visibly elated to have the Italian Serie A top-scorer in his home.

As seen in the photographs shared from the visit, Osimhen also met with Tony Elumelu's

wife Awere Inside the entrepreneurs sitting room.

60-year old Elumelu is famed for his philanthropic gestures and is said to have contributed positively towards the careers of many Nigerian footballers and so has their respect and recognition.

A supremo at United Bank of Africa, Tony Elumelu Foundation and other top brands, Elumelu

is one of the most successful entrepreneur in Nigeria and a role model for young people in the country.

Osimhen is currently spending his end of season holidays in Nigeria. A much needed rest after what was a sensational football season where he fired Napoli to the Italian Serie A title for the first time in 33-years.

# 2023 Wimbledon: Gauff crashes out as Djokovic, progress

SEVENTH seed Coco Gauff crashed out of the 2023 Wimbledon tournament at the first hurdle, losing in three sets to fellow American Sofia Kenin in the first round of the tournament to exit quite early.

The teenager fell to a 4-6 6-4 2-6 defeat at the hands of her more experienced opponent at Wimbledon.

Women's world number one and French Open winner Iga Swiatek made light work of unseeded Chinese player Zhu Lin, defeating her 6-1 6-3 in straight sets to reach the second round at the 2023

Wimbledon.

Venus Williams was in action on Day One, crashing out at the hands of Elina Svitolina in Round One of the tournament. Svitolina overcame the two-time winner in straight sets 6-4 6-3 to progress to the second round.

Fourth seed Jessica Pegula needed three sets to defeat unseeded Lauren Davis and reach the second round. Pegula claimed a 6-2 6-7 6-3 win over her opponent to qualify.

Fifth seed Caroline Garcia recorded a straight sets win over Katie Volynets to reach the second round of the

tournament. The French star won the match 6-4 6-3 and progressed in the competition.

In the men's draw, French Open winner and second seed Novak Djokovic wasted no time to dispatch Pedro Cachin in straight sets, claiming a 6-3 6-3 7-6 win over the Argentine star to reach the second round at the 2023 Wimbledon tournament.

Two-time beaten finalist in Roland Garros Casper Ruud needed four sets to defeat unseeded Frenchman Laurent Lokoli in the first round at the 2023 Wimbledon tournament. The fourth seed picked up a 6-1 5-7 6-4 6-3 win to progress to the second round.

Unseeded American Michael Mmoh stunned 11th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime in four sets to reach the second round of the tournament. Mmoh picked up a 7-6 6-7 7-6 6-4 win to progress on Day One.

Eighth seed Jannik Sinner breezed into the second round of the tournament with a 6-2 6-2 6-2 win over Juan Manuel Cerundolo of Argentina in their first



RANGERS have finalised an agreement with Italian club Cremonese over the signing of Super Eagles striker Cyriel Dessers this summer following weeks of negotiations between both sides.

After impressing in his debut season with Cremonese and scoring six goals despite their relegation, Dessers caught the eye of Rangers scouts, who view him as perfect for their style. The Scottish giants have agreed to pay a base fee of €5m plus a further €1.5m in add-ons to bring the former Feyenoord striker to Ibrox.

Once he completes his medicals, Dessers will be unveiled as Rangers' sixth signing this summer after Dujon Sterling, Kieran Dowell, Jack Butland, Abdallah Sima and Sam Lammers.

# Rangers agreement with Cremonese over Cyriel Dessers move



Dessers

# Calvin Bassey wanted at Brighton

NIGERIA and Ajax defender Calvin Bassey is wanted at English Premier League club Brighton and Hove Albion FC this summer.

Bassey was a target for Brighton prior to his transfer from Scottish side Glasgow Rangers to Dutch Eredivisie club

Ajax Amsterdam last summer.

The Amex Stadium outfit will return for the Nigerian defender this summer and a move will be of mutual interest for both Bassey and Brighton in the present circumstances.

For Brighton, their inability to sign defender Levi Cowill from Chelsea FC has left a vacuum in their defence line with manager Roberto De Zerbi reportedly convinced the versatile Nigerian is best suited for the club.

According to multiple sources, Ajax will be

happy to part with Calvin Bassey for a £18.7 million transfer fee, after what was a difficult first season in Holland for the Super Eagle.

Brighton and Hove Albion will be playing in the Europa League next season a competition 23-year-old Bassey starred significantly as Rangers marched to the 2021/2022 final.

Contact has been made with the players representatives and personal terms will not be an obstacle by the time the Premier League club submits an official bid to Ajax.

round meeting.

Returning to Wimbledon this year, Russian seventh seed Andrey Rublev claimed a straight sets win over Australian star Max Purcell to reach the second round of the tournament. Rublev won the match 6-3 7-5 6-4 to progress beyond the first round.



Bassey



## Sports



# 10 highest-paid footballers in the world

As excitement builds over what promises to be a summer of top international football, we take a look at the players you should keep an eye on:

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**Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies**





**Quest**



writer

**FRAGMENT**

**"The 800-page report recommended the abolition and merger of 102 government agencies and parastatals, while some were listed to be self-funding. The report revealed a high level of competition among several overlapping agencies, which had not only created ill feelings among government agencies but also brought about unnecessary wastage in government expenditure."**

**NOSA IGBINADOLOR**

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# Tinubu must reform public sector to drive development

**D**OMESTIC policies of the President Muhammadu Buhari administration played more than a significant role in impeding Nigeria's pre-2014 economic performance. His successor, President Bola Tinubu, has vowed to chart a new course in order to deliver prosperity to Nigerians.

To build on the immediate, major reforms, and seize the opportunity to rise to its potential, Nigeria has crucial choices to make. Africa's largest economy would have to reform its bloated and inefficient public service. It would have to free resources from an unproductive public sector as it has done with the removal of petrol subsidy and foreign exchange management reforms, in order to drive critical development outcomes.

Nigeria's government faces a daunting dual challenge: it must control and, in the long term, slash major budget deficits fuelled by long-term inefficient management of the economy, while at the same time improving the performance of the public sector so that it can meet its complex and ever-rising obligations.

In 1970, the Federal Government expanded the scope of the operations of the public service from core policy implementation to active participation in all sectors of the economy through the establishment of agencies, parastatals, and commissions.

The additional bodies were to be the drivers of the socioeconomic objectives of the Federal Government. Some of them were set up on an ad hoc basis to address specific challenges.

Over the years, the bodies transmuted into permanent institutions with overlapping functions in some cases, and successive administrations had further created more bodies without regard to their efficacy in the attainment of the socio-economic agenda of the Federal Government, leading to an escalation in cost of governance.

Rather than drive development, the public service became a multi-headed corrupt leviathan sucking much-needed billions of dollars out of the nation's treasury and stalling development.

Nigeria is among the eight economies with the lowest human capital in the world, ranked 167th out of 174 countries on the World Bank's Human Capital Index.

Nigeria spends only \$220 per Nigerian per year, and at merely



**Tinubu**

12 percent of GDP, this is one of the lowest levels of spending in the world.

As real household disposable income per person in the country has continued to fall over the past eight years, the governments have continued to spend heavily on paying salaries, pensions and emoluments to public servants.

The federal civil service employs nearly 90,000 people, most of whom are under-utilised, and the government will spend N7.108 trillion on recurrent expenditure this year, with personnel costs, overheads, pensions, gratuities and retirees benefits for public servants amounting to a whopping N5.740 trillion.

The amount available for the capital expenditure of ministries, departments and agencies stands at a mere N3.536 trillion for 2023.

Regressive public spending has over the years resulted in poor outcomes for the country's population of more than 200 million citizens, the majority of whom continue to live in poverty.

Whether it is a school or a road, the Federal Government or state governments can invest only when they have the funds to do so. With 60 percent of the low levels of overall spending being absorbed by public sector salaries and pensions, fiscal

space for implementing projects, especially multi-year projects, remains highly constrained.

At the present level of public investment allocations, the World Bank says, it would take Nigeria 300 years to provide the minimum infrastructure that the country needs.

In June, Tinubu's Advisory Council listed the implementation of civil service reform, including the adoption of the Oronsaye report as critical to achieving the president's ambitious desire to boost Nigeria's economy to \$1 trillion within the next eight years.

In August 2022, the 36 state governors counselled the federal government to offer federal civil servants who are older than 50 years a one-off retirement package to exit the service, as part of coordinated efforts to instil fiscal discipline and prevent the nation from imminent economic collapse.

They also urged the then president, Buhari, to begin the implementation of the updated Stephen Oronsaye Report, which recommended the merger and shutdown of agencies and parastatals with duplicated or contested functions as a way to address bureaucratic inefficiency and reduce the cost of governance.

"Working in the civil service makes you idle as there is

nothing for you to do until you become a director or at least a deputy director," a staff member of one of the federal ministries told BusinessDay in 2022.

In August 2011, the then president, Goodluck Jonathan, had set up a seven-member Presidential Committee led by former Head of Service, Stephen Oronsaye, to advise on the restructuring and rationalisation of the Federal Government's agencies, parastatals and commissions.

The committee had critical directive to "examine critically, the mandate of the existing federal agencies, parastatals and commissions and determine areas of overlap or duplication of functions and make appropriate recommendations to either restructure, merge or scrap some to eliminate such overlaps, duplications or redundancies; and advise on any other matter incidental to the foregoing which might be relevant to the desire of government to prune down the cost of governance".

In 2012, the Oronsaye report was submitted to the government. The 800-page report recommended the abolition and merger of 102 government agencies and parastatals, while some were listed to be self-funding.

The report revealed a high level of competition among several overlapping agencies, which had not only created ill feelings among government agencies but also brought about unnecessary wastage in government expenditure.

The report also made far-reaching recommendations regarding the streamlining of the overstuffed and ineffective public sector. The report recommended, among other things, the discontinuation of government funding of professional bodies and councils. The measures were primarily aimed at freeing funds for much-needed capital projects across the country.

In a nod to the Oronsaye report, last week, the federal government notified professional bodies and councils that it would cease to fund them beginning from the 2024 budget in line with the decisions of the Presidential Committee on Salaries.

"We have a historical burden as a country where we do not have a realisation that public funds and public revenue are actually meant for the development of the entire country as opposed to

being used to maintain the public service. This seems to be the dominant thinking among a lot of policymakers, lawmakers and civil servants who design, develop and implement public budgets," a retired foreign service officer said.

"So, you budget tens of billions of naira for let's say the National Space Research and Development Agency or PenCom, for example, and people within these organisations think you have budgeted these monies for them rather than for practical and tangible projects that affect the people.

"We have to look at ways of changing that mentality or worldview. The public service must undergo a reorientation in terms of outlook, in terms of ethics and in terms of practice to be fit for purpose. We need a whole revamp in the way people in the public service think and work."

The World Bank, in its latest Nigeria Development Update report, said: "The current window of opportunity offered by a new government, if effectively seized, could have a transformative impact on the lives of millions of Nigerians and establish a solid foundation for inclusive, sustained growth. The removal of the petrol subsidy and the initial FX reforms are critical steps. Now, the challenge is to implement a comprehensive reform package that encompasses a range of complementary measures. Addressing certain imbalances while neglecting other areas could prove costly for Nigeria's economic performance and may not yield the desired benefits."

For Nigeria's reform-focused president, cleaning up his country's troubled economy must start with cleaning up its over-bloated and underperforming public service. To do this, he must dust up the Oronsaye report and implement it as soon as possible.

Afterall, restoring the health of Nigeria's public finances is the prerequisite for preserving the country's public sector in the long term. The impact of Tinubu's proposed reforms of the economy would depend on the efficiency of the public service.

At present, Nigeria's public service is neither working nor fit for purpose, and its deficiencies are harming the effective delivery of policy.