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FG to lift 133m Nigerians out of poverty

New Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Dr Betta Edu has expressed the federal government's commitment to lift 133 million Nigerians out of poverty.

Edu disclosed this when she assumed office on Monday in Abuja and held maiden meetings with the chief executive officers of the agencies under the ministry.

She assured Nigerians of her determination to ensure transparency and

accountability during her tenure as Minister.

She explained that the ministry will achieve the target through different interventions and initiatives aimed at lifting millions of Nigerians out of poverty.

"What is most important

is that we will keep our focus on lifting 133 million Nigerians out of poverty.

"We can do it in phases, a step at a time, because with determination and strong-will nothing is impossible

We will also achieve the feat with the strong

political backing from His Excellency, President Bola Tinubu and every member of the cabinet.

"We will play down on politics, we are here to face the real business of governance," she said.

The minister, who described as unacceptable the alarming rate of poverty in the country, said all hands must be on deck to address the situation.

"Different sources of data suggest that we have a

population of 200 million Nigerians, which I think we are more than that.

"Of this population, the sources indicated that 136 million are extremely poor and that is unacceptable.

"We need to bring smiles back to the faces of Nigerians. We must reach out to those who are underserved and renew their hope.

"While doing this, we must ensure that we will

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Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang (right) addressing the reconstituted Plateau State Elders' Forum at the Banquet Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos on Monday Photo: DANLADI DUK

Establish modular refinery in Kogi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

The Host Communities of Nigeria producing Oil and Gas (HOSTCON), and Host Communities of Nigeria Producing Minerals and Natural Resources (HOSTCONMN) in Kogi, have appealed to the Federal Government to facilitate the establishment of modular refineries in the state.

The groups also called for

the establishment of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in Kogi State for job creation.

The HOSTCON Chairman in Kogi, His Eminence, Bishop Gabriel Simeon Ojoka, made the call when he led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the Ohinoyi of Ebira land, HRM Dr Ado Ibrahim at his palace in Okene.

Ojoka, who doubles as the Chairman HOSTCON,

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Ojoka

Fidelity Bank donates relief materials to PLSG

By DUMAH RANDONG

Plateau State Government has received relief materials from Fidelity Bank for victims of attacks in Mangu and other Local Government Areas in the state.

The Regional Bank Head, North Central, Mr Sadi Zawiya, who presented the relief materials to the state government recently at Government House, Little

Rayfield, and Jos on behalf of the bank, said that the gesture was aimed at alleviating the suffering of the displaced persons in the state.

Zawiya added that the gesture was part of their Corporate Social Responsibility having recognised that their success is intimately tied to the wellbeing of their host communities.

He prayed for peace to

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Onyeali-Ikpe

News

FG to lift 133m Nigerians out of poverty



Tinubu

Continued from page 1 Sani-Gwarzo, expressed commitment and loyalty to the Minister in her quest to deliver on the mandate of the ministry. Gwarzo noted that the event coincided with the third year anniversary of the ministry. In his welcome address, the permanent secretary of the ministry, Dr Nasir

Continued from page 1

return to the affected areas, adding that the bank as it had done in the past would continue to support people who are in dire need in the state.

Receiving the items on behalf of the Governor, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, the Deputy Governor, Mrs Josephine Piyo thanked the bank for the donation.

She decried the rising insecurity leading to the loss of lives and property.

Piyo described the bank as a humanitarian bank due to the numerous support and contribution it has made in the past.

She promised to ensure that the items gets to the affected victims.

She assured that the current administration is working towards ending the circle of killings across local communities in the state.

The Nigeria Standard reports that items donated include 100 mattresses, 100 blankets, and 100 mats 120 buckets, 300 cups, 150 bags of 25kg of

Fidelity Bank donates relief materials to PLSG

rice, 155 bags of maize flour, 20 CD bags of 25kg of garri, 50 cartons of oil. Other items include 20 cartons of powdered milk, 5 bags of slippers, 25 bags of salt, 20 cartons of Maggie, 20 bags of sugar, 5 cartons of lipton, 60 cartons of washing soap and 40 cartons of detergent among others.



Manage N5b fuel subsidy removal palliatives transparently-HEDA

Following the recent announcement by the Federal Government (FG) to empower the 36 states with N5,000,000,000 as palliatives to cushion impact of the petrol subsidy removal, Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) has harped on transparent implementation of the policy.

It suggested that comprehensive plans detailing how saved resources would be channelled for the betterment of the citizenry should be outlined.

The organisation held that a definite roadmap outlining how the funds are to be disbursed and monitored would check mismanagement and

corruption. Its chairman, Olanrewaju Suraju, therefore, urged the states to publish their implementation frameworks.

Furthermore, HEDA advised President Bola Tinubu to be proactive and ensure effectiveness of the programme.

The group said: "Transparent budgeting and regular updates on utilisation of the funds will foster public trust and provide a mechanism for citizens to actively participate in overseeing the progress of projects aimed at easing the impact of the subsidy removal."

"We propose the involvement of institutions like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC),

Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC) to serve as a monitoring and evaluation team for the execution of these projects."

It charged relevant stakeholders, community associations, professional groups, religious institutions and artisan/labour unions to actively engage the process and demand transparent administration of the funds. "This approach will undoubtedly enhance accountability, curb corruption and enhance the overall impact of the support initiative," the body added.

Establish modular refinery, NDDC in Kogi- HOSTCON, HOSTCONMN

Continued from page 1 Northern States Area, commended former President Mohammed Buhari for declaring Kogi as Oil Producing State in 2021.

He said the essence of the visit to the royal father was on the discovery of crude oil in Okegwe in Kogi Central Senatorial District, and the way forward for the unity and development of Kogi communities.

The chairman emphasised that the meeting was to ensure serious deliberations on the participation of Ebara communities in the development of oil and gas in Kogi State.

Ojoka explained that the HOSTCON National Chairman, Dr Mike Emuh, for over 17 years had led the organization to various institutions, arms of government and traditional councils to advocate and educate the society on the provisions of the constitution regarding the placement and benefits of the host communities.

He solicited for the royal

father's support in publicity and advocacy through orientation and courtesy calls on traditional council meetings at the North Central, and Kogi Central Council to get their attention and involvement in communities' participation.

Ojoka stressed that their slow participation in the programmes of HOSTCON had brought losses. He pointed out that the recruitment of pipeline security surveillance to protect the ongoing Ajaokuta, Kaduna, Kano Pipeline construction would have created jobs as well as benefited the Host communities if the opportunities were utilized.

According to him, HOSTCON Kogi has allocated 4,500 slots to recruit cadets for the protection of oil and gas pipelines and facilities within the state for the past five years. And yet with little or no interest in paying for the form let alone the cost for

recruitment exercise, "I therefore use this medium to solicit for communities' participation in the recruitment exercise that will soon take place in our state," Ojoka said.

He further requested for the royal father's recommendation of a fifteen (15) man committee from the four of five organs of the administration such as: traditional arm, clergy, women wing, youth wing and the state executives.

He emphasised that the advocacy sensitization programme of HOSTCON and HOSTCONMN remained a great sacrificial input to conquer community conflict and ensure that marginalization of the host communities at various levels of government is prohibited.

"The Host Communities of Nigeria producing Oil and Gas Kogi State chapter (HOSTCON) should be gazetted into the State yearly budgetary allocation.

The HOSTCON chairman appreciated Kogi State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, for his dogged input in ensuring that Kogi State was declared as Oil and Gas Producing State and for embracing HOSTCON programmes in the state

In his response, the paramount ruler said that the agitation for better welfare for the host communities producing minerals and natural resources was a long awaited achievement for him.



The HOSTCON Chairman in Kogi, His Eminence, Bishop Gabriel Simeon Ojoka, made the call when he led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the Ohinoyi of Ebara land, HRM Dr Ado Ibrahim at his Palace in Okene.

Mutfwang launches direct flight to Abuja

By PETER TITLE

Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State recently launched the inaugural flight of Abuja - Jos route by Value-jet Airline with a call on citizens of the state and those in the diaspora to patronise the airline for their benefits and for the development of the state.

According to the Governor, the launch of the direct flight signifies a significant step forward in enhancing connectivity and boosting economic growth in Plateau State.

Gov. Mutfwang also noted the direct service would improve accessibility between the two cities as it would unlock new opportunities for trade and tourism as well as strengthening ties between communities and fostering economic prosperity.

He said Value-jet Airline has carved a niche for itself in the airline business. Mutfwang

urged them to sustain the posture just as he prayed against any mishap.

The inaugural flight which landed at the Yakubu Gowon Airport at about 10:25 am. Governor Mutfwang said the airline would be shuttling between Jos and Abuja three times a week and enjoined all to take advantage of Value-jet services.

Earlier, the Plateau State Commissioner of Transport, Hon. Jatau Davou Gyang noted that he was confident the seamless connection by one of the best airlines in the country would strengthen trade and tourism between the people.

"With our extensive global connections and well developed intermodal transport infrastructure, our airport, if upgraded to international status, is going to be the world's busiest airport for both

civil and cargo hubs in the country. Aviation aside, both Plateau State and Nigeria are thriving financial capitals and much potential is awaiting us", he posited.

Hon. Gyang wished Value-jet every success in the business and urged citizens to take advantage and to patronise the airline.

The Airport Manager, Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Yakubu Gowon Airport, Mr Rindap Nantip Domtur who was optimistic said it was a dream come true.

He said the airport would continue to render qualitative services to all and urged reciprocal gestures from the passengers and the airline.

Representative of the Value-jet Airline, Mrs Yewande Cole assured of the airline's prompt services, saying they would not afford to disappoint the general public.



Business & Economy

How states should utilize the N5bn palliative

No doubt, This is not good season for majority of Nigerians as they continue to battle multidimensional poverty, misery, high cost of living and pressures exacerbated by the ripple effects of government policy reforms, especially withdrawal of subsidy on petroleum and floating exchange rate. Nigeria's current economic hardships can be attributed to a combination of factors, including both internal and external challenges. The following are some key factors that have contributed to Nigeria's economic difficulties. JAMILU M JA'AFARU writes

Dependence on oil

Nigeria heavily relies on oil exports as a major source of revenue. Fluctuations in global oil prices can significantly impact the country's economy. When oil prices are low, Nigeria's revenue drops, leading to budget deficits and economic challenges.

Poor economic diversification: Nigeria's economy remains largely dependent on the oil sector, which makes it vulnerable to oil price volatility. Insufficient efforts to diversify the economy and develop other sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services, have limited economic growth and job creation.

Corruption and governance issues: Corruption has been a longstanding problem in Nigeria, affecting various sectors of the economy. Mismanagement of public funds, embezzlement, and lack of transparency have hindered economic development and deterred foreign investment.

Inadequate infrastructure: Nigeria's infrastructure is often inadequate, including power supply, transportation networks, and telecommunications. Insufficient infrastructure hampers productivity, raises business costs, and makes Nigeria less attractive for investment.

Insecurity and insurgency: Ongoing security challenges, such as Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast, militancy in the Niger Delta region, and communal conflicts, have negatively impacted economic activities, particularly in affected areas. Insecurity deters investment, disrupts agriculture, and hampers overall economic stability.

Population growth and unemployment: Nigeria has a rapidly growing population, which puts pressure on job creation and public services. Insufficient employment opportunities, particularly for the youth, have contributed to high levels of unemployment and underemployment, exacerbating poverty and economic hardships.

Weak fiscal management: Inefficient fiscal policies, including inadequate tax collection, weak budget implementation, and excessive government spending, have strained Nigeria's economy. Poor fiscal management has led to budget deficits, high debt



levels, and reduced fiscal buffers to address economic shocks.

It's important to note that these factors are interconnected, and addressing Nigeria's economic challenges requires comprehensive and sustained efforts in multiple areas, including economic diversification, anti-corruption measures, infrastructure development, security reforms, and skilled job creation.

In times of crisis and hardship, the role of the government is crucial in providing relief and support to its citizens. To alleviate the economic impact of President Tinubu's policy reforms, the Nigerian government released a substantial sum of N5,000,000,000 as palliative to each state of the federation. This article delves into the importance of proper utilization of these funds and highlights key areas where the funds can be effectively deployed for maximum impact.

Health infrastructure and Support: Given the economic situation, strengthening the healthcare system should be a top priority. Allocating a significant portion of the palliative towards enhancing

medical infrastructure, procuring essential medical supplies and facilities would help absorb the economics experienced by the citizens. Additionally, investing in healthcare worker training, recruitment, and incentives can help improve long-term healthcare services.

Social welfare programs: The most vulnerable segments of society have been disproportionately affected by government policy reforms. To alleviate their suffering, state governments can utilize a portion of the funds for social welfare programs. This could include expanding existing social protection schemes, such as conditional cash transfers or direct food assistance, to reach a wider population in need. Strengthening safety nets will provide a lifeline to those who have lost their income and are struggling to meet their basic needs.

Economic stimulus and job creation: Allocating a portion of the palliative towards economic stimulus packages can help revive struggling sectors, provide financial support to

small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and create job opportunities. State governments can consider providing low-interest loans, grants, or tax incentives to businesses, especially those in sectors heavily affected by the pandemic, such as tourism, hospitality, and manufacturing.

Education and technology: State governments can allocate a portion of the funds to enhance learning infrastructure, ensuring access to quality education for all students. Investments in technology, such as providing devices and internet connectivity to underprivileged students, can bridge the digital divide and promote equitable learning opportunities. Furthermore, supporting teachers' capacity building and training programs will enhance their ability to deliver effective education.

Transparency and Accountability: To ensure efficient and effective utilization of the palliative funds, state governments must prioritize transparency and accountability. Establishing clear guidelines for fund allocation, monitoring

mechanisms, and regular audits will help prevent mismanagement and corruption. By involving civil society organizations, religious leaders, traditional rulers and the public in oversight processes, governments can enhance transparency and build trust among citizens.

Conclusion: The N5,000,000,000 (Five Billion Naira) palliative released to Nigeria state governments presents a significant opportunity to alleviate the economic hardship of the country's citizens. By strategically allocating these funds towards health infrastructure, social welfare programs, economic stimulus, education, and ensuring transparency, state governments can maximize the impact and reach of the palliative. It is essential for the government to prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable populations and focus on sustainable strategies that will aid in Nigeria's long-term recovery from economic hardships.

Jamilu M. Jaafaru is a social development socialist and writes from Abuja.



Business & Economy

Lalong to resolve minimum wage, pending trade disputes

SIMON Lalong, the newly sworn-in minister of labour and employment on Monday assumed office, promising to tackle unemployment, address minimum wage and resolve all trade disputes.

Lalong said under his leadership, the ministry will fulfil its mandate of ensuring decent work for all Nigerians and making sure that citizens, particularly youth and women get the opportunity to deploy their energy, creativity talent and gifts to the development of the nation.

"We shall, therefore mobilize and deploy all the resources of the ministry towards ensuring that the matters relating to labour and employment are galvanized across relevant MDAs and sectors of the economy in line with the renewed hope agenda; of Mr. President. Our workers must get value for their labour and operate in a safe and conducive environment, he said.

On the level of unemployment, underemployment, and challenges associated with the work environment, he said the ministry has been mandated by the president to ensure that Nigerians get decent employment and are adequately remunerated for their labour both in the public and private sectors

He further said the administration will escalate the relations with the private sector, development partners, international agencies, NGOs among others to make sure that unemployment and underemployment are reduced to the barest minimum according to the plan of the Tinubu administration.

On the relationship with the organised labour, he said the government through the ministry shall work closely with the NLC, TUC and their affiliates towards not only ensuring that all pending industrial disputes are settled amicably and addressing with strong determination the new minimum wage and other palliatives arising from the removal of fuel subsidy.

"This is a call to service, and we shall do everything within our power to give our best in assisting the president to fulfil his



Lalong

renewed hope agenda for a better Nigeria. Nigerians have trusted President Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima with their mandate, and therefore, expect a better nation where their dreams and aspirations will be fulfilled.

The task is certainly enormous but achievable, especially with the abundant human

resources Nigeria is endowed with. We, therefore, need your support and understanding to succeed", he said.

He said the ministry will leverage technology, skill acquisition, entrepreneurship, agriculture among others to open up more employment opportunities for all Nigerians.

FG to revive Ajaokuta plant, develop steel sector- Audu

The Minister of Steel Development, Shuaibu Audu, has vowed resuscitate the Ajaokuta Steel Company.

During a press briefing in Abuja on Monday, Audu affirmed his commitment to restoring the moribund steel plant.

According to him, he

will set a roadmap for the development of the steel sector, aggressively pursue the completion of Ajaokuta steel, and enact required bills to regulate the steel sector, among others.

He said, "Our past leaders recognised the importance of steel

Nigeria's net foreign reserves drop to \$3.7bn

An American multinational financial services firm, JP Morgan, has estimated that Nigeria's net foreign exchange (FX) reserves drop to \$3.7 billion as of the end 2022.

This is contained in the firm's latest report titled

'Nigeria: Reform pause rather than fatigue'.

Gross FX reserves represent the government's total holdings of foreign currency reserves. Net FX reserves deduct foreign currency liabilities from gross foreign currencies



Tinubu

In some Nigerian states, the pump price of petrol has risen beyond the official post-subsidy price, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

This was revealed in its report "Premium Motor Spirit (Petrol) Price Watch" for July 2023, that Borno state topped the price chart at N657.27 per litre, overshooting the post-subsidy adjusted official price of N600.35 per litre for that region by 9.5 percent.

Abia state followed with N643.15, while Gombe state ranked third with N642.22, thus overshooting the adjusted prices by 7.13 per cent and 6.9 per cent respectively.

This comes as the NBS report on Automotive Gas Oil (Diesel) Price Watch for July 2023, showed that Niger state topped the price chart at N892.50 per litre indicating an increase of 12.34 per cent to N794.48.

Abia state followed with N890.63, while Enugu state came third with N872.73 indicating an increase of 12.1 per cent and 9.85 per cent respectively.

However, Edo, Kwara and Benue states emerged with the lowest retail price for petrol at N530.00, N535.44 and N537.00 respectively according to the NBS report. While Bayelsa, Anambra/

Fuel prices rise 9.5% in states – Report



Kyari

Bauchi and Ondo states emerged with the lowest retail price for diesel at N683.20, N700.00 and N701.58 respectively.

Meanwhile, the average price of Premium Motor Spirit, PMS, rose year-on-year, YoY, by 215.95 per cent to N600.35 in July 2023 from N190.01 recorded in the corresponding period of 2022.

This also comes as the average retail price of Automotive Gas Oil (diesel) increased year-on-year, YoY, by 2.60 percent to

N794.48 per litre in July 2023 from N774.38 per litre in July 2022.

On a month-on-month basis, the retail price of a litre of petrol increased by 9.99 per cent to N600.35 in July 2023 from N545.83 in June 2023 while the price of diesel decreased on a month-on-month basis by 2.62 per cent to N794.48 in July 2023 from N815.83 in June 2023.

The zonal representation of the average price of PMS showed that the North-East zone had the highest price of N630.13, while the North-central zone had the lowest price of N551.58.

development but lacked the political will to achieve its objectives.

"The steel development is synonymous with the Ajaokuta Steel plant, whose commencement has been over 40 years ago. We aim to start the engine and ensure that we produce at least a

small sheet of steel within this administration.

"It is a known fact that steel is the bedrock of any nation's development; if gotten right, it may be the beginning of our industrial revolution."

FG had allocated over

N3bn to cover personnel costs at the Ajaokuta Steel Company each year from 2016 to 2023.

Between 2016 and 2023, a total of N29.35bn has been allocated to cover personnel costs for the Ajaokuta Steel Complex.

Despite the regular budget, the steel company is yet to commence full operations in over 42 years, with the government making failed attempts at privatisation and concession.

FG further paid a total of \$446m to clear off a judgment debt on the Ajaokuta Steel Company.

Speaking further at the press briefing, Audu disclosed that the creation of the new ministry underscored President Bola Tinubu's mandate in pursuing the nation's overall development.

In his remarks, Minister of Solid Minerals, Dele Alake, charged the staff members to be result-oriented in order to achieve the presidential mandate for the sector.

reserves.

According to Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) data, the country's gross FX reserves stood at \$36.61 billion as of end of 2022.

In its report, JP Morgan said the \$3.7 billion figure is significantly lower than prior estimates, owing to larger-than-expected currency swaps and borrowing against existing reserves.

"Based on partial information from the audited financial accounts, we estimate that CBN's net FX reserves were around \$3.7 billion at the end of last year, from \$14.0 billion at end-2021," the report stated.

The firm clarified that it arrived at \$3.7 billion by making some assumptions which if incorrect would

change the estimated figure.

"In arriving at said estimate we make a few assumptions which if incorrect would substantially change the picture," the report further read.

JP Morgan, however, said that although low net FX reserves mean continued FX market pressures, CBN still has the ability to source FX at commercial and semi-commercial rates.

"Given the highly profitable nature of the currency swap arrangements between the CBN and domestic commercial banks, we expect these to continue for some time, albeit in smaller sizes and arguably more punitive rates," the report added.



Only the domestic private sector can save Nigeria's

THE rich can afford to pay such 'taxes', it's true, but the rich also contribute meagrely to the government coffers because they have innovative accountants, and in any case have lots of connections to ease their business activities. RAJNEESH NARULA writes

The majority of Nigeria's population who live from hand to mouth cannot pay all these quasi-legal and illegal side payments, for whom these fixed costs, because they are not proportional to the size of your business. Where profit margins are already tight due to the multiple uncertainties from the lack of electricity, to the rising price of commodities, the net result is that even the middle classes not investing – either passively or actively – in Nigeria's economy. Rather, their money finds its way into foreign bank accounts and helps sponsor their sons and daughters to start businesses in the US, the UK and elsewhere. One need only walk down a street in south London to find the missing entrepreneurs and their money.

I read in the papers about a woman lamenting that the collapsing exchange rate against sterling would force her to send her children to a Nigerian university. I admit to finding this simultaneously funny and sad. As a proud graduate of a Nigerian university, I have suffered no handicaps in life due to a Nigerian university education. Admittedly this was in the 1980s, when Nigeria's universities attracted the best academics from around the world, and quality education was almost free to even the poorest Nigerian with the drive and intellect to succeed.

It is sad because the parental lament reflects the poor state of Nigeria's educational infrastructure, a country which spearheaded a short-lived (but successful) drive towards universal primary education in the 1970s.

The new government's



Tinubu

belief that spreading the formal tax burden to capture more government revenue from the informal sector and from small and medium enterprises is misplaced. It must remove the impediments for all businesses to start up and thrive in the longer run. Before turning to broadly

raising tax revenue, it must seek to lift all boats by preventing this petty thievery across the board that makes Nigeria a difficult place to run any kind of business without connections.

This means outlawing all kinds of impediments and making it easier for smaller

entrepreneurs to make profits, and reducing the myriad agencies and their 'permits' that have proliferated over the last three decades. In the short run, it will have a negative effect on the public finances, but in the long run, these businesses will be profitable, and able to pay legitimate taxes, and

the state will be amply rewarded.

The new government and the media continue to lament the absence of foreign investment. Foreign investors also need to show a profit, and the same principles that lead domestic entrepreneurs to thrive apply to foreign entrepreneurs as well. New foreign investment will only come once the domestic environment is investor-friendly. If Nigerian entrepreneurs are moving their capital abroad, why should we expect foreign investors to be any different?

In summary: Reforms to improve the business environment need to be inclusive if a rising tide is to lift all boats.

"It is sad because the parental lament reflects the poor state of Nigeria's educational infrastructure, a country which spearheaded a short-lived (but successful) drive towards universal primary education in the 1970s. The new government's belief that spreading the formal tax burden to capture more government revenue from the informal sector and from small and medium enterprises is misplaced. It must remove the impediments for all businesses to start up and thrive in the longer run. Before turning to broadly raising tax revenue, it must seek to lift all boats by preventing this petty thievery across the board that makes Nigeria a difficult place to run any kind of business without connections".

Politics

Mutfwang meets reconstituted State Elders Forum

BY PETER TITLE

THE Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang has held a meeting with the reconstituted State Elders Forum where he reeled out the shady realities they had to contend with when they assumed office in May this year revealing that situation of things in the state was worse than they thought.

According to him, they did not meet any sector alive saying that what they met on ground calls for sober reflection and urged the elders forum to support the present administration in bringing the government from the mess it inherited adding that even government documents were being photocopied in business centres.

Governor Mutfwang revealed this in a meeting held with the Plateau State Elders' Forum on Monday at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Little Rayfield Jos, where he also intimated them that about the debt profile and the palliative received from the federal government.

According to him, he met a debt profile of about ₦300 billion and months of unpaid salaries as well as civil servants on strike as a result but said they were quick to swung into action in ensuring that civil servants were paid and that that was accomplished.

The Governor who said they have the resources to pay salaries up to date frowned at civil service bureaucracy which he posited was delaying the process but assured that when the processes were completed salaries would be paid to date.

On the ₦5 billion said to be given to states by the Federal Government to be given to the poorest of the poor, Governor Mutfwang said Plateau State was in receipt of only ₦2 billion, revealing that the sum was not free but a loan that would be repaid over time.

Out of the money, he revealed that the federal government instructed them to use ₦1 billion for the purchase of local rice for onward delivery to the poor in the society.

He asked the elders to go to sleep as the money would be judiciously shared to the poorest of the poor in the state promising not to disappoint them in that regard.

On the security situation bedevilling, Mangu, Bokkos, Barkin-Ladi and Riyom Local Government Areas, the Governor said the rain of terror being unleashed on innocent citizens was unacceptable as he revealed that the attacks being perpetrated came from outside of Plateau State.

Barr. Mutfwang then solicited support from the elders to help in this direction but was quick to commend



Mutfwang

the General Officer, Commanding 3 Armoured Division who is the Joint Taskforce Chairman, Operation Safe Haven for fighting the insurgents headlong where relative peace was restored.

He therefore assured the people that, Government has taken steps to resuscitate the Operation Rainbow saying in the coming weeks, the security outfit would be fully operational as staff would be trained by security forces.

Mutfwang also intimated them that they had to mobilise tractors from the ASTC to cultivate large hectares of fallow land that has been left unattended to as a result of the crisis in some local government council's so that there would be food for the people.

On the state of the state tertiary institutions, the Governor explained that they were in a comatose stage but had to intervened by prompt

released of ₦200 million and ₦300 million to salvaged the Plateau State Polytechnic as well as the State University, Bokkos for courses accreditation and other sundry issues.

He said, government would continue to seek the wise counsel of the Plateau Elders' Forum at all times and would also engage the youths in it's activities so that they move the state to the next level of development.

"Hundred days in office or not, this government is ready to face the task of governance. There will be massive road rehabilitation in the next few weeks, when the rains subside," Governor Mutfwang assured.

Earlier, the Secretary to the Government of the State (SGS), Arc. Samuel Nanchang Jatau welcomed the Elders saying the government would continue to engage them from time to time for their counsel.

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan

FOUR convicts who were eligible to pay fines to secure their release have been released at the Ibara Correctional Centre, Abeokuta in Ogun State.

In what can be said to be luck, the four inmates were released after a chieftain of New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in the state, Olufemi Ajadi paid the fines they were supposed to pay on their behalf.

The four inmates who were released include Damilola Opebi, Oyebolu Shina, Dare Lawal, and Oluwasegun Ayobami.

The four had been serving sentences at the correctional centre, awaiting the legal processes that could grant them their freedom before Ajadi who is the 2023 gubernatorial candidate of NNPP in the state paid the fines they were supposed to pay.

Ajadi in a statement made available to journalists recently revealed that he was briefed about the problems facing the criminal justice system by his legal team led by Isaac Izunya.

He added that he took it upon himself to ensure that these individuals were not left languishing in incarceration due to their inability to pay fines when he was informed about their predicaments.

Ajadi added that he is not an advocate for criminal and illegal

NNPP chieftain secures release of four inmates



Kwankwaso

activities.

He said, "I am not an advocate for criminal and illegal activities but I believe that the penalties for the less criminal offenders could be paid for after the wrongdoers have sobered and promised to desist from such crimes."

Izunya in his remarks asserted that this gesture was an embodiment of Ajadi's vision for a more just and compassionate society, irrespective of political considerations.

He said, "The bailing of the four convicts by Olufemi Ajadi has undoubtedly added a new dimension to the political landscape in Ogun State".

Opebi, who spoke after his release said that he is a skilled generator repairer,

but found himself behind bars for an unexpected reason, buying a stolen phone.

He added that he was determined to leave the past behind.

"I want to engage myself now in a monthly paying job so that I will be a sponsor to my musical talent."

Shina, who works as a receiving clerk in a supermarket in Ota, said that he was at the correctional centre due to missing goods.

"I was jailed because some goods under my watch got missing. I wish Olufemi Ajadi a successful outcome in all his endeavors for paying for my fine".

Lawal, a motorcycle rider, faced a difficult choice when he stole someone else's house rooftop to sell and raise money to repair his dilapidated motorcycle.

He said, "I have been to jail, and Ajadi has paid my fine to be released. I promise Nigerians that I won't engage in nefarious activities anymore. May Almighty God bless Olufemi Ajadi for his kind gesture for humanity."

Ayobami, who is a truck driver, found himself ensnared by circumstances when he stood as a guarantor for his friend, Muse, who absconded with a motorcycle meant to be paid for in instalments.

Ayobami said he was arrested on July 10, 2023, and sentenced to two-year imprisonment. Adding that Ajadi's kind gesture has reversed the jail term.

He said, "Jail is real! Government is real. And I want my people to desist from uncivilized and

18 political parties to participate in LG poll

- OYSIEC

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan

EIGHTEEN registered political parties have indicated interest to participate in the forthcoming local government election in Oyo State.

Chairman, Oyo State Independent Electoral Commission (OYSIEC), Mr Isiaka Olagunju made the announcement recently in Ibadan, the state capital.

He expressed the readiness of the commission to conduct the local government election in April next year.

He said that eighteen registered political parties have indicated interest to participate in the election.

Olagunju while speaking lauded the political parties for handling their primaries



Makinde

peacefully. He explained further that

the commission observed primaries of

some political parties in the state.

"18 registered political parties in the state have shown interest in participating in the forthcoming election.

"We did our best during the local government council elections conducted in 2021. Election is a process and there is room for improvement.

"Things are improving. Recently, the commission observed primaries of some political parties. This was different from the past, the process went peacefully and successfully.

"This is the spirit I want all the political parties and electorate to take to the election so that the election can be peaceful and credible".

Politics

Mutfwang: Changing the narratives of governance

The essence of any government all over is to provide the basic necessities such as qualitative education , good road network , affordable food and shelter, as well as the provision of security and the respect for human dignity to the people governed amongst many other incentives. And to achieve these , those saddled with the responsibility of governance must be equipped with the requisite knowledge . PETER TITLE, writes.

UNFORTUNATELY, these are lacking in our society, must especially in Africa. But in a civilised clime like Europe and America, leaders are held accountable and therefore, they always ensure that they discharge their responsibilities accordingly and to the best of their ability.

In Plateau State, every leader that has governed the state, has had his story to tell. But the citizens are in the better position to share the story on how they were governed. However, with the emergence of Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, the narrative changed .The serious minded man came with a bang. Hitting the ground running, he immediately began organizing meetings and workshops with his cabinet to ensure that good governance is seen to be done and dividend of democracy is provided to the citizens.

And in keeping faith with the covenant he entered with the people while he was campaigning for the exalted seat of the state , he appointed mostly youths and women in his cabinet as promised. He tasked them to brace up for the challenges ahead and discharge their given responsibilities accordingly or be sanctioned. To further buttress his point, Governor Caleb Mutfwang organised a six day retreat for the State Executive Council (SEC), as well as all other appointed members and Permanent Secretaries at the famous National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru where they brainstormed and charted a way forward towards upgrading the livelihood of citizens and economic development of the state.

Tagged " Retreat And On -boarding of Executive Arm Of Government", had resource persons from different fields of endeavours who came from Monday 14th , August, 2023 to enlighten on the participants about good and qualitative governance. On boarding, according to Oxford Dictionary of English , is the action or process of



Mutfwang

integrating a new employee into an organisation or familiarising a new customer or client with one's products or services.

The dictionary further goes to explain, after the initial on-boarding is complete, continue to offer new hires relevant training and development opportunities. Clients onboarding is critical for any business , as modifier, a little

extra effort during the onboarding period can go a long way towards improving staff retention.

However the aimed of retreat aptly captured the above definition as the Onboarding objectives of the retreat include; to aggregate their collective thoughts as a team and be instructed by, the Governor on the vision and mission of the "The Time Is Now" mantra. This is meant to develop a framework for cultivating and harnessing a team

spirit and bonding together, to look at Plateau from the benefit of hindsight, insight, foresight and eyesight amongst many others.

The Unity Hall of NIPSS was filled to the brim with participants. The resource persons were able to dissect in pieces the topics allotted them to share with the participants .It was brainstorming session all through, no dull moment to the admiration of the participants because of the rich content of the retreat.

Among the resource persons who spoke were Rev. Dr. David Pofi who spoke on corporate devotion, -Governor Mutfwang: Vision of "The Time Is Now", Gbile Akanni: Vision of Life, Prof. Shadrack Best, Da. Jonah David Jang: My Experience in Government, Opportunities, Challenges and Regrets, Rev. Para Mallum, corporate devotion.

Others who contributed in that direction too were, Mrs Gonda: Excellence in Governance, Dr. Bitrus Audu: Time Management and Discipline, Dr. Byatun Gyang, Managing the Health challenges of the Public Servant, RT. Hon. Istifanus Mwansat: Managing the Constituent (Perception), and Boni Haruna: former Governor and Minister Sports and Youth Development

opportunity to make history and to leave a positive legacy for the good of Plateau State. The workshop and retreat, we just started is not symbolic but an opportunity to bring glory to God and to benefit the people of the state." Mutfwang further noted that the future of lives of the people of the state depended on the outcome of the appointees collective work and urged them not to squander the opportunities, but to view their appointments as a stepping stone to higher achievements.

At the end of the retreat being Friday 18th August , 2023 , the Secretary to the Government of Plateau State (SGS), Architect Samuel Nanchang Jatau who reeled out the nine point Communique to journalists said they resolved to embrace the government; vision and mission as encapsulated in the three priority with the ten thematic and the 28 sub-thematic areas and to collectively , collaboratively and assiduously work towards building a united Plateau in line with the goals and objectives of "The Time Is Now" mantra.

Arc. Jatau further noted that they resolved to foster good governance through adoption and implementation of people oriented policies, blocking loopholes, reducing wastages and adopting cost effective, transparent and accountable processes as well as embracing E- governance.

The SGS said they resolved to improve funding to meet the demands of the state by exploring alternative revenue generation for effective projects funding as well as to practice sound lifestyle that birth productivity and effectiveness in both work place and private lives among others.

Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang who was billed to address the participants at the end of the occasion was however indisposed, he was ably represented by the Deputy Governor, Ngo Josephine Piyo. She said, the retreat has impacted effective leadership qualities, ethical principles and transparency on the participants and as such it should enable them meet people's expectations.

According to her, they should engage stakeholders, ensure effective communication, adopt public relations techniques, and build partnerships for inclusive development in the state. And above all, she said, they should work with the fear of God at all times.



Gov. Mutfwang (right), Deputy, Josephine Piyo (left) and other participants at the retreat



Cross section of Permanent Secretaries

from Adamawa State spoke extensively among many other speakers.

Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, speaking during the retreat did not mince word. He charged them to explore all avenues and bring their wealth of experience to bear in order to leave a positive legacy for the betterment of the state. He equally enjoined them to see themselves as a united unit rather than competitors so as to leave a remarkable landmark.

The Governor said, "Our duty at this critical time, presents an

IMAGES

GOVERNOR MUTFWANG MEETS WITH STATE ELDERS' FORUM

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang on Monday met with the reconstituted Plateau State Elders' Forum at the Banquet Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos



Governor Mutfwang addressing the well attended Plateau State Elders Forum



Cross section of members of Plateau State Executive Council at the meeting



From left are, Sen. Jonah David Jang, Rear Admiral Samuel Bitrus Atukum and the PDP State Chairman, represented by Hon. Simon V. Domle



Cross section of former Secretaries to the Plateau State Government



Cross section of personalities at the high table



From left are, Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Thomas Moses Sule, Sen. Jonah David Jang, Rear Admiral Samuel Bitrus Atukum and Hon. Chris Hassan PDP State Chairman, represented by Hon. Simon V. Domle



Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Chairman, Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo with other stakeholders at the meeting



Former Minister, Youth and Sports, Hon. Solomon Selcap Dalung, former COCIN President, Rev. Prof. Pandang Yamsat and Amb. Bagudu Hirse

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Politics

As ministers sworn-in get down to business

Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn into office as Nigeria's President on May 29, 2023. Months after he sent a list of ministers designate to the National Assembly for approval. Of the forty-eight names sent to the upper chamber forty-five were cleared while three of the nominees were not cleared. On August 21, 2023 the cleared nominees were inaugurated and given various portfolios. LUCY CHINDABA writes.



Wike

Unlike the previous administration which took about six months to constitute and inaugurate its cabinet President Tinubu constituted and administered his cabinet within three months of taking over the mantle of leadership of the country.

At the inauguration of the 45 confirmed ministers-designate which held at the Conference Centre of the State House, Abuja President Tinubu in a call to action urged the recently appointed ministers to collaborate with him and each other to fulfill the aspirations of the Nigerian people through their work in government.

According to him, "We are in this boat, even if it is a vehicle and I am the driver, the entire Nigerians are behind sitting and watching as you and I navigate this vehicle. We must hold each other responsible, we have to do the job to meet the expectations of all Nigerians. And emphasized, "you are not a minister of a particular state, colony, region or ethnic nationality, you are a minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria."

Adding, "With such high honour comes tremendous responsibility in this moment of abundant promise and peril in equal measure. All of you who have been sworn in have been called to distinguish yourselves. It is me who knows you and delegates this authority but the greatest number of Nigerians are highly expectant of delivery, accountability and transparency.

"Nigerians expect that you will serve with integrity, dignity and deliver. I will hold you to that standard. Your assignment began immediately. As your country honours you today by this call to service, you must each work to make yourselves worthy in the eyes of God and all our nation's people," he said.

Those sworn in include former Rivers State governor Nyesom Wike as Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Wale Edun (Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy), Adegboyega Oyetola (Marine and Blue Economy), David Umahi (Works), Festus Keyamo (Aviation and Aerospace Development), and Betta Edu (Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation).

Others are: Bosun Tijani (Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy), Ishak Salaco (State, Environment and Ecological Management), Adedayo Adelabu



Tunji-Ojo

(Minister of Power), Tunisia Alausa (State, Health and Social Welfare), Dele Alake (Solid Minerals Development), Lola Ade-John (Minister of Tourism), Sa'idu Alkali (Transportation), and Bunmi Tunji-Ojo (Interior).

Soon after the inauguration ceremony, the ministers resumed duty immediately with a pledge to not let Nigerians down but play their part in ensuring the delivery of the renewed hope mantra of the President Tinubu administration.

On assumption of office, the newly appointed Minister for Information and National Orientation, Idris Mohammed assured the staff of the ministry and various stakeholders that his tenure will have a ministry that is open and accountable to Nigerians.

Mr Idris revealed that there will be no room for lies and the spread of fake news, as the President had given him a matching order to be truthful with the citizens of the country, which is the pact between the government and the people of Nigeria.

That as a minister of Information and National Orientation, he has the duty of telling Nigerians the true picture of what transpired about the various programmes and projects of the administration in all sectors.

He also revealed that, the national orientation will form the core of the Ministry's mandate in addition to information dissemination, cautioning Nigerians against spreading fake news and urging members of the press to cross-check their information before dissemination.

Mr Idris maintained that being truthful and effective as minister of Information is essential to engender the trust of the people on various programmes and projects of the administration.

On resumption of office as the Minister of Labour and Employment, Barr. Simon Lalong has promised to resolve all pending labour disputes by working closely with the two labour groups - the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC).

Lalong also assured them of addressing with strong determination the new minimum wage and other palliatives arising from the removal of fuel subsidy adding that the Ministry shall leverage Technology, skill acquisition, entrepreneurship, and agriculture among others to open up



Alake

more employment opportunities for all Nigerians.

"The government through the NLC and TUC and their affiliates not only ensure that all impending industrial disputes are settled amicably but we will address with strong determination the new minimum wage and other palliatives arising from the removal of subsidy," he said.

He stated that the Ministry shall leverage Technology, skill acquisition, entrepreneurship, and agriculture among others to open up more employment opportunities for all Nigerians.

Lalong revealed that, "In the coming weeks, we shall unveil detailed plans of President Tinubu's vision for Labour and Employment and also spell out the role that the Ministry and its agencies, development partners and Nigerians, in general, will play in actualizing it."

The Minister of Defence, Muhammed Badaru Abubakar, and the Minister of State for Defence, Bello Mohammed Matawalle, have promised "remarkable" changes in Nigeria's security architecture within one year. The new ministers stated this upon assuming office at the Ship House, Ministry of Defence, Abuja, shortly after being sworn in as cabinet members.

Badaru assured the public that for the sake of the country, he and the minister of state could not afford to betray the trust given to them by President Bola Tinubu. According to him, within a year, there will be remarkable changes for the better in the country's security situation. He also promised that he and Matawalle would do their best to meet the mandate of Tinubu who, along with all Nigerians, are desperate to see that the nation's security is ensured.

For his part, Matawalle gave an assurance that the ministry would spare no efforts in building a strong defence apparatus capable of handling any threats.

On assumption of office, the new Minister of Solid Minerals Development Mr. Dele Alake, solicited workers' support to achieve new hope and mandates for the ministry. He said the ministry was a sensitive sector in this period of economic renewal, adding that he was assigned the portfolio because of the sensitive position of the sector to economic renewal, and pledged the administration's readiness to give a new lease of life to the sector. The ministry is key to the administration and the president wanted someone



Lalong

that he trusts and believes will deliver effectively.

Alake warned members of staff to brace up for the tasks ahead in delivering renewed hope to Nigerians, adding that all civil service bottlenecks be eliminated to enable him carry out his duties effectively.

According to him, "I understand how you civil servants operate, I won't tolerate any bottlenecks that will hinder my job, so any files that gets to you must be attended to in an hour. We won't allow bottlenecks to stifle our set goals, it's either you shape in or you ship out. Alake stated that all is set to implement the president's directive in line with the mandate of the sector, adding that he would unveil his roadmap for the sector in the next couple of days.

Earlier, his counterpart in the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Shuaibu Audu, said it was time to move the country up to the G-20 industrialised nations, assuring that in no distant time, the Ajaokuta Steel Mill would commence production.

The minister revealed that the mandate of Mr. President is to ensure that we get it right in the steel sector. As a young ministry, we will work towards the production of steel in the country in no distant time, and assured, "We are set to kick start the Ajaokuta steel machine and Nigeria cannot afford to fail in steel production."

Also, the Minister of State, Mines and Steel development, Maigari Ahmadu, called for synergy among stakeholders and the staff to enable the ministers perform optimally.

The new minister of Interior, Mr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, on resumption at the ministry has urged the paramilitary chiefs under the ministry to discharge their duties in line with the mandates that established them for effective service delivery. He added that he would hold them accountable for any infraction during the course of their duties.

The minister stated further that he was in the ministry to work but in doing that, there must be a good working environment and reminded them that the work of the ministry affected everyone, whether rich or poor, senior or junior.

"Just as Mr. President will hold me accountable for whatever happens here in the ministry, I will never hold your subordinates responsible for anything, therefore, it is you people



Idris

that I will hold responsible for anything that goes wrong in the ministry," he stressed.

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has sounded a demolition warning to landlords of properties distorting the master plan of Abuja.

He said, "All those people who are distorting the master plan of Abuja, too bad. If you know you have built where you're not supposed to build, it will go down."

Wike said this during a press conference in Abuja, moments after taking his oath of office at the State House, adding that, for anyone who has developed where they are not supposed to, even if the culprit is a minister or an ambassador, "your house must go down".

The former Rivers State governor's warning also went out to landowners who had taken over "the green areas" to build properties, saying those areas must come back.

"If you hate green, you must hate yourself. So, if you know you have anybody involved that has taken over the green areas or has taken over the parks to where you now do restaurants, no, we will not accept that. Sorry," he said.

In conclusion therefore, it is worthy of note to refer to some salient points made by Mr President during the inauguration on the fact that, the main obligation of the ministers is to restore public faith in government so that people can once again believe that government can be a positive force for transformation and a vehicle for collective progress of all citizens.

He further affirmed that the newly appointed ministers were selected based on their track records of excellence in both the public and private sectors, noting their effective representation of the rich diversity present within Nigeria.

While expressing his wishes for the success of the cabinet members in the discharge of their duties, the President invoked a metaphor of a journey, in which he is the driver of a vehicle, along with all Nigerians as passengers.

He maintained, "We must hold each other responsible, we have to do the job to meet the expectations of all Nigerians. God be with you, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria."

NEWS

Benue man bikes to Abuja for Senator Akume

By JOHN FWAH KADUNA

THE tradition of riding bicycle on highways to honour, register and felicitate with successful politicians as well as have a handshake with them has gained momentum in Nigeria.

One youngman who could not hold back his desire to express his happiness and felicitate with the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, is Joseph Anyam.

To demonstrate his deep desire for this purpose, Anyam who hails from Konshisha Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State, embarked on the journey from Kaduna to Abuja-Nigeria on bicycle on the morning of Monday, 21 August, 2023 from Kaduna-Abuja Junction.

At the point of departure, he said, "I am so happy with His Excellency George Akume for his chains of political successes. It gives me joy that I witnessed when he was in office as Governor of Benue State.

"From there, he became a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and now the Secretary to the



Akume

Government of the Federation (SGF).

"I am very proud of him even though he is from Tarka Local Government Area and I am from Konshisha Local Government Area. We are brothers and speak the same dialect. I am very proud and happy because President Bola Ahmed Tinubu made a wise decision to choose Senator Akume as the SGF.

"I know and trust that he will deliver very well. I

am moreover happy because he holds the record of being the first Nigerian politician to be elected as former state governor, a Senator and now to be appointed SGF at a stretch", Anyam stated.

They believed that the Acting General Manager would use his wealth of experience to build bridges that would connect and move the corporation to greater heights.

Varsity granted approval for post graduate, more courses

By WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Federal University Gashua, Yobe State, has secured approval from the National Universities Commission (NUC) to commence Post Graduate and additional undergraduate programmes.

The approval followed the successful resource verification of some programmes carried out by the National Universities Commission in July 2023.

Malam Adamu Saleh, the University's Head, Information and Protocol Unit, in a press statement said the new programmes are to commence in the 2023/2024 academic session.

In a letter of approval from the Commission to the Vice-Chancellor of the institution, the list of the approved post-graduate programmes include, M.A and Ph.D. Islamic Studies, PGD, M.Sc. and Ph.D. Accounting, M. Sc. and Ph.D. Taxation.

Others are; PGD, M.Sc.



Tahir

and Ph. D. Economics, PGD Geographic Information System, M.Sc. Ph.D. Geography, PGD, M.Sc. MPA and Ph.D. Public Administration and PGD, M.Sc. and Ph.D. Chemistry, and PGD, M.Sc. and Ph.D. Mathematics.

Similarly, the NUC also approved additional

undergraduate programmes for the school. They are: B.Sc. Microbiology, B.Ed. Guidance and Counseling, B.Ed. Educational Foundation, B. Sc. Ed. Agricultural Science and B.Ed. Primary Education.

Others are; B.Sc. Ed. Mathematics, B. Sc. Ed. Physics, B. Sc. Ed.

By DORCAS PANKYES

THE Independent National Election Commission (INEC) announced the results in Kabba on Monday.

This was contained in a statement by The Secretariat Committee, Ikechukwu Ani.

The statement noted that already in town for the retreat are the Chairman of the Committee of Retired Inspectors General of Police, Alhaji Aliyu Atta, GCON; Ogbonnaya Onovo, CFR, Hafix Ringim, CFR, Dr. Solomon Arase, CFR, Chairman Police Service Commission and Ibrahim Kpotun Idris CFR.

Others such as Dr. Mike Okiro, CFR, Sunday Ehindero, CFR and the acting Inspector General of Police, Dr. Olukayode Egbetokun are expected.

The National Security Adviser, AIG Nuhu Ribadu rtd is also expected to attend the retreat. The other members of the committee that are outside jurisdiction have also confirmed their participation via zoom.

The retreat has as theme; 'Intervention of Ex-Inspectors General of Police for Strategic Contribution to Effective Policing in Nigeria. The event would hold at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture IITA, Ibadan Oyo State.

Several topical papers will be presented at the retreat such as; Current State of Police Preparedness; Issues, Challenges and Prospects and Strategic actions and Steps Towards Restoring NPF's Primacy in Internal Security Architecture of Nigeria;

There will also be a

Chemistry, B.Sc. Ed. Biology, B. Library and Information Science, (BLIS) and B. Ed English Language.

The university had received a resources verification panel from the Commission in July 2023 who assessed the facilities available in the university for the commencement of the postgraduate and undergraduate programmes.

According to Adamu, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Maimuna Waziri, said the introduction of post-graduate programme will no doubt nurture and promote the spirit and culture of research in the university which will in turn aid national development.

Professor Maimuna also commended members of staff of the university for their efforts and commitment towards the success of the Resource Verification.

Ex IGP's hold retreat in Ibadan

discussion and experience-sharing session on the imperativeness of employing the experiential knowledge of the retired IGP's in the effective management of internal security in Nigeria.

Alhaji Aliyu Attah GCON, retired Inspector General of Police and Chairman of the Committee said the ex-Inspectors General of Police have a lot to offer the nation in the search for solutions to the persisting and ravaging security crisis in the country.

He said the retreat would afford the ex-IGPs the opportunity to examine and proffer solutions using their varied experiences while in service.

ectoral Commission (INEC) has declared Arc. Idris Salman of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) winner of Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu House of Representatives election in Kogi state. The Assistant Electoral Officer, Usman UhamiOjo,

announced the results in Kabba on Monday.

Salman's victory shattered the ambition of Kogi State House of Assembly Speaker, Prince Matthew Kolawole to represent the federal constituency. Declaring the final result on Monday in Kabba, Usman said Arc Idris Salman of ADC polled 13,867, while the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Prince Matthew Kolawole polled 13,605. According to the Returning Officer, Idris Salman of ADC having satisfied the requirements of the law is hereby declared winner and is returned elected."

The returning officer, Adams Baba had on February 26 declared the result of the Kabba/Bunu/Ijumu House of Representatives election inconclusive.

Baba had said that the declaration was due to the difference between the margin of winner and voided results in two polling units.



Egbetokun

Gashua varsity approves new Deputy Vice Chancellors

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Senate of the Federal University Gashua, has approved the appointment of Dr Ibrahim Ahmed Jajere and Dr Mohammed Attai Yakubu as Deputy Vice-Chancellors Academics and Administration respectively.

A release signed and made available to our correspondent in Gombe by the Institution's Head of Information and Protocol, Malam Adamu Saleh, the Senate, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maimuna Waziri, had approved the nomination of the two Deputy Vice-Chancellors in line with the provisions of Section 4 of the Universities Act, No. 11 of 1993.

Adamu quoted the university's Registrar, Dr Abubakar Mamuda who stated that the two appointments are subject to Council approval and are for a period of two (2) years renewable.

According to Malam Adamu, Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Jajere, a reader in the Department of Geography and Director of the Centre for Gum Arabic Research, was overwhelmingly selected as Deputy Vice-

Chancellor (Academics). Adamu also said, Dr. Mohammed Attai Yakubu, a reader in the Department of English and the Director of Advancement, was selected as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration).

Speaking on behalf of the appointees, Dr. Mohammed Attai Yakubu, expressed appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Maimuna Waziri, and members of the Senate for finding them worthy for the appointment.

He assured the university community that they would discharge the responsibilities of their new offices with the utmost dedication and commitment to duty.

Jajere joined the service of the Federal University Gashua on April 25, 2015, as a Senior Lecturer, rising to the rank of a Reader in 2018. He has attended several national and International conferences, both within and outside Nigeria.

Mohammed Attai Yakubu, joined the services of Federal University Gashua in February 2018 in the Department of English as a Senior lecturer, rising to the rank of a Reader in 2019.

News

Kaduna governor announces fees reduction in tertiary institutions

From
JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

THE Governor of Kaduna State, Senator Uba Sani has announced the downward review of current fees in state-owned tertiary institutions.

According to Muhammad Lawal Shehu, Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Kaduna State,

Under the new fees regime, the fees have been reviewed as follows:

Kaduna State University - Current Fee: N150,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New Fee: N105,000

Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic - Current fee: N100,000 - Reduction (%): 50% - New fee: N50,000

College of Education, Gidan Waya - Current fee: N75,000 - Reduction (%): 50% - New fee: N37,500

Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences & Technology, Makarfi HND Courses - Current fee: N100,000 - Reduction (%): 30% -New fee: N70,000 ND Courses - Current fee: N75,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New fee: N52,000

Kaduna State College of Nursing - Current Fee: N100,000 - Reduction (%): 30% - New fee: N70,000

The Governor made this downward review known during a media parley with pressmen at the Government House, Kaduna recently. He revealed that the review was part of his commitment in



Sani

keeping his campaign promises to the people of Kaduna. "During the electioneering campaigns and on assumption of office on May 29, 2023, we made a solemn commitment to the citizens of Kaduna State to run a people-centred, all-inclusive administration that shall leave no one or any part of Kaduna State behind. In response to the public outcry over the current fees being charged by tertiary institutions in Kaduna State and its effect on school enrolment and retention, I directed Heads of Tertiary Institutions in conjunction with the Ministry of Education to obtain relevant information on the extant fees regime in state owned tertiary institutions." the Governor said.

This downward review of the extant fees regime aligns with KDSG's commitment to offer palliatives to cushion the effect of general rising cost of living in the polity, especially in the wake of recent petroleum subsidy removal in Nigeria.

The welfare of the people remains this administration's topmost priority and the Kaduna State Government shall continue to take all measures necessary to ensure access to free and qualitative education for every child in Kaduna State from primary to secondary school; expand access to higher education; enhance teachers' welfare and teaching standards; improve school infrastructure; build ICT competence in our students from basic education level; and intensify investments.

Anti-corruption: Group calls for improved citizens' awareness

From
AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, a civil society organisation and Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, have called for constant capacity improvement and citizens' awareness on the roles and rights in the accountability and anti-corruption issues in elections.

The CSOs made the call in a communique issued after a one-day multi-stakeholders engagement on integrity and community ownership in the fight against corruption towards the Nov. 11 governorship elections, in Aiyetoro, Ijumu LGA.

Our correspondent reports that participants include: community based artisan groups, women groups, religious and youth leaders, hunters associations, National Union of Road Transport Workers, among others.

The communique which was signed by Idris Miliki, the Executive Director of CHRCR, said the workshop was meant to open up an ongoing dialogue on how to refine behavioural change and

bring out the best among citizens.

The communique urged citizens to be courageous in demanding for accountability and transparency on elections at state level as this remained their constitutional rights and responsibility.

"Citizens must continue to hold elected political leaders accountable by insisting on the establishment of functional constituency offices where community engagements can be achieved.

"There must be a concerted effort by the political actors to engage the citizens constantly and effectively on issues of governance and their responsibilities.

"Elected representatives of the people, particularly legislators at all levels, must ensure that they have functional constituency offices where citizens can access them," it said.

The communique urged the Kogi State Independent Electoral Commission (KOSIEC) to address the integrity issues associated with the conduct of the

2020 Local Government Elections especially as regards the election results.

It further urged KOSIEC to put machinery in place for the conduct of the Local Government elections whose current tenure would expire on Dec. 14, 2023.

It demanded issue-based election campaigns by political parties and their candidates to ensure that citizens' issues remained at the forefront of their campaigns.

Security agencies must rise up and perform their statutory duties of protecting the lives and properties of citizens especially during the upcoming governorship elections, and maintain neutrality at all cost.

The participants emphasized on the effective way of achieving the task ahead through the instrumentality of ethics and Integrity in the fight against corruption and promoting accountability at state level.

They appreciated CHRCR and CISLAC for their consistency in the crusade against corruption and accountability with the continued support of John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.



As ministers settle down

August 21st, 2023 will remain a milestone in the history of the Tinubu administration. It was on this day that those who would help him fulfil the campaign promises of his political party and his vision for renewed hope were sworn-in. As the fanfare which greeted the swearing-in settles down, these new helmsmen would be faced with the reality of the Nigerian situation.

As they take over therefore, the many contradictions which have come to define our country would task them. And, depending on their abilities, they would either add value and build a name for themselves, the administration, and what they represent; or they would go the same way as others who were there before them and who did nothing worth remembering.

I pity the new helmsmen because they have no option but to perform otherwise, posterity will not be kind to them. Our economy has since collapsed and this has put to ruin all of the successes recorded in the past. People live on very meagre wages which is not enough to meet their daily needs. Three square meals is now the exclusive preserve of the high and mighty and there is now a large swarth of angry Nigerians. The new ministers must do everything within the shortest possible time to bring succor to the people before they visit their wrath on them.

Also, the many crises which are ever present in almost all the communities in the country have not helped matters. Communities which hitherto lived in peace, are at daggers drawn at each other. This has made it impossible for farmers to cultivate their farmlands and thus, food insecurity stares us in the face and that too is one challenge the government needs to face up to head-on. When people are hungry, they are prone to

anger. As it is said that a hungry man is an angry one.

Our roads are hellish in themselves. Travelling on these roads apart from being tortuous are deathtraps and indeed, den for kidnappers and armed robbers. Whenever you traverse the length and breath of this country on road and return home in one piece, then you must offer thanksgiving to the creator. Therefore, our roads will need all the attention that the government can give it.

Health facilities in the country are in decrepit states. The buildings, wards, and beddings in most public hospitals are all in a sorry state due to lack of attention. Health workers themselves are not finding it easy nor are

“ I pity the new helmsmen because they have no option but to perform otherwise, posterity will not be kind to them. Our economy has since collapsed and this has put to ruin all of the successes recorded in the past. People live on very meagre wages which is not enough to meet their daily needs. Three square meals is now the exclusive preserve of the high and mighty and there is now a large swarth of angry Nigerians. The new ministers must do everything within the shortest possible time to bring succor to the people before they visit their wrath on them. ”

there drugs in these facilities. It is therefore apt when public health facilities are described as mortuaries where death ailments that should not lead to death. The minister in charge of the health ministry therefore, has his hands full as he settles but he must make deliberate efforts to surmount these challenges which in the first place are manmade.

Unemployment is also another monster that is threatening to swallow up the young population that make up the country. Graduate litter the streets with nothing to do. And, as it is often said, an idle mind is the devils' workshop, young people are exposed to so many things because they lack purpose and are exposed to so many things. That probably explains why there are so many yahoo boys roaming the streets and taking advantage of anyone that is gullible. That needs to be attended to otherwise we are likely to have some chaos in the near future.

Our education too needs serious surgery as it is going through tremendous stress. Our curriculum needs to be rejigged to meet present realities.

Hands-on courses need to be introduced so that young people will acquire the needed skills to become employable or employers of labour themselves. Acquiring AI skills are the in- thing and if one does not acquire them, they are likely not to find any job. All of these would task not only the intellect of our minister but test their creative capacities and capabilities.

Therefore, for the administration to stand out, it must show and have the willingness to think outside the box and do things that do not conform to the norms of our society. Disruptive thinking and technology is the way to go if any success is to be recorded.

It has been said in the past that Tinubu has the nose of sniffing out talents, it is left for the new men at the helm to show that they will live up to the billing.

News

Reflect the spirit of NYSC, governor advises corpers

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

GOVERNOR Bala Mohammed Abdulkadir of Bauchi State, has implored corps members posted to the state to reflect the spirit of the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC towards improving the lives of host communities for a sustainable growth and development.

The governor made the call recently at the swearing-in and opening ceremony of the 2023 Batch B Stream II Corps Members held at NYSC Orientation Camp Wailo in Ganjuwa Local Government Area of the state.

Bala Mohammed, who was represented by the Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Muhammad Salees, said the National Service Scheme is an essential instrument in fostering national unity and therefore pledged to support the programme to its logical conclusion.

While expressing concern on the numerous challenges facing the scheme, including rejection of corps members, infrastructural deficit at



Bala

various orientation camps, as well as insecurity, Bala Mohammed assured that the state government is working towards addressing the problems.

The governor warned the youth against engaging in anti-social behavior and social vices such as drug

abuse, cultism, prostitution, terrorism and militancy to better their future.

He therefore congratulated them for the successful graduation from various institutions of learning and the subsequent mobilization into the National Service Scheme.

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

AS part of its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the Dangote Cement Plc, Obajana Plant, Kogi State, has commenced the training of youth in technical skills under the tutelage of Technical Units of Dangote Cement Transport, Obajana.

The participating youth were selected from the host communities of Oyo, Iwaa, Apata and Obajana.

The Technical Skills Acquisition Programme, according to the Plant Director, Dangote Cement Plant, Obajana, JV Gungune, is aimed at empowering the youth and developing entrepreneurial skills around its catchment areas.

Mr. Gungune told newsmen that the youth numbering 23, which also included female trainees, were mostly secondary school

Dangote Cement inducts youths in technical skills acquisition



BELLO

leavers.

Speaking at the inauguration of the scheme, General Manager, Community Affairs /Special Duties, Mr. Ademola Adeyemi, said the trainees are being paid monthly stipends while the training lasts.

"When completed, the youth will add great value to their communities, Kogi State and Nigeria," Mr. Adeyemi said.

Reacting, Divisional Director Transport of the Dangote Cement Plc, Mr. Ajay Singh, said some of the areas of training include: Auto Mechanic, Auto Electrical, Welding and Panel Beating/fabrication.

The Workshop Manager, Engineer Alfa Adamu, said the trainees were shared into different engineering sections based on their strength and interest, adding that the trainees have so far spent three months.

A mechanic trainee, Mrs. BamideleGbenga, 38, from the Iwaa community, expressed joy, adding that the training has been going on very well, and that she is learning very fast.

Speaking in the same vein, Mrs. Adebayo Rechel, 38, from Oyo community, thanked the President of Dangote Group, AlhajiAlikoDangote, for giving them the opportunity.

"There is nothing I cannot repair on Air Conditioner system now," she added.

Speaking, a trainee, MichealRoseline, 22, from Obajana community, and a holder of National Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, described the Dangote Group as a blessing to humanity.

On his part, Mr. Joshua OsheOlorunsogo, 25, said given the huge value of the programme,

Kogi receives abducted teenage girl

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

The Kogi State Government has received back a teenager, Khadizat Labaran from its Imo State counterpart after her rescue in Imo.

It would be recalled that Khadizat Labaran aged 16, dark in complexion, was abducted by unknown gunmen at popular Ganaja junction, Lokoja Kogi State.

The gunmen were said to have blindfolded her before taking her to a bush before she eventually escaped.

In a recent statement released by the Imo State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Henry Okoye, the teenage girl was rescued by a good Samaritan on 25th July 2023.

It was gathered that the good samaritan saw her wandering about along the road within Nkwerre and subsequently took her to Nkwerre Police Station.

Receiving Khadizat Labaran recently, on behalf of government, the Kogi State Commissioner for Women and Social Development, Hajia Fatima Kabir Buba, commended Imo State Government and the Nigeria Police for returning the girl back to Kogi State.

Buba explained that her ministry has been in constant touch with Imo State to ensure that the girl

returns to Kogi State safe and healthy.

"I have been communicating with the Commissioner for Women Affairs in Imo State, including the Nigerian Police for the quick repatriation of this teenage

girl. Since we heard about the incident, the Ministry of Women Affairs under my watch has been working round the clock with my Permanent Secretary and staff to ensure her safe return.

" We thank God that this

has been achieved today. We want to thank every state actor who has made this a reality".

The girl has been reunited with her parents, Mr and Mrs Labaran who are both from the Eastern part of Kogi State.

Security of corpers paramount to state government

From **JOHN FWAH KADUNA**

THE Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has said that security of corps members is paramount to the state.

The governor who was represented by the state Commissioner of Human Services and Social Development, Hajiya Rabi Salisu, stressed that, "the security of corps members is Paramount to the state government.

Governor Sani stated this during the formal opening and swearing - in ceremony of 2023 batch B stream II orientation course, which was held at NYSC temporary orientation camp, Government College in Kaduna.

The governor however assured the corps members that his government is

committed to the achievement of goals of the scheme and it always created the enabling environment needed for corps members to realise their potentials.

" The pivotal role of the NYSC scheme in our quest for national integration and

sustainable development is attested to by the noteworthy contribution of corps members to community development and implementation of many government programmes and implementation."

In his address, the Kaduna State NYSC



Sani

Foreign Commentary

Chemical attacks, other atrocities won't give Syria peace

Despite the normalisation efforts by Arab states, Syria will not be stabilised until there is justice and accountability. SAMER ABBOUD writes.

The chemical attack by Syrian government forces on Eastern Ghouta ten years ago garnered international attention and raised the very real possibility of a military intervention by the United States. A year earlier, US President Barack Obama had declared the use of chemical weapons by the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad a "red line".

In the aftermath of the gruesome attack in which more than a thousand people are believed to have perished, Russian and American diplomats hurriedly negotiated an agreement for Syria to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention that would involve the destruction of its stockpiles under the auspices of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The US president stated at that time that the "opportunity to achieve our objectives through diplomacy" was preferable to military intervention but that the US remained "prepared to act" should Syria not comply.

Yet, Bashar al-Assad's regime continued to use chemical weapons against the Syrian people frequently, facing no significant repercussions. By 2019, there had been 336 attacks, 98 percent of them committed by the authorities in Damascus and the rest by ISIL (ISIS), according to a report by the Berlin-based Global Public Policy Institute.

There was no longer any rationale for foreign intervention to prevent chemical weapons attacks once the Russian-US agreement on Syria's nuclear weapons was reached as all parties could point to the OPCW monitoring as a sufficient prevention mechanism. Although the US launched airstrikes against Syrian military facilities in 2017 and 2018 in retaliation for chemical weapons use, they did not curb Syria's chemical weapons capacity.

No one from the Syrian regime has been held accountable for the Eastern Ghouta attack or any of the other ones, despite the use of such arms constituting a war crime under international law. This reflects the absence of any sort of justice or accountability mechanisms that could move the country towards lasting peace and help avert the relapse into a major war.

One of the main reasons for this sad state of affairs is the failure of the peace process which could have ushered in a transitional justice process – as has happened in other countries that have been ravaged by civil wars.

The US and other Western powers, which initially backed the Syrian opposition's rebellion against al-Assad, quickly lost interest in pursuing any sort of diplomatic solution to the conflict through the United Nations-led



People carry the body of a civilian on a stretcher after chemical weapons attack in the Ghouta area, in the eastern suburbs of Damascus on August 21, 2013

Geneva Process. The UN initiative was wholly supplanted by the "Astana Process", which was convened by Syria's allies Russia and Iran, along with Turkey, to manage the Syrian conflict. This forum largely provided a buffer against international intervention into "peace" efforts and shielded the regime from any externally imposed peace process.

The Russian intervention in September 2015 decisively shifted the situation on the ground in the regime's favour. Successive large-scale offensives against opposition groups and four "de-escalation" deals guaranteed by Turkey, Russia and Iran, allowed Damascus to recapture a significant part of territories it had lost. Although the intensity of fighting has diminished, conflict has lingered on in the northwest and northeast of the country, with al-Assad's regime continuously targeting the civilian population and infrastructure.

Despite this violent reality, Damascus has declared that the war is over and that refugees can begin to return home.

In an abrupt policy shift reflecting the regime's continued hold on power and the desire to

repatriate Syrians and resume trade ties, Arab states readmitted Syria into the Arab League. The normalisation of relations has paved the way for much-needed reconstruction funds to support recovery.

But the transition that al-Assad's regime has undertaken would not bring peace or stability to the country, nor would it create the social and economic conditions for large-scale refugee return.

The victor's peace that is emerging in Syria is restricting any recourse victims and survivors have for emotional restoration or financial restitution.

The sidelining of the UN has meant that liberal approaches to post-conflict transition, such as

transitional justice, are wholly absent in Syria.

Syrians are instead forced to look to European courts for their prosecution of individuals for their role in perpetrating torture and violence. These singular cases certainly do bring some closure for many, but they lack a national structure that could serve as a platform for all the conflict's victims to seek forms of restitution. Moreover, they are not prosecuted under Syrian law by Syrian lawyers and judges, further diminishing the potential emotive and legal effects they could have for Syrians.

State-led narratives about the conflict have created a specific victim-perpetrator binary that absolves state officials and their allies of responsibility for any

atrocities. They have also emphasised regime stability at the expense of national-level dialogue and reconciliation.

These narratives have been used to justify the passage of several laws aimed at appropriating the property and assets of those deemed disloyal. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians today are at risk of losing their rights to own property in the country, let alone live there. Furthermore, Syrians who do want to go back to their country face a "settlement" process that requires them to gain security approval before returning.

The absorption of the war's logic into the Syrian legal system, aiming to punish the displaced and others who were deemed as disloyal during the conflict, will preclude the voluntary mass return of refugees to Syria.

How the Syrian conflict has panned out will have serious consequences regionally, if not internationally. It signals that the "doing nothing" approach to accountability and justice is the most politically expedient path to a post-conflict order in which regimes are normalised and reabsorbed into regional politics. This does not bode well for how future conflicts are fought or resolved.

The chemical attacks in Eastern Ghouta raised the very real need, if not the possibility, of accountability for mass violence. Ten years on we are further away from such accountability than we have ever, as survivors are not afforded any mechanism for seeking justice.

As we know from countless other conflicts, including from neighbouring Lebanon's, the failure to pursue any serious accountability for mass violence and the state-led construction of memory around conflict can create the conditions for the perpetuation of hatred among co-nationals that can serve as the breeding ground for future conflict.

The regime's "victory" today comes at the expense of future generations of Syrians who will have to endure (and potentially relive) the traumatic effects of conflict and the failure to hold the perpetrators of mass violence accountable.

Source: Al Jazeera

The Russian intervention in September 2015 decisively shifted the situation on the ground in the regime's favour. Successive large-scale offensives against opposition groups and four "de-escalation" deals guaranteed by Turkey, Russia and Iran, allowed Damascus to recapture a significant part of territories it had lost. Although the intensity of fighting has diminished, conflict has lingered on in the northwest and northeast of the country, with al-Assad's regime continuously targeting the civilian population and infrastructure.

Foreign News

Biden tours 'overwhelming' Hawaii wildfire damage

President Joe Biden has toured wildfire damage in Hawaii after scrutiny of his administration's response to the state's worst ever natural disaster.

He arrived in Maui on Monday, 13 days after the deadliest US wildfire in over a century, telling survivors the nation "grieves with you".

Mr Biden and First Lady Jill Biden toured the charred ruins of the town of Lahaina and met first responders.

At least 114 people have died and 850 people are still missing.

Hawaii's governor has said many of the victims may be children.

The president and the federal agencies he oversees have come under fire from Hawaiians who say aid has been inadequate and poorly organised.

Republicans have led criticism of the Democratic president for having been on two holidays since the fire struck on 8 August.

To visit Hawaii, Mr Biden paused his current vacation at Lake Tahoe in Nevada, where he is renting a home belonging to a Democratic donor, according to the White House.

When asked about the rising death toll on 13 August while he was at a Delaware beach, Mr Biden angered some Hawaiians by saying: "No comment".

The White House has said Mr Biden delayed his trip to the disaster zone so he wouldn't distract from recovery operations.

The president issued a major disaster declaration on 10 August to expedite federal funding and assistance to the area.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency says more than 1,000 federal responders are now on the ground in Hawaii.

Local officials have also faced criticism. Maui's emergency management chief resigned last week after the agency faced backlash for failing to activate its alarm system in the wake of the fire.

To date, 27 of the deceased have been identified and 11 families had been notified, Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen said earlier on Monday.

Details of who the victims are have begun to emerge in recent days - they include an avid musician, and loving grandmothers and fathers.

Mr Bissen said that in some respects, the figure of 850 missing was "positive news" because it marked a decrease



US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden participate in a blessing ceremony with elders in Lahaina, a Hawaiian community ravaged by wildfire

from the more than 2,000 unaccounted for in the immediate aftermath of the fires.

Family members of the missing have been asked to provide a DNA sample to assist in the recovery search.

Experts have told the BBC both finding and identifying the victims could take months or even years given the

Hundreds of migrants killed by Saudi border guards

- report

Saudi border guards are accused of the mass killing of migrants along the Yemeni border in a new report by Human Rights Watch.

The report says hundreds of people, many of them Ethiopians who cross war-torn Yemen to reach Saudi Arabia, have been shot dead.

Migrants have told the BBC they had limbs severed by gunfire and saw bodies left on the trails.

Saudi Arabia has previously rejected allegations of systematic killings.

The Human Rights Watch (HRW) report, titled They Fired On Us Like Rain, contains graphic testimony from migrants who say they were shot at and sometimes targeted with explosive weapons by Saudi police and soldiers on Yemen's rugged northern border with Saudi Arabia.

Migrants contacted separately by the BBC have spoken of terrifying night-time crossings during which large groups of Ethiopians, including many women and children, came under fire as they attempted to cross the border in search of work in the oil-rich kingdom.

"The shooting went on and on," 21-year-old Mustafa Soufia Mohammed told the BBC.

He said some in his group of 45 migrants were killed when they came under fire as they tried to sneak

magnitude of the destruction and the condition that many of the remains are likely to be found in.

Japan to release treated water in 48 hours

Japan will start releasing treated radioactive water from the tsunami-hit Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean on

Thursday, despite opposition from its neighbours. The decision comes weeks after the UN's

Zimbabwe president welcomes Commonwealth election observers

President Emmerson Mnangagwa has welcomed a Commonwealth delegation, which has been tasked with observing Zimbabwe's elections, into his official residence.

The team arrived at State House as the Commonwealth continues to decide whether it should readmit Zimbabwe.

Former President Robert Mugabe pulled Zimbabwe out of the group in 2003 after the nation was suspended for human rights violations. Zimbabwe applied to rejoin after Mr Mnangagwa took office in 2018.

On Monday, Zimbabwe's information ministry posted a video of the Commonwealth's delegation leader, at State House.

Observer groups from the

European Union, regional bloc the South African Development Community (SADC), and the African Union also visited Mr Mnangagwa's residence.

A Commonwealth spokesperson said last week that the group has been reassessing the nation's "adherence to

Commonwealth values".

Wednesday's elections will be a "significant step in the country's democratic governance", the statement said.

Civil society groups have expressed concerns that the polls will not be free or fair.



Mnangagwa



Ethiopian migrants say they were shot when they tried to cross from Yemen into Saudi Arabia

across the border in July last year.

"I didn't even notice I was shot," he said, "but when I tried to get up and walk, part of my leg was not with me."

It was a brutal, chaotic end to a three-month journey fraught with danger, starvation and violence at the hands of Yemeni and Ethiopian smugglers.

A video filmed hours later shows his left foot almost completely severed. Mustafa's leg was amputated below the knee and now, back with his parents in Ethiopia, he walks with crutches and an ill-fitting prosthetic limb.

"I went to Saudi Arabia

because I wanted to improve my family's life," the father-of-two said, "but what I hoped for didn't materialise. Now my parents do everything for me."

Another Ethiopian migrant, who we are calling Ibsaa to protect his identity, said he was shot at the border by men wearing Saudi military uniforms.

"They beat us, killed some and took those who survived to the hospital. The bodies of those killed were left scattered on the ground," he told the BBC.

"I was shot between my thighs near my groin, and my legs are paralyzed now. I can't even walk. I thought I would die."

nuclear watchdog approved the plan.

Some 1.34 million tonnes of water - enough to fill 500 Olympic-size pools - have accumulated since the 2011 tsunami destroyed the plant.

The water will be released over 30 years after being filtered and diluted.

Authorities will request for the plant's operator to "promptly prepare" for the disposal to start on 24 August if weather and sea conditions are appropriate, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday after a Cabinet meeting.

Mr Kishida had visited the plant on Sunday, prompting speculation the release was imminent.

The government has said that releasing the water is a necessary step in the lengthy and costly process of decommissioning the plant, which sits on the country's east coast, about 220km (137 miles) north-east of the capital Tokyo.

Japan has been collecting and storing the contaminated water in tanks for more than a decade, but space is running out.

In 2011, a tsunami triggered by a magnitude

9.0 earthquake flooded three reactors of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. The event is regarded as the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl.

Shortly after, authorities set up an exclusion zone which continued to be expanded as radiation leaked from the plant, forcing more than 150,000 people to evacuate from the area.

The plan to release water from the plant has caused alarm across Asia and the Pacific since it was approved by the Japanese government two years ago.

It was signed off by the UN's nuclear watchdog in July, with authorities concluding the impact on people and the environment would be negligible.

But many people, including fishermen in the region, fear that discharging the treated water will affect their livelihoods.

A crowd of protesters in Tokyo on Tuesday also staged a rally outside the prime minister's official residence, urging the government to stop the release.



Protesters call for the water release plan to be called off in a rally outside the Japanese PM's residence in Tokyo

Feature

Being an agile leader

THE entire world has dealt with so much uncertainty since the turn of this decade than most living humans have encountered in their entire lifetime.

The global business community has not been immune to this series of tumultuous events. From the Pandemic that hit at the turn of the decade, to political leadership crisis in some parts of the world, to the civil unrest in some parts of the Middle East, the fallout impact of Brexit on the United Kingdom and the entire Europe, the Ukraine/Russia war which significantly dried up global supply chains, to the massive shake up in the Global Technology Industry and the now looming global recession.

I have always been of the opinion that Business Leaders will be relied on heavily to shape the new direction for global peace, prosperity and progress.

It is no mistake that the drive to combat the biggest challenge plaguing our entire human existence – Climate Action has only begun to record meaningful progress because of the significant buy-in of Global Businesses and Business Leaders.

In a leadership training which I recently facilitated for an all-female group of middle level managers in a Nigerian Corporation a few days back; we spoke extensively around the subject of "Agile Leadership" as the core strategy for thriving in critically uncertain times.

Beyond being a continuous learner; make sure to enforce a culture of learning, sharing and rewarding inquisitiveness, research and innovation within your team

"Agile" and "Agility" have become such buzz words touted around very freely in management consulting and coaching circles.

Yet my simple pragmatic definition for Agility is "to be nimble, malleable and open to change everywhere else but at your core" – your core simply meaning your values and your vision.

As an entrepreneur and business leader; I recall at the beginning of the year trying to find an



appropriate theme for our Firm's commencement retreat – capability test is our threshold for dealing with UNCERTAINTY. No doubt it takes an agile leader to continuously anticipate and embrace changing realities without getting buried under the pressure of having to almost persistently change course, amend the strategy and sell this to the team in a way that inspires hope of ultimate or eventual success – this is the hardest part because it takes conviction to continue to be what a Leader ought to be at its core – "A frame of Possibility".

While asked what the key attributes of an agile leader are during the Leadership training I referred to earlier on; a few of these words featured in my response; - Self Mastery, Flexibility, Decisiveness, Continuous Learning,

Transparency and Accountability. Nonetheless the key question to ask is: – Are you an agile leader? I have highlighted below what in my opinion are the key attributes of an agile leader:

An agile leader keeps the team aligned around a central purpose. Is the purpose or vision of your organization so clear that it can be articulated by the least member of your team? Is the vision easily perceived by clients, new hires and your competition without you having to say a thing? Your first goal as a leader is to sell your corporate vision first to yourself and then to your team to the point of extinguishing any iota of doubt as to its believability or achievability.

An agile leader models a culture of continuous learning. Settle in your mind that you will never know enough to navigate today's problems. A leader must be in consistent search for new body of knowledge that enhances your problem solving capabilities. However, beyond being a continuous learner; make sure to enforce a culture of learning, sharing and rewarding inquisitiveness, research and innovation within your team.

An agile leader is comfortable with uncertainty. Many of us were raised to build comfort around routine. Unfortunately, the world as it is today does not allow us such privilege. The odds are changing and restacking on a per-second basis. Therefore beyond the things that remain loosely consistent (I say loosely consistent because even these could change on the super strength of conviction) in the core of your existence – your values and your vision. You must be

open to the reality that things could change in an instant and that you must be prepared to respond firmly, thoughtfully, but quickly too.

An agile leader is solution-minded

Pragmatism is one of the key parameters for assessing leadership capabilities today. Do you dwell on issues or promptly switch to solution mode? Do you play blame games or stay firmly on the way out? Do you equip your team with the capacity to think through and freely and fearlessly contribute to building solutions?

An agile leader holds self to account

A leader ought to live always by the rules, uphold the culture and values yet hold self to a much higher standard of conduct, output and result. You must self-assess but also create formal structures to get feedback and be appraised by your team. Always report back to the team on how you have collectively fared in terms of accomplishing your shared goals. While at it be sure to take personal responsibility for the overall outcome – Yes! Because the buck stops firmly at your table.

An agile leader acknowledges own failure and errors.

A leader that paints a picture of perfection is bound to fail. Be sure to acknowledge that you are not perfect and that you certainly do not know it all. It builds trusts and embodies confidence. Beyond this; be comfortable to acknowledge errors and failures in front of your team. It makes it easier to get their buy-in to try again or to change course.

An agile leader is not afraid to change or course correct

Finally, when the odds have been restacked, or key variables have changed; it is unlikely that the same strategy you were working with would still deliver your desired result. Have the courage to go back to the drawing board and promptly rejig the plan.

Leadership is neither a badge of honour nor a reward, it is a call to service which is terribly hard work as it were. Today, the world needs agile leaders who have multi-competencies, are quick thinkers, open-minded, not fixated on old, dated ideologies, systems or strategies but are willing to morph into whatever the circumstances require them to be to steer the ship of their corporation in consistently turbulent and high tide waters – Are you that Leader?

Ajose is an award-winning commercial lawyer, she is a Founding Partner at DealHQ Partners – a leading transactional advisory firm in Nigeria. A serial entrepreneur and astute public speaker and writer; Tosin is passionate about supporting Early-Stage Businesses and Venture Building.

"At the core of today's leadership capability test is our threshold for dealing with UNCERTAINTY. No doubt it takes an agile leader to continuously anticipate and embrace changing realities without getting buried under the pressure of having to almost persistently change course, amend the strategy and sell this to the team in a way that inspires hope of ultimate or eventual success – this is the hardest part because it takes conviction to continue to be what a Leader ought to be at its core – "A frame of Possibility. While asked what the key attributes of an agile leader are during the Leadership training I referred to earlier on; a few of these words featured in my response;- Self Mastery, Flexibility, Decisiveness, Continuous Learning, Transparency and Accountability. Nonetheless the key question to ask is: – Are you an agile leader? I have highlighted below what in my opinion are the key attributes of an agile leader:"

EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Key things to know about breastfeeding

By **CHRISTY TAMAI**

BREASTFEEDING gets one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival. However, nearly 2 out of 3 infants are not exclusively breastfed for the recommended 6 month - a rate that has not improved in 2 decades.

WHO and UNICEF recommend that children initiate breast feeding within the first hour of birth and be exclusively breastfed for the first 6 month.

Breastfeeding Motherhood is a blessing. The word breastfeeding week is organized every year by the world Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA). This year's theme is Step up for breastfeeding, educate and support. The world Alliance for breastfeeding Action is a global network aim to protect, promote and support breastfeeding around the world.

Breastfeeding has a lot of benefits to the mother and the baby which makes it mandatory for the mother to breastfeed her child for the stipulated time.

Breastfeeding is celebrated world wide to encouraged mother's to seen the need of breastfeeding at all time. It was first celebrated in 1992 and it is observed every 1st to 7th of August in more than 120 (one hundred and twenty) countries. Breast milk helps keep your baby healthy. It supplies all the necessary nutrients in the proper proportions. It protects against allergies, sickness, and obesity, it protect against diseases like diabetes, and cancer, it protect against infections like ear infections. Every woman dream is to see her baby growing healthier, and the joy is found in exclusive breastfeeding which is very paramount. The benefits for breastfeeding for mother and



child include, The breast milk provide ideal nutrition for babies. The breast milk contains everything baby needs for the first 6month's of life, in all the right proportions. Its composition even changes according to the baby's changing needs, especially during the first month of life. During the first days after birth, the breast produce a thick and yellowish fluid called colostrum, its high in protein, low in sugar and loaded with beneficial compounds.

Colostrum is the ideal first milk and helps the newborns immature digestive tract develop. The breast milk contains import antibodies, antibodies helps the baby fight off viruses and bacteria, which is critical in those tender, early months.

It may reduce the baby's risk for many illnesses and disease which includes;

(i) Middle ear infections - Breastfeeding may protect against middle ear, throat and

Sinus infections well beyond infancy.

(ii) Respiratory tract infections- Breastfeeding can protect against multiple respiratory and gastrointestinal acute illness.

(iii) Exclusive breastfeeding for six months lower the risk of getting serious colds and ear or throat infections.(iv) It is linked with the reduction in gut infections.

(v) Allergies disease - breastfeeding helps to reduced risk of asthma, atopic dermatitis, and eczema.

(vi) Breast milk promotes baby's healthy weight, it promotes healthy weight gain and helps prevent childhood obesity.

(vii) Breastfeeding makes children smarter, exclusive breastfeeding helps baby to become more intimate with the mother due to touch, and eyes contact associated with breastfeeding as well as nutrient content. Breastfeeding helps some women to lose weight while some gain weight during breastfeeding. The uterus grow immensely, after delivery, it goes through a process called involution which helps it return to its previous size. The body

secretes high amounts of Oxytocin which helps deliver the baby and reduce bleeding. It can also help the mother bond with her new born baby. Oxytocin also increase during breastfeeding. Mothers who breastfeed have a lower risk for depression, women who breastfeed seems less likely to develop postpartum depression (PPD), this type of depression that can develop shortly after childbirth. Women are advised to see a doctor as soon as they have any symptoms of PPD. Breastfeeding is paramount because it lower risk for high blood pressure, Arthritis, high blood fats, heart disease and type 2 diabetes. It saves time and money because it is natural,

New horns often wants to feed every two, three, hours. By two months feeding every three to four hours is common, and by six months, most of the babies feeds every four to five hours. Mother's you and your baby are unique and the decision to breastfeed is up to you, based on the benefits attached to breastfeeding.The tips called ABCs of breastfeeding will help the mother and the baby get comfortable with the process of breastfeeding.

A= Awareness: watch for your baby's sign of hunger, and breastfeed whenever your baby is hungry. This is called on demand feeding. The first few weeks, the mother may be nursing eight to 12 times every 24 hours.

B=Be patient: Breastfeed as long as your baby wants to nurse each time, don't hurry your infant through feedings, they typically feed for 10- 20 minutes on each breast so be patient.

C= Comfort: This is the key. Relax while breastfeeding and your milk is more likely to let down and flow, get yourself comfortable with pillows as needed to support your arms,head,and neck and footrest to support your feet and legs before you breastfeed.

Challenges of Breastfeeding include; Sore nipples, mother's can expect some soreness in the first weeks of breastfeeding, make sure your baby latches on correctly, and use one finger to break the suction of your baby's mouth after each feeding, that will help prevent sore nipples.

Dry and cracked nipples, women should avoid soaps,perfumed creams, or lotions with alcohol in them,which can make nipples even more dry and cracked.

"Challenges of Breastfeeding include; Sore nipples, mother's can expect some soreness in the first weeks of breastfeeding, make sure your baby latches on correctly, and use one finger to break the suction of your baby's mouth after each feeding, that will help prevent sore nipples. New horns often wants to feed every two, three, hours. By two months feeding every three to four hours is common, and by six months, most of the babies feeds every four to five hours. Mother's you and your baby are unique and the decision to breastfeed is up to you, based on the benefits attached to breastfeeding. The tips called ABCs of breastfeeding will help the mother and the baby get comfortable with the process of breastfeeding."

EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Parenting

Building confidence in your children

By **SYLVIA SMITH**

WHEN it comes to raising kids, there are likely many things you want to teach them, including being confident and well-rounded.

How do I make my child more confident?

You may be at a loss when it comes to how to build self-confidence in a child, but there are some things that you can try which aren't difficult to incorporate into your routine.

For instance, when you are confident, this can show your children what it looks like. You may also need to show them love, patience, and kindness, no matter the situation. These things can go a long way in terms of raising

confident kids. Building confidence is quite important as your children are growing since there are many aspects of life where confidence can be helpful. For instance, a confident child will be better able to make friends and have meaningful relationships. Without confidence, they might not be able to have conversations with others or meet goals they set for themselves in life.

When you want to know how to build confidence in kids, there are some tips that you will likely need to follow.

Be a good example

One tip on how to raise confident kids that can't be overlooked is a good example. This means that you need to be confident outwardly, so your child can identify this and see that confidence is attainable.

Encourage them

Another way to think about when it comes to building confidence in kids is that they must be encouraged. When they do something well, you need to tell them that you are proud of them or that they have done a good job.

Although this may seem like something small, it can make a big difference in the long run.

Help them learn from mistakes

Everyone makes mistakes from time to time, and your child is no different. However, instead of getting upset with them when they make a mistake, you should help them learn what they did wrong and how to make it better next time.

Let them try new things

Another way that you can try in relation to how to build confidence is when it comes to allowing your child to try new



things.

When they have the ability to try new things, this can help them decide what they like and what interests they would like to pursue.

Help them meet goals

Everyone needs to learn about goals and how to meet them, and children are no exception. When it comes to growing confidence in kids, meeting goals can make a big difference.

Ask them for help

You can ask your child for help with tasks as one of the ways to build confidence in a child. Just be sure that you only ask them to help with things they can do. This can be something small like setting the table or telling their siblings it's dinner time.

Show your love

Raising confident teenagers is something that is possible and can be accomplished by showing your children love. You should try your best to tell them you love them and be there for them when they have a problem or need help.

While it may be challenging to determine how to let your child know you love them, it will be worthwhile to figure out what works and what doesn't.

Let them make decisions

It is okay to ask your child's opinion on things. You can inquire about what movie they want to watch on movie night or what vegetable they want to eat for dinner.

While these seem like things that don't matter, they will likely matter to your little one since they can feel they have contributed to the family and have a say.

Spend time with them

Once you are wondering how to raise a confident child, one of the necessary things is spending plenty of time with them.

Take small steps

As you are learning how to raise confident kids, you can take small steps. You don't have to figure out everything overnight. Again, many of these tips will take some trial and error to get just right.

Limit negative influences

If you have noticed that your child's behavior has changed recently and don't know why, it may be necessary to limit the negative influences on their life.

This could be programs they are watching on television, games they are playing, or even family members they are exposed to that don't follow your morals or belief systems.

While you don't have to take these things away from your little ones, teaching them how you want them to act may be necessary.

12. Listen to them

Many parents have busy lives and don't always have the time to spend with their families that they want to. However, when your kids come to you and need something or want to tell you something, it is necessary to hear them out.

They might require help with a problem or need your advice. Once they find out that you can and will help, they can gain confidence knowing that you will be there for them.

Acknowledge hard work

Have you ever wished that you would be recognized for your hard work? Ensure you notice when your child is doing hard work, even if they haven't met

their goal yet.

This is another top way on how to raise confident kids that can't be undervalued. You can offer them a kind word and tell them to keep up the good work.

Ask for their input

You may be familiar with how children ask many questions while learning. They are inquisitive and may also have a

lot to say. You can turn this around on them and ask them questions about how their minds work.

Ask them what they think a grasshopper thinks about or how many trees are in your city.

Please pay attention to their answer and let them know when they have given you a good answer. You may not think about this when you are pondering how to raise confident kids.

Show them affection

When you want to know how to boost a child's confidence, one of the most important ways is showing them affection.

There are a number of ways you can go about how to raise confident kids, but it is very important to love them, interact with them, encourage them, and be confident in yourself.

You can also opt for a parenting class or a meeting with a therapist for guidance through the parenting process.

Remember that it is possible to raise confident kids, and the list above provides you with a starting point when it comes to how to raise confident kids. Use it as your guide through the process and see what works for your family.



Editorial

Five billion FG Palliative: The State responsibility

LAST week Thursday, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved the sum of N5bn for each state and the federal capital territory to enable them procure food items for distribution to the needy in their respective states. The development is not unconnected with the pains Nigerians are passing through as a result of the removal of oil subsidy by the federal government on the day this present government came to power on the 29 May.

IN addition to that, the federal government also released five trucks of rice to each of the 36 states governor as part of the measure to reduce the hardship Nigeria especially the poor are facing. And it was made clear by Governor Babagano Zulum of Borno State after their National Economic Council meeting on that day that the palliatives are mainly for the poor. He explained further that the state governors are to procure 100,000 bags of rice, 40,000 bags of maize and fertilizer that will be sold to farmers at a subsidized price.

ACCORDING to Zulum, the federal government is giving out only 52 percent of the money as grant with 48 percent as loans.

THERE has been a combination of frustration and confusion over the implementation of the fuel subsidy removal from May 29, 2023, which financial experts criticized for plunging more Nigerians into poverty and hopelessness. The criticism stemmed from lack of a clear cut palliative programme before the implementation of the fuel subsidy removal which many described as overdue.

THE World Bank in June this year, warned that about 7.1 million Nigerians would become poor if the federal government failed to compensate or provide palliatives for them, following the removal of fuel subsidy. The bank stressed the need for adequate compensation, noting that compensation transfer will be essential in helping to shield Nigerian households from initial price impacts of the subsidies reforms.

IN the recent past government had introduced palliatives which were badly implemented. For example, the Covid-19 palliative which many of the governors turned into personal properties. The issue of trusting the governors in implementing the palliative is what is disturbing many minds in the country as the record of the past have built distrust among the leadership and followership in Nigeria.

HOWEVER, there is the fear that in dispensing the palliatives at the state levels political, ethnic or religious considerations may determine who gets what. If the implementation is to be successful, a comprehensive data should be used in the states to ensure the money and food items get to those who badly need them.

NOW that the federal government has done its own part of trying to reduce the hardship on Nigerian it is expected that the state should constitute a committee that will supervise the implementation of the palliative programme, which constituting the committee, the government should involve civil society organizations (CSOs).

AGAIN, the palliative is for all citizens not for those that are members of the ruling political party in the state. More attention should be given to those that need it most.

IN the case of distribution of fertilizer, it should be used as a political weapon to deny those who are identified as members of the opposition party. The whole money and other items are our common wealth, so they should be equitably distributed.

IN this light, it is how the state government administers these palliative measures that will determine the speed at which Nigerians get reprieve from the current harsh economic realities. We have calling on the state governments and all those that will be involved in the implementation of the palliatives when they are released to the state, to see it as a responsibility to serve humanity not to see it as an avenue for personal aggrandizement.

ALCOHOL is a liquid substance containing chemical mixture that when consumed to the system it changes human behavior and mode of action, is a distilled or fermented drink that can make you drunk. Scientifically alcohol is a liquid made up of distilled hydrocarbon that is also known as ethyl alcohol or ethanol, alcohol beverages like whiskey are produced by fermentation of yeast, sugar and starches and also have the power to make a person intoxicated.

Knowing the effect of alcohol to the body system most especially the human brain, according to research alcohol slows down the central nervous system, the central nervous system controls thought and how the brain communicates to the body system, and also the most immediate effects of alcohol are on brain affecting the way they think, feel and behave any time they consume excess of it.

According to statistics, the number of mad people roaming around in markets and highways most especially the youths who are supposed to be our leaders of tomorrow is all as the result of drug abuse and excess consumption of

alcohol that affect their mental health. Taking, alcohol also impact on the ability to process thoughts and make rational and reckless decision which can lead to increase in violence or any form of aggressive behavior, this is because alcohol can make one lose self-control and self esteem and ability to process multiple issues and decreased the ability to resolve conflict.

Some people take alcohol to help them forget their worries and also enables them sleep peacefully, while alcohol may help induce sleep in short time and first half of the night, they likely experience more sleep disturbance in the second half of the night which is the heavier part of the night and the most importantly hour during sleeping hours.

Also, quality sleep is critical to positive mental health and wellbeing, and lack of quality sleep can negatively impact to our daily functioning and reduce our overall quality of life.



The havoc of alcohol addiction on our youth

He later added that some people take alcohol to make them courageous in terms of approach, for example some young boys that are not bold enough to stand confidently to express love advances to a lady, some of them take alcohol to help erase tension in terms of approach, in our tertiary institutions some students take alcohol before presentation on stage which may you maid end up staying something contrary.

Moreso, looking at the rampant cases of accidents on roads which is as the result of excess

consumption of alcohol where driving under the influence of alcohol has send many young people to their early grave which is a great lost to the society.

Knowing the consequences of alcohol to the system, it is advisable that alcohol should not be taken in excess to the extent that will make someone lose self-control to avoid especially in facing some problems and challenges.

Ngot Bwehmasi Caleb I. is an IT Student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.

Challenges of our educational system

EDUCATION they say is the bedrock of every society and should be taken seriously, but the reverse is the case now because of how poor the system is being managed these days.

Instead of focusing on how to improve the system, we are busy politicizing the future of our children and it is gradually consuming us. It is sad that the educational institutions that have baked and groomed our leaders who are at the helm of affairs today are in dhambles.

Worthy of note is how our primary schools are left with pulpils sitting under trees on

stones to receive lesson, with half-baked teachers whose qualifications are questionable. In a country called "giant" of Africa, it is shameful that we are still operating a "stone-age" style where pupils still sit under the tree to learn in this modern age.

The secondary schools are not left out of the dilemma, most government owned school have poor structures poor funding, low quality teaching and are without enough teachers. Imagine, having a teacher, teaching all subjects that he or she is not professionally trained.

This has grossly contributed in producing students of low quality where could hardly read and write effectively. They had no option than to engage in examination malpractices to scale through to the University or any higher educational institution.

The most worrisome of all is how students are clustered in a room in the name of accommodation. It has been on record that, more than four to five students are kept in a room and it has forced so many to look for alternative means of renting an apartment off campus where

their safety is guaranteed.

Therefore, we should stop playing politics with such a sensitive sector and focus more on building strong and functional education system that will take off our younger generation off crime and vices.

Government should prioritize or put more funds on repositioning our educational sector so that, our schools will have other countries coming to learn in Nigeria instead of embarking on shameless educational tourism to other schools abroad.

Ayuba Bulus Apata, Jos.

Standard Cartoon

FED. GOVT. PLAN TO INCREASE SALARY



Opinion

By
Daniel Ighakpe**The dignity of labour**

"THERE is benefit in every kind of hard work..." – Proverbs 14:23.

A talented Nigerian musician, Adekunle Gold, in one of his popular songs entitled 'Work', encouraged people to work hard. This is in harmony with what God's Word, the Bible, recommends in Ecclesiastes chapter 9, verse 10, where it says: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do with all your might..."

Work – whether paid or unpaid, is good for our health and well-being. It contributes to our happiness, helps us to build confidence and self-esteem, and can reward us financially. Work is an essential tool through which individuals can achieve their goals, flourish, and live happy, meaningful lives.

Work has different dimensions, such as work for making a living and work for developing one's talent and potential. For example, a little girl in one of the corners of the world who goes to kindergarten and learns how to count, draw, or write, is working. Likewise, an adult, who goes to his/her job every day, and gets paid for that, is also working. Thus, based on the age, circumstances, needs and desires of individuals, work, or labour, takes different shapes.

Work is a virtue and necessity, which requires the utilisation of time and energy. Man is in control of his time and energy when he voluntarily and constructively works. The Bible emphasises the importance of work when it says, among other things, in 2 Thessalonians, chapter 3, verses

10 to 12 that "...if anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat...", this scripture condemns laziness. We need to work to make a living and provide for our families. Work provides the individual with the ability to be independent, flourish, develop, and most importantly, to find meaning in life.

However, there are many problems seriously affecting work and workers in Nigeria today. These include unemployment, poor remuneration/wages, poor working environment and conditions, and casualisation of workers, among others. Many people experience poverty and unemployment through no fault of their own. Many who are able to work, willing to work hard, and even actively searching for work, are still unable to find work – they are unemployed!

Unemployment and poverty are two of the major problems currently plaguing Nigeria's economy and its society. Nevertheless, despite the high rate of unemployment and poverty, the situation is not necessarily hopeless. People can still find some meaningful work to engage in, even though it may be small. And, as another talented Nigerian musician, Sonnie Smyth, sang in his music video entitled: "NO WAHALA": "No wahala, e go better, after today, I go see tomorrow o!" You can download and watch this music video, "NO WAHALA," performed by Sonnie Smyth and directed by Achor Yusuf, on YouTube.

If you are unemployed, or cannot find a job in your area of particular interest, it is wise to consider looking for a job in other areas, even if the job is considered 'menial' by the standards of some people. Do not allow false pride to let you look down on a job – as beneath your dignity. Any legitimate service that can benefit others, and that people are willing to pay for, can be considered as an alternative job opportunity when jobs are scarce.

People differ in terms of many characteristics such as intelligence, talents, academic levels, etc. Therefore, depending on human potential and the specific working environment, work can be equally beneficial to the person or demeaning. For example, prostitution, gambling, and drug dealing constitute work, as you get a kind of remuneration for the service you provide. But the money you get out of these kinds of work becomes useless, as

it neither contributes to human flourishing nor is the basis of a meaningful life. Work should be the key to human survival and flourishing, and not to the degradation of the individual and his moral values.

On the other hand, no matter how honest, working from dawn to sunset does not make your life flourish either. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," goes the popular saying. Workaholics, the people whose only purpose in life is work, deprive themselves of the enjoyment of engaging in other activities. Productive work is not an end-in-itself, but a means of flourishing. If one pursues productive work to the exclusion of everything else in one's life, so that it becomes one's only purpose in life, this will undermine one's flourishing. On the other hand, those who keep their life balanced are likely to enjoy their work even more.

So, whether your work is mostly mental, mostly physical, or

somewhere in between, recognise that there is dignity in labour! Hard work helps us to care for our material needs. Moreover, it contributes to our self-respect, after all, hard work is just that – hard. When we discipline ourselves to stick with our work – even if it seems boring or difficult – we can have the satisfaction of knowing that we held ourselves to a high standard. We have won the victory over the inclination to take the easy way out. In that sense, work brings an intense feeling of satisfaction.

God wants us to enjoy the fruitage, or reward, of our hard work. His Word, the Bible says: "There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and find enjoyment in his hard work. This too, I have realised, is from the hand of the true God." – Ecclesiastes 2:24.

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On the other hand, no matter how honest, working from dawn to sunset does not make your life flourish either. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," goes the popular saying. Workaholics, the people whose only purpose in life is work, deprive themselves of the enjoyment of engaging in other activities. Productive work is not an end-in-itself, but a means of flourishing. If one pursues productive work to the exclusion of everything else in one's life, so that it becomes one's only purpose in life, this will undermine one's flourishing.

Understanding agriculture, artificial intelligence

THEE is a link between agriculture and artificial intelligence. This piece of information was given by the Co-founder and Global Director of BudgiT, Nigeria's leading civil organisation, Mr. Oluseun Onigbinde, during a recent discourse on the economy. Onigbinde said that the world is now at a convergence point where soil scientists, nutritionists, extension workers and animal experts may have to learn coding, machine language, and other tools in order to belong to the emerging agri-conomy.

This reality comes to play because over the years, agriculture was relegated to the background as a means of foreign exchange earning for the country that is in dire need for transformation for the good of the nation and that of the citizenry. Onigbinde's intervention was noticed and should be given the He said this while speaking at the 25th Annual Convention and 24th Annual Lecture Series of the Alumni Association of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, with the theme 'Leading Agritech Revolution: The Role of Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain in Agri-conomy'.

According to him, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming various industries, and agriculture is no exception, adding that the use of AI in agriculture had increased in recent years, bringing about significant improvements in the industry's efficiency and productivity. He explained that "it is essential to ensure that big data is collected, stored, and analysed responsibly and appropriately to protect individual's privacy and

By **Adewale Kupoluyi**

prevent data misuse", noting that blockchain could help small farmers access financing and reduce the risk of fraud.

On his part, the co-speaker, Mr. Femi Adekoya, widely known as Flying Farmer and founder, Integrated Aerial Precision and Precision Field Academy, has charged the University Management to incorporate drone technology into its curriculum, establish drone training centre, promote collaboration, between the university and industry partners, provide financial backing for research and development in the use of drone technology applications, and support local content in the manufacturing and assembling of agricultural drones.

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council of FUNAAB, Alhaji Umar Ahmed revealed that alumni associations are known to be key stakeholders in the advancement of their universities, noting that in many institutions, including FUNAAB, "a seat is most reserved for the alumni body on the governing council, which places a burden on the association to, not just be involved in policy making for the good corporate governance of the university, but to also be involved in agenda setting for the University administration".

The Vice-Chancellor of FUNAAB, Prof. Olusola Kehinde disclosed that the University had continued to register and record giant strides in its continued growth and development, and in its

pursuit of excellence, which had been the hallmark of the institution since it was founded in 1988. The VC, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Christian Ikeobi, said the alumni should be proud of their alma mater because it had continued to move forward in the global comity of universities, adding that FUNAAB had always registered landmark achievements in all fields of endeavours. The National President of the Alumni Association, Dr. Olusegun Ogundiran, has reiterated that the theme of the annual lecture was carefully crafted to address the opportunities embedded in applying emerging technologies of AI, stressing that big data, and blockchain in agriculture.

Earlier, Dr. Ogundiran, had assured the university management that the association is ready to assist the institution in the fulfilment of its mandate. Dr. Ogundiran noted that "there are benefits in joining an alumni association", saying it assists in making sure that the mentoring process continues and they are building a strong network, which was already yielding results. He added that the association "is connecting all FUNAABites across the globe by encouraging them to give back to their alma mater. We appreciate the management for the good work it is doing and for providing a conducive environment; they should be assured that the alumni association will always be there for them".

Speaking on the programme, the Chairman, National Convention Organising Committee of FUNAABAS, Hon. Moruff Olalekan said Nigeria was getting closer to an era where universities in the country would have full financial autonomy, stating that as a specialised university, FUNAAB has both human and technical requirements to key into modern agricultural system. Also, the Director of Treasury (FUNAABAS), Alhaji Sikiru Salako said putting up a special programme like this was capital intensive, stressing "that there is synergy between the local and the international branches of the association", and with their support, they have been able to weather the storm.

In summary, agriculture can take its pride of place in national development when farming is taken away from the traditional practices by embracing artificial intelligence, which can go a long way in production and revenue generation. Not only that, the role of specialised institutions can add value when the various components such as the alumni are allowed to drive their activities by using their talents, time, and treasure for the development of their alma mater. By so doing, the quest for the diversification of the economy, employment generation, and favourable foreign exchange earnings for the Nigerian economy would be advancing.

Change of Name

<p>DARWANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAM JACOB, PAM JACOB CHRISTOPHER, now wish to be known and addressed as DARWANG PAM CHRISTOPHER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SOKYES</p> <p>I, formerly known as KONYIL, SHETU PATRICK, now wish to be known and addressed as SOKYES SHETU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>THOMAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as THOMAS ZIRANTSA KANU, now wish to be known and addressed as THOMAS KANO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SOLOMON</p> <p>I, formerly known as SOLOMON AZI, now wish to be known and addressed as SOLOMON ATSEN HALLETT AZI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>FIMIN</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS YAKUBU NENTAWA BENJAMIN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. FIMIN NENTAWA ELI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MUHAMMAD</p> <p>I, formerly known as SULAIMAN SAIHANU, now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD SAFWAN MUSA. All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth is 15.01.2002 not 15/01/2004. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>OSITA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ANTHONIA NKWONTA, now wish to be known and addressed as OSITA ANTHONIA MARYAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUHAMMAD SALIM, now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA SALIM MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>FATIMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as FATIMA ABUBAKAR USMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as FATIMA ABUBAKAR MUSA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MATHEW</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS BENJAMIN LERITSHIMWA ESTHER, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MATHEW LERITSHIMWA ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ADAMS</p> <p>I, formerly known as ADAMS NANMYIAN WALLE, HARUNA ADAMS WALLE, now wish to be known and addressed as ADAMS HARUNA WALLE. Correct date of birth is 21-9-1994 not 1/12/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>JOSIAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAYANG PEACE RAYMOND, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSIAH PEACE FWANGSHAK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>OKPAKOVWODO</p> <p>I, formerly known as OSHIONEI OMOHEFUE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OKPAKOVWODO OMOHEFUE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAVID</p> <p>I, formerly known as MANASEH PYENAP NANZING, now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID CORNELIOUS OLIVER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANFWANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANLADI PATIENCE MAFWIL, now wish to be known and addressed as NANFWANG PATINECE GAYUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DESHE</p> <p>I, formerly known as BULUS YUSUF CHRISTIANA and CHRISTIANA RAIROM BULUS, now wish to be known and addressed as DESHE CHRISTIANA CHRISTOPHER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>BLANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as MBLANG PROGRESS SIMON and BLANG SEKYEN SIMON, now wish to be known and addressed as BLANG SEKYEN SIMON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DOROTHY</p> <p>I, formerly known as DOROTHY OKON ASANGA, now wish to be known and addressed as DOROTHY NSE-ABASI ASANGA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>DASHEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as DASHEL GIFT SOLOMON, now wish to be known and addressed as DASHEL KYAUTA SOLOMON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>OSITUGA</p> <p>I, formerly known as REUBEN IFEOMA BLESSING, now wish to be known and addressed as OSITUGA IFEOMA BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABDULLAHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI UMAR MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULLAHI UMAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KYOM</p> <p>I, formerly known as KYOM H. ANTHONY, now wish to be known and addressed as KYOM HERRIETA ANTHONY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as SUNDAY JONATHAN NGUMMUT, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY JONATHAN MAREN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BATURE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABIGAIL JEPHTER, now wish to be known and addressed as BATURE ABIGAIL YOHANNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>NAJIB</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULMAJID MUHAMMAD INUWA, now wish to be known and addressed as NAJIB INUWA MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KASIMU</p> <p>I, formerly known as KASIMU MUHAMMED TIRE, now wish to be known and addressed as KASIMU MOHAMMAD UBANDOMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>LOVINA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMES LOVINA GWAMNA, now wish to be known and addressed as LOVINA KAISIH EZEKIEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DICKSON</p> <p>I, formerly known as DICKSON ELLEN CHOLLOM, now wish to be known and addressed as DICKSON ELLEN NERAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ACHIGAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHOJI VIVIAN GYANG, now wish to be known and addressed as ACHIGAK VIVIAN AMANYA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>OKOLOYE</p> <p>I, formerly known as OKOLOYE BLESSING EKWUTOSTI, now wish to be known and addressed as OKOLOYE BLESSING NGOZI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>RHODA</p> <p>I, formerly known as RHODA GOJI, now wish to be known and addressed as RHODA BUDEH MOSES. All former documents remain valid. Access Bank PLC and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>YAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAU HELEN YAT, now wish to be known and addressed as YAT HELEN YAT. My correct date of birth is 18/08/1980 not 16/08/1979. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SONGLIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as SONGLIA TOKKOLIA FELIX, now wish to be known and addressed as SONGLIA FELIX. My correct date of birth is 05/06/1994 not 15/05/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>POLE</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMUEL PLANGNAN POLE, now wish to be known and addressed as POLE PLANGNAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MBAADE</p> <p>I, formerly known as MSUGH CHRISTIANA, now wish to be known and addressed as MBAADE HAPPY CHRISTIANA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>UCHE</p> <p>I, formerly known as UCHE PERPATUAL, now wish to be known and addressed as UCHE PERPETUAL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>HUSSAINI</p> <p>I, formerly known as HAUWAW HUSSAINI, now wish to be known and addressed as HUSSAINI HAUWAW ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DATONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DATONG TIMOTHY DANIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as DATONG DANLADI DANIEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LAGAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as LAGAN, IRMIYA ABIG, now wish to be known and addressed as LAGAN ABIGAIL IRMIYA. 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>KEFAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as KEFAS JOHN, now wish to be known and addressed as KEFAS YAKUBU MARKUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUJAHID</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUJAHID TANKO YAWUS, now wish to be known and addressed as MUJAHID TIMOTHY YAWUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GABRIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as MRS. PETER MONICAH GABRIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as GABRIEL, MONICAH MONDAY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>OJILE</p> <p>I, formerly known as KWASHI, ESTHER JOSHUA, now wish to be known and addressed as OJILE, ESTHER KWASHI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ADEBAMIJI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ADEBAMIJI ADEJUMOBI EZEKIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ADEBAMIJI ADEJUMO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>PAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAIRIGA CANDIDA LAMI, now wish to be known and addressed as PAM CANDIDA LAMI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>SIMON</p> <p>I, formerly known as RAHILA DALYOP PAM, now wish to be known and addressed as SIMON RAHILA CHOJI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DANLADI</p> <p>I, formerly known as LOKCHANG GWAKZING, now wish to be known and addressed as DANLADI GODWIN GWAKZING. Correct date of birth is 4/1/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>PAUL</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISREAL DONGLONG, now wish to be known and addressed as PAUL ISRAEL DONGLONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>SARAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as SARAH DAVIDA, now wish to be known and addressed as SARAH NANDANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ZAINAB</p> <p>I, formerly known as YUSRA AHMAD KABIR, now wish to be known and addressed as ZAINAB JAFAR ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ROSE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ROSE EZEKIEL DASIHIN, now wish to be known and addressed as ROSE EZEKIEL MUSA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MANCHA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALYOP THEODORA NVOU, now wish to be known and addressed as MANCHA THEODORA NVOU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>YAHYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JULIUS DEBORAH, now wish to be known and addressed as YAHYA DEBORAH JULIUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHUKWUMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHUKWUMA NZUBEC EZEKWE, now wish to be known and addressed as CHUKWUMA NZUBECCHUKWU EZEKWE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the lost of Original Right of Occupancy (R of O) No PL/37797/24 in respect of a property situated at **Lot-Hwol Kwang Rayfield** Jos. Belonging to **MR AHMED SAMAILA IBRAHIM**. All efforts made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found Please return to Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning Jos or the nearest Police station.
 Sign: **AHMED SAMAILA IBRAHIM**

News

GOC charges troops to exhibit discipline, professionalism

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

The General Officer Commanding (GOC), 2 Division, Nigerian Army, Maj.-Gen. Valentine Okoro has charged the personnel of the 12 Brigade to exhibit high levels of discipline, courage and professionalism in the discharge of their duties at all times.

Okoro gave the advice while addressing the personnel of the 12 Brigade Nigerian Army, Chari Maigumeri Barracks, Lokoja, during a working visit to Kogi State.

The 2 Division Nigerian Army comprises Kogi, Kwara, Edo, Ondo, Osun, Oyo and Ekiti States.

The Major General enjoined the troops to exhibit a high level of neutrality, professionalism and discipline before, during and after the upcoming governorship election in the state.

He stressed the need for the troops to remain gallant, dedicated and disciplined in their area of responsibility.

The GOC commended the 12 Brigade for its efforts and collaboration with other security agencies in



Lagbaja

maintaining peace and security in the state.

Okoro assured the troops of the total support of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja, and the leadership of the 2 Division Nigerian Army for effective performance.

Our correspondent reports that the Commander of the 12 Brigade Nigerian Army, Brig.

Gen. Haruna Dasuki, led the GOC around some facilities in the barracks such as the 12 Brigade MRS (Medical Reception Station) as well as the Brigade Guest House at Phase 1 Lokoja.

The Commander commended the GOC for his visit to the state and for boosting the morale of the troops for optimal performance.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

AGAINST the harsh economic realities occasioned the fuel subsidy removal and the accompanying difficulties, a communication technology outfit, MyCoPilot Ltd, has developed an application to assuage challenges in the transportation sector of the country.

Mr Chizoba Jeff, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of the outfit who disclosed this recently at a press conference in Lokoja said the App was a novel initiative to drive Nigeria towards a better transportation future.

He described the MyCoPilot Car-Sharing App which currently has over 3,000 users as a "go-to platform" for commuters seeking safe and cost-effective travel options.

Jeff explained that the App, deploying its Artificial intelligence technology, ingeniously connects private car owners headed in the same direction with verified passengers in need of transportation.

"By simply entering their destinations and dates, users are swiftly matched with nearby car owners who have available seats and are

Subsidy removal: ICT outfit develops APP for travelers



Chizoba

headed in the same direction. "My CoPilot's smart algorithms optimize routes and pricing, ensuring passengers benefit from substantial cost saving compared to all other road transport options and in the process help Nigerians cushion the effect of the current corrosive economic climes.

"It no longer makes sense for you to have a car in Nigeria today and not consider using the MyCoPilot app for some of your movements if not all", he said.

According to him, in the dynamic world of technology, innovations have continued to redefine the way we live and move. He said that in the nation's current economic situation, there is a need for all hands to be on deck to revolutionize the road travel system.

"In Nigeria, a nation with bustling cities and vibrant communities, battling economic wars, transportation has emerged as a pressing challenge for many citizens.

"However, adversity always seems to produce greater innovation and in the Nigerian transport sector, a remarkable solution has surfaced, revolutionizing road travel", he said.

Jeff also added that

MyCoPilot Ltd is offering scholarships to at least two persons per family of any car owner on the app after meeting a certain number of trips.

He said that the company would also offer health insurance for the users in view of the current economic conditions which have adversely affected the spending power of Nigerians, especially drivers and families.

On safety of commuters and vehicle owners, the App developers said safety remained a non-negotiable priority for My Copilot, adding that the app had implemented robust security measures.

He noted that as part of the operational guidelines, it must be ensured that all users undergo thorough verification using government-issued IDs and facial recognition technology.

Jeff explained that address verifications, tracking of journeys end-to-end as well as the incorporated panic button to be used in case of any emergency was another layer of security.

"The MyCoPilot App is available on Appstore, Play Store and can be accessed through their official website at www.mycopilot.ng or direct download from <https://mycopilot.ng/download/>", he noted.

Terrorists storm community, kidnap resident

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

Suspected terrorists believed to be kidnapers have stormed Tambuwal town, the headquarters of Tambuwal Local Government Area in Sokoto State, and kidnapped Aliyu Maidamma, the brother of the late businessman, Alhaji Dikko Chemist, after sporadic gunshots.

The bandits were said to be on reprisal attack after

their colleagues were neutralised by security operative in Kebbe area, about 45 kilometers from Tambuwal.

Kebbe area, the headquarters of Kebbe Local Government, located in one of the remotest communities of the state, with many of its major towns and villages scattered hundreds of kilometres away from the local government

headquarters where military personnel were camped.

The area, vast land and forest is always used as hideout for all forms of criminals and gangs that keep terrorizing people of the communities for quite some years now.

Despite series of serial bombardment by military jets, the bandits still conduct their nefarious activities in the area, taking undue advantage of the forest.

One of the resident of Tambuwal town, who was at the scene of the attack but refused to disclose his name, said the bandits stormed Tambuwal Motorpark around 9p.m. in their numbers, shooting sporadically, before kidnaping the man, Maidamma.

Eye witnesses said they were heading to Kebbe town; maybe to test the will of the military and other security operatives stationed in the area.

The funny thing was that there was no light in Tambuwal when the attackers stormed the communities which gave the bandits opportunity to carry out their nefarious projects successfully without any form of

resistance as the eyewitnesses related.

All efforts to get the state Police Command Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ahamed Rufa'e, proved abortive as his phone could not be reached.

Bauchi Governor sets up palliative distribution committee

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

Following the Federal Government approval of #5 billion palliative to each state of the federation to cushion the effect of the removal of subsidy from fuel, Governor Bala Mohammed, who collected on behalf of Bauchi State citizens, has constituted a high powered committee to work out modalities for effective and judicious distribution of the palliative.

He assured the people of the state that their share will soon get to them.

Governor Mohammed gave the assurance on Monday shortly after the inaugural meeting he held behind closed doors with relevant stakeholders at the Government House, Bauchi.

Our correspondent in Bauchi reports that those in attendance at the meeting and form part of the committee include: Ministry of Youths and Sports Development, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and organized labour in the state

as well as religious and traditional leaders.

According to Governor Mohammed, his administration will be just and fair in the distribution exercise, adding that everyone will be carried along in enjoying the palliative.

He urged the people of the state to support his administration in its quest to uplift the standard of living of the people. And added that the government will continue to execute laudable projects that have a direct bearing on the lives of the people.

"The palliative measure is about the people because they are really suffering. So, the best way is to carry everybody along devoid of any political difference or sentiment. I assure you that the palliative measure will reach every nook and cranny of the state" the governor re-assured.

He explained that the issues of workers' retirement benefits, procurement of buses, motorcycles and tricycles to ease transportation challenges are also part of the palliative exercise.

While announcing his

Deputy, Hon. Mohammad Auwal Jatau as the chairman of the palliative exercise committee, Governor Bala Mohammed, charged them to ensure fairness, transparency and accountability in the entire process.

According to the governor, the committee was given two weeks from today to commence distribution of the palliative to all angles of the state.



Tinubu



Egbetokun

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

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
SELDIP LONGZHI , late of Plateau State, Died on the 29th August, 2022. At Langtang, LGA, Plateau State	NDAGWANG SELDIP LONGZHI & PARYA LOHZHI of COCIN RCC Mabudi Langtang South LGA, Plateau State Lawful Sons of the Said Deceased.	DANBAKI YILBAM , Late of Plateau State, died on the 30th Jan, 2020. At Gindiri, Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	DANBAKI ROTSHAK YILBAM , of Kwegoro Gindiri Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Son of the Said Deceased.	YUSUF AZEEZ CHIROMA , Late of Plateau State. died on the 3rd Sept, 2020. At Jos, Plateau State.	AZEEZ TONY , New Layout Opp. Fed. Low Cost Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
GOTOM PIWANKIK DAKUP , Late of Plateau State Died on the 7th April, 2023. At BHUTH, Jos, Plateau State.	PINPIMWA DAKUP GOTOM of Sabon Gari, Tudun Wada, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	LINUS DASAR WAKDET , late of Plateau State, died on the 31st December, 2021. At Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	ROTSHAKLINUS WAKDET of Holy Cross Catholic Church, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Son of the said deceased.	DANIEL OYELEYE late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd February, 2022. At Jos, Plateau State.	ELIJAH AYOMIDE RAJI of Behind Global Flame, Zarmaganda, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
DATEN CHRISTOPHER YOHANNA late of Plateau State, died on the 8th May, 2023. At Jos, Plateau State.	DATEN SOLOMON YOHANNA & RIMBIS CHRISTOPHER DATEN all Opp. Victoria Sallem Sch. Kwanga "B", Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother & widow of the said deceased.	ISHALAYE JAMES late of Plateau State, died on the 12th March, 2023. At Jos, Plateau State.	ISHALAYE ADEKUNLE SAMSON of No. 2 Domkat Bali Road, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	SULE AUDU MADAKI Late of Plateau State, died on the 1st June, 2023. At Jos, Plateau state.	VICTORIA SULE of Kunga II Bauchi Express Way, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
SAMUEL AMALAU AJAU late of Plateau State. Died on the October 30th, 2020 at New Layout Bokkos LGA, Plateau State	AMALAU SAMUEL AMALAU of New Layout Bokkos LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	FIBI IBRAHIM MUSTAPHA late of Plateau State. Died on the July 12th, 2021, at Jos, Plateau State.	ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM MUSTAPHA of 195 Riyom Drive Opposite Ande Hospital, Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	INSP. AKANMIDU GABRIEL late of Plateau State. Died on the March 18th, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	VICTOR AKANMIDU No. 29 Masscom Estate Zarmaganda, Jos South LGA, Plateau State, Lawful son of the said deceased.
DUNG DALYOP late of Plateau State. Died on the October 22nd, 2019, at Eldin Specialists Hospital, Jos Plateau State.	DUNG ISAAC DALYOP of Maza Junction Bauchi Ring Road, Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	GUCHIL ENOCH MESHACH DATUL late of Plateau State. Died on the 23rd February, 2023, at K/Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	LONGJI NANRET RENSHWAT & ENOCH DATUL JWAKBAM of Behind Living Faith Church, K/Vom Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/son of the said deceased.	GOWON DAMARIS OLIVER late of Plateau State. Died on the March 26th, 2023 at Kabwir, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	GOWON WOKTONG OLIVER of COCIN Church, Churkwi Kabwir Kanke LGA, Plateau State, Lawful son of the said deceased.
ODESHOLA VICTORIA AYANTIOHUN late of Oyo State. Died on the December 14th, 2022, at Ibadan, Oyo State.	GABRIEL AYOADE AYANGBAYI of No. 8 Nwochi Street Jos, Plateau State. lawful brother of the said deceased.	SIMEON OHAEKWE & SONS NIGERIA (Also known as Simeon Ohaekwe) late of Plateau State. Died on the April 3rd, 2020, at JUTH, Plateau State	FRANCIS IZUCHUKWU OHAKWE No. 10 Millionaire Quarters Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	ASP. AMISE AYIKI late of Plateau State. Died on the October 20th, 2018 at Bassa LGA, Plateau State.	BITRUS MERCY ADUNGA & BITRUS DANIEL ANAKU All of New Layout Jebbu Bassa, LGA Plateau State, lawful daughter/son of the said deceased.
ISHAYA BULUS late of Plateau State. Died on 25th October, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	REUBEN ISHAYA & TABITHA ISHAYA BULUS All of Police Staff College Jos South LGA Plateau State, lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.	ONAJI OGBEJE late of Kogi State. Died on June 20th, 2021 at Benue State.	ONAJI SAMUEL OGWUCHE of House 6 Makwin Street New Abuja Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	ARIN ALI ARSEN AIJK late of Plateau State. Died on February 13th, 2023 at Jos Plateau State.	PATRICK IZANG ARIN of Eto-Baba Junction Jos North LGA, Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
Alexander Kyamwan late of Plateau State, died on the 22nd Jan, 2022. At Shendam, LGA, Plateau State.	Kyamwan Ruh Alexander of Holy Catholic Church Poekongship. Lawful son of the said deceased.	LAWUNA GARBA late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th Feb. 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	GARBA SALMAT MANASSEH & MANASSEH DOGARI GARBA of No. 189 Rock haven Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband/daughter of the said deceased.	ANTHONY MULAKSEN late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th Feb, 2022 at Garkawa, Mikang LGA, Plateau State.	MAURICE MULLAKSEN of Garkawa Catholic Church Mikang LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
DAVOU LOSS late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th Feb. 2023 at Riyom LGA, Plateau State.	DAVOU SOLOMON LOSS of COCIN LCC Riyom LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	SAMBO BABUJE late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th Jan, 2023 at Mista-Ali, Bassa LGA, Plateau state.	MONDAY SAMBO BABUJE of Mista-Ali Zaria Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	MONDAY SAMBO late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th Jan, 2023 at K/Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	SOLOMON SAMBO & SAMBO KEFAS MONDAY. All of COCIN Gwol K/Vom Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/brother of the said deceased.
AGHWE OGHENEVWEDE SUNDAY late of Delta State. Died on the 8th Jan, 2023 at Delta State.	AGHWE JOHN EMUOBOR of Gwafan Lamingo, Jos North Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT(S) FOR GRANTS	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT(S) FOR GRANTS
		INSP. KASSAM DANIEL late of Plateau State. Died on February 3rd, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.		ANAP EMMANUEL ITSE of Mopol 8 Barrack Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow of the said deceased.	

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

Marwa, the leadership we need



By CELESTINE ATTSAR

"LEADERSHIP is not just a position, it consists of action and transparency and a setting of high level of integrity, honesty and strive to achieve a goal" (anonymous).

When in January 2021 Brig. General Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd) was appointed Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), it was received with applause as many who knew him as a strict disciplinarian knew quite well that the country was a new phase of illicit drug crisis. Also at that time, the increase in drug abuse was almost at an alarming rate.

The Retired General who before the appointment was known for his no nonsense attitude towards any public assignment given to him rolled up his sleeves and moved like a wounded lion to salvage the country from the menace of

illicit drugs. His holistic approach to the fight against illicit drugs has within a short period of his stewardship added a record that is worth praising.

Within the period of his leadership, a lot of arrests were made; even those untouchables in the illicit drug business were arrested and handed various jail terms. Marwa received commendations on his approach to rid Nigeria of the activities of illicit drugs barons. The agency in its existence had many who led it who also had their fair share of leadership and contribution toward making it a strong institution. To remember a few of them, General Musa Bamaïyi, Fulani Kwajafa, Iliya Lokadang, Farida Mohammed all did their possible best to achieve the goals establishing NDLEA. Of course, having identified the consumers, Marwa collaborated with the Nigerian film industry on how to win the drug war which has affected millions of young people watching Nigerian movies even as they admire star actors will be easily sensitized on the dangers of drug abuse through their moves. The approach has helped lot of youths to see the danger of abusing drugs in society.

In June this year when the drug Czar was featured on Channels Television programme 'Hard Copy' says his officers have arrested some politicians in possession of illicit drugs which he described as disappointing. According to

him, the agency had suggested drugs test for all those vying for political office to undergo drug test. He added that "as you know the cartels are also active participants in political activities; they actually fund candidates into the various levels so that they can enact laws that can favour them". The recommendation is 9 very goal approach to rid our political class of those that will use drug money to sponsor candidate and to have them trade or consumption of illicit drugs not given attention to by those in power.

Recently, in what appeared to be the biggest singular cocaine seizure in the history of the agency, operatives of the agency had busted a major warehouse in a secluded estate in Ikorodu area of Lagos where 1.8 tonnes. (1.55kilogrammes) of the illicit drug worth more than 194 billion naira in street value were seized and the kingpin in the business was arrested including foreigners. In what the agency described as a well coordinated and intelligence led operation that lasted for two days across different locations in Lagos State.

The Lagos operation which is said to be one of the biggest and successful operations of the agency received commendation from the Presidency. In a telephone call to the Chairman of the anti-narcotics agency from New York where he was attending the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77),



President Buhari said that the news of the recovery gladdens his heart. "I deeply appreciate the good work that you have put into the eradication of the drug menace. It gladdens my heart as I continue to follow the success achieved under your leadership."

The president added that "you have demonstrated over and over again that choosing you to lead this fight against wicked merchants of death who sole aim is to endanger and truncate the future of our youth is a good choice. Please keep the good work."

It was also reported that the president still amazed with the achievement of the agency especially in the recent Lagos seizure, told the Nigerian

delegation at a meeting in New York that, "Buba Marwa is doing well. Two tones of cocaine, that is a haul."

This exceptional commendation by the President to one of his appointees for doing well in his area of assignment is very rare looking at the poor performance of most of our institutions in the country. People like the NDLEA boss should be encouraged through both executive and legislative powers so that the goal of which they are established can add value to our society.

It is high time other heads of agencies that are saddle with the responsibilities of making Nigeria great emulate the NDLEA and its leadership.

"you have demonstrated over and over again that choosing you to lead this fight against wicked merchants of death who sole aim is to endanger and truncate the future of our youth is a good choice. Please keep the good work."



By HOSEA NYAMLONG

IN Nigeria today, a day cannot pass by without recording one crime or another, that has to do with quick money making.

Indeed, get quick rich syndrome has become one of the trending fashion among the present day

Road to wealth has no shortcut

Nigerian youth.

Unfortunately, many citizens don't care about having a good name or image for themselves, rather they prefer to get involved in different crimes such as kidnapping, drug peddling, armed robbery, prostitution, cyber fraud, killing for rituals among others, all in a bid to get rich quick.

It is worrisome that today, the deteriorating nature of core moral values, societal norms, culture, tradition and beliefs is a cause for concern in the lives of citizens.

The way in which many youths idolized wealthy people and celebrities have contributed in fueling more crime in recent times in the country. Youths only want to be seen driving exotic cars, wearing designers clothes, gold necklace and living an expensive lifestyle, without any proof of legitimate work or source that earned them such.

In time past, the case of ritual killing was not rampant and it was not accepted in the society, because human life was very important to be wasted in an evil venture.

Sadly enough, under aged children are now involved in ritual killings for the purpose of making quick money, not minding the gravity of their actions to humanity. The fact is, life is sacred.

Recently, a 17-year-old teenager killed his girlfriend together with his friend for rituals and they were later arrested in the process of cooking her head in a clay pot.

Another case is that of a 14 year teenage boy in Lagos state who tried to escape with his employer's 2 year old son, with the intention of selling him to ritualists, before he was later arrested in the process of the negotiation.

Early this year, the Plateau state Police Command, paraded a 20-year-old, Moses Okoh, the suspected killer of Miss Jennifer Anthony, his girlfriend and a 300-level student of the University of Jos (UNIJOS).

In Abeokuta this year, a Magistrate's court remanded four boys who allegedly beheaded a 20-year-old, Sofiat Okeowo, in Ogun State for ritual purpose.

In September a girl named, Maryam Salisu, was found killed in Babale community on the outskirts of Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State for suspected ritual purposes. The body of the deceased according to residents of the community was found in a trench. The relatives of the deceased said that Maryam's corpse was found in

a trench with her throat, tongue, her breasts and eyes cut off.

Another issue to be considered is greed, as in the case of a 5 year old girl, Hanifa Abubakar who was kidnapped and killed by her school teacher, who said that he was depressed and he needed money to pay for his kids school fees.

However, the get rich quick syndrome is slowly killing Nigerian youths who indulge in desperate pursuits to become rich at all cost, even at the expense of other people.

These societal ills have affected every citizen, directly or indirectly as this ugly trend seems to have taken the order of the day.

This is because some parents in some ways have encouraged their children negatively to make quick money, as in the case of a young man who was told to sacrifice his younger brother by his mother.

Notwithstanding, in the past, hard work was seen as the pride of every person both male and female, old and young which was a mark of dignity and respect in the society, but today, is no longer considered as a legitimate means of earning a good living.

Many youths today would want to have their own way to get quick money at all cost in order to show to the world that they have arrived or they belong to the millionaires club, by way of displaying of wealth.

Also, some would want to oppressed others. In this same vein, many youths have loss their moral values by engaging in things

that are not legitimate.

There are millions of jobs in Nigeria. The issue of passing through shortcuts to success has over shadowed most minds of the youths not knowing that today ,wealth is knitted in dirty jobs that seems to be rejected by many, because they don't want to be seen dirty by their peers, rather being neater and rich in ill ways.

To this end, things have gone wrong. And the question in the minds of every responsible Nigerian is how to curtail this evil menace in our society?

Who is to be blame, parents, peer groups, or the society in general. The suggestion is that parents, guidance and care givers should endeavour to bring up their children in a Godly way that they would inculcate good moral virtues in them.

It is very important, that the mind of materialism, be checked, especially among youths to see that wealth can be earned legitimately through hard work, determination, dedication and patience in life

Government as a matter of urgency should engage the youths meaningfully to enable them have a positive life so that they can add value to the society. Nigeria can be rebuilt on the foundations of integrity, transparency, truth, and justice.

On the part of the Nigerian youths, they are encouraged to embrace hard work, honesty, integrity as the hallmark to a sustainable wealth and peace of mind. The road to success has no short cut.

"The way in which many youths idolized wealthy people and celebrities have contributed in fueling more crime in recent times in the country. Youths only want to be seen driving exotic cars, wearing designers clothes, gold necklace and living an expensive lifestyle, without any proof of legitimate work or source that earned them such."



Plateau State Internal Revenue Service

Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria



ADVERTORIAL

PLATEAU State Internal Revenue Service (PSIRS) is pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for Tax Firms to submit proposals in conformity with the PSIRS guidelines for the engagement of Technical Consultants and in accordance with the Plateau State Government's Executive Order No. 001 of 2023 issued on the 10th July 2023.

Are you a Tax Consulting Firm with a passion for excellence in providing innovative solutions? This is your chance to showcase your technical expertise and join forces with PSIRS in shaping Plateau State's taxation future.

PSIRS is committed to transforming its tax administration system to enhance efficiency, transparency, and revenue generation. To achieve this goal, we seek proposals from qualified Tax Consulting Firms to collaborate with us on various initiatives.

Key areas of focus include:

- Tax Liability Audit in Telecommunications, Manufacturing, Processing, Banking, Small and Medium Businesses, etc.

- to establish back years liabilities on non-remittances of withholding taxes on interests and dividends for individuals, enterprises, corporate entities, and statutory bodies. Companies and other organizations.

If your firm possesses the requisite expertise, experience, and a track record of success in these areas, we encourage you to submit a proposal to PSIRS. This is an exclusive opportunity to collaborate with us in driving positive change and contributing to the growth and development of Plateau State.

Your proposals should be addressed to The Executive Chairman, Plateau State Internal Revenue Service, No 6 Bank Road Jos, Plateau State. The submission deadline for proposals is August 31, 2023.

Join us in building a more robust and dynamic tax administration system in Plateau State. We can create a brighter future for our state and its citizens.

MR. JIM PAM WAYAS
Executive Chairman
Plateau State Internal Revenue Service



Office of the Executive Governor,
Plateau State, Nigeria

Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos. www.plateaustate.gov.ng

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 001 OF 2023 TO IDENTIFY, TRACE AND RECOVER PROCEEDS OF CRIME RELATED TO OR CONNECTED WITH PLATEAU STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDS AND ASSETS.

WHEREAS relevant Statutes impose a duty on Persons, Corporate Entities and Statutory Bodies to account for the common wealth of the citizenry which they hold in trust for them as stipulated in the Freedom of Information Act;

AND whereas every resident of Plateau State has a right to know what State actors, Corporate Entities and Statutory Bodies have done with the resources available or paid to them being under obligation to voluntarily declare their income and expenditure from all sources within and outside the State;

COGNIZANT of the duty of inculcating in all citizens, the ethics of responsibility to the State, accountability, and honesty;

AWARE that Plateau State Government owes citizens the duty of providing security, welfare and development; and

CONSEQUENT upon the determination of Plateau State Government to provide an opportunity for all Persons, Statutory Bodies and Corporate Entities to be accountable to the people they hold money in trust, under all relevant Statutes to voluntarily declare their Assets and Income and pay or remit taxes due on them and in return obtain some benefits.

NOW THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AS THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA, I HEREBY ORDER THUS FORTHWITH:

1. Plateau State Government shall engage Technical Consultants to develop a database and establish back years liabilities for all companies in the Telecommunications, Manufacturing and Processing, Banking and other Industries, which includes Small and Medium Enterprises.
2. Plateau State Government shall engage Technical Consultants to establish back years liabilities on non-remittances of withholding taxes on interests and dividends for individuals, enterprises, corporate entities, statutory bodies, companies and other organizations.
3. The Plateau State Government shall engage Technical Consultants to establish back years liabilities on Bank Account Inventories domicile with all banks in the State, unreported revenues and reconciliation of External and Internal Debts for the Government.
4. The Technical Consultants or designated Audit Firms shall ONLY Audit the Statutory Remittances by way of taxation from the people, Statutory Bodies and Corporate Entities and thereafter submit its findings to the Ministry of Justice.
5. The Ministry of Justice shall IDENTIFY, TRACE, PROSECUTE and RECOVER all proceeds of crime relative to this EXECUTIVE ORDER which are due and payable to the coffers of Plateau State Government upon terms to be determined by the Governor.
6. This Executive Order shall be read in conjunction with all extant Tax Laws and Regulations.
7. This Executive Order shall come into force on the day and date it is signed by the Executive Governor and deemed spent on the 29th day of May 2027.

Dated this 10th day of July 2023

SIGNED:


Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutwang

Executive Governor of Plateau State, Nigeria.

IMAGES

GOVERNOR MUTFWANG MEETS WITH STATE ELDERS' FORUM

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang on Monday met with the reconstituted Plateau State Elders' Forum at the Banquet Hall, new Government House Rayfield, Jos



Chief Samuel Mafuyai (left) flanked by other members of the Forum



Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang addressing the Elders Forum



Former Coordinator Operation Rainbow, Gen. Stephen Gu'ar, Special Adviser on Political Affairs, Hon. Letep Dabang, Barr. Yusuf Pam, onetime Commissioner, Justice, former CMD, JUTH, Prof. Ishaya Pam and others



Cross section of former Speakers, PLHA at the meeting



Prof. Ganyir Lombin (right) with other stakeholders at the meeting



Vice Chancellor, Karl Kumm University Vom, Prof. Nanven Audu Gambo (right) with one time Commissioner of Health, Prof. Barnabas Mandong



Cross section of journalists covering the opening ceremony of the meeting



Cross section of secretariate staff, office of the Secretary to Government of the State

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Odd World

American living in UK shares things she finds 'confusing'

ALTHOUGH we often think people in the UK and the US share similar lifestyles when it comes to food, drink, and socialising - it turns out there are some pretty stark differences. One woman who knows this only too well has delighted millions of social media users after pointing out the many "things that are socially acceptable in England that would confuse Americans."

TikTok creator Andrea Celeste has a whole series of videos devoted to the topic and regularly draws in thousands of viewers when she shares the clips as @andraceleste. So, if you're a UK resident keen to know how our customs come across to others, here's your chance.

Although Andrea, who moved from LA, is now a pro when it comes to life in the UK, it sounds like she faced a pretty steep learning curve. From jaywalking to grocery store etiquette, here are a few things she had to adjust to when she moved across the pond.

First up, it's probably no great surprise to learn Americans are chattier than most of us on this side of the Atlantic. "Service workers, like cashiers and retail workers, don't typically start conversations with people to that extent that they do in America," Andrea explained. "The more outside of London you go the more chance there would be of that happening, but definitely not like in America." However, you might be surprised to

learn you can't enjoy a tinny on the go in much of the US, as it's often illegal. You've also got to be careful where you go, without a drink in hand, as jaywalking is illegal.

Meanwhile, Andrea thought her friends from home would be surprised by black pudding. "It tastes amazing. I freaked out my American friends saying that, though," she revealed. Equally, she's learned to love beans on toast. Andrea continued: "I saw this thing about Americans seeing a photo of beans on toast and being mortified by it. To be fair it looks terrible on photos, but it's actually really good," before adding it's great as a "snack during university when you're trying to save money'."

In response to the video, which has racked up over 500,000 views and counting, fans from both sides of the pond were quick to share their shock. One person wrote: "I don't go into a shop to discuss how my day has been." While another revealed: "I remember as a kid going to America for the first time and it freaked me out when the lady working at the bakery in Walmart started talking to me." But a different person said: "I missed the chatting with strangers when I lived outside the US. I think it's a lovely cultural norm." Meanwhile, someone else added: "Beans on toast both looks and tastes divine".

Culled from The Mirror



Nigerians, there is need for 'church-shift'

ONE distinguished and quick-witted legal luminary I have continued to respect with all candor of persistence is none other than Prof. Dakas Clement Dakas, a former Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Plateau State and Senior Advocate of Nigeria, (SAN). Prof. Dakas, a former Dean, Faculty of Law at the prestigious University of Jos and also the fourth Professor of Law from the entire northern region of Nigeria has over the years unrelentingly become a pragmatic reservoir of knowledge. Intuitively, this scholar has continued to dazzle his contemporaries including others who care to listen to him about a more result-oriented shift in dynamism in the act of governance presently needed to save our nation from nose-diving into oblivion and total collapse.

Though some of his matter-of-fact recipe seems not logically achievable and crazily out of the box, it is becoming more evident that if prospective leaders of this nation do not take the bull by the horn and galvanize our collective thoughts devoid of any sort of sentiments; Nigeria would in no distance time find itself on a runway to total disintegration, chaos and anarchy. Let me however reemphasize for fear of perhaps misquoting Prof Dakas out of context that it is not in his character to proliferate any incisive notion that Nigeria can only achieve any such transformation through violent revolution. The erudite scholar however believes that Nigeria can attain greatness only based on a complete mind renewal by both the elites and the governed.

Just recently, I was privileged to be amongst quite a pocket few people who took him on how best we can intellectually remodel our thoughts and go against this traditional tide of doing business as usual and change our diminishing status. After a fruitful practicable enlightenment lecture on that fateful day;, the scholar also suggested we read a book authored by Pastor Sunday Adelaja titled "Church Shift" which I reluctantly accepted. Unfortunately, my hands became full during the week and I could not search out for the book until a friend of mine eventually posted me a soft copy online.

The book, Church Shift is all about a struggle by a strong hearted Nigerian Pastor, Sunday Adelaja who found himself in faraway Ukraine but doggedly changed the ugly narratives of the country for the better. Before this great revival, the citizens of the country had psychological been hypnotized becoming mentally subservient to the caprices and intrigues of their leaders' political misrule. In a country which was proliferating unending tenets of socialist ideological philosophy and highly against civil disobedience; the citizens of the nation were victims of corruption, nepotism and other acts of personal aggrandizement.

The coming of the pastor who mobilized citizens of the country to stand their ground against the obvious subsequently affected a great change as it propelled about 125,000 members of the church to begin to see the act of governance from a different perspective. Rather than perceiving their political leaders as lords; the citizens began to take their fate in their own hands comprehending the apparent that they had the power to hold their leaders to account.

Consequently, before the ongoing Russian invasion, the nation was emerging to become one of the most focused nations in contemporary Europe. It was a nation

midwifed through civil disobedience against unabated injustice, oppression, nepotism, corruption and administrative ingenuity to become a more promising nation of the decade.

As I continued reading this book page after page, the present tragic, unpalatable and disturbing traumatic status of Nigeria kept on preoccupying my mind. To be honest, Nigeria has lost its bearing and it's only by the grace of God that things have not fallen apart. At the moment, there is no Nigerian citizen in his or her right senses who can testify that he or she is not feeling a pinch of this unending humanly created hardship and or catastrophe.

Evidently, both the poor and the rich are not happy over most recent developments. Most of the citizens are not happy as the fabric of our nation's economy is in shambles. If for nothing else, the reoccurrence of recession on the polity has devastated many families and rendered many vulnerable citizens hopeless.

Our universities have been in total shutdown for several months now making our children vulnerable to many social vices. Many of our idle children have been wept way into unbelievable crimes causing more havoc and calamity. Our economic collapse has left us at the mercy of several unimaginable and unpalatable situations. The issue of insecurity overwhelming this nation has forced us not to sleep with our eyes closed for a second.

More perturbing is the fact that with all the abundant economic and human resource which this country is blessed with; Nigeria has regrettably found itself in this pitiful situation. We as a people have become a laughing stock amongst the comity of nations for no fault of the ordinary man. Many innocent citizens are languishing in abject poverty and or want as the gap between the rich and the poor has continued to widen beyond comprehension.

A great number of our children have been killed in humanly created conflicts and unexplainable circumstances. By now, I am more than convinced that many Nigerians are tired of being slaves in their motherland. Yet, in the midst of these calamities, it seems that we are still far from recuperating and or gaining our grounds.

Just as Pastor Sunday Adelaja puts it, it will only take a people who know that power is in their hands to fundamentally effect a change for the better. These kind of people must put their lives at risk to ensure that the needful is done.

Without mincing words, many of us weary of all these happenings must begin to talk to our conscience. We must come to the reality of the fact that the people of this country must be liberated from the shackles of deception and erroneous thoughts of becoming spellbound that this nation is only for the elitists, the wealthy and the mighty.

The truth is that we must take a stand as a people in making our leaders accept the reality of the fact that power belongs to the ordinary man on the street. It is only by doing so that can we create a more convenient atmosphere for our nation to thrive. Even though we have suffered a lot in the past few years; we can still turn things around for the better in the interest of our future generations if we are willing to do so. Basically, we can create another euphoria of a church shift in Nigeria if and when we are determined to do so.

View Point

Karl Kumm University, on path to educational excellence

Though it is no longer news that plans have reached advanced stage for Karl Kumm University to commence academic activities this week, the Vice Chancellor of this eminent faith based institution, Prof Audu Nanven Gambo and his management team are leaving no stone unturned towards ensuring that they meet up with the academic calendar. BULUS GAMBO, writes.

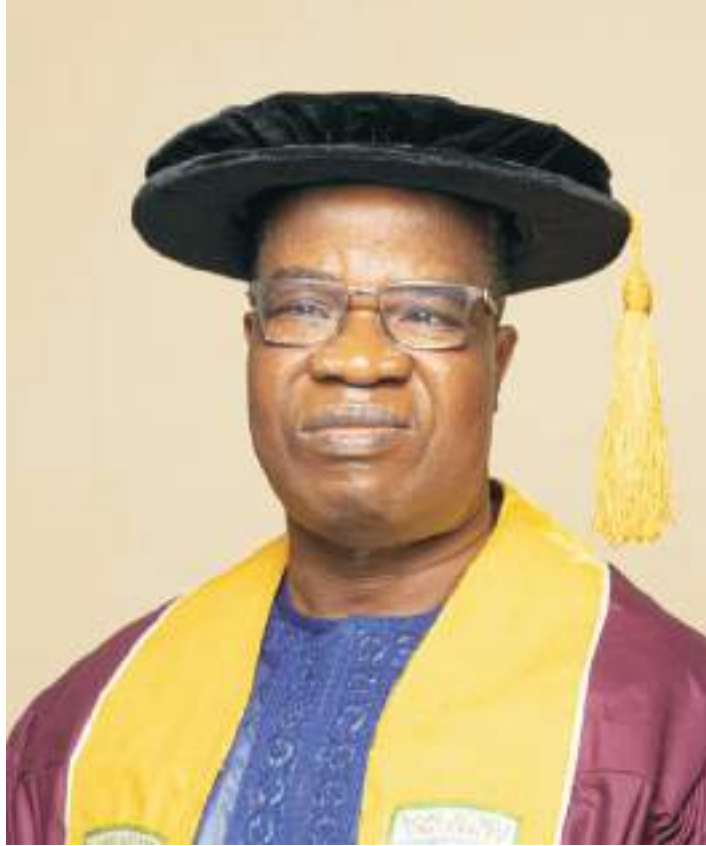
AFTER concluding its first set of admission, authorities concern is presently putting everything together and or in proper perspective towards creating a permitting atmosphere for the comfortability of both the lecturers, staff and the students of the school. In this regard, the Vice Chancellor and his management team have embarked on periodic monitoring and supervision of facilities at the institution to help ensure that everything moves according to the anticipated plans. While this supervision is unrepentantly ongoing, so also the admission of more students for the institution.

So far, Prof Gambo and his team have visited both the male and female hostels, the institution's medical centre, lecture rooms, cafeteria, and other strategic buildings, which would consequently have a fundamental bearing on the lives and daily activities of the students. The security architecture of the institution has been further enhanced. To help ensure that all things are moving in proper perspective, the Management recently had a crucial meeting with all the staff of the institution where they were eventually encouraged to live above board in their anticipated obligations. During the meeting, the management strategically reminded the staff to be disciplined and ensure that they live above board as role models for these students.

This engagement aside, the Vice Chancellor and his Management team also held a meet with the academic staff where he admonished them to remain resolute in their resolve to transform the university into a world class to set the pace for others in the country. In his remarks, Prof Gambo noted that while lectures would commence this week, admission was still in progress in accordance with the clearance given by JAMB and such students would join.

According to him, the issue of general timetable had been sorted to avoid lecture clashes as well as guide the lecturers give out their best in the school adding that the meeting with the lecturers was a critical one considering their strategic disposition to the developmental progression of the entire institution. For the total comfortability of the teaching staff to be encouraged, the Vice Chancellor submitted that the young and enterprising lecturers would be encouraged to further their studies to positively impact the students in contemporary studies technique in accordance with global best practices.

He noted that, "It is anticipated that in the next three years, we will have more PhD holders working in Karl Kumm University as we intend to make the best use of our staff. Therefore, I



Prof. Gambo

would want to advise that as academicians, do not engage on PhD programmes just to fulfil all righteousness but ensure that your goal is to attain professorial levels in the academic circle."

In pursuance of this set objective, Prof Gambo also visited the Provost, Federal College of Veterinary and Medical Laboratory Vom, Dr Chukwu O.O. Chukwu where he sought for his synergy for the sustainability and growth of the institution. During

the visit, the Provost took the Vice Chancellor to various laboratories where researches are conducted.

Speaking during the courtesy call, the Vice Chancellor explained that synergising with the College would upgrade the educational capacity of the students on resumption of academic activities for this forthcoming session.

Prof Gambo expressed the readiness of Karl Kumm

University to go an extra mile to ensure that its students acquire the best educational standard comparable to global best practice around the world.

The Vice Chancellor acknowledged that since his appointment, Management has hit the ground running and left no stone unturned in the university's desire to create an enabling environment for excellent educational services for intending students of the institution and that, "we must do everything possible to ensure that this University provides the best for our students.

Responding, the Provost, Federal College of Veterinary and Medical Laboratory, Dr Chukwu O.O. Chukwu welcomed the anticipated synergy which according to him would go a long way in ensuring understanding of research studying equipment's for the great task ahead.

Dr Chukwu recalled with great nostalgia his inclusion in the recruitment panel, which resulted in the employment of best and capable hands for the University and stressed his readiness to assist the institution when and wherever necessary for the progress of the students and educational attainment in the institution as a whole.

Interestingly, as evidence, the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) has made a name in terms of contributing its quota to educational advancement in the country. Today, COCIN can rightly boast of having many schools in the likes of the Boys and Girls Secondary Schools

Gindiri, Gindiri Teachers College, now COCIN Comprehensive College the School for the Blind as well as many other secondary schools across the country. As it is always noted in a consensus, COCIN has over a century gained experience in the running of secondary and tertiary institutions in the country, the University though a complex initiative would not be a difficult project to handle.

Therefore, since the 7th May 2003 when the COCIN General Church Council (GCC) resolved to float a University and the subsequent issuance of a letter of intent for the establishment of the University to the National Universities Commission (NUC) on June 23, 2003, the entire project has continued to move from one glory to another.

Today, the story is all about that of thanking God that the first set of students will start receiving lectures in the institution. All these efforts are worth thanking our creator for His mercy and shower of blessings.

Certainly in the past few years, Karl Kumm University which is among the very few to commence academic activities on permanent site will sooner than later take its rightful place as the most proficient privately owned faith based institution of learning in the country. This is by no way surprising considering the insurmountable degree of efforts invested into the planning and execution of the strategic plans of the institution.



Prof. Gambo and his management team during a courtesy call at FCVML Vom

News

Tinubu tasks new ministers on meeting Nigerians' expectations

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has tasked the new 45 ministers to meet the expectations of Nigerians for a renewed socio-economic development.

The president stated this after the **inauguration of the ministers** at the State House Banquet Hall on Monday in Abuja.

He said the administration came when the country needed renewal and reforms in all ramifications.

"Nigerians expect you to hit the ground running just as we had promised them during our campaigns. With your inauguration today, you have become ministers of the Federal Republic, not ministers of a particular state or region.

"Nigerians expect a lot, and they deservedly want to see changes in their lives. You are now in the same boat with me, and they expect that their lives would take a new and better turn," he said.

Mr Tinubu said the new ministers reflected the different diversities of the country and were chosen for their track record of success and achievements in their various fields of endeavours.

"The challenges we face today are daunting, but we have the opportunity to implement long-due reforms that would bring about peace, safety and prosperity for our people as contained in our renewed hope agenda.

"We are about to accelerate our governing efforts, move forward and realise our aspirations for Nigerians. Tremendous responsibilities follow this appointment, and all of you are expected to

contribute your quota to deliver accountable, efficiently and effective service to Nigerians.

"Your assignment begins immediately, and you must work to make yourself worthy of God and the people to make Nigerians believe that the right hands are chosen. I believe in you, and government can be a progressive way to gain public confidence and trust," he said.

Those sworn in are former Rivers governor Nyesom Wike as Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Wale Edun (Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy), Adegboyega Oyetola (Marine and Blue Economy), David Umahi (Works), Festus Keyamo (Aviation and Aerospace Development), and Betta Edu (Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation).

Others are Bosun Tijani (Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy), Ishak Salaco (State, Environment and Ecological Management), Wale Edun (Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy), Adegboyega Oyetola (Marine and Blue Economy), Adedayo Adelabu (Minister of Power), Tunisia Alausa (State, Health and Social Welfare), Dele Alake (Solid Minerals Development), Lola Ade-John (Minister of Tourism), Sa'idu Alkali (Transportation), and Bunmi Tunji-Ojo (Interior).

Doris Uzoka-Anite (Industry, Trade and Investment), Uche Nnaji (Innovation Science and Technology), Nkiruka Onyejeocha (State, Labour and Employment), Uju Kennedy (Women Affairs), David Umahi (Works), Abubakar Momoh (Niger Delta Development), Betta Edu (Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation),

Ekperikpe Ekpo (State, Petroleum Resources — Gas), and Heineken Lokpobiri (State, Petroleum Resources — Oil).

The new ministers also include John Enoh (Sports Development), Hannatu Musawa (Art, Culture and the Creative Economy), Mohammed Badaru (Defence), Bello Matawalle (State Defence), Yusuf T. Sunumu (State Education), Ahmed M. Dangiwa (Housing and Urban Development), Abdullah T. Gwarzo (State, Housing and Urban Development), and Atiku Bagudu (Budget and Economic Planning).

Also sworn in are Mairiga Mahmud (State, Federal Capital Territory), Bello M. Goronyo (State, Water Resources and Sanitation), Abubakar Kyar (Agriculture and Food Security), Tahir Maman (Education), Yusuf M. Tuggar (Foreign Affairs), Ali Pate (Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare), Ibrahim Geidam (Police Affairs), U. Maigari Ahmadu (State, Steel Development), and Shuaibu A. Audu (Steel Development).

Others are Muhammed Idris (Information and National Orientation), Lateef Fagbemi (Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice), Simon B. Lalong (Labour and Employment), Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim (State, Police Affairs), Zephaniah Jisalo (Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs), Joseph Utsev (Water Resources and Sanitation), and Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi (State, Agriculture and Food Security).

Over one thousand women unemployed – PDWA chairman

By JIDAUNA DARING

CHAIRPERSON, Plateau State Deaf Women Association (PDWA), Mrs. Patricia Joshua Gyang has said that over a thousand deaf women are unemployed in the state. She therefore appealed to Plateau State government to consider their plight.

Mrs. Gyang who also doubles as Project Officer of the "Right Ways" stated this at the closing ceremony of a 3 day skills training for 20 Women with deafness confectionary, held at women Educational Model Centre, Kashim Ibrahim Jos, last Saturday.

She said that the training workshop was organized by PDWA under the supervision of Development Exchange Centre Bauchi (DEC), supported by Bread for the World Protestant Development Service (Brot) from Germany.

Mrs. Gyang disclosed that the aim of the 3 day training skills workshop was to empower 20 deaf women confectionary of Jos North Local Government Area (LGA). She added that their desire was to train more deaf

women on skills acquisition on the Plateau.

She said that PDWA vision are empowered to become economically independent. And added that the continuation of the training will largely depend on support from their donor. She explained that the ongoing project is for 6 months.

Mrs. Gyang further explained that the importance of the training cannot be over emphasized, since the gesture is geared towards making the deaf Women to become self-reliant instead of going into begging in the society.

She said that the association was established in 2010 with hundreds of registered members across the state.

Mrs. Gyang also called on the wife of the Plateau State Governor, Mrs. Helen M. Mutfwang to carry the deaf women along in her programmes and other beneficial activities. She equally appeals to Ministry for Women Affairs and Social Development to do same, so that the deaf Women would have a sense of belonging and fulfillment at all times.

Also speaking to the participants, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) PDWA, Mrs. Jenebu Anyebu challenged

the participants to make good use of what they have learnt during the training on cake baking among others so as to enable them bring food on the table of their families at all times.

Mrs. Anyebu thanked their donors for supporting them financially to carry out the training, saying that the training has given all the trainers opportunity to



Mutfwang

MINISTER of Information and National orientation, Muhammed Idris, has said the ministry will not need to

tell lies to defend the government rather "we will always say it as it is."

Speaking when he assumed office after his inauguration, he said the ministry and the government will be transparent and truthful while giving out information.

He said the government would own up where it errs or make any mistake and try to adjust where necessary.

Idris said National orientation would be a core aspect of the government, hence "in a matter of days we would roll out our plans to Nigerians."

Wike threatens demolition of houses on day one in office

Tribunal: Police ban protests as NNPP, APC 'set for showdown' in Kano

He called on Nigerians to shun fake news and always clarify issues before taking it

We Won't Tell Lies To Defend Govt – Information Minister

out to the public, hence noted that the ministry would be accountable and open to Nigerians.

On her part, Minister of Arts, Culture and Creative economy, Mrs Hannatu Musawa said the ministry would export Nigeria to the world and would also make

money for Nigeria.

She said the ministry would also do all it has to do to change the negative narrative which the country has across the world.

Musawa noted that it was also important to restore the unity of the country which was the wish of the founding fathers of Nigeria.



Idris,

BODAN lauds Tinubu's renaming of Water Resources Ministry

THE Borehole Drillers' Association of Nigeria (BODAN) has lauded President Bola Tinubu's renaming of the Ministry of Water Resources to Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation.

The president of the association, Mr Francis

Uzoma, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the action was a welcomed development as it would help to improve sanitation in the country.

He urged the minister, Prof. Joseph Utsev, to prioritise funding that would stimulate progress in the country's water and sanitation sector.

Uzoma said that with improved funding and commitment, the ministry would be able to fast-track and stimulate effective management of the nation's water and sanitation resources.

"Sanitation needs to be scaled up in terms of funding and investment to ensure that Nigeria is open defecation free in line with the sustainable development goals six.

"Having the sanitation aspect standing would enable priority of attention and more strategies to be scaled up for the needed investments required in the sector.

"A lot of efforts have been put in place by past administrations to achieve the SDG goal six 1 and 2, and in ending open defecation in Nigeria.

"This is a welcome development and it will usher in a renewed hope and vigor in actualising the ministry's core mandate of ensuring safe water supply and sanitation services for all," he said.

Uzoma, also the President of Safe Water Global Initiative, pledged the organisation's commitment to partner with the ministry in ensuring that the administration's goals and objectives were met.

He said that state governments must do more by prioritising funding for water infrastructure, saying delay in doing so may lead to proliferation of unregulated boreholes in many parts of the country.

"I am confident that the team in the water sector is going to do so well, and my hope is that other state governments would also emulate what the federal government has done in terms of repositioning the ministry to be purpose driven," he said.

The president said the association had commenced sensitisation of its members on the need to obtain their drilling license and adhere to the National Drilling Code of Practice, saying this would enhance management of water resources of the country.

He said that indiscriminate drilling of boreholes was fueled by the inability of tiers of government to provide potable water for citizens, adding that more effort was needed to change such scenario.(NAN)

Sports



What next for England, Wiegman?

By **EMMA SANDERS**

WHEN England return from Australia and the dust settles they will look ahead to what is coming up next after their Women's World Cup final defeat.

A first Women's Nations League competition, Olympic Games qualification and the defence of their European crown are all things to look forward to in the calendar for the next two years.

But off the pitch there remain several talking points, including discussions over player bonus payments and a potential renewal of manager Sarina Wiegman's contract.

Wiegman became the first manager to reach the Women's World Cup final with two nations in successive tournaments and is widely regarded the best female coach in football.

It is no surprise then that speculation surrounding her future had spread in the build-up to the final.

Football Association chief executive **Mark Bullingham** said it would "100% reject" any approaches for Wiegman after she was listed as a

potential candidate to take over the vacant USA job - and the Dutchwoman **herself** said she "has no plans to leave" England.

Sarina Wiegman tells BBC sports editor Dan Roan she 'really enjoys' her role with England

But with her contract set to run out in 2025, before the next World Cup, Wiegman was asked if this year's defeat would fuel her to chase success again with England in 2027.

"Four years is a long time," said Wiegman. "We have a very short turnaround, but we'll start in September with Scotland and the Netherlands in the Nations League to qualify for the Olympics."

She later added: "I hope in the future I get a new moment with the team I work with. That would be amazing, because it's very special to play finals."

Meanwhile, one of England's most experienced players, Barcelona full-back Lucy Bronze, 31, was playing in her third World Cup and once again missed out on the trophy.

Asked if she needed some

time to decide her future, she said firmly: "I am not retiring from England if that is what you mean."

After winning Euro 2022, two players, Ellen White and Jill Scott, announced their retirement.

The oldest member of the current squad is Laura Coombs at 32, but her England career is still in its infancy, and it seems unlikely any other players will follow the example of White and Scott this time around.

The England players headed to the World Cup in dispute with the Football Association over **performance-related bonuses**.

They said they were "frustrated" with the FA over its decision not to give players bonuses, but agreed to halt negotiations during the tournament.

This year, for the first time at a Women's World Cup, players will receive individual payments direct from Fifa, with the Lionesses set to receive £153,000 each for reaching the final.

Bullingham has said the disagreement will be "sorted after the tournament".

He added: "They had a very strong case before the World Cup and a very strong case after, but the reality is there's a discussion to be had."

England set off for home from Sydney on Monday afternoon and players and staff will then have some time off, so negotiations may not be resolved for several weeks.

It is not long before the Lionesses reunite again for September's Nations League matches - the inaugural season of the three-league tournament which will follow a similar format to the men's event.

England are in League A, which has four groups. The World Cup runners-up take on Scotland and the Netherlands next month, while Belgium complete their group.

The teams play each other home and away, with the standings at the end of the stage determining promotion and relegation between the leagues, as well as qualification for the Women's Nations League finals.

The four group winners in League A meet in the semi-finals, with the two finalists joining hosts France as the

European representatives in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The Nations League will also affect qualification for Euro 2025, which will be held in Switzerland.

England have previously been the nominated nation to secure qualification for the Olympics on behalf of Team GB, so are expected to carry the responsibility again - and it is likely Wiegman would oversee any British side.

After returning from international duty, a number of the Lionesses will be back in action in the Women's Super League, which kicks off again on 1 October.

The impact of their success at Euro 2022 led to record viewing figures and attendances across the 2022-23 domestic season.

Having reached the final again in Australia, just months before a long-awaited takeover of the WSL, a new broadcast deal is set to be negotiated which could bring further, significant revenue to the women's game.

Sports



Super Falcons

Super Falcons outranks Italy, Germany

The Nigerian Super Falcons have clinched a noteworthy position among the top 10 teams in the recently released FIFA Women's World Cup rankings, **Soccernet.ng** reports.

The 2023 Women's World Cup tournament concluded on Sunday, August 20, 2023, with Spain claiming victory over the Lionesses of England in the final, securing their first-ever title.

Spain's triumph in the Women's World Cup marked a historic milestone, as they became the second nation to achieve success in both the Men's and Women's World Cups.

Following the conclusion of the tournament, FIFA has meticulously ranked the participating teams based on their performance. However, there's a twist in this ranking method.

Teams that were eliminated at the same stage of the competition are evaluated based on the circumstances of

their elimination. The Super Falcons, flying the flag for Nigeria, have achieved an astonishing feat by securing the 10th spot on this prestigious list.

This achievement stands out prominently, as the Super Falcons not only outperformed numerous other teams but also secured a higher ranking than football giants Germany, Brazil, Portugal, and Italy.

They also proudly stand ahead of fellow African participants, making them the highest-ranked team from the continent.

The journey for the Super Falcons in the World Cup was a commendable one. Their campaign started with a goalless draw against the formidable Canadian team, the Olympic Champions.

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tournament was their thrilling 3-2 victory against tournament co-hosts Australia in their second match. Another goalless draw followed against the Republic of

Ireland, however. The Super Falcons' resilience and tenacity shone through in the round of 16, where they proved to be a formidable opponent for the Lionesses on their path to the final.

Although both the Super Falcons and the USA faced European champions to a goalless stalemate after 120 minutes of intense football, they eventually fell in the penalty shootout.

While the Super Falcons and the USA exited in the round of 16, the Nigerian team secured their elevated ranking due to their performance in the penalty shootout against Sweden.

The top 10 teams in the Women's World Cup rankings showcase Spain at the pinnacle, followed by England, Sweden, Australia, Japan, France, the Netherlands, Colombia, the USA, and

the Super Falcons of Nigeria, a remarkable inclusion of the Super Falcons of Nigeria, cementing their place among the global football elite.

Shorunmu takes over as Abia Warrior's coach

FORMER Super Eagles goalkeeper Ike Shorunmu has been appointed the goalkeeper coach at NPFL side Abia Warriors Football Club, **Soccernet.ng** reports.

The unveiling ceremony took place on Monday at the club's Secretariat in Umuahia, where the newly appointed Chairman of Abia Warriors, John Obuh, introduced Shorunmu to the team's management.

He expressed optimism that Shorunmu's addition would significantly contribute to the coaching team's capabilities and ultimately benefit the club.

In his response, Ike Shorunmu conveyed his commitment to joining Abia Warriors and expressed confidence in the team's potential for success in the upcoming season.

A statement from the Abia Warriors Media Team, represented by Mr. IgweOnuoha, described this development as "very exciting."

Governor Alex Otti recently appointed Obuh, a former Flying Eagles head coach, to lead the Abia Warriors



Shorunmu ®

Management team, aiming for more efficient management and improved performance.

Born 55 years ago in Lagos, Ike Shorunmu started his football journey in Nigeria, playing for clubs like Stationery Stores, Concord, and Shooting Stars.

He then ventured abroad to Switzerland, where he served as the goalkeeper for Basel and Zürich between 1995 and 1999.

In 1999, Shorunmu made a significant move to Turkish club Beşiktaş J.K., commanding a transfer fee of \$2,400,000.

After two years, he continued his journey, making

Two referees who are members of Nigeria Referees Association (NRA) in Oyo State have died.

The two referees are; Rafiu Opeyemi and Ibikunle Abiodun.

Opeyemi, who until his death was a member of Ona Ara Referees Society.

Opeyemi lost his life on Saturday in a motor accident in Osu, Osun State while returning from Abuja where he had participated in a national fitness test.

Those who sustained injuries during the accident include: Oni Ebenezer Segun, Ajadi Odunayo and Amos, are NRA members from Ogun State Council.

Abiodun from Akinyele Referees Society died earlier on Friday following an illness.

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria

2 Oyo referees die within twenty-four hours

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan

(SWAN) Oyo State chapter confirmed the death of the duo.

SWAN in a statement issued on recently condoled with the state branch of the Nigeria Referees Association (NRA) and the football fraternity over the sudden death of the two referees.

SWAN in the statement signed by its Chairman, Niyi Alebiosu and Secretary, Adewale Tijani, commiserated with the families of the departed referees.

The duo in the statement made available to journalists urged the NRA and sports administrators to immortalise the duo.

SWAN said, "Oyo SWAN calls on the NRA and sports administrators in the state to immortalize the two departed referees for future generations to know their contributions to the development of the game in the state.

"The Association prayed for the families of the deceased to be given the fortitude to bear these irreparable losses their deaths signify.

"Oyo SWAN also prayed for speedy recovery for two other referees who sustained injuries in the fatal accident which claimed the life of Opeyemi last Saturday, Mr Segun Oni and Mr Ajadi Odunayo".

Akpalawants to coach Brugge

Former Super Eagles striker Joseph Akpala has expressed his ambition to coach one of Belgium's most illustrious football clubs, Club Brugge, **Soccernet.ng** reports.

Engaged as an assistant coach with KV Kortrijk following his near two-Newsnow said that, his aspirations extend further, driven by his desire for greater professional heights.

Akpala's history with Club Brugge, where he once graced the pitch and became a beloved figure among fans, underpins his affinity for the club.

During his tenure, he



The former Nigeria international spent four years with the Blue-Blacks in his playing days

achieved significant success, amassing an impressive tally of 57 goals in 167 appearances across various competitions.

The 2008 Belgian First Division top scorer nurtures an unmistakable yearning to return to the Blauw-Zwart side, albeit without labeling it a dream.

He candidly shares, "I wouldn't call it a dream, but if I ever get the chance, I would certainly be happy with it," in an interview with **Krant van West-Vlaanderen**.

What adds a layer of resonance to Akpala's aspirations is his proximity to the Jan Breydel stadium, a mere stone's throw from his residence.

His connection to Club Brugge transcends professional interest; it runs deep, with the Nigerian recalling instances when he actively supported the team, even attending their Champions League matches last season.

Additionally, he pursued an internship there while working towards his coaching diploma.

"So Club Brugge obviously has a place in my heart."

Yet, even as he nurtures ambitions of potentially returning to Club Brugge, Akpala remains genuinely content with his life at KV Kortrijk and in Belgium.

"We are completely settled here, and we want to stay here. Belgium is my second homeland. We are a small country, but everything is perfect here."

Akpala's career, although marked by stints in various football clubs, also boasts a noteworthy international chapter.

Representing Nigeria, he earned nine caps and etched his name in history with a memorable goal in a 1-0 away triumph over France in Saint-Étienne in 2009.

Sports



Doku to join Manchester City for £55.4m

Manchester City have agreed to sign Belgium winger Jeremy Doku from Rennes in a deal worth £55.4m.

BBC SPORT said that, the 21-year-old has scored 12 goals in 92 appearances for the Ligue 1 side.

Doku is poised to become City's third major signing of

the summer, after Mateo Kovacic from Chelsea for £25m and Josko Gvardiol from RB Leipzig for £77m.

He was expected to travel to Manchester on Tuesday to undergo a medical before the 65m euros transfer is completed.

West Ham, Tottenham and Chelsea were also said

to be interested in signing Doku.

Amid the incoming players, Riyad Mahrez left City to join Saudi Pro League side Al-Ahli and former captain Ilkay Gundogan moved to Barcelona.

City have accepted an offer from Al-Nassr for Spain defender Aymeric Laporte and Portuguese full-back Joao Cancelo appears close to joining Barcelona.

Richardson wins 100m gold

Sha'Carri Richardson had warned her 100m rivals all season - but the world's greatest sprinters were helpless to prevent the crowning of a new star in Budapest.

BBC SPORT said that, the 23-year-old American has been claiming "I'm not back, I'm better" to all who doubted her.

As the disbelief at winning subsided - to be replaced by unadulterated joy - the gold medal that was soon around her neck proved that statement was right in emphatic fashion.

Stunning a high-class field from lane nine, Richardson produced a championship record performance of 10.65 seconds - the joint-fifth fastest time ever - to claim gold on her major championship debut.

The outpouring concoction of emotions spoke volumes. It is no secret that Richardson has had to overcome major setbacks at the beginning of a career full of promise.

Having grabbed the world's attention with some scintillating times in April 2021, a one-month anti-doping suspension for marijuana use caused Richardson to miss her first Olympic Games in Tokyo, while she failed to qualify for last year's World Championships in her home country.

The athlete's positive test came after her victory at the Olympic trials, which took place a week after the death of her biological mother. She explained she had used cannabis as a way of coping.

With those experiences behind her, it seemed only a matter of time before her frightening talent would shine

through. Running four of the six fastest times this year, only Jamaican runner-up Shericka Jackson - whose time she has now equalled - had gone quicker in 2023.

And while the Texan's inexperience appeared as though it could derail her medal bid when she finished third and outside of the automatic qualification places in her semi-final, an outside lane draw would not stop her when a big performance mattered most.

"In previous interviews I mentioned that I'm not back, I'm better," Richardson said.

"I'm going to stay humble. I'm not back, I'm better and I'm going to continue to be

better." She added: "I felt that I executed an amazing race for myself, not even knowing where the other ladies were.

"I was by myself in my own world which, honestly, it has been like that all my life.

"I've always been in my own world, my own element, so lane nine was perfect for me to do what it is that I know to do and focus on myself."

Richardson's popular triumph - many in the crowd rose to applaud her as she darted around the track in disorientated euphoria - follows that of compatriot Noah Lyles in the men's 100m on Sunday.

Both American sprinters have emerged as influential personalities capable of



Richardson

Novak Djokovic avenged his Wimbledon final defeat to Carlos Alcaraz by beating the Spaniard in just under four hours to win the Cincinnati Open.

BBC SPORT said that, the Serb survived match point in the second set before going on to win 5-7 7-6 (9-7) 7-6 (7-4).

Top seed Alcaraz beat Djokovic in five sets in last month's Wimbledon final.

"The feeling that I have on the court reminds me a little bit of when I was facing [Rafael] Nadal when we were at our prime," Djokovic said.

"I don't think I've played too many matches like this in my life."

Djokovic compared the draining win to his Australian Open final victory in 2012, when he defeated Nadal in five hours and 53 minutes.

"Each point is a hustle. Each point is a battle. You've got to basically earn every single point, every single shot, regardless of the conditions. It's amazing to be able to experience that with him on the court," Djokovic added.

Despite the defeat, Alcaraz will keep the world number one ranking for his US Open title defence.

However, Djokovic will return to the top of the rankings if he wins just one

transcending the sport - especially at home, where Richardson's nails and tattoos have attracted attention.

Speaking on BBC TV, American eight-time world champion Michael Johnson said: "This is incredibly important because so much has been made of Richardson.

"She's a massive talent. She didn't make the team in Doha and then came back in 2021 and won the trials. Everyone knew who she was after the ban."

He added: "She's very authentic, she doesn't make excuses. I think it's great for the sport because she has a personality that is unmatched. "The sport needs these personalities. The great thing about Richardson and Noah Lyles is they are authentic with it. After Usain Bolt, too many people were trying."

Jackson took silver in 10.72 secs ahead of compatriot and record five-time champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (10.77).

In a star-studded field featuring the current six fastest women in the world, the likes of Marie-Josée Ta Lou and Julien Alfred joined Britain's Dina Asher-Smith in missing out on the medals.

Two-time Olympic champion Fraser-Pryce, whose year has been hampered by a knee injury, told BBC Sport: "I've not won many bronze medals but given the circumstances of how I started the season then it's not bad.

"Being a champion is not all about winning. I'm grateful to have another medal to add to the tally."

Cincinnati Open: Djokovic wins title by beating Alcaraz



Djokovic won a record-extending 39th ATP Masters 1000 title

match at Flushing Meadows.

The world number two moved ahead of Nadal in the all-time men's major list after winning his 23rd Grand Slam title at June's French Open, where he overcame Alcaraz in the semi-finals.

Djokovic and Nadal have faced each other 59 times over the past 17 years, while Alcaraz has played just four matches against Djokovic and is tied with the 36-year-old at 2-2.

"It's amazing playing against you, sharing the court with you, learning from you," said the 20-year-old Alcaraz, who was tearful after the defeat in Ohio on Sunday.

"This match was really close, but I learned a lot from a champion like you. So congratulations to you and your team."

After missing out on match point in the second-set tie-break, Alcaraz found himself 5-3 down in the third, but he saved two match points to pull back to 5-4 before breaking Djokovic's serve to level the set.

Draper marks ATP return with dominant win

Britain's Jack Draper marked his return to the ATP Tour with a straightforward win over Portugal's Nuno Borges at the Winston-Salem Open.

A shoulder injury led to Draper, 21, retiring from his first-round match at the French Open in May.

In his first tournament back, he reached the quarter-finals of last week's Challenger event in Winnipeg.

And the left-hander made swift work of his ATP return, beating world number 79 Borges 6-3 6-1 in just 55 minutes.



Draper

However, Djokovic went 4 up on Alcaraz's serve in the tie-break before winning the next two points to claim victory in three hours and 49 minutes - the longest best-of-three-sets final in ATP Tour history.

"This rivalry just gets better," Djokovic said. "It gets better and better. [He's an] amazing player. Tons of respect for him. For such a young player to show so much poise in important moments is impressive."

"Obviously, three sets today, but almost four hours. You just have to put your hats down to a guy like that. He plays so maturely, handles the pressure so well for a 20-year-old."

"We cannot forget how young he is. That's something that is so impressive about him."

Both players now head to New York for the US Open where Alcaraz will attempt to defend a Grand Slam for the first time, while Djokovic, bidding for a 24th Grand Slam win, returns after missing last year's tournament because of his Covid vaccination status.

Draper's injury against Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry brought a premature end to his French Open senior debut and forced him to miss the grass-court season.

He had dropped to 123rd in the rankings, having been at a career-high 38 in mid-January, but edged back up to 118 after last week's event in Canada.

In the second round in North Carolina, Draper will face Dutch second seed Tallon Griekspoor, who is ranked 25th in the world.



Quest



writer

REUBEN ABATI PhD

FRAGMENT

"Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah belongs in this category. In the late 1980s, the '90s and till date, he has been a shining star of the Catholic Church of Nigeria, who through his example inspires the younger generation, within the priesthood and the general Nigerian community."

REUBEN ABATI

Hassan Kukah at 70: A tribute

MATTHEW Hassan Kukah, the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese who turns 70 tomorrow, August 31, deserves celebration for his service to the church, community, nation, and humanity; and for his achievements as a true citizen who has used his priestly circumstances, boundless energy and prodigious intellect to promote the causes of justice and the common good. He stands shoulders above many of his contemporaries in his many engagements in the last four decades. He has been a priest for close to 50 years, but his range of influence goes beyond the pulpit to include scholarship, public intellectualism, civil society advocacy and the courage to provide leadership, even in the most difficult situations. He is easily one of the best-known faces of the Catholic faith and priesthood in Nigeria. He remains an admirable advertisement of the virtues of Catholicism and the Church.

I am not a Catholic but I admire the Catholic Church, owing largely to my interaction over the years with Catholic priests like Bishop Kukah. I like the fact that the Catholic Church in Nigeria invests heavily in the training and education of its priests. It is mostly in the Catholic Church that you would find such exemplary priests who are usually educated to the highest levels possible. Many Catholic priests parade Ph.Ds as if it is a minimum qualification, and in most cases Catholic priests display other skills, with language, research, public engagements, and an unusual hunger for knowledge. Over time, the Anglican Church has also shown a similar



Kukah

commitment to the education of its priests, but the Catholic Church remains far ahead. In a country where many pastors and priests are at best spellbinders, hypnotists and clownish motivational speakers, and petty merchants with very little knowledge of the Holy Book, it is ever so refreshing to attend a Church or listen to a priest who speaks from an abundance of insight and talent. Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah belongs in this category. In the late

1980s, the '90s and till date, he has been a shining star of the Catholic Church of Nigeria, who through his example inspires the younger generation, within the priesthood and the general Nigerian community.

I first met him on the pages of newspapers through his writings. In those days, the opinion pages of newspapers were dominated by persons of high intellect, most of whom dissected issues of the day, in beautiful prose, and with great erudition. Fr. Matthew

Kukah, as he then was, was one of the most prolific, churning out essays, week after week. Those were the days of intimidating columnists and contributors on the op-ed pages: to have your essay published on the same page with a Matthew Kukah, Pat Utomi, Herbert Ekwe-Ekwe, Chinweizu, Sonala Olumhense, Odia Ofeimun, Olatunji Dare, Edwin Madunagu, Biodun Jeyifo, Wole Soyinka, Femi Osofisan, Pini Jason, Andy Akporugo, Stanley Macebuh, Fred Onyeoziri, Emevwo Biakolo, Amma Ogan, Sully Abu, Effiong Essien, Ashikiwe Adione-Egom...was like winning a jackpot. Many of us framed the pages, and looked up to the big names. The times are different today. Our newspapers have stopped serving culture and society and the reader as spaces for great intellection, the tradition of old has been replaced by "opinionitis", a very dangerous disease which pushes just about anyone to think they can inflict bad prose and

thoughts on a vanishing breed of readers anyway. Matthew Kukah's contributions to public discourse was frequent, and often well-received. He was not afraid of debates or intellectual pugilism. In those days, one subject on the pages of a newspaper could result in months of rigorous debate, from a multi-disciplinary perspective, by persons who respected each other's intellect but nevertheless had the capacity to weave words into prose and good sense. This was the tradition that we grew into, from university to the field. Kukah was a major source of inspiration and a good sport. Many of his opinion pieces and extended essays remain timeless.

Bishop Kukah's stature began to flower, even more so in his position at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria: he was first a Deputy Secretary General, then he became the Secretary-General of the Catholic Secretariat, located in Lagos, directly opposite Tafawa Balewa Square or Race Course as it was originally known. Under his watch as leader of that Secretariat, it became an important intellectual rendezvous for civil society groups and public intellectuals in the entire Southern Nigeria. Kukah built a very strong relationship with the media, promoting, most actively, both the Catholic Church, and the activities of the Catholic Bishops Conference, focusing on issues of justice, peace and development. When Nigeria descended into chaos in 1993, with the annulment of the June 12 1993 Presidential election, church and society rose against the impunity of the military establishment, and called for an end to military rule and respect for the people's sovereignty. The majority spoke with one voice that military absolutism had defeated the purpose of good governance and that it was time for the Nigerian military to go. The Catholic Church spoke truth to power on the pulpit and on the streets. Leaders of other churches – the Anglican, the Methodist and Pentecostal Churches also joined the protest.

To be concluded

"When Nigeria descended into chaos in 1993, with the annulment of the June 12 1993 Presidential election, church and society rose against the impunity of the military establishment, and called for an end to military rule and respect for the people's sovereignty. The majority spoke with one voice that military absolutism had defeated the purpose of good governance and that it was time for the Nigerian military to go. The Catholic Church spoke truth to power on the pulpit and on the streets. Leaders of other churches – the Anglican, the Methodist and Pentecostal Churches also joined the protest."