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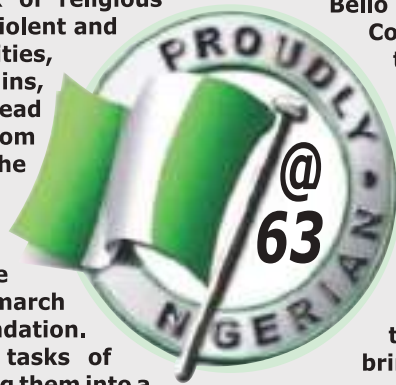
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Whither Nigeria @63

Nigeria's modern history is a story replete with conflicts, corruption, simmering ethnic tension and a combustible mix of religious differences which have often led to the outburst of violent and often virulent conflicts. Despite these complexities, however, which have sometimes caused serious strains, the country always seems to find a strand of thin thread which in the end, holds it together and brings it back from the precipice leaving it united in the face of all the contradictions.

Since securing independence on October 1, 1960 from Britain, the country had struggled with one form of conflict or the other. The challenges which greeted the early independence period were sign posts that our march to nationhood began on a rather faulty and shaky foundation. Our leaders were ill prepared for the ominous tasks of galvanizing the disparate groups together and weaving them into a nation state.

Right from the early days, our leaders did not show they truly understood what it meant to pursue nationalistic and integrative goals. Instead, they dwelt more on things that served to promote their regions at the expense of the whole country.



This was typified by the emergence of regional political parties. Ahmadu Bello was for instance, able to have his Northern People's Congress capture the entire Northern part of the country. So too was Obafemi Awolowo in the South West and Nnamdi Azikiwe in the East. This, did not only instigate unhealthy rivalry amongst the political parties but also led to infighting in the parties. The operation "wetin" in the South West was a clear testimony to the dangerous path towed by the political gladiators and parties when Akintola felt he needed to upset Awolowo in whichever way possible to grab power.

The confusion resulted into civil disobedience and political protest, thuggery and a host of unsavory actions leading to the breakdown of law and order and consequently bringing to an end the First Republic. This in turn led to the civil war and the many coups and counter coups which characterised the country until recently.

Fast forward to 1999, when the General Abdulsalam Abubakar regime handed over to the democratically elected Obasanjo administration, a glimmer of light was shone at the end of the tunnel. However, it did not

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Whither Nigeria @63

turn out to be so. The Niger Delta debacle that was handed to the democratically elected Obasanjo government was the first litmus test for our democracy. When we were not able to get it right and handle it properly, it opened the doorway for other agitations. Because justice was not served, others felt the best means to attract attention was to resort to self-help. And by self-help, it meant forcing the attention of the state by causing it to notice their activities, albeit forcefully. The language of force became the norm. It was as if we were all waiting for the military to retreat so that we unleash and vent our bundled-up anger on ourselves.

This, however has been so because we have failed to serve justice and fairness at the right time. Some people have been treated as unequal partners in the enterprise called Nigeria while others have had to struggle to make life worth living without safeguards being provided for them to thrive. Resources meant to serve the generality of the public were cornered by a few, leaving the majority to wallow in abject poverty and want. State funds were and are still being used to the advantage of a few. The rest are considered as the dregs of the society, who deserve nothing but suffering.

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

How can we return to the path of growth and unity? Justice must be served to all manner of people. The people must be treated as equals not one tribe lording it over others. Our leaders must rise to the protection of the people whenever an injustice is done to anyone not just their own. They must not allow people to begin to agitate before doing what they are paid to do, nor should they be compelled to do what they should have ordinarily done without promptings.

But has our democracy paid off? No is the emphatic chorus that would greet such a question. Our infrastructure is in shambles. Our education is on life support and our health facilities is comatose. Our doctors and other health professionals have *japad* to other climes and we are not doing anything to breathe life back to these facilities.

Venture engaging in road travels to any part of the country and if you come out alive, you would live to tell a story. The roads are not only death traps but insurgencies and kidnappings have taken over them and would not allow safe travels. Railways which could have provided an alternative, are in themselves not safe. And to cap it all, air travels is way out of the reach of the common man.

Apart from the obvious disregard for the plight of the ordinary person, government needs to look again at some of its policies. The fuel subsidy removal for example, might have been well intentioned but the way government went about it was reckless and unwise. If measures were put in place to cushion its effects, maybe things might have turned out differently.

At 63, therefore, we cannot afford to be where we are today. We should be able to stand on our own in the comity of nations. If Malaysia took palm seedlings from us and are today world leading producers of palm oil products, then we have no business importing palm oil products. We should be ashamed of telling the world that we are the giant of Africa when in actual fact, we cannot refine petroleum products for our local consumption.

The present administration must, as a matter of policy work at changing the narrative and indeed, the attitude of Nigerians. We must believe in our country and make it work for all of us. Running to other countries to become second class citizens, would not help our cause, neither would it make us any better. We owe generations yet unborn the debt of making Nigeria, a country blessed with abundant resources, work and become the pride of our continent. This should be our goal from now going forward.

Labour adamant, shuns meeting with FG

Leaders of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and their Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC) counterparts, on Friday, shunned a meeting called by the Federal Government, over the planned nationwide strike from October 3.

Labour Unions had at a joint press conference held in Abuja, on Tuesday, declared an indefinite nationwide strike from October 3, following the Federal Government's failure to address the hardship inflicted on Nigerians by the removal of fuel subsidy.

The source reports that the Federal Government, in a last minute effort to avert the planned strike by the Unions, had summoned an emergency meeting for Friday evening.

However, in a response to the invitation, the Unions in a joint letter signed by Emmanuel Ugboaja, NLC's General

Secretary and Nuhu Toro, TUC's Secretary General, said the invitation came late, as they had scheduled engagements outside Abuja, the federal capital. Labour, however, requested for a new date next week.

The letter reads: "We extend our warm regards to you and the entire team at your Ministry.

"We wish to express our sincere regrets for our inability to attend the proposed meeting between us and the Federal Government, scheduled for today the 29th Day of September due to already scheduled engagements our officials have outside Abuja.

"Regrettably, the short notice provided for this meeting has posed significant logistical challenges for the majority of our leadership, rendering their participation unfeasible at this time.

"In light of this, and in the interest of ensuring that any discussions held are



Ajaero

representative of the NLC's and TUC's collective stance, we find it imperative to request the rescheduling of the meeting.

"We trust that this request for a rescheduled meeting will be taken into consideration, and we look forward to your understanding in this matter."

Block all financial leakages, Mutfwang tells RMAFC

By PETER TITLE

Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State, has enjoined the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), to block all financial leakages in government and its agencies as well as resolve the lingering contentious of stamp duties in the country.

He made this assertion when the RMAFC officials led by Hajiya Hawwa Umar Aliyu paid him a courtesy visit recently at the New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos.

According to Governor Mutfwang, their working visit to Plateau State was timely and promised to accord them the

necessary support in order to succeed in their task ahead.

He described it as an important federation agency which belonged to the interest of the federation and urged them to be transparent in all their transactions at all times.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation, Hajiya Hawwa Umar Aliyu, who is the Federal Commissioner, Jigawa State, intimated Governor Mutfwang that they were in the state for monitoring and recovery exercise on tax liabilities owed by states, state MDAs and local government councils.

According to her, Plateau State Government and Local Government Councils owed a

substantial amount which needed to have been settled but is yet to be settled. She affirmed that their visit was to ascertain the payment of the already established liabilities which arose from the joint exercise of 2021.

Hajiya Hauwa further noted that they were in the state to also conduct new exercises covering the 2008 to 2010 Withholding Tax (WHT) and VAT as well as WHT, VAT and SD for the period of 2017 to 2018.

According to the Federal Commissioner, they would also sensitise the officials of the states and Local Government Councils on remittance of deducted taxes as at when due.

Tinubu, Sultan beg labour to shelve planned strike

S'ad Abubakar, the Sultan of Sokoto and president-general of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) has appealed to labour unions to shelve the nationwide strike slated to commence on Tuesday, October 3.

The unions have fixed the date to embark on an indefinite strike following the Federal Government's inability to put measures in place to mitigate the devastating effects of the petrol subsidy removal on the citizens.

Abubakar, at a public lecture to



Abubakar

mark the nation's 63rd independence anniversary on Friday in Abuja, urged them to sheath their swords "in the interest of the masses".

He emphasised the need for dialogue to find solutions to the issues "instead of embarking on a strike".

I am an advocate of dialogue because strikes don't solve problems; they make them worse. Our leaders must tighten their belt, the common man is suffering.

"I don't think this government will just decide to make life bad for the people; as leaders and elders, we will always call on stakeholders not to embark on journeys that will make life worse for the common man.

"I don't think government can take it upon itself to make life unbearable for the common man, let's give them a chance and see what they can do," he said.

According to him, the strike will add more problems to the existing economic situation.

If people are on strike, there wouldn't be electricity, water, hospital and transportation system.

"Please, let's reach out to our brothers and sisters who are clamouring to go on strike. They

should have a rethink," Sultan appealed.

On his part, Barau Jibrin, the deputy Senate president, who represented President Bola Tinubu, also appealed to the unions to give the government more time to address the issues.

Tinubu announced that the Federal Government is determined to address the socio-economic challenges facing Nigeria.


"I want to emphasise as well that this government is new and the government is doing all within its powers to make sure it brings succour to the entire people of this country.

The government has already gone ahead to provide N500 billion to states to cushion the effects of subsidy removal.

The president urged members of the unions to consider dialogue as the best way to resolve the issues.


"The sultan also talked about the issue of strike by the NLC. Please, on behalf of the President and the entire government, this is not the time for a strike. It is too early.

"Please let's dialogue, let's get together, let's understand ourselves and let us look at the prevailing situation in the country," he said. NAN



With
**Katdapba
Y. Gobum**
On Sunday

gobum_katt@yahoo.co.uk 07037977744 (sms)



It is not out of place to state that, Nigerians are despondent on many fronts. Apart from being named as the world's capital of poverty, there are many things working against us for the wrong reasons. Ordinary (sorry, I mean), majority of Nigerians go to sleep on empty stomachs, as the cost of living does not favour the people. Most Nigerians live from hand to mouth and are worried that if things continue in this fashion, the country will be in for the worse.

Today, Nigeria is celebrating its 63rd independence anniversary. As much as I love my country, I have refrained from celebrating its attainment of nationhood. There are many reasons, which we have repeatedly said should be looked into; it is not about being unpatriotic.

I know of many who also have reasons not to join the bandwagon in celebrating the anniversary. For us, it should be time for stocktaking; reflecting on where the journey has taken us to, and expecting Nigerian leaders to direct the course of the journey.

As it is, this year's will be the first to be celebrated by those whose tenures just started in May. At the federal level to state levels, the tempo of the celebration may depend on a number of obvious reasons.

The celebrations may be in various shades; all planned to satisfy the complexities of the issues at hand. And there are many that may have risen in each case in the various states. That is why each state is celebrating according to its complexities and circumstances.

First of all, the prevailing financial standings of most of the states are worrisome. The cost of governance takes the largest chunk of the savings of the states. Most of the states have literally abandoned all capital projects they embarked upon or are even thinking of starting new ones.

There are more abandoned projects than are new ones. Funds are indeed scarce to come by. Some of the states have used the resources for other purposes that are not productive for them.

In fact, some of them have squandered the limited resources available to them for political purposes. There are some of the governors who have always used state resources for other reasons other than what they are meant for. The new entrants may be exempted. No wonder, many sectors are suffering needing intervention urgently.

Interestingly, the issue of internally generated revenue in states has increased phenomenally, thanks to the fact most states have up their revenue profile, ostensibly to help develop them.

The issue of insecurity and the harsh economic realities have taken off the shine off the celebration in the nation. There is no state that has no complaint of one security challenge or another. Communities no longer sleep with their eyes closed. No one is sure of what will happen the next hour. Communities have been desecrated, to the point that there are more camps of internally displaced persons in our villages and towns than ever.

Everyone knows that it is the responsibility of government to protect lives and property, but to think that it is always the reverse speaks volumes of what to expect the government to pursue in order to reassure Nigerians of their safety.

Nigeria is a nation in search of leaders; the older ones do not want to give younger Nigerians, or are not prepared to mentor them for

Nigeria @63: Why are we celebrating?



power. That being the case, there are lots of young people that are today frustrated on account of lack of jobs. There is a monopoly of the recycling of leadership over the years; and it does appear it will be here for long with us.

Millions of young men and women have, thankfully with pains, been educated and may have even gone ahead to serve the nation; yet they are still roaming the streets in search for non-existent jobs. No wonder, there is anger, animosity in the minds of younger Nigerians.

Now the youths think they have been educated on what best they can do to 'free' themselves from the shackles of domination they perceived is being encouraged by the long stay of the older hands in power. But sadly for the youths, they have continued to be used for the wrong reasons by the older ones as thugs and all manner of negative tendencies.

Handling the youth has either been misunderstood or not taken as a project; given the army of unemployed roaming the streets in Nigeria. There are some of them who have been empowered repeatedly; while others haven't been, no wonder that has made them mad.

The state is the worst for it, as the army of the unemployed has turned out to be legions of armed bandits, kidnapers and insurgents terrorizing people and communities. Our communities and neighbourhoods are no longer safe anymore for living and business.

It is not out of place to state that, Nigerians are despondent on many fronts. Apart from being named as the world's capital of poverty, there are many things working against us for the wrong reasons. Ordinary (sorry, I mean), majority of Nigerians go to sleep on empty stomachs, as the cost of living does

not favour the people. Most Nigerians live from hand to mouth and are worried that if things continue in this fashion, the country will be in for the worse.

It has been reiterated in leader story of The Nigeria Standard on October 2, 2022 and would like to share it thus: Sixty-three years down the line, our democratic experience has shown that despite the vast human and material resources at Nigeria's disposal, we are yet to make significant progress and take its rightful place in the comity of advanced nations'.

It continued: 'Today however, the situation still remains almost the same if not worse than when we started from the onset at independence. It is a sad commentary that the Nigerian masses have been deprived of their right to growth and development for over 62 years by a few misled military opportunists and their civilian collaborators.'

'The real issue is that the state of the Nigerian nation now is that of hopelessness and is so monumental that majority of the citizens have even wondered whether the country is under a spell especially with the mirage of institutional decay and social ills ranging from corruption, cronyism, poverty, cultism, violent crimes, terrorism, banditry, kidnapping and other social menace in the society.'

'We now have a crop of ethnic bigots masquerading as leaders who have polarized the nation along sectional lines and interest while the society on a daily basis continues to disintegrate due to political, religious and ethnic cleavages. It is clear that our system has broken down as we are now faced with institutional crisis with evidence of collapse while our so-called elected leaders continue to feed fat from the state treasury at the expense of the tax payers'.

That is not what the founding fathers may have conceived concerning what

tendency.

Even though those who should know pretend as if all is well with the people, and never saying anything about the people's concerns.

They know it has been planned to go that way. Religion and ethnicity play a part never seen before in the annals of the history of the country; perhaps that is why even when some leaders are accused of sleaze, and depleting our common till, they don't get to face the wrath of the law, as they are the favoured ones.

Until corruption and other vices are dealt with quickly, there is no way that we will be satisfied with our state of stunted development. We are in it because we are led by leaders who put self first; they come into various offices without a blue print, unprepared for the mission they are embarking upon.

No wonder, midway through the journey, they run out of ideas that may change the state of the states or governments. They employ all manners of charlatans, who are not ready to disagree with their principals; only so if they can keep their jobs and or remain relevant in the scheme of things.

Governments don't survive that way; neither do they make any impact on this basis. They say, ideas rule the world, therefore, that being the case, it is expected that anyone coming government must be prepared by working on a blue print that would run for four or eight years as the case might be. Those who are bereft of ideas often falter and show eminent signs that they were not prepared for leadership.

Take the issue of internally generated revenue in the states; whereas some of them have made tremendous show of the idea on using what is available in the states for development, some of the states have remained stuck to receiving hand outs from the federal coffers. In this case, it will be difficult to eke out development of any sort, except payment of salaries that are difficult for some of the states for years.

Imagine that in the 21st century, university teachers were out of the lecture theatres from February 2022 until October. Since then, there was no success in negotiations between the Association of Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Federal Government. One can only imagine what the students and parents went through, however, Nigerians are as worried as this remained unresolved for long.

Nigerians are worried as the running battle continued for a long period. ASUU rightly believed strongly in the struggle, as they know the funds that are being frittered away by government officials would have been used to settle what they are asking for.

If certain individuals are being accused of sleaze in hundreds of billions and at the same time government is saying there are no funds to pay ASUU; it should be reason enough to ask questions.

On this march to the 64th, who knows, this could be the road to the dream we all have longed for as a nation. Whoever wins the presidency must be our guide to get us out of the woods.

building. We are yet out of the above



Professionalism versus quackery

Human capital abounds in Nigeria. The only bother is the quality. There's no problem with the quantity because every year our tertiary institutions churn them out in millions for professionals trained in school. Unfortunately, it would seem, some went through school but school didn't go through them.

One Business and Finance diploma graduate was honest enough to tell me that he graduated with very good grades. The problem is that he can't defend his certificate. He said money did the magic for him.

From the first day he was admitted into University of Jos, Centre for Continuing Education, located at Gangare, he never lifted a finger to write an assignment or test. He was referred to one young man who gladly wrote everything, including his examinations for a good price.

Today he is employed and earning good money with the certificate. What quality job would come out from such a person who admitted that he cannot even define banking and finance? Sadly, a job was waiting for him immediately after his National Youth Service Corps year.

Rebecca's encounter with quack made her to lose confidence in Nigeria's young doctors. She was ill and needed immediate attention. It so happened that public hospitals were on strike, so she and her sister entered the first hospital that they saw.

In their haste, they didn't notice that in spite of the fact that public hospitals were on strike, the hospital was still empty. She was immediately ushered in to see the doctor. The doctor could not hide his excitement when he noticed that Rebecca was visibly pregnant. But his hopes were dashed when she told him that she had been treated with chloroquine for malaria and the aftermath was worse than the malaria. She was there, she told him, for an alternative treatment.

The doctor excused himself for about 20 minutes. Uncomfortable with his silence, Rebecca went after him and found him hidden in a room in the rear of the hospital, engrossed in reading a medical book. Embarrassed, he apologised that he would be with her shortly. Rebecca said she ran for her life, after getting the message that the doctor was reading his book to come and treat her sickness.

It was after they ran out and were taking a break at a shop in the vicinity that she found out that the clinic is notorious for abortion and nothing else. Unbelievable that someone will go through medical school and come out and specialise in destroying life. It does not make sense. People like this have decided to work contrary to the vows they took before they began practicing their profession.

This brings to mind the recent case of the Jos fake doctor that was harvesting people's organs. Unfortunately, he was only discovered after decades of practice, harvesting his patients' vital organs. He was living a life of opulence, a respected member of the society.

Even the eagle eyes of the white men could not pick him out. It was said he used to travel outside the country. Thank God, the long arm of the law has caught up with him.

Sadly, there are many examples of quacks in the medical field. A lady described how she went for malaria treatment but was asked to undress except for her pants. She said she almost slept on the examination bed when she felt the old doctor's mouth on her breast. Fortunately for him, her eyes were closed due to embarrassment that she was almost naked before her father's friend. However, it took the grace of God, not the doctor's pleading for her not to call her father's attention. He was waiting patiently in the waiting room.

The lady above said since that experience, she developed an aversion to hospitals. She became guilty of self-medication until recently.

Another lady said she almost lost her life after giving birth. She discovered that the area where she was torn up after her private part would not stop itching her. It became worse when it began to stink, followed instantly by pus dripping from the area. This forced the hospital to book her for a surgery. What they discovered made heads roll. Whoever cleaned her up after the baby was removed, forgot to remove the pad and cotton wool. I leave the rest to your imagination.

The above lady suffered avoidable pain. She was placed on very strong antibiotics because of the infection that had set in. What she went through was not only painful, or a waste of resources, expensive but life threatening. She suffered and so did her baby. It was a very trying time for her whole family. All of this because of somebody's carelessness.

My family would have been roasted due to the activities of a quack electrician. We had to pack into our house in a hurry even though it was uncompleted due to insecurity. Plateau State was embroiled in crises and we were living in an area that was unfriendly to our religion. That meant fixing electricity in a hurry. One of our masons introduced someone to us, whose job can only be described as 'trial and error'. Power came everywhere and we were happy. What we didn't know was that the connection inside the roof was something else.

One day we noticed that smoke was coming from inside the roof. And one by one, different light switches were refusing to turn on. Thankfully, when we got in touch with the electrician, he was busy. We were forced to get a professional. This man exclaimed in shock when he saw the terrible job done by the first electrician. He found several fuses burnt. And explained that our whole house could have gone up in flames if things were left as they were. That was how bad it was.

One of the issues that contribute to quacks in the system is students not allowed to read what they are passionate about. This could be influenced by parents or tertiary institutions giving admissions to those who can pay them for it, while others make do with whatever they are given.

Our systems need to be restructured for us to get it right. Certificate is not enough that can be bought. We need to plead with each other's conscience. Be your brothers' keeper.

NEWS

By PETER TITLE

We'll unlock Plateau's tourism potentials - Governor Mutfwang

GOVERNOR Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State has reiterated his administration's unwavering dedication to unlocking the immense tourism potential of the state for its comprehensive growth.

This was disclosed in a statement signed by the Director of Press Affairs to the Governor, Mr Gyang Bere in commemoration of the 2023 World Tourism Day recently. Governor Mutfwang emphasized that the tag "Home of Peace and Tourism" for Plateau State was a well-deserved recognition of the state's abundant tourism treasures.

He affirmed that the government has taken decisive strides to cultivate numerous tourist sites across the state through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

This initiative, he said, aims to boost internal revenue generation and generate substantial employment opportunities for the youth.

Governor Mutfwang noted with pride that Plateau is a distinguished tourist haven within Nigeria, considering its tranquil climate that captivates tourists worldwide. He explained that it is in view of this that his administration is committed to reestablishing enduring peace and rejuvenating many of the state's tourist attractions for the greater



Mutfwang

welfare of its citizens. through PPP arrangements,

He stated, "Our goal is to and promote the arts while position Plateau State as nurturing the talents of our one of Nigeria's foremost youth in arts and crafts."

tourist destinations. We Governor Mutfwang will harness the state's assured that special diverse tourism assets, attention would be directed including Assop Falls, Kurra towards completing and Falls, Hawan Kibo Mountain efficiently utilizing the Luka Range, Jos Wildlife Park, as Bentu Theatre for the well as the enchanting benefit of the people in the water bodies such as state

Rayfield Resort and Yelwa Governor Mutfwang Club Lake, not to forget the extended his warm wishes remarkable rock to the people of Plateau as formations like Shere Hills, they celebrated the World Waste, and Riyom. Tourism Day and urged

"We will actively support them to uphold the law, and organize the embrace peace, and work hospitality industry in the collaboratively towards a state, revamp and restock united and harmonious the Jos Wildlife Park state.

Stallion Times trains journalists on 'Multimedia Newsroom'

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

NO fewer than forty practicing journalists in Kogi were recently, trained on Multimedia Journalism by Stallion Times Communication Outlet.

Isiyaku Ahmed, Project Coordinator of the organization in his welcome address, said that the training, funded by MacArthur Foundation, is aimed at enhancing media practitioners' efficiency on the job of information dissemination.

Ahmed said that the gesture is also in line with his organisation's drive to boost digital journalism practice across the country.

He disclosed that the training centres on three main objectives. Namely: "To understand the Multimedia Newsroom design and workflow, know the roadmap of a story in a Multimedia Newsroom and to appreciate the use of technology to deliver investigative report in a blend of text, static, images, animation, video and audio clips".

"I am very optimistic that at the end of the one-day training, beneficiaries would have been heavily equipped

participants on Multimedia information dissemination via Multimedia Technology.

"Kindly ensure that you make judicious use of the skills acquired in reporting your immediate society adequately", the Project Coordinator appealed.

Resource Persons at the workshop, Stephen Salawu and Lukman Abdul lectured

participants on Multimedia Awareness, Concept and Effective use of Multimedia as well as Essential Skills, Tools for Multimedia Journalism. Participants at the workshop were selected from electronic, print and social media platforms reflecting all channels of communication to the people worldwide.



Ahmed

NEWS

'My victory at Tribunal is God'

From **TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi**

Governor Hyacinth Iormem Alia of Benue State says his victory at the tribunal was purely an act of God, democracy and the rule of law.

Reacting to the Saturday September 23rd, 2023 judgment delivered by Election Petitions Tribunal sitting in Makurdi, Governor Alia said the court has indicated once again that it was the last hope of the common man and that no might is powerful enough to thwart the supreme will of the people and claim power through the back door.

He assured people of the state that he was committed to putting the welfare of the state ahead of himself and appreciated the fact that his victory was that of the people to whom sovereignty and power truly belongs.



Alia

Governor Alia rededicated himself to the service of the people and strengthening of democratic values across the state.

He enjoined members of the opposition to put all hands on deck to ensure that the state moves away from the current mess of

misery, poverty and maladministration.

It will be recalled that the Governorship Election Petitions Tribunal sitting in Makurdi recently revalidated Governor Dr. Hyacinth Alia's victory as the duly elected governor of the state.

Court validates Gov Alia's victory

From **TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi**

The Benue State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Makurdi has upheld the victory of Gov Hyacinth Alia of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the March 18th, 2023 Governorship Election.

Delivering the judgment, Chairman of the panel, Justice Ibrahim Karaye held that the Tribunal lacked jurisdiction to entertain pre-election issues raised by the petitioners, Titus Uba and the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

Karaye who read the unanimous judgment stated that only the Federal High Court has the exclusive jurisdiction to entertain issues bothering on pre-election matters.

He further said the petitioner's case was also an abuse of court processes because the same case was filed by the petitioners before the Federal High Court Abuja Division and its judgement was not challenged by the petitioners.

He said the petitioners lacked locus standi to challenge the nomination of the 2nd and 3rd respondent by the 4th respondent since they were not members of the 4th respondent.

Justice Karaye further said the petitioners failed to prove their allegations of forgery against the 3rd respondent before the tribunal.

He said the 2nd and 3rd respondents were qualified to contest the March 18th governorship

election and therefore dismissed the case.

The Petitioners; Titus Uba and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) had dragged the respondents; INEC, Hyacinth Alia, Dr Sam Ode and the All Progressives Congress (APC) before the Tribunal challenging their declaration by the INEC.

They argued that the 2nd and 3rd respondents, Gov Alia and Dr Ode were at the time of contesting the election, not qualified to contest the March 18th governorship election.

They averred that the 4th respondent, the APC did not follow the provisions of the law in the nomination of the governorship and deputy governorship candidates.

They also alleged that the 3rd respondent had presented a forged certificate to the 1st respondent, INEC therefore should be disqualified.

They therefore, prayed among other things, for the nullification of their election and declaration of the petitioners winners of the said election having scored second highest lawful votes.

However, the respondents in their counter argument urged the tribunal to dismiss the suit in its entirety as it was abuse of court processes.

The respondents stated that the Federal High Court, Abuja Division had before the election delivered judgment on the same matter which was filed by the petitioners but they did not appeal the



Karaye

judgment till date.

They also said the issues raised were all pre-election matters and only the Federal High Court has the exclusive jurisdiction to entertain the same.

The 2nd and 3rd respondents clearly stated that since the prayers sought by the petitioners

By **PAULINE DALLONG**

To mark his one hundred (100) days in office, the member representing Kanke Constituency at the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Joseph G. Gokum has empowered widows and presented items to other beneficiaries from his constituency.

The beneficiaries include the Director General Gyem Juryil Campaign Organization, eighteen (18) ward coordinators, three (3) zonal coordinators, thirty one (31) delegates and two hundred (200) widows/beneficiaries. Items presented include musical instruments, 40 leaves exercise books and cash incentives.

In his opening speech during the occasion which took place at Sharam, Kanke Local Government Area, the lawmaker said the gesture was in fulfillment of the promises made which is to render quality service and assistance to his people

100 days in office: Lawmaker empowers widows, others



Gokum

who gave him the mandate to serve.

According to him, as the commemoration of his hundred days in office drew near, he thought to himself that what better way to mark it than to identify and celebrate with his constituents by sharing in some of their problems.

Hon. Gokum who said he grew up in poverty, without access to three square meals each day, assured that he will continue to look for ways of assisting the poor of the poorest members of his constituency.

Also present at the occasion, is the member representing Pankshin North Constituency and YPP Whip, Hon. Gabriel Dewan Kadengbenna who said he was in Kanke to support and show solidarity to his colleague and brother, who is celebrating his hundred days in office.

Hon. Kadengbenna emphasized on the need for the people to be united, adding that they must understand that their representative is of the opposition and might not get enough resources. As such, they should be appreciative

of the little while advising those who may not get to exercise patience.

According to him, Kanke constituency is made up of eighteen wards while that of Pankshin is about ten. He advised the people to be wary of comparison, and that as lawmakers each have their different agendas and blueprint.

He however, disclosed that as members of the state assembly, no dime has yet been given to any member as constituency allowance, stating that people seeing them doing one or two things think they collected money for it.

Highlight of the occasion was the presentation of a modern set of musical instruments to Pargol Dance Group, an Ngas cultural group based in Kanke, exercise books to primary school pupils and cash incentives to about two hundred beneficiaries.

One of the beneficiaries, Nde Anthony, who is the leader of the Pargol Dance Group, expressed gratitude to the lawmaker for the gesture, promising that they will be used to further promote the Ngas culture and heritage to the world.

PDP rejects Kaduna Elections Tribunal judgement

From **John FWAH, KADUNA**

THE Kaduna State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), has rejected the judgment of the Governorship Election Petitions Tribunal affirming the election of Governor Uba Sani of the All Progressives Congress (APC). It stated that it would seek legal redress at the Court of Appeal.

The party, in a statement recently, signed by its state Publicity Secretary, Alberah Catoh, said a review with its team of lawyers, indicated that the judgment did not meet the requirements of substantive justice.

The reaction came hours after the tribunal sitting in

Kaduna upheld Sani's election. It further argued that the verdict was not in alignment with extant electoral laws, guidelines and regulations.

"The party has accordingly directed its lawyers to appeal the judgment at the Court of Appeal, Abuja within the timeframe specified by law," the statement added.

The party urges its teeming supporters across the state to be calm and of good cheer in the faith that they would ensure justice is served.

According to him, as the Director General of the Campaign Committee Council in Sokoto, everything needed for the success of the elections have already been provided while others are

awaiting their time.

He then urged them to always investigate hearsays and rumors before acting.

The meeting that ended late evening had in attendance all the party executives, contestants and major stakeholders.



Sani



Ministry of Information and Communication

Happy 63rd Independence Anniversary



THE Honourable Commissioner of Information and Communication Plateau State, **Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms** on behalf of the Permanent Secretary, Directors and entire staff of the Ministry of information and Communication warmly rejoices with the President and Commander-in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR)**, the Vice President, **Senator, Kashim Shetima (GCON)** the Senate President, **Senator Goodwill Akpabio**, the Honourable Speaker House of Representatives, **Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas**, Chief Justice of the Federation, **Justice Olukayode Ariwoola** and all members of the National Assembly on this auspicious day of Nigeria's 63rd Independence anniversary.

We also congratulate our amiable Governor, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, Deputy Governor, **Ngo Josephine Chundung** Piyo, the speaker, Plateau House of Assembly, **Rt. Hon. Moses Thomas Sule** and members of the state Executive Council, the Chief Judge, **Justice David Gwong Mann**, the Chairman and members of the state Traditional Council, and indeed the entire citizens of Plateau State, as we celebrate Nigeria's 63rd Independence Anniversary.

For us in the Ministry, we particularly appreciate the political will demonstrated by our dear governor towards repositioning the Information sector in the state and the deliberate policies put on ground for a sustainable peace being enjoyed in the state. We pledge our total loyalty, commitment and unflinching support to the "TIME IS NOW" Team in delivering dividends of Democracy to Plateau citizens.

LONG LIVE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
LONG LIVE PLATEAU STATE
LONG LIVE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION

Signed:
Musa Ibrahim Ashoms



Hon. Ashoms

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 (21) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Lucky Dashe Ponzing Miri late of Plateau State died on the 31st December 2014 at Langtang LGA Plateau State.	John Goselle of No., 18 Sani Abacha Road Mararaba Nassarawa State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	James Obega Bolorunduro late of Edo State died on the 9th July 2023 at Okpe Akoko Edo State.	James Eshileni Damilola of No. 3A Secretariat Road Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Gutuwan Sunday late of Plateau State died on the 3rd August 2023 at Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Nandom Sunday of Angwan Sarki Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Pam Roselyn Garos late of Plateau State died on the 25th May 2023 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Pam Ishaya Gwom of Mazaram Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	Esther Pam Davou late of Plateau State died on the 27th March 2019 at Jos, Plateau State.	Davou Pam Davou Takum Gyel, Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	William Watai Dakup late of Plateau State died on the 20th June 2023 at Langtang, South LGA Plateau State.	Donald Michael Yenkwap of Diye Bal Zaramaganda Rayfield Road Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Grandson of the said deceased
SGT. Joseph Baba Shem late of Plateau State died on the 21st March, 2011 at General Hospital Samunaka Kaduna State.	Peter Simon & Joseph Abigail Shem. All of S.D.A. Church Maji Bakwai Lere LGA, Kaduna State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.	Ajang Agwom Musa late of Plateau State died on the 26th June 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Stephanie Agwom of Furaka Opp. Ring Road Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Mahan Mallam late of Plateau State died on the 20th July 2022 at Bokkos LGA Plateau State.	John Mallan of Opp. St. Mathew Catholic Church Kachikow Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Samuel Chukwama Igwe late of Plateau State died on the 21st July 2023 at Jos Plateau State.	Godswill Chukwudum Igwe of Behind Abattoir Market Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Othman Adamu Garba late of Plateau State died on the 24th June 2023 at Yelwa Shendam LGA Plateau State.	Isa Adam Garba of Yelwa Shendam, Shendam LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Edwina Philip Dapar late of Plateau State died on the 10th May 2022 at Jibam, Pankshin LGA Plateau State.	Paul Nanshin Philip of Behind Jossy Royal Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Peter Akala Bini late of Plateau State died on the 29th August 2020 at Jos Plateau State.	Ezekiel Peter Bini of Gorfa Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Garba Toma Useini late of Plateau State died on the 9th March 2022 at Jos Plateau State.	Toma Tarma Garba of Yantrailla Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Innocent Okose late of Plateau State died on the 24th July 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Linda Chinwe Okose of Industrial Area Rayfield Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Yakubu Umaru Komye late of Plateau State died on the 27th January 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Khinkainonghai Simon Komye & Manasseh Simon Komye of Behind COCIN LCC Gura Loh Gyang Abattoir Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful Brothers of the said deceased.	Tanko Kurtu Dabang late of Plateau State died on the 18th April 2022 at Cottage Hospital Kwalla Qua'an-Pan LGA Plateau State.	Tanko Naa'ndie Sunday of St. John Bosco Catholic Church Namu Qua'an-Pan LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Francis Jang Chuhwak late of Plateau State died on the 5th July 2023 at Vom Christian Hospital Vom Jos South LGA Plateau State.	Sabestine Francis Jang of Dahwol Vwana Kuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Moses Wetpus Kyahalle late of Plateau State died on the 15th August 2023 at Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Gideon Moses Yenle of Bungha Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Ekum Patricia Nkabe late of Plateau State died on the 13th July 2022 at Jos Plateau State.	Jemima Terem Ekum of Opp. New Govt. Hosue Little Rayfield Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Major Bala Joseph Gotom late of Plateau State died on the 22nd June 2023 at BHUTH Jos Plateau State.	Nenrot Bala Gotom of Mazaram, Little Rayfield Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Samson Amagon Atukwa late of Plateau State died on the 5th June 2023 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Mathew Amagon Atukwa of COCIN LCC Siken Toff Bokkos LAG, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	Adamu Inuwa late of Plateau State died on the 3rd September 2023 at Lahir Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Inuwa Moses Adamu of Lahir in Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Azi Turaki late of Plateau State died on the 21st April 202 at Jos Plateau State.	Azi Lydia Akutse of Angwan Doki Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased
Isa Pam late of Plateau State died on the 4th November 2022 at Barkin Ladi LGA Plateau State.	BOT Pam Pam of Angwan Rukuba Jos North LGA of Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Michael Augustine late of Plateau State died on the 4th November 2022 at Nzamkuka, Shendam LGA Plateau State.	Emmanuel Augustine Yaksat of BSS Quarters Gindiri Mangu LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Vyaple Ishaya late of Plateau State died on the 20th August 2023 at Pilgani, Langtang North LGA Plateau State.	Bali Nangor of Pilgani Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Abdullahi Eshimutu late of Plateau State died on the 18th August 2022 at Makera Riyom, LGA Plateau State.	Aisha Musa & Sandra Abdullahi CTU Barrack Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawfui widows of the said deceased.	SPACE FOR SALE		SPACE FOR SALE	
Jonah Anche late of Plateau State died on the 5th November 2019 at Jos, Plateau State.	Manasseh Jonah of Yohanna Dalyop Avenue Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS		SPACE FOR SALE	

SUNDAY PEOPLE

MUTFWANG CELEBRATES ELECTION TRIBUNAL VICTORY

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang recently celebrated winning at the Governorship Election Tribunal, the celebration took place at the Langfield Leisure Park, Rayfield, Jos



Governor Mutfwang addressing the mammoth crowd that attended the event



Cross section of members of Plateau State Executive Council



Cross section of PDP faithful acknowledging cheers from the hightable



Wife of the Governor, Barr. Mrs. Helen Mutfwang at the celebration

ASHOMS RECEIVES NIPR/NUJ

The Commissioner of Information, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms received on a courtesy call Chairman, Nigeria Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) and the first female Chairman, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Plateau State Council, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo in his office at the J.D Gomwalk State Secretariat, Jos



Hon. Ashoms (left) welcoming the Chairman, NIPR and the new Governing Council member of NIPR, Prof. Sarah Lwahas (right)



From left are, Vice Chairman, Pam Musa, Secretary, Mary Replong Domtur, Treasurer, Lyop Dalyop, Financial Secretary, Ezekiel Izang and Auditor, Celestine Attsar



Commissioner, Information and Communication, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms (left) responding to the message by NUJ first female Chairman, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo



Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, Ministry's Management Staff in a group photograph with first female NUJ Chairman, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

INFRASTRUCTURAL development, particularly good road network is very essential in any society basically because of its significant impact on the social and economic wellbeing of the people. For this singular reason, the Plateau State House of Assembly is leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that the state has good roads which is why it is giving priority to road rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Recall that the state assembly had during one of its plenary sessions, called for the rehabilitation of all road network across the state. This followed a motion of urgent public importance moved by the Minority Leader and member representing Shendam constituency, Hon. Joe Bukar calling on the state government to immediately come to the aid of his people by reconstructing the Total Bridge in Shendam which was sometimes back destroyed by heavy rainfall.

In the light of this motion, the members representing Langtang North North constituency Hon. Joseph Langyi and his Wase counterpart, Hon. Adamu Galadima also made a case for the Langtang-Wase bridge which has been destroyed for years. Even though contract for its reconstruction has been awarded, the work is yet to be completed.

Similarly, the House Deputy Majority Leader and member representing Rukuba/Irigwe constituency, Hon. Ibrahim Agbalak during same plenary, called for the reconstruction of the Bassa-Binchi road.

It is in line with this that the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Moses Thomas Sule resolved among other things that the bridges should be reconstructed to allow for normal activities within the affected communities. And so, recently the House Committee on Works led by its Chairman Hon. Nimchak Rims, member representing Langtang South constituency in company of other members embarked on an inspection and on the spot assessment of the affected communities.

The visit took the committee members to four local government areas which are Shendam, Langtang North, Wase and Bassa.

At Shendam, the Director of Personnel Management (DPM) Mr. Lenge Ishaku who represented the TIC Chairman Hon. Kemi Nshen was on ground to welcome the committee. The first place visited was the Total Bridge located at the heart of the town. It was a scary sight to behold as the bridge was seen to

have divided into two at the middle and would have been totally cut off, if not for one concrete pillar holding it. Infact, the whole bridge is literally resting on that one pillar.

While taking the delegation round the bridge, Mr. Ishaku appealed to the state government to come to the aid of the local government by assisting in the reconstruction of the bridge. He described it as hazardous and a huge threat to lives of both pedestrians and motorists, warning that if urgent steps are not taken to reconstruct the bridge that has been in need of help since 1999, it may finally sink in anytime soon.

The Committee through its Chairman Hon. Nimchak Rims who earlier explained the purpose of the visit, said the motion moved on the floor of the House by their

FROM THE ASSEMBLY
With **PAULINE DALLONG**
paulinedallong@yahoo.com

PLHA: Making a case for good roads network



Rims and Maren

representative Hon. Bukar on the condition of the bridge necessitated the visit. Rims added that even though a federal road, it has become imperative for the state government to do something about it since it is the people of the state that use the road. It is hoped that after submitting the

report, work will commence immediately after the rains.

Other places visited include the Shendam-Konghess road where a part of the road was seen to have been washed away by heavy flooding causing a deep gully erosion. Throwing more light on the nature of the road, Engr. David Longrin from the state Ministry of Works informed the committee that the gully erosion started by slowly eating into the road and gradually washing away the sand up to the point that it is now. He opined that the only way to avoid such situations was to imbibe the culture of road maintainance.

While at Pandam in Yelwashedam, it was a different situation as the only bridge connecting the people to other communities was seen to have been totally cut off. This happened as a result of heavy flooding that took place about two months ago, making it impossible for the movement of people and goods especially farm produce. Engr. Mark Tshow the Director of Works at the local government who accompanied the delegation appealed that if reconstructed, the bridge will surely alleviate the sufferings of the people who are predominantly farmers and traders.

The Works Committee also inspected some roads in Langtang North, particularly the Zamkomabudi, Pilgani and Yabit-Kwampe road. Unfortunately, the three places visited all have similar problems. The director of works who took the



Some of the bridges



committee to see things for themselves explained that failure on the section of the roads was majorly caused by the soaring effect of water on the outlet of the two culvert cell which has eaten deep into half of the road and now a big risk to motorists.

Builder Daniel Sani, the Director of Works Langtang North Local Government Council further explained that what happened to the bridges is as a result of erosion, and this is due to the fact that the sand in Langtang North is what is known as 'loosed sand'. Because of

that, the bridges are easily affected by water flow, especially when it is heavy.

At Bassa, the committee members were welcomed by the TIC Chairman Hon. Fidelis Adara who accompanied them to the Buhit-Binchi road that has already been washed away by heavy flooding. Adara who appreciated the members for responding promptly also expressed gratitude to Hon. Ibrahim Agbalak for the efforts made in championing the people's plight and ensuring that succour comes through the reconstruction of the road.



SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Tinubu



Akpabio



Ariwoola

Nigeria at 63, any hope?

On 1st October 1960, Nigeria got her independence from the British Colonial Masters. On that day, the British Union Jack was lowered and Nigeria's Green-white-Green was hoisted signaling self-rule for and by the Nigerian people sixty-three (63) years later, how has the country fared? VICTOR ALI writes.

TODAY, Sunday, 1st October 2023 is exactly sixty-three (63) years when the British colony christened Nigeria yank itself from the tutelage of the colonial masters by gaining independence. On that day, the British Union Jack was lowered while Nigeria's Green-White-Green was hoisted. Yes, Nigeria was pronounced an independent sovereign state.

Though there are various postulations as to how and why Nigeria got her independence, the stark truth remains that, on the said day, Nigeria joined other comity of nations as a sovereign entity. One particular school of thought opined that, Nigeria got her independence on a platter

of gold. That after all it was a negotiated arrangement between some few Nigerian elites and the colonial masters.

To this school of thought, there was no "arm struggle", therefore, it was a "dash". This position is debatable.

To assume the country got its Independence on a "platter of gold", is to belittle the efforts of Nigeria's founding fathers. For students of political history, Nigeria's founding fathers had to embark on intensive shuttle diplomacy, negotiations and even lobbying as epitomized in myriad of conferences held between the pre-independence Nigeria elites and British Colonial Masters particularly in London.

And even some of them like Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Sir Nnamdi Azikiwe had to exert pressure on the colonialists via their newspapers The West African Pilot and Tribune respectively. The duo used their media expertise and experiences for the decolonization process. It was the same style Kwame Nkrumah, used in the then Gold Coast, now Ghana to gain independence.

It was such concerted efforts that bore 1st October. Therefore, it sounds like the height of ingratitude to posit that nothing was done!

Perhaps, such theorists expected actions like that of the "rebels" in North Africa's Algeria or Kenya's Mau Mau Movement and MPLA of Angola. It must be noted that, the circumstances of the time vary and the liberated African countries were not under the tutelage of the same colonial masters. It becomes obvious to even revolutionary thinkers that, in struggles of this nature, tactics and strategies should be applied in full throttle albeit with ultimate caution.

The wave of decolonization that swept through the African continent in the late 1950's and early 1960's offered the nationalists ample opportunity to think and rethink their strategies and tactics. And each of them applied the strategy and tactics that best suited their circumstances.

Back to Nigeria. Since 1st October 1960, what happened? Has the mission and vision of the founding fathers been actualized? Sixty-three years after where is the country in terms of growth and development? Has the country's leaders been able to harness the God-giving resources and use it to the benefit of the people? Is there any cause for celebration as Nigeria clocks another additional year today? So many questions begging for answers!

It must be said with all certainty that, with the present Nigeria's situation, nobody needs to be told that all the questions begging for answers would have different responses because everything seems to have gone gaga.

But where did the country get it wrong in the first instance?

Six years after gaining independence, precisely January 1966, it would be recalled, the Nigeria Military ventured into what would become a recurring decimal, no thanks to the military adventure into the political arena. The bloody coup of January 1966 wiped away most of the independence founding fathers in what was generally seen as an "ethnic coup." There was to be a replay of that sordid episode in July of the same year which was equally perceived as a "revenge coup".

The two coups of 1966 set the stage rolling for other despicable happenings which culminated in the thirty (30) months civil, dubbed the "Biafra War". Needless to say, millions of people lost their lives in that fratricidal war while billions of naira worth of properties were lost on both sides, of the divide. Though at the end of the war in 1970, General Yakubu "Jack" Gowon triumphantly declared that there was "no

Continued on page 31

"Back to Nigeria. Since 1st October 1960, what happened? Has the mission and vision of the founding fathers been actualized? Sixty-three years after where is the country in terms of growth and development? Has the country's leaders been able to harness the God-giving resourced and use it to the benefit of the people?"

NEWS

'Be fair to PCN and Nigerians'

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Executive Secretary of Plateau State Drugs and Medical Commodities Management Agency (DMCA), Pharm. Fabian Agwo, has made a passionate appeal to the Judicial System of Nigeria, to drop some of its

unnecessary litigations restricting the Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria (PCN) from regulating the indiscriminate spring up of uncertified pharmaceutical companies in the country.

He made the appeal recently, in an interview with **SUNDAY**

STANDARD shortly after presenting a keynote address at the World Pharmaceutical Society Day Celebration as Guest Speaker, held in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

The Executive Secretary said, "You see the problem of these indiscriminate pharmaceutical companies and herbal vendors is affecting us nationally. If you go out of Nigeria to places like Cameroon, you cannot buy medicine freely unless with a prescription. But in Nigeria, you see medicines sold like peppers and tomatoes in the market.

"It is unfortunate that the legal system does not allow for strict control by the Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria. The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) is a self-regulating organ. The government organ which is PCN regulates the practice and training of pharmacists.

"But by the time you go to the Pharmaceutical

Council of Nigeria to file a complaint today, you will see the number of litigations restricting the Council from regulating some of these things. That is where the problem lies! So, if the judicial system will be fair to pharmacists and to the public, it will be better for us, because pharmacists are not doing it for themselves, but for the public", he enthused.

According to the ES, "The law is so loose that people take advantage of the loopholes and capitalize on them. They get court injunctions against the PCN not to regulate them. That's where the challenge is!"

Agwo, however, called on the judicial system to strike off these unnecessary cases that were not protecting the common man and allow the arm of government that is saddled with the responsibility of controlling medicine and pharmaceuticals to do their work of regulating to have safe environment that would deliver safe medicines for people to be protected.

It is on record that unregistered or uncertified companies including herbal vendors have taken the pharmaceutical space of our society these days and the majority of people have opted for cheaper medicines that do more harm than good.



Agwo



Felicitations on 63 Years of Independence from Pankshin Local Government Council

Transition Committee Chairman of Pankshin Local Government Council **Hon Samuel Shangka Goar** on behalf of the Directions, Traditional Council Staff and hospitable people of Pankshin Local Government Area heartily Felicitate with the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR)** the Vice President, Shettima, the captain of our time is now, visionary and amiable Governor **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, the deputy Governor, **Mrs Josephine Piyo**, the Speaker, **Rt Hon. Moses Sule** and other members of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Members of the State Executive Council the Judiciary and the entire citizens of Nigeria for successfully clocking 63 years of National hood for their Patriotism, Resilience and Faith in the Country.

We in Pankshin heartily pray for you Mr Governor in your untiring efforts to restore Permanent Peace in all crises prone Local Government Areas in the State, we have also watch with Keen interest your visionary plans to transform the State within hundred days of your stay in office.

Your Excellency sir as you celebrate Nigeria at 63 we wish to commend you for the security put in place so as to find lasting solutions to the crises so far witnessed in the State in recent times and as well sympathize with you over the loss of our beloved sons and daughters during the crises.

It is our profound prayer that the Almighty God strengthens you as you with courage and wisdom to change the Face of Plateau State to one of the beautiful state in Nigeria and as we celebrate this unique day we wish Nigerians a very Fruitful years ahead.

God bless Pankshin Local Government
God Bless Plateau State
God bless Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signed:
Hon Samuel Shangka Goar
Transition Committee Chairman of
Pankshin Local Government Area



CHANGE OF NAME

PHILIP
I, formerly known as, **DANNY PHILIP AGWOM AJIK**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PHILIP DANNY AJIK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ABDULYEKEEN
I, formerly known as, **ABDULYEKEEN ABUBAKAR ADEMOLA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABDULYEKEEN ABUBAKAR MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NANKLIPANMUM
I, formerly known as, **NANKHIPANM JOSEPH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NANKHIPANMUM JOSEPH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SYLVANUS
I, formerly known as, **YACHIN KHINENDANG SYLVANUS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SYLVANUS KHINENDANG GOYIN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SYLVANUS
I, formerly known as, **YACHIN LEYITNEN SYLVANUS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SYLVANUS LEYITNEN CHRISTABEL**. All former documents remain valid. Rantya Police Barracks, Jos. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MARY
I, formerly known as, **MARY L. JOSEPH AYUBA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MARY LOHWOR JOSEPH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

SULEIMAN
I, formerly known as, **SULEIMAN ALI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SULEIMAN ALI UBANDOMA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MANTU
I, formerly known as, **MANTU JELJE GARBA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MANTU EMMANUEL GARBA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

UWANI
I, formerly known as, **UWANI ABUBAKAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **UWANI BASHIR IDREES**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MIRI
I, formerly known as, **GIMBA SELYA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MIRI SELYA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

OKPANWU
I, formerly known as, **OKPA JOSHUA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OKPANWU OKORONKWO JOSHUA**. Correct date of birth is 10/11/1975 not 1st January 1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

LAR
I, formerly known as, **SAMSON N. LAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **LAR SAMSON NIMDAN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DANLONG
I, formerly known as, **VUETGOE DANLONG SIYONA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANLONG SIYONA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

CORNELIOUS
I, formerly known as, **MANASEH NANZING PYENNAP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **CORNELIOUS DAVID MANASEH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

Police condemns unlawful killing of innocent youth

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PLATEAU State Commissioner of Police, CP Okoro Julius Alawari, psc, has expressed miffed reaction and totally condemns the unlawful killing of one Mr Fwinbe Thomas Gofwan, who was found lying in a pool of his own blood along Tudun Wada Ring Road, Hwolshe in Jos.

This came in a press statement signed by the Command's Police Public Relations (PRO), Alfred Alabo, and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the state capital following the unlawful killing of the innocent man who just returned from work.

The statement said, "Sequel to a report of the incident by a credible informant on 25/09/2023 at about 2230hrs, the Police Patrol Team attached to Anglo-Jos Division swiftly rushed to the scene of the cruel incident where they found the victim lying in a pool of his own blood

beside a damaged Suzuki Mini Bus with Reg. No.: KWK 536 XA, with multiple injuries on his head.

"The victim is suspected to have been cruelly beaten to death by some hoodlums, suspected to be commercial motorcyclists popularly known as "Okada Riders" whose operation in Jos Metropolis/Bukuru metropolis is even illegal.

"Photographs of the victim were taken, the vehicle was towed to the station and the body of the victim was taken to the Plateau Specialist Hospital where he was confirmed dead by a medical doctor. The corpse has been deposited at the hospital's morgue for autopsy", it highlighted.

The Police boss, however, warned the executors of "Jungle Justice" to desist from such lawless act as the Command under his watch would not spare any person found culpable of such

inhuman act, emphasizing the need for citizens to allow law enforcement agencies take charge of such cases instead of taking laws into their hands.

The Police Commissioner used the opportunity to inform Plateau residents and the general public that efforts were on top gear to apprehend the killers of Mr Fwinbe Thoma and appealed for calm.

"Investigation into this case is still ongoing and further development will be made available to the public in due course. I want to use this medium to inform the general public that the ban on the use of motorcycles, popularly known as Okada within Jos Metropolis and Bukuru is still in force", Alawari assured.

Meanwhile, the State PPRO, has disclosed that one of the suspects that was involved in the killing of the above young man, late Fwinbe Thoma Gofwan has been arrested and investigation has been going on to apprehend his cohorts in the act.



Plateau State House of Assembly

GOODWILL MESSAGE

Rt. Hon. Moses Thomas Sule, Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA), on behalf of the Members, Management and Staff heartily felicitates with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, **Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu**, the Vice President, **Alhaji Kashim Shettima**, Senate President, **Dr. Godswill Akpabio**, Speaker of the House of Representatives, **Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas**, and the Executive Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang** and indeed all Nigerians on this occasion of our 63rd Independence Anniversary.

As we celebrate this auspicious occasion, may we continue to pray for the peace and unity of our dear country Nigeria.

Happy Independence Anniversary!

Long Live Nigeria!!

Long Live Plateau State!!!

Long Live Plateau State House of Assembly!!!!

Signed:

**Rt. Hon. Moses Thomas Sule,
Speaker,
Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA).**



SUNDAY FEATURE



Advancing primary health care in Nigeria

In recent decades, considerable progress has been made in improving the health outcome of women, children, and adolescents. However, these advancements have encountered significant challenges and obstacles. The unfinished agenda of preventable mortality among these vulnerable groups persists, while shifting epidemiological patterns demand increased attention to non-communicable diseases. VICTOR OKEKE writes.

THE critical periods of pregnancy and the first two decades of life offer a unique opportunity to foster healthy growth, mitigate health-related risks, and promote overall well-being throughout the lifespan. Realizing the demographic dividends of improved survival hinges on empowering women, children, and adolescents to thrive, thereby enhancing human capital and reducing disparities for current and future generations.

In the aftermath of the 2023 UN General Assembly, a high-level meeting dedicated to universal health coverage, member states are poised to recommit to achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) has advocated for a paradigm shift towards primary health care as a foundational pillar of this endeavour.

This approach comprises three fundamental elements: integrated health services with a primary care focus, community engagement and empowerment, and multi-sectoral policies and actions that address the broader determinants of health.

Within this context, we illuminate the implications of implementing a transformative primary health care approach for the health and nutrition of women, children, and adolescents. This perspective is

endorsed by the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group of Experts for maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition, a body that provides counsel to the WHO Director-General.

Both the transformation of primary health care and the global strategy for women's, children's, and adolescents' health necessitate a shift towards preventive, promotive, and protective roles within healthcare services, coupled with community involvement and cross-sector collaboration. The strategy's "survive, thrive, and transform" agenda mandates health system enhancements and multi-sectoral interventions in health, education, finance, social protection, water and sanitation, agriculture, nutrition, law, justice, and more.

Furthermore, it emphasizes the importance of disease prevention and the promotion of overall well-being. A continuum of care, commencing with the health of prospective parents before conception and extending through all stages of a newborn's, child's, and adolescent's life, is at the core of this strategy. It also underscores the significance of family and community support systems. Successful implementation hinges on evidence-based intervention packages and essential public health functions that have a

lifelong impact on individuals and populations.

The transition from vertical programmes and illness-centered care to a preventive, promotive, and life-course approach necessitates expanding and enhancing investment in community-based healthcare models, including basic health services. Such systems can not only deliver universal basic health services but also address the determinants intertwined with poor health outcomes, stemming from political, social, cultural, economic, environmental, and health system factors.

Empowering individuals and communities to take charge of their own health necessitates improving health literacy and extending community participation in health governance, advocacy, service delivery, self-care, and home-based care. Investments in accessible, effective, and quality community-based health services for maternal, child, and adolescent health, nutrition, mental health, and the management of both communicable and non-communicable diseases and injury risk reduction are expected to yield substantial returns across the life course.

A more integrated, community-centered, and multi-sectoral model of primary health care will be characterized by functional primary health care networks. These networks encompass organizations

dedicated to delivering comprehensive and integrated health services to defined populations, with accountability for coverage, care quality, and health outcomes. To establish such service delivery models, laws and policies must mandate workforce development for essential public health functions and life-course interventions.

This at the heart of the Right to Health project implemented by the Centre for Social Justice under the Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement programme of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID-SCALE). The project's goal is to contribute to improvements in the realization of the right to health in Nigeria through enhancing respect for extant laws and policies, reforming laws and policies as well as mainstreaming transparency and accountability in public health sector expenditure.

This advocacy also necessitates reforms in human resource and financial management systems to ensure adequate investment in community-based health services. This entails governments, international agencies, the private sector, local governments, and non-governmental organizations acknowledging and overcoming barriers linked to an overemphasis on vertical programming and illness-centered care, along with

insufficient investment in workforce capabilities for life-course interventions and community-based services.

Supporting the transformation of primary health care for women, children, and adolescents demands a commitment to values and investments in systems, services, workforce development, and community engagement. Key drivers include translating values of quality, equity, gender responsiveness, and accountability into tangible systems and processes that prioritize community needs and voices in health policy, planning, and service delivery.

As the 2023 UN high-level meeting on universal health coverage gets underway, we call upon political leaders and health partners to prioritize women's, children's, and adolescents' health across the life course within the framework of primary health care transformation. This entails shifting mind-sets, reforming laws, policies, resource allocation, and governance processes to align with prevention and care models. The urgency of this primary health care transformation cannot be overstated, as it holds the potential to ensure access to essential health interventions and exert a lifelong impact on the health and well-being of future generations.

Okeke writes from the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) Nigeria.

ONCE Upon a time when I was in Secondary School, in my Biology class, I studied the Grasshopper. I learnt about the different parts of this grasshopper. The word "mandibles" stuck in my mind. It is that part of the Grasshopper that it uses to cut grass and shovel into its mouth. I learnt how to draw this grasshopper. I named the different parts of this grasshopper. I memorized the names of these parts and I was examined on this grasshopper during my Examination. Several years down the line today, I scratch my head in wonder. What was that all about! That was a colossal and unforgettable and unforgivable waste of my precious time and brain space that had and has very little to add to my Life time and personal Development as a Human Being!!! I wonder how many students are still drawing that old grasshopper and learning how to cram its parts. Mtchew!. I read French eventually. I can translate and interpret from French into English. I loove writing, and those "mandibles" have no place in my Profession or interest.

Why did I tell this story? Because I am wondering how many poor Nigerian children are wasting their precious time learning what has nothing to do with the reality of life. Maybe learning the life cycle of a mosquito and housefly is important. These are insects we live with every day. What about a grasshopper? That should not be in a Biology class and I should not have been put through the amount of stress I went through just to learn about that inconsequential grasshopper. Biology is relevant to the medical sciences but how does a grasshopper help? Maybe those in Agricultural Science would have some benefits from doing so but do they need to name its parts and draw the insect as well? To my mind, there was a flaw in the curriculum at the time because I learnt some things that are grossly irrelevant....which takes me meto the issue at hand. Curriculum design.

First of all what is an educational curriculum? According to the Glossary of Education Reform:

The term **curriculum** refers to the lessons and academic content taught in a school or in a specific course or program. In dictionaries, *curriculum* is often defined as the courses offered by a school, but it is rarely used in such a general sense in schools. Depending on how broadly educators define or employ the term, curriculum typically refers to the knowledge and skills students are expected to learn, which includes the learning standards or learning objectives they are expected to meet; the units and lessons that teachers teach; the assignments and projects given to students; the books, materials, videos, presentations, and readings used in a course; and the tests, assessments, and other methods used to evaluate student learning. An individual teacher's curriculum, for example, would be the specific learning standards, lessons, assignments, and materials used to organize and teach a particular course.

From the foregoing, we can see that the experts need to structure what they teach in School. In a wider sense I am referring to the Curriculum as the outcome of an Educational Policy that cuts across the entire Educational System in the Country. A blueprint that guides teachers on what to teach and how to teach and what objectives to meet. This brings us to the issue of Curriculum design and its objectives. The following Excerpt from ThoughtCo. Written by Karen Schweitzer and titled **Curriculum Design, Definition, Purpose and Types** is a study in curriculum design to expand our understanding:

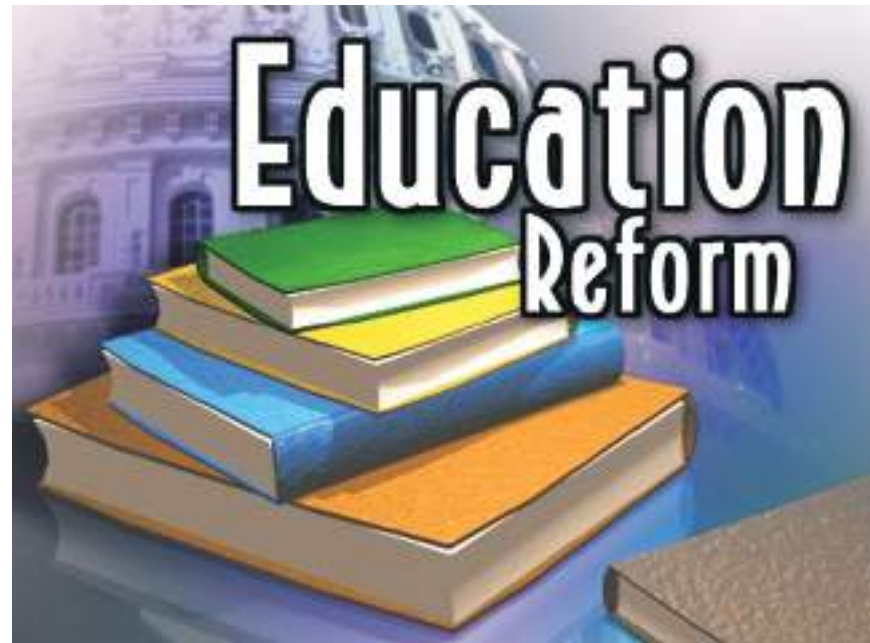
Curriculum design is a term used to describe the purposeful, deliberate, and systematic organization of curriculum

(instructional blocks) within a class or course. In other words, it is a way for teachers to plan instruction. When teachers design curriculum, they identify what will be done, who will do it, and what schedule to follow.

Purpose of Curriculum Design

Teachers design each curriculum with a specific educational purpose in mind. The ultimate goal is to improve student learning, but there are other reasons to employ curriculum design as well. For example, designing a curriculum for middle school students with both elementary and high school curricula in mind helps to make sure that learning goals are aligned and complement each

Educational reform: A new educational curriculum for Nigeria (I)



other from one stage to the next. If a middle school curriculum is designed without taking prior knowledge from elementary school or future learning in high school into account it can create real problems for the students.

Types of Curriculum Design

There are three basic types of curriculum design:

- Subject-centered design
- Learner-centered design
- Problem-centered design

Subject-Centered Curriculum Design

Subject-centered curriculum design revolves around a particular subject matter or discipline. For example, a subject-centered curriculum may focus on math or biology. This type of curriculum design tends to focus on the subject rather than the individual. It is the most common type of curriculum used in K-12 public schools in states and local districts in the United States.

Subject-centered curriculum design describes what needs to be studied and how it should be studied. Core curriculum is an example of a subject-centered design that can be standardized across schools, states, and the country as a whole. In standardized core curricula, teachers are provided a pre-determined list of things that they need to teach their students, along with specific examples of how these things should be taught. You can also find subject-centered designs in large college classes in which teachers focus on a particular subject or discipline.

The primary drawback of subject-centered curriculum design is that it is not student-centered. In particular, this form of curriculum design is constructed without taking into account the specific learning styles of the students. This can cause problems with student engagement and motivation and may even cause students to fall behind in class.

Learner-Centered Curriculum Design

In contrast, learner-centered curriculum design takes each individual's needs, interests, and goals into



the curriculum design process. This can be done through needs analysis, which involves the collection and analysis of data related to the learner. This data might include what learners already know and what they need to know to be proficient in a particular area or skill. It may also include information about learner perceptions, strengths, and weaknesses.

- **Create a clear list of learning goals and outcomes.** This will help you to focus on the intended purpose of the curriculum and allow you to plan instruction that can achieve the desired results. Learning goals are the things teachers want students to achieve in the course. Learning outcomes are the measurable knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students should have achieved in the course.

- **Identify constraints** that will impact your curriculum design. For example, time is a common constraint that must be considered. There are only so many hours, days, weeks or months in the term. If there isn't enough time to deliver all of the instruction that has been planned, it will impact learning outcomes.

- **Consider creating a curriculum map** (also known as a curriculum matrix) so that you can properly evaluate the sequence and coherence of instruction. Curriculum mapping provides visual diagrams or indexes of a curriculum. Analyzing a visual representation of the curriculum is a good way to quickly and easily identify potential gaps, redundancies or alignment issues in the sequencing of instruction. Curriculum maps can be created on paper or with software programs or online services designed specifically for this purpose.

- **Identify the instructional methods** that will be used throughout the course and consider how they will work with student learning styles. If the instructional methods are not conducive to the curriculum, the instructional design or the curriculum design will need to be altered accordingly.

- **Establish evaluation methods** that will be used at the end and during the school year to assess learners, instructors, and the curriculum. Evaluation will help you determine if the curriculum design is working or if it is failing. Examples of things that should be evaluated include the strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum and achievement rates related to learning outcomes. The most effective evaluation is ongoing and summative.

- **Remember that curriculum design is not a one-step process;** continuous improvement is a necessity. The design of the curriculum should be assessed periodically and refined based on assessment data. This may involve making alterations to the design partway through the course to ensure that learning outcomes or a certain level of proficiency will be achieved at the end of the course.

*We will continue next week...
Happy Sunday*

- **Identify the needs of stakeholders** (i.e., students) early on in

I SHALL NOT WANT (2)

I am happy to continue our discussion this week on the topic, ***I Shall Not Want***. In our last series, we established that they that shall not want are believers who make themselves the sheep of His sheepfold.

Now, if the Lord is your shepherd you shall not want. In the Hebrew, 'to want' means 'to lack', 'to fail'. That means when the Lord is your shepherd you will not lack, you will not fail. It may appear that you are failing but you are actually on the path of success. To want also means 'to lessen', 'to decrease' or 'to go lower' or 'to go without'. It means 'to have or suffer needs'. It means 'to be in want of something', 'to be deficient or to suffer deficiency'- just different adjectives to describe it. It means 'to be void', 'empty', 'to be destitute', or 'to suffer poverty'.

That's what the Hebrew says. It says, ***"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."*** It is not a thing of negotiation; it is settled that when the Lord is your shepherd, you shall not want, you shall not lack, you shall not suffer needs or be desolate, rather He will make you ***to lie down in green pastures*** and will lead you ***beside the still waters*** (Psalm 23:2). Praise the name of the Lord!

Beloved, if you want to come to a place where you don't want, where you don't decrease or lessen, then you have to be a sheep in His hands, because He now said that this is how He is going to begin to make it- He will "make" you to begin to lie down- not force you to lie down- "in green pastures." A pasture means a dwelling, a home, a pleasant place, a habitation. So green pastures are the benefits of being a sheep. And you know what? The Lord is bringing you into green pastures. God has green pastures for you. It does not matter how rough life has been. God has green pastures for you, and the function of that is His Shepherd Ministry. He said, ***"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters."*** The phrase still waters here means waters of quietness. ***"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake,"*** (Psalm 23:3).

Friends, just calm yourself down! If you want to be in contact with this shepherd, you must calm yourself down. There may be trouble and turmoil around your life but calm yourself down! In the midst of that God has green

pastures for you. God has a place for you- a place of flourishing for you. Praise the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! Verse 4 says: ***"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."*** Now this is all the picture of the believer's walk on this earth.

Let's look at verse 5 of

that such a place exists for you! Do you believe that such a place exists for you? This place I am talking about is a place of 'no want', not a place of 'no desire' or a place of 'no need', it is a place of 'no want'!

Psalm 34:9 says: ***"O, fear the LORD ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him."*** I have said several times that the fear of the Lord is determined by



Benefits of being a sheep of His Sheepfold



Psalm 23. It says: ***"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies..."*** Remember, the table is not just for anybody but for the sheep. That means no matter what is going on in your life, nothing that is going on around you can affect your destiny. What God has said about you, you will come into it. But you must follow the ministry of the shepherd.

Another benefit for the sheep is in verse 5 and 6, thus: ***"Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."*** That anointing is reserved for the sheep. Praise the name of the Lord! There are green pastures for you my dear friends, and there is oil on your head. Then it says in verse 6: ***"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."*** That is the ministry of the shepherd.

Now, it is God's desire- the Shepherd's ultimate desire to bring you to a place in your life where you shall not want. But the first thing about it is that you must believe that there is such a place. You must believe that such a place exists, and then not generally, don't just believe that generally, but believe

submission and subjection to Him. My dear friend, I want you to get out of the crowd of 'they that don't fear him' and get into the crowd of 'they that fear him, they that are submitted to him; they that put their lives under his reign and control'.

Let's go to Luke 6:46. It says: ***"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"*** So that means when you do the things which He says, you may not be physically calling Him Lord but you are calling Him Lord by your life. How do you submit yourself to the Lord? How do you willingly submit yourself to the fear of the Lord? The fear of the Lord is walking in His way. His way is described by His Word. So when you do the things which He says, and you subject

yourself to His yoke, you are operating in the fear of the Lord, you activate Him as your Lord and then He can start making some things happen for you.

Verse 47 and 48 of Luke 4 says tells us that: ***"Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock."*** The Bible uses the word "when," not "if". That is because the flood and the stream of life will definitely come whether the foundation

is on a rock or on sand. However, if your foundation is on a rock, which is Christ, when the flood and the stream come, they cannot shake you.

I am telling you the truth, there is something that will come upon your life and the economy will not affect your rising. There's something that will come upon your life that people cannot sit down and say they don't like you but there saying 'they don't like you' will work for your good. Go and ask Daniel. Go and ask Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Go and ask Joseph. When you have the Lord as your shepherd, you shall not want! In that place, people, places and things are simply working for your good, as long as you stay under His Lordship. The flood will arise, all other things will come but as long as you are under His Lordship, all you are destined for is to rise.

The last verse of Luke 4, which is verse 49 says: ***"But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."*** I pray that is not your portion in Jesus' name.

Some few weeks ago, the Lord said to me that, "Your praise will bring you to a place of personal overflow". What this means is that the place that God has prepared for me- a place where I shall not want- is the place same place He has prepared for you, and you shall not want in the name of Jesus. It is an appointed place.

To be continued...

“**Friends, just calm yourself down! If you want to be in contact with this shepherd, you must calm yourself down. There may be trouble and turmoil around your life but calm yourself down! In the midst of that God has green pastures for you. God has a place for you- a place of flourishing for you. Praise the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! Verse 4 says: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Now this is all the picture of the believer's walk on this earth.**”

”



Independence Goodwill Message

From

Plateau State Local Government Service Commission



As we recount the commitment and uncommon display of love, unity and patriotism which led to the attainment and freedom of Nigeria from colonial rule.

Our sovereignty as a Nation on the 1st of October, 1960 is undoubtedly a mile stone in the progresses made so far.

It is on this note that the Chairman, **Chief Simon Tangni** on behalf of members of Plateau State Local Government Service Commission, Directors and staff of the seventeen Local Government Councils felicitate with the President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, **Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR** and the Vice, **Senator Kashim Shetima GCON** as well as President of the Senate, Speaker House of Representatives all, members of the National Assembly and indeed all Nigerians in commemorating sixty three years of Independence.

We also in the celebration of this historic event, bring profound greetings to the advocate of a new Plateau and apostle of 'the TIME IS NOW' mantra His Excellency, **Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang** and his Deputy, **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, the Speaker, **Rt Hon. Moses Sule**, principal officers and members of the 10th house of Assembly as well as **Chief Judge Justice David Mann** and indeed the citizens of Plateau State.

Your Excellency Sir, the joy and admiration of your pragmatic and sterling antecedence resonates with citizens of Plateau State hence they have been deriving tremendously since your mounting the saddle as Governor.

The marking of the country's 63rd Independence is coming on the hills of your vindication by the Election Petition Tribunal as the duly elected Governor of Plateau State is a further reaffirmation of your administration's unwavering commitment to rewriting the Plateau story.

With the legal hurdle now set aside by the Election Petition Tribunal, your unrelenting strive for the enthronement of peace to enable the machinery of Government consolidate on the gains so far recorded, the state shall now witness another phase of pragmatism just as envisioned with the struggles of our Nation's founding fathers.

Mr. Governor Sir, our bidding for the implementation of reforms aimed at reinvigorating effective and efficient service delivery at the third tire is on course and we pledge in alignment with your 'TIME IS NOW' philosophy which is a catalyst to reconfigure the Local Government Service to meet set goals and objectives.

Once again happy Independence to all Nigerians.

Aminchi K. Joshua
Information Officer
For: Chairman



Chief Tangni

INTERNATIONAL

EU's Mediterranean, southern European leaders meet in Malta

THE leaders of nine Mediterranean and southern European countries, including France's Emmanuel Macron and Italy's Giorgia Meloni, have met in Malta for talks focusing on migration.

The summit comes on Friday, a day after the UN refugee organisation said more than 2,500 migrants had disappeared attempting to cross the Mediterranean so far this year – substantially more than at the same point in 2022.

But it also comes as EU interior ministers finally made headway on Thursday on new rules for how the bloc handles asylum seekers and irregular migrants, with a deal expected in the coming days.

Long in the works, there was new impetus to reach a deal after a sharp rise in asylum seekers landing on the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa earlier this month.

Meloni's far-right coalition government, elected on an anti-migration ticket, has clashed with both France and Germany as she presses other EU countries to share the burden. So far this year, the number of arrivals at Lampedusa has already passed 133,000.

But Meloni and Macron have sought to ease tensions in recent days and met on Tuesday in Rome on the sidelines of the state funeral for ex-Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.

Paris is hoping Friday's so-called Med9 summit, attended by the leaders of Malta, France, Greece, Italy, Croatia, Cyprus, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, will offer a "clear message" that migration requires a response at the European level, the source said.

The EU is poised to agree a revamped Pact on Migration and Asylum, which will seek to relieve pressure on frontline countries such as Italy and Greece by relocating some arrivals to other EU states. Those countries opposed to hosting asylum seekers –



Macron

the Mediterranean's southern shore in the review of the EU's 2021-2027 long-term budget, a European diplomatic source on Thursday told the AFP news agency.

The leaders will also discuss regional challenges posed by natural disasters following a devastating earthquake in Morocco, a flood disaster in Libya, and extreme weather events in Southern Europe.

Libya commander in Moscow for talks with Putin

LIBYAN renegade general Khalifa Haftar during a reception ceremony upon arrival at a Moscow military airfield.

Renegade general Khalifa Haftar, whose forces dominate eastern Libya, has held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, his forces and the Kremlin said.

Haftar, who sponsors a rival administration to Libya's UN-backed government in Tripoli, has long cultivated close relations with Moscow and relies heavily on Russian mercenary group Wagner for military support.

Haftar "held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu", his Libyan Arab Armed Forces said on its official Facebook page without giving further details.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed Haftar's meeting with Putin. "They discussed the situation in Libya and the region as a whole," he said in comments reported.

It was the first meeting between the two men since 2019, according to Libyan media.

The eastern strongman, who arrived in Moscow on Tuesday, had already held talks with Russian Deputy Defence Minister Yunus-Bek Yevkurov during his visit.

Yevkurov has been a regular visitor to eastern Libya in recent years, most recently on September 17 when he met Haftar a few days after the huge flash flood which swept away much of the coastal city of Derna, killing thousands of people and leaving thousands more missing.

Haftar's abortive 2019 assault on the seat of the UN-backed government in Tripoli relied heavily on Wagner mercenaries but failed to overcome its Turkish-backed armed forces.

Since an October 2020 ceasefire brought the offensive to an end, Wagner has redeployed some of its personnel to Mali and Ukraine.

But despite repeated United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for the withdrawal of all foreign military forces from Libya, hundreds of Wagner personnel remain stationed in the east as well as in areas of the desert south under Haftar's control.

Russia has long sought to boost its influence in Africa, a policy that has loomed ever larger since the launch of its war on Ukraine early last year

QATAR says it successfully mediated an agreement Israel and officials in the Gaza Strip to reopen crossing points to the besieged territory after Palestinians were prevented from working and violence broke out.

The crossings were opened a European diplomatic source on Thursday after nearly two weeks of demonstrations by Palestinian workers through an informal agreement Qatar helped mediate alongside a flurry of diplomacy involving Morocco, Egypt, Israel and Hamas. Qatar's envoy to Gaza, Mohammad al-Emadi, was

Qatar mediates opening of Gaza-Israel crossing

quoted by media as saying. Israel shut the Beit Hanoun crossing – called "Erez" by Israel – with Gaza in advance of the Rosh Hashanah Jewish holiday.

For nearly two weeks, Israeli troops faced off against the protesting labourers, responding with live fire that killed at least one man and wounded dozens more.

Israel-Palestine conflict: Palestinians disillusioned with

Oslo Accords

The reopening allows thousands of Palestinian workers to return to their jobs in Israel and the occupied West Bank.

About 18,000 Gazans have permits from Israeli authorities to work outside the blockaded enclave, providing an injection of cash amounting to some \$2m a day to the impoverished territory's economy.

Jobs in Israel are in high demand, paying up to 10 times as much as similar jobs in Gaza. Unemployment in the Palestinian territory – which has been under an Israeli-Egyptian blockade since 2007 – hovers at 50 percent.

"We want to go to work and earn a living for our children because the situation was too bad for us the past two weeks," said Khaled Zurub, 57, who works in construction in Israel.

The crossing closure was a "nightmare", said Mohammad al-Kahlout, a labourer waiting to cross into Israel on Thursday. "It felt like someone was trying to suffocate you."

Cogat, the Israeli defence ministry agency that coordinates with the Palestinians, said security assessments will determine whether the Gaza crossing point will remain open.

After the Erez crossing reopened, Palestinian protest organisers announced they would suspend the daily rallies, but promised to resume demonstrations if Israel did not adhere to its commitments.



Haftar

left it saddled with European Union and United States sanctions and increasingly isolated on the international stage.

Moscow has also repeatedly accused Kyiv of planning "false-

flag" operations with non-conventional weapons, using biological or radioactive materials.

No such attacks have taken place so far.

Putin meets former Wagner commander Troshev

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has met one of the most senior ex-commanders of the Wagner mercenary group, who the Kremlin says now works for the defence ministry.

Andrei Troshev is a former aide of late Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, who was killed in a plane crash in August.

His death came two months after Wagner troops briefly marched on Moscow.

President Putin asked Mr Troshev to oversee volunteer fighter units in Ukraine, the Kremlin said.

Addressing Mr Troshev, the president said he could "volunteer units that can perform various combat tasks, above all, of course, in the zone of a special military operation", in reference to Ukraine.

"You know about the issues that need to be resolved in advance so that the combat work goes in the best and most successful way," Mr Putin added.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the RIA

news agency that Mr Troshev "now works in the defence ministry".

The meeting comes as Mr Putin attempts to reassert his authority following Wagner's mutiny in June.

In the space of just 24 hours, Prigozhin staged an insurrection, sending troops into the southern city of Rostov, then further on towards Moscow, before retreating. It was the biggest challenge to Mr Putin's authority in two decades.

The president last month called on all employees of Wagner and other Russian private military contractors to take an oath of allegiance to the Russian state.

Natia Seskuria of Royal United Services Institute, a London think tank, told the BBC that the meeting and public praise from Mr Putin is an attempt to show "he is in charge of the situation and he controls Prigozhin's inner circle".

"The fact that the Kremlin's spokesperson

confirmed that Troshev works for the Russian Ministry of Defence demonstrates that we are in a post-Prigozhin era where the MOD is taking a full control of the so-called special military operation in Ukraine," she said.

The Kremlin "will still be relying on Wagner resources with greater caution", she added.

Mr Troshev is known by his alias Sedoi, which means "the one with grey hair". He is a well-respected veteran of Russia's wars in Afghanistan and Chechnya.

He was awarded the Hero of Russia Award for his role in supporting government forces in Syria in 2015 and 2016 as Wagner commander.

Prigozhin and nine others were killed in the crash near Moscow on 23 August.

The Wagner boss was described by many as a "dead man walking" after the failed mutiny.

The Kremlin has denied any involvement.

News

Governor Mutfwang approves hazard allowance for health workers

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

GOVERNOR Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State, has approved hazard allowance demanded by the Plateau State health workers starting from September 2023 to further enhance health service delivery in the state.

The state Head of Civil Service, Barr. (Mrs) Rauta J. Dakok, disclosed this recently while playing host to the state chapter of the Joint Negotiating Council who paid her a courtesy visit in her office at the JD Gomwalk Secretariat Jos, the state capital.

She said, "I had to go and see the Governor on Sunday and discuss the outcome of our meeting on Saturday.

"I presented the memo to the Governor and explained to him your issue and he reluctantly approved. I immediately minuted it to the salary consultant and we agreed that it would be implemented in September.

"So, we need your cooperation. Do not disappoint us. I want to plead with you, the health workers, including doctors, to not be selfish. Others among you are working in the same Civil Service and it is not fair that one side got an increment and the other



Mutfwang did not. Let us always be reasonable because we all go to the same market", she appealed.

Dakok, however, warned civil servants in the state to take their jobs seriously and handle every file according to Civil Service Rules and not based on their political affiliations or interests because it was time for governance and politics.

She urged unions to settle their problems first at the MDAs levels and not directly at the office of Head Of Service so that they can be dealt with accordingly.

Earlier, the out-gone Plateau State Chairman of Joint Negotiating Council (JNC), Comrade Titus Malau, congratulated

Governor Caleb Mutfwang, on his victory at the tribunal and the Head of Service on her appointment, assuring her of JNC's cooperation.

On his part, the Acting State Chairman of Joint Negotiating Council, Comrade Fwengak Daniel Yilbissa, thanked the Head Of Service for being a mother to them at any point they forward their request to her and promised to give her the needed support and cooperation.

Meanwhile, the state Chairman of the Joint Association of Health Union, Comrade Selkur Dashe, appreciated Governor Caleb Mutfwang, for approving their request and promised not to disappoint the trust reposed in them.

By DUMAH RANDONG

Arrest killers of Fwinbe Gofwan, Piyo tells security

Plateau State Deputy Governor, Mrs Josephine Piyo has visited the Family of Thomas Fwinbe and commiserated with them over the loss of their son, Fwinbe Gofwan, who was lynched by a mob at the Domkat Bali Road in Jos on Monday.

Piyo in a condolence visit, described the death of the young man as painful and regretted that life was snuffed out of him in an inhumane and ungodly manner.

The Deputy Governor, who prayed God grants him eternal rest and the family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss, called on security agencies to wade into action immediately and bring the perpetrators of the dastardly act to book.

She called on citizens of the state to be their

brothers' keeper as the state is known for peaceful coexistence and communal living by all.

Mr Simon Gofwan, who spoke on behalf of the family, thanked the Deputy Governor and government of the state for identifying

with them in their moment of grief.

Gofwan called on the government to ensure that the killers of their son are arrested and made to face the consequences of their actions.



Piyo

PLSG tackles childhood preventable diseases

By DUMAH RANDONG

The Plateau State Government says it is committed to tackling childhood vaccine preventable diseases in the state.

To this end, it has undertaken a total overhaul of the health sector to ensure effective health care delivery.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang disclosed this at the flag off of the September 2023, National Immunization Plus Days, NIPDs in the state which took place at the Tudun Wada Primary Healthcare Centre, Jos North Local Government of the state, recently.

Governor Mutfwang represented by his Deputy, Josephine Piyo, said in collaboration with partners such as UNICEF, National Primary Healthcare Development Agency among others have been working tirelessly to provide quality health care and immunization services to all eligible children.

The September 2023 NIPDs, according to the governor, are aimed at boosting population immunity and stopping the transmission of the Circulating Variant Polio Virus, CPV2 in the state.

He urged parents and

guardians to bring their children for vaccine and other routine immunization services from September 29th to October 3rd, 2023 to help achieve population immunity and improve immunization coverage in the state.

He appreciated all the partners for their coverage and commitment in providing health care services to children in the state.

Administrative and Chief Executive Officer, National Primary Care Development Agency, NPHDA, Dr Faisal Shuaib, represented by a Zonal Director in the Agency, Mr Otowo Kennedy, said they were doing a lot to protect people against killer diseases in the country.

He noted some states were experiencing health emergencies such as diphtheria, malaria and other tropical diseases.

Dr Faisal Shuaib disclosed the outbreak of a new CPV2 polio virus in Borno State. He urged that all hands must be on deck to forestall the reemergence of poliomyelitis cases in the state.

Commissioner of Health, Dr. Cletus Shurkuk

appreciated the role being played by stakeholders in the total eradication of the disease.

Dr. Shurkuk highlighted immunization as one of the common ways of preventing the disease.

He called on all parents to ensure that children from zero to 59 months were administered the polio vaccine.

On his part, Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ephraim Usman pledged to ensure that all the seventeen LGAs in the state were covered.

Executive Secretary, Primary Healthcare Board, Dr Raymond Juryet said significant progress has been recorded under the administration of Governor Caleb Mutfwang and assured of meeting the programme target under the leadership of the Deputy Governor, Josephine Piyo.

He thanked partners for success recorded so far.

There were Good-will messages from partners such as World Health Organization, WHO, Rotary International who all commended the state government for its remarkable achievement in eradicating polio. They pledged their continued support.

Gbong Gwom Jos, Jacob Gyang Buba represented by the Gwom Rwei of Riyom, Samuel Jok stressed the need for sensitization among the traditional rulers who will in turn talk to their people about the importance of the exercise.

The representative of the governor and other dignitaries later administered the vaccine to some children.

Archbishop confers Papal honour on 19 recipients

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

The Archbishop of Kaduna, Most Rev Matthew Man-Oso Ndagoso, recently conferred Papal Honours on 19 recipients of the Archdiocese including priests, religious and laity owing to their invaluable contribution to the Church and humanity.

The thanksgiving Mass and investiture of Monsignors, Papal Knights and medalists which held at the St Joseph's Cathedral, Kaduna, attracted priests, religious, lay faithful as well as well-wishers in their numbers.

Archbishop Ndagoso said the event was meant to honour and celebrate those who have proven themselves in the service "not only of the church but in the service of humanity. They have done a lot. I mean, nothing extraordinary. They have done what ordinarily is our duty to do as human beings.

According to him, when the opportunity avails itself to acknowledge and appreciate one of us for what he has done and" simply this what the Church does. So it's a way of encouraging them to try and even do more to serve humanity, and that is why their names were suggested.



Ndagoso

We send them to Rome and Holy Father graciously and kindly, bestowed these honours on them and it is these honours that today we confer on them on behalf of the Holy Father.

Ndagoso however lamented the lack of leadership based on the common good in the country, evident by the plethora of challenges bedevilling Nigeria. "We have no business being poor. We have no business with our citizens going to bed hungry", if only our leaders channel the resources for the common good.

One of the recipients, Dame Lauretia Laraba Mallam, humbled by the honour, said: "I cannot thank God enough, because this is a

rare opportunity. We are here celebrating an award that came from Rome. It is the Lord's doing, the Lord had done it even before we were born. He knew that we'll be here today to be celebrated, because He knows the type of life we'll live when we are born."

The former Minister further hinted on her innate attributes since birth as one who has passion for the poor, needy and humanity. "I was not doing what I did that gave me this award for anybody to celebrate or appreciate me.

Another Awardee, Papal Knight Stephen Orgar, elated, said "I feel very humbled, weak in everything, because this is grace, nothing to do with any of us, it's just the grace of God. He however said the award is a task to do



Shinkur

THE WORLD

With Palang Kasmi

Poetic thoughts

Celebrating Nigeria's 63rd independence

Nigeria Independence Celebration Poem

by Valentine Mbagu, Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria.

As October 1 approaches, HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY.....
I have enormous tracts of land and vast volumes of water, but cannot feed myself.

So I spend \$1 billion to import rice and another \$2 billion on milk. I produce rice, but don't eat it. I have millions of cows but no milk. I am 53, please celebrate me.

I drive the best cars in the world but have no roads, so I crush my best brains in the caverns, craters and crevasses they crash into daily. I am in unending mourning, please celebrate me.

My school has no teacher and my classroom has no roof. I take lectures through windows and live with 15 others in one room. All my professors have gone abroad, and the rest are awaiting visas. I am a university graduate, but I am illiterate. I want a future, please celebrate me.

Preventable diseases send me to hospitals without doctors, medicines or power.

All the nurses have gone abroad and the rest are waiting to go also. I have the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the world; and future generations are dying before me. I am hopeless, hapless and helpless, please celebrate me.

For democracy's sake I stood all day on Election Day. But before I could ink my thumb, results had been broadcast. When I dared to speak out, silence was enthroned by bullets. My leaders are my oppressors, and my policemen are my terrors. I am ruled by men in mufti, but I am not a democracy. I have no verve, no vote, no voice, please celebrate me.

My youth have no past, present nor future. So my sons in the North have become street urchins; and his brothers in the South have become kidnappers. My nephews die of thirst in the Sahara and his cousins drown in the Mediterranean. My daughters walk the streets of Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt; while her sisters parade the streets of Rome and Amsterdam. I am grief-stricken, please celebrate me.

Pen-wielding bandits have raided everything in my vaults. They walk the land with haughty strides and fly the skies with private planes. They have looted the future of generations unborn; and have money they cannot spend in several lifetimes, but their brothers die of starvation. I want a kit of kindness, please celebrate me.

I can produce anything, but import everything. So my toothpick is made in China; my toothpaste is made in South Africa; my salt is made in Ghana; my butter is made in Ireland; my milk is made in Holland; my shoe is made in Italy; my vegetable oil is made in Malaysia*** my biscuit is made in Indonesia; my chocolate is made in Turkey and my table water made in France. My taste is far-flung and foreign, please celebrate me.

My land is dead because all the trees have been cut down; flooding kills thousands yearly because the drainages are clogged; my fishes are dead because the oil companies dump waste in my rivers; my communities are vanishing into the huge yawns of gully erosion, and nothing is being done.

My very existence is uncertain and I am in the deepest depths of despondence, please celebrate me.

I have genuine leather but choose to eat it. So I spend billions of dollars to import fake leather. I have four refineries, but prefer to import fuel, so I waste more billions to import petrol. I have no security in my country, but send troops to keep peace in another man's land. I have hundreds of dams, but no water. So I drink 'pure' water that roils my innards. I need a vision, please celebrate me. I have a million candidates craving to enter universities, but my dungeons can only accommodate a tenth. I have no power, but choose to flare gas, so my people have learnt to see in the dark and stare at the glare of Unclad flares. I am shrouded by darkness, please celebrate me.

For my golden jubilee, I shall spend 16 billion naira to bash around the bonfires of the banal. So what if the majority gaze at my possessed, frenzied dance; drenched in silent tears, as probity is enslaved in democracy's empty cellars? I am profligacy personified, please celebrate me.

Why can I not simply reflect and ponder?
Does my complexion cloud the colour of my character?
Does my location limit the lengths my liberty?
Does the spirit of my conviction shackle my soul
Does my mien maim the mine of my mind?
And is failure worth celebrating?
I AM NIGERIAN, PLEASE CELEBRATE ME

As Nigeria celebrates her 63rd independence, though low-key with a few activities lined up, the following poems by different poets will spice your day. Poetry remains one of the most creative and apt ways of expressing realities of life.



Nigeria poem

I have a dream that one day in Nigeria, graduates will no longer be searching for jobs but jobs will be searching for them. I have a dream that one day Nigeria will be a country, where the leaders of tomorrow will not wait until they have gray hairs before they belong in the corridors of power. I have a dream that one day in Nigeria, the left hand will no longer move to collect bribes on the road and corruption will be buried forever. I have a dream that one day in Nigeria, politics will not be a do-or-die affair and the people's votes will count. I have a dream that one day in Nigeria, human life will attain its real value and blood will no longer be shed in religious clashes. I have a dream that one day in Nigeria, graduates will no longer be searching for jobs but jobs will be searching for them. I have a dream that one day in Nigeria, citizens will become financially stable and rise beyond the poverty line. I have a dream that one day in Nigeria, leaders will seek political positions not for selfish interest but for the collective good of all. I have a dream that one day Nigeria will become a better place for us all.

Source: Opinion Nigeria

The Clarion Call

A Poem for Nigeria
by Kingsley Chinedu Nnanweuba

In the FCT they shout cheers!
In Ogoni it is tears.
Suffering and smiling,
Baboon dey chop, Monkey dey work,
Wait! Monkey dey work Baboon dey talk.
Hmm! Monkey dey toil Baboon dey destroy.
Let's not be timid like a Deer, let's be bold like a Bear;
It's time to bring down the sun,
though the house may burn.
To them all must be taken while some have not eaten.
To serve our father land, but you are ready to starve this very land.
The military came with the boot and acted like brute,
Civilians came with agbada, it's their time to loot.
The youths are in the beer parlour just siddon dey look.
It is time to wear the boots like the brutes and ask for the loots.
Arise o compatriots, it's not time to talk like parrots.
The labour of our heroes past, shall never be in vain,
Seems the labour of our heroes present, is for personal gain.
Let us serve with our heart and might;
Then the burden would be light.
This has been for a while, good we're asking why?
Compatriots who have been cowed but refuse to cower,
Under fire but refused to retire,
Retired but refused to be tired,
Repressed but refused to be depressed,
Castigated but refused to be demotivated,
Disgraced but refused to be derailed,
On these our hope is laid.
In the middle of the tunnel I can see light;
When light come, things would cease to be tight.
Great lofty heights we'll be attained,
In a nation where peace and justice will not be detained.
And we shall no longer live in gory,
Then we can boldly shout, To God be the Glory!
"The Clarion Call" is a poem written by Kingsley Chinedu Nnanweuba for Nigeria's Independence celebration in Malaysia. The poem was written to inspire courage for change in Nigeria and Africa. Chinedu is a student of INTI University Malaysia where he is studying for a Masters of Business Administration.

EVERY'S WORLD

With Palang Kasmi

Nigeria @ 63: independence meals ideas

NIGERIA is 63 today and trust Nigerians to be creative about it. See how they are creative not only about their dress sense but even down to food.

According to foodporch.com, every 1st October since 1960, Nigeria has celebrated and will continue to celebrate Independence. Nigeria is a country so blessed, so unique, yet so diverse.

"Our culture and language are so diverse that you can put 10 people from different parts of Yoruba land (a tribe in Nigeria) together in a room, say, Ogun, Oyo, Ekiti and Ondo; and they may not fully understand themselves. The same applies to Igbos and other tribes. Interesting right? Huh".

"Our dressing, our outlook to life, our values, even our foods are also different from town to town and tribe to tribe within this beautiful Country of ours. It has always been that way, and it'll always be that way. Over time, education, marriage and work has made people learn other people's language, dressing styles, culture and even food. But believe me, some foods are just very peculiar to each tribes. That's not our "gist" for today".

"So, on this beautiful celebration, what food is acceptable by every tribe in Nigeria, and my answer is RICE. Apart from Football, the only other thing that unites the world is FOOD; of which RICE is the most common. As we celebrate Independence this year, may Peace reign in our Country, may our Leaders be guided right and may we all be true Compatriots of this beautiful Country".

Spice your independence day rice with these amazing green and white recipes and food decoration ideas to wet the appetite of your family. Check out these beautifully designed Nigerian Independence Day Meals Photos and be creative about deliberately changing the normal jollof rice recipe to have a touch of green and white. These beautifully designed foods coloured in green and white to celebrate Nigeria's independence have been making rounds online.



Nigerian Independence Rice

By Uummy Alqaly

Ingredients

1 Cup Rice
1 tsp Green food color
water (as needed)

Cooking Instructions

Step 1

Prepare Your rice for cooking

Step 2

Place water on fire until there hot Then wash your rice in running water then add to the water and boil until the rice has cooked properly being cooked then drain it in a colander.

Step 3

Divide the rice into three then add green food color to a separate clean pot then add the one portion and mix well until properly mixed together allow the food color to drain properly and the rice to drain

Step 4

Place the white rice (2 portion) and 2 tbsp of water and allow to cook for 3-4mins then arrange meaning draw the Nigerian map that is green white green Serve with Vegetables soup.

Nigerian Fried rice recipe

Total time: Over an Hour. Serves:8

Ingredients

3 cups White Rice
2 cups Liquid Stock (Boiled meat water) i.e. Turkey stock, Beef Stock or Chicken stock
2 tbsp. Curry Powder (For Colour)
3 Seasoning cubes
Salt to taste
4 cloves Garlic, minced
8 tbsp. Vegetable oil
3 medium sized Carrots
2 large Green Capsicum (Green bell pepper)
1 cup Green Peas
2 bulbs Red Onion
A handful Green Beans
200g Cow Liver

Directions

Preparation of the liver:

Wash the liver thoroughly with water and dice. Place the diced liver in a small pot, season with salt and steam for 10 minutes. Turn off the burner and set aside.

Preparation of the vegetables:

Step 1: Scrape the back of the carrots, Wash and dice.

Step 2: Remove the seeds from the green bell pepper, Wash and dice.

Step 3: Wash and dice the runner beans.

Step 4: Wash and steam the green peas with a little salt to taste.

Step 5: Wash and chop the Onions.

Set the veggies aside.

Preparation of the Curried rice:

Step 1: Parboil the rice in water for about 10mins. Cooking for this short period of time ensures it doesn't get too soft before the real curried rice preparation as well as removes some of the starch to prevent it from sticking together. Wash and rinse with clean cold water.

Step 2: Place the washed rice in a pot and add the Stock (I used turkey stock for this). Add some water, Curry powder (For color and taste), Seasoning cubes, Salt to taste and minced garlic. Cover the pot and leave to cook till the liquid in the pot dries up leaving the softened (But not too soft) rice .

The Fried Rice Preparation:

Fried rice is usually done in batches (if you want to go the Authentic way) so you'd have to divide the veggies, rice and liver into 4 batches (let's call it batch 1,2,3,4)

Step 1: Heat two tbsp. of vegetable oil in a large pan.

Step 2: Add the batch 1 veggies (carrot, green pepper, peas, runner beans, onions) and stir-fry for about 1 minute. Add the liver (Batch 1) and stir-fry for 2mins. Add the rice (Batch 1) and stir to incorporate the mixture, leave for 1 minute before turning out into a pot.

Repeat the process above till the whole batch is used up

P.S: If you do not want to go through the stress, Simply Stir-fry all the veggies and liver in a pan, Add it to the curried rice and mix to incorporate. Leave to heat further on low heat before turning off the burner.

Serve hot!

Source: The food porch



Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi
peekembo@yahoo.com
08036417305, 08095322786

Justice for Fwinbe Thomas Gofwan

I have read with horror a trending incident on social media about how a so-called mistaken identity issue, led mobs to a horrifying Jungle Justice and killing of a youth, Fwinbe Thomas Gofwan, a graduate of the university of Jos.

Fwinbe Thomas, a young man, reportedly met his tragic fate on September 27, 2023 and it was alleged that he was perceived by the perpetrators to be a car thief, and that the attackers thought that he was driving a vehicle resembling one that had been stolen earlier leading the enraged mob to brutally attack the victim, using large rocks and sticks to fatally injure him. Sadly, the damage had been done, before his true identity came to light.

The incident is not only heartbreaking but barbaric and already, there is an outpour of calls for justice. The perpetrators should be apprehended and brought to book because there is no justification for this inhuman act.

The leading organisation of youths in Plateau State, Plateau Youth Council (PYC) were among the first groups to call for justice for the deceased in a statement signed by its Chairman Sunday Adas on 28th September.

The statement read: "The attention of the Plateau State Youth Council, has been drawn to a very worrisome and disturbing development of the incident that led to the sad and painful demise of Fwinbe Thomas Gofwan reportedly carried out by a group of mob around Domkat Bali in the city center of Jos".

"Council is deeply pained particularly, by the way and manner the deceased was murdered. Whatever the surrounding issues



Late Fwinbe

are, Fwinbe does not for any reason, deserve to be killed in such a wicked manner in supposedly exposed clime where appropriate authorities are available handle such matters".

"In its entirety, we condemn the barbaric act and call on all spirited individuals and organisations speak up in strong terms and join us as we work tirelessly to ensure that justice prevails in the end".

"To the immediate family of the deceased and by extension, all Plateau Youth and Plateau people, we extend our sincere condolences and assure you that we will not rest on our oars in working very hard to ensure those behind the incident are brought to book within the shortest possible time. Consequently, we call on the security agencies, particularly the police and the DSS to swing into action immediately and ensure that no stone is left unturned in ensuring that the matter is thoroughly investigated and all involved in the gruesome killing of one of us are apprehended and brought to book to serve as a lesson to those who may also be planning to take certain laws into their hands".

"Conclusively, while we

understand the deep pains associated with this incident, we call on everyone to remain calm and maintain peace while we work very hard alongside the security to ensure justice prevails in the end. Once more, sincere condolences from all of us at the Plateau State Youth Council!"

Plateau Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo has also extended a show of love by visiting the family of the deceased to condole with them over the sad incident, even as she calls on authorities to act and immediately arrest the perpetrators.

The Deputy Governor in a statement after the visit described the death of the young man as painful and regretted that life was

snuffed out of him in an inhumane and ungodly manner.

"I pray God grants him eternal rest and the family the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss, and for security agencies to wade into action immediately and bring the perpetrators of the dastardly act to book".

She also called on citizens of the state to be their brothers' keeper as the state is known for peaceful coexistence and communal living by all.

During her visit, spokesperson for the family, Mr Simon Gofwan, thanked the deputy governor and government of Plateau state for identifying with them in their moment of grief.

He called on the government to ensure that the killers of their son are arrested and made to face the consequences of their actions.

Fwinbe's family, kinsmen, friends, community, and entire right thinking persons are mourning this great loss, the manner it happened makes the pain worse.

The tone on social media is sad, many Nigerians are not happy with the sad and barbaric incident and are calling on security agencies to get to the root of the matter and make arrests.

Even if it was a case of mistaken identity or car theft as alleged, citizens should learn to follow legal means and take such issues to the appropriate authorities rather than resort to jungle justice. For life to be snuffed out of such an enterprising youth is totally not acceptable, whatever the justification because human life is sacred. The perpetrators should be fished out and punished to serve as a deterrent to others.

There is no justification for such action whatever the explanation given as the reason for the lynching and mob action, therefore there sound be justice for Fwinbe Thomas Gofwan.

Painful
EXIT

FWINBE THOMAS GOFWAN
28TH AUGUST 1988 - 25TH SEPTEMBER 2023

35 YEARS

SUBIAL ARRANGEMENT:
SATURDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023 4:00PM
Candle Light Session @ Domkat Bali Road.

SUNDAY, 1ST OCTOBER 2023 4:00 PM
Service of Songs @ Family House, Shaaka

MONDAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2023 7:00AM
Body departs Plateau Specialist Hospital for Funeral Service
Interment follows immediately @ Family Compound,
Mwel, Ampang East, Kanke LGA of Plateau State

May his soul rest in peace. Amen.



Deputy Gov, Piyo during a condolence visit to the family

EVER'S WORLD

With Palang Kasmir

Living

Emotional abuse signs and support

By NEHA PATHAK

Emotional abuse is generally considered any harmful abusive behavior that is not physical. A relationship becomes emotionally abusive when the pattern occurs repeatedly over time.

While there are no physical scars or broken bones, emotional abuse is a form of domestic violence. Emotionally abusive relationships do not always include physical violence, but psychological abuse can be a precursor to physical harm in a relationship. Other names for emotional abuse include mental abuse and psychological abuse. One or two incidents may just be a bad fight. However, several incidents create the dynamic of an abusive relationship.

It may include the following: Aggressive verbal communication, verbal threats, manipulative and controlling behavior, humiliation in front of friends or families, name-calling, insults, and put-downs, silent treatment, recommended, gaslighting, isolating you from others.

The results of being in an emotionally abusive relationship may include depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Emotional abuse can take place in any type of relationship. That's because it's often a means to establish control over the other person, be it a child, partner, friend, family member, or co-worker. Oftentimes, when a parent, guardian, or other authority figure is emotionally abusive toward a child or teenager, they don't physically show or express attitudes that support healthy development and overall well-being. Instead, they tend to create an atmosphere of fear, hostility, or stress at home.

They may do this by: Showing a lack of emotions, disregarding the presence or specific needs of the child, not addressing children by their given names, being deliberately unkind, calling names, or saying mean things like "you're stupid", making the child feel unwanted or a burden with comments such as "I wish you were never born"

Comparing children to siblings or their peers, blaming children for personal, emotional, or financial problems

Verbal abuse or threatening physical punishment in a raised voice

Not recognizing a child's limitations and placing unrealistic expectations or goals on them, children who are emotionally abused tend to become highly sensitive to their parent's opinions, feelings, and behaviors. They may alter their own decisions or behaviors to keep the peace or please their parents.

Emotional abuse among couples. This can happen in any relationship regardless of the gender or sexual identity of the partners. In fact, more than 12 million people in the U.S. report emotional abuse from an intimate partner. And it's more common than physical or sexual abuse.

It may start out small like losing your temper or excessive yelling during everyday disagreements, but it can soon grow into name-calling, gaslighting, criticizing, controlling, blaming, and micromanaging your choices or behaviors.

Over time, it's possible for emotional abuse from parents, partners, or other relations to turn



into physical abuse. Emotional abuse in the workplace. This can start when another employee or a superior at work starts to question your competence or degrades your work in front of others. This can create a hostile or toxic environment, which causes psychological stress and trauma. It can make it hard to fulfill your tasks and duties at work each day. Workplace bullies may use subtle or not-so-subtle signs, like:

Controlling the narrative when you're collaborating on projects or tasks, talking down to you or using intimidation, questioning your commitment or ability to prioritize work over personal demands such as family, kids, or friends, sending passive-aggressive emails, shaming or guilt-tripping you about your work performance, second-guessing your professional ability or expertise with other co-workers

Gossiping about you or your personal or professional life, ignoring you at meetings or other workplace interactions, excluding you from work-related social gatherings, blaming or scapegoating you for problems at work

threatening to fire or expose you, comparing you to other co-workers, taking credit for your work. If you notice these signs, talk to your human resources representative or a superior you trust at work if you're able to. You can also file a legal complaint or look up options to safeguard your rights as an employee.

Signs of an Emotionally Abusive Relationship

An emotionally abusive relationship may not be as easy to spot as a physically abusive one. However, there are some signs to look out for when trying to identify an emotionally abusive relationship: Possessiveness, jealousy, and controlling behavior, emotionally abusive partners are often jealous. They frame their possessive feelings as positive. However, in an abusive dynamic, this jealousy can turn into controlling behavior like:

Expecting you to answer texts and calls right away, no matter where you are or what you are doing, always questioning what you were doing, where you have been, and who you have been with, disliking your friends of their gender, disliking other people in your life and discouraging you from seeing them, isolating you from them, accusing you of cheating with no evidence. They may also try to control you with money or access to things you need. This is more prevalent in relationship dynamics where one person works and the other doesn't. An emotionally abusive partner may

limit your access to money so that they know everything you are doing. They may also limit your access to a vehicle or phone to prevent you from going to places or talking to people they don't approve of.

Shifting blame and gaslighting. Gaslighting is when an emotionally abusive partner makes you question your reality and sanity. For example, emotionally abusive partners may blame you for their own harmful behaviors. They may unfairly blame you for making them upset and for ways that they treat you. Other forms of gaslighting may include: Saying that something you witnessed or experienced didn't happen, telling you that you are crazy, telling you that other people are lying to you, telling clear lies

Invalidating your identities (for example, "You're not really an artist, you just paint on the weekends."), manipulation and ultimatums.

A person who is emotionally abusive may try to manipulate their partners in several ways. At its most severe, they may threaten suicide, self-harm, or harming someone else if you try to end the relationship. They may also threaten blackmail. This behavior is usually an attempt to prevent you from leaving. They also may make statements that imply that their affection relies on you meeting their requirements, mean jokes, humiliation, and putdowns, emotional abuse sometimes starts as a partner simply not treating you very nicely. They may make fun of you, put you down, and humiliate you in front of friends and family. When you tell them that something they said was offensive, they may say you're taking things too seriously or being oversensitive, feeling embarrassed of how your partner treats you. Some people in emotionally abusive relationships find it embarrassing to be in this situation. This causes them to further withdraw from friends and family. Not wanting people to see how your partner treats you is a warning sign of an emotionally abusive relationship.

Emotional distancing as punishment is another issue. People who abuse others emotionally often use the "silent treatment" or emotional distancing as punishment. The silent treatment is when a partner refuses to talk to you or, in some cases, to even acknowledge you, after a fight. In some cases, a partner may still talk to you but may act emotionally distant, treating you more like an acquaintance than a romantic partner. In extreme cases, they may leave you stranded somewhere or withhold things you need after a fight.

Effects of Emotional Abuse

At first, as an adult, it may be hard to come to terms with the fact that someone you know or love is emotionally abusing you. But as you do, you may feel a number of emotions. These can be emotional, mental, and physical symptoms that stem from the trauma. They can include: Fear, confusion, shame, guilt, hopelessness, depression, stress, anxiety, for children, it can have long-term psychological and behavioral impacts in their life.

They may: Want attention or cling to someone for emotional security, show or develop risky behavior such as stealing, physical fights, or bullying others, become detached and not care about things, become people-pleaser, have a hard time expressing emotions, have anger, mood, or temper issues, find it difficult to maintain relationships, develop eating or sleep disorders, engage in self-harm, emotional abuse can also have physical effects, such as: Body aches and pains, muscle tension, problems with focus and concentration, emotional abuse and PTSD. It's possible for emotional abuse to cause posttraumatic stress disorder. This is a type of mental condition that makes it very difficult to recover from the abuse due to signs and triggers that cause you to relive over and over again how you felt during the abuse.

PTSD symptoms often include: Avoiding triggers or reminders of the abuse. This can include people, places, signs, things, locations, or events. A sudden outburst of emotions or anger when you're triggered by a memory of the abuse. Some people feel numb to emotions, have sleeping issues, and get startled easily. If you're reliving certain interactions from the abuse, PTSD may cause physical symptoms such as a spike in heart rate, nausea, muscle tension, and more. You may have intense emotions and physical outbursts. If you notice signs of PTSD, tell your doctor about it right away. They can help you find treatment or refer you to a mental health professional. It may help to get support from your trusted family and friends. It's important to address PTSD as soon as possible as it can take a long-term physical as well as emotional toll on you. This can include diabetes, heart problems, high blood pressure, and substance abuse, among other things.

Dealing With an emotionally abusive relationship

On average, it takes seven attempts before successfully leaving an abusive relationship. There are many reasons why it may not seem possible to leave,

including: Threats from the abuser, belief that it would be better to stay together if you have children, financial instability, lack of family or community support, need to keep health insurance, lack of self-esteem/believing you don't deserve better, however, there are some tips that may help get out of an emotionally abusive relationship and deal with how you feel after getting out of one. Reach out to someone. Emotionally abusive relationships are isolating. Reaching out to someone, whether it is a friend, family member, clergy member, or anonymous hotline, is often a valuable first step. Reach out to people who you know will always have your back. This will start to build you a supportive network and can give you more time away from the abusive partner.

Create a safety plan. Even though emotional abuse is not physically dangerous, it is still not safe. Emotional abuse can escalate to physical abuse. So create a safety plan that includes saving money and planning where you will go and how you will get there if things do become physically unsafe. Prioritize yourself. Create time for self-care. It can be as simple as going for a walk by yourself, putting on a face mask, or calling a family member or friend without your partner listening. Put yourself first to focus on what you want and need.

Create a relationship bill of rights. A relationship bill of rights helps you to prioritize your needs and rights in a relationship. Examples of relationship rights include: The right to feel safe, the right to prioritize yourself, the right to say no, the right to make mistakes, the right to express your feelings. For your mental and physical health and overall safety, it's important to set personal boundaries. These are basically reasonable rules, guidelines, or limitations you can create to stop others from invading your time, peace, and space. It also helps to set expectations on what you're not willing to put up with during your interactions with others.

But it's important to note that personal boundaries aren't the same as ultimatums. An ultimatum tells someone else how to behave, while a boundary is a statement of your own personal limits. They're meant to help you communicate in a healthy fashion and promote self-respect and self-care. To set boundaries, you should: Calm and firmly establish your clear emotional or physical boundary. This can look like, "I don't respond after work hours" or "Please don't talk down to me." Don't apologize, justify, or try to reason as to why you have set a boundary.

BUSINESS WORLD

Using unconventional principles to revamp economy

Business owners are perturbed with the state of the economy. The Central Bank of Nigeria is unable to meet the foreign exchange (forex) needs of business owners. The "black market" is where most businesses go to get their forex. Persistent recourse to the black market is increasing the cost of doing business with attendant consequences of rising inflation and price instability. A cursory look at economic uncertainties in the country today, reminds this writer about the Prussian philosopher Carl Von Clausewitz and the Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu. M.A. JOHNSON writes.

Is it possible for Nigeria to draw inspiration from the principles articulated by any of these great philosophers to navigate uncharted waters of the economy and map out strategies that suit her peculiarities? Policy decision makers need to reflect on the nation's history, antecedent and peculiarities in order to win the economic war. Due to lack of space, I will be considering the application of the principles of war to combat the economic crisis bedeviling our nation.

When it comes to solving economic problems, the principles of war may appear irrelevant. We may need to try these principles. Although there are no universally accepted principles of war, Sun Tzu was the first to document the earliest known principles of war. It was after careful analysis of these principles that business experts as well as military veterans discovered that they are applicable to every sphere of human endeavour.

These principles, ten in number, shaped military planning and execution for ages. Some military theorists have expressed their views that these principles, when carefully thought through and applied, are equally applicable to the competitive battleground of international commercial operations, providing a sound foundation for business activities. These scholars further argue that an individual's chances of business success will increase if the leader and the team understand and adapt the Principles of War to their business.

The first and very crucial Principle of War is known as "Selection and Maintenance of Aim." Other principles are: Maintenance of morale, offensive action, security, surprise, and concentration of forces, economy of effort, flexibility, cooperation and sustainability. All the elements of the Principles of War are relevant when it comes to repositioning the economy of a nation. Selection and Maintenance of Aim" is the first principle of war and it's of utmost importance in revamping an ailing economy.

For Nigeria to be free from the current economic backwardness, she must be bold enough not to follow rigidly popular reform and policy recommendations of some advanced economies

What are the expectations of the people from politicians having constitutional authority? In selecting and maintaining the aim, it is expected that those in elected and appointed positions will provide unity of effort and unity of purpose to pursue the agenda of the President, state governors and local government chairmen. It is expected that all ministers, commissioners, local government officials and special advisers comprehend what they are to achieve and why they are to achieve it.

We expect all the governors to have their agendas because they are not of the same political party as the President. But in governance, it is imperative to ensure that national development remains the priority. Any clever state governor irrespective of political party will



align his state agenda to that of the President at the centre for ease of funding and support. All elected and appointed politicians must decide what to do, why to do it, and keep the agenda in view as events unfold. That is why scholars refer to "Selection and Maintenance of Aim" as the "Master Principle of War." It is seen as a process, an outcome and an output. There must be clarity. Clarity delivers effectiveness and efficiency.

Today, the Federal Government has an 8-point agenda as follows: "Food security; ending poverty; economic growth and job creation; access to capital; improving security; improving the playing field on which people and particularly companies operate; rule of law; and fighting corruption." The aim is to reposition the economy. By the 8-point agenda, the government of the day has selected what this columnist considers as components of the aim to be achieved. To achieve this aim, those with constitutional authority must maintain the aim by having policies in place that will enable them achieve selected objectives. The remaining nine principles of war can be applied in policy formulation and implementation.

For Nigeria to be free from the current economic backwardness, she must be bold enough not to follow rigidly popular reform and policy recommendations of some advanced economies. I say this with all sense of responsibility. We observed that these universally applicable reform measures do not fit into the nation's reality. Nigeria should be able to redefine its own political economy from past and present realities.

Presently, our reality is that we are

a highly indebted nation, unable to build local capacity to process food and to refine crude oil for petroleum products as well as mine effectively our solid minerals for export. A country with poor infrastructural facilities to transport goods and services and to maintain the quality of education and healthcare needed for development. In decades we have had different agendas at state and federal levels but they have barely re-positioned the economy. Why? So many things, particularly policy formulation and implementation strategies go wrong.

Although most countries have political and economic challenges, they differ in content and magnitude. The case of China is very relevant here in my view. China's economic reform has worked but the mechanism of these reforms still puzzles economists of the global North. Why? China applied homegrown solutions to solving its domestic economic problems. From advanced economies came suggestions that China must transform from a planned economy to a market economy. Privatization, stabilization, and liberalization were some of the economic models suggested to China without which the economy will fail. But China's reform success was without complete liberalization and without privatization. China showed an unconventional approach towards solving its economic challenges. The essence here is to show that China engaged an unconventional approach outside well known economic theories.

Nigeria is a peculiar nation when it comes to repositioning our economy. It will not be surprising

that Nigeria's economic miracle lies in the birth of well thought out policy guided by our peculiar circumstances, history and antecedents. Some Nigerians are quick to suggest that everything should be left to "market forces." In the last ten years, I have been part of the crusade for market forces. While market forces worked in some countries I am yet to see its effectiveness in our country. It's because the market forces of supply and demand have not brought down the prices of goods and services in the country. Production and consumption are at their lowest in many years.

Since 29 May 2023 when the subsidy on petroleum products was removed, and the forex market was unified, economic experts applauded the moves by the federal government. Alas, the forces of the market has not been able to control the price of fuel and the foreign exchange rate. At the time of writing, the petroleum product is subsidized as the NNPC is alleged to now use dividends accruable to Nigeria to pay the subsidy. The Naira that was exchanged for 460/US\$ at the end of May 2023, has been swinging up and down and is now at N980/US\$. These values change randomly. Public intellectuals and economists are of the view that "it's all pain and no gain for one of the world's worst performing currencies, naira, this year whose 40% slump since June has not been enough to restore investor confidence."

A business lawyer is of the view that we must learn how to fashion a way to use the market as a tool in the pursuit of the nation's development objectives. Truly, economic theories will support the need for market forces any day, and a free reign of the invisible hand of the market. We must appreciate that the invisible hand of the market needs the invisible hand of the government.

I submit that the government can apply

other principles of war as deemed necessary to reposition the economy. The government through its policies must maintain confidence and trust of local and foreign investors. That is "Maintenance of morale," while the elements of surprise and offensive actions can be applied to tackle the plots of economic saboteurs. We must be able to surprise our competitors globally. Security must be provided for all the citizens through the application of "concentration of forces." We must secure our borders, trade and critical infrastructure. There must be an "economy of effort" by ensuring that we have round pegs in round holes in order to revamp our economy, and flexibility in terms of policy formulation and implementation, the same way we solicit for cooperation by all stakeholders in a sustainable manner. Let's remember that there are always alternatives to policy options that are not working.

A sudden transition to a market driven economy may not be ideal for Nigeria's weak production and industrial capabilities. Now that there is an eight-point agenda from the government, conventional approaches may prove inadequate in grappling with complex issues of inflation, unemployment, domestic and external debts, trade deficits and scarcity of foreign exchange. The way forward is to select and ensure maintenance of the aim to reposition our economy while redefining what constitutes the market and its forces as we remove all bottlenecks preventing local production. Thank you.

BUSINESS WORLD

Crude oil price hits \$97 per barrel

BRENT crude oil price rallied to \$97.5 on Thursday, as the crude storage hub in Cushing, Oklahoma, United States, fell by 943,000 barrels to 22 million barrels within one week.

According to the Managing Director of TD Securities, Bart Melek, the hike in Brent oil price was driven by the decline in crude stocks in Cushing.

"Today's price action seems to be Cushing driven, as it reaches a 22 million bbl low, the lowest level since July 2022," Melek told CNBC.

The price of crude oil started the week at \$93 per barrel but skyrocketed by 4.83 per cent in the last four days. Although the price has dropped slightly to \$96.18 as of the time of filing this report.

According to Melek, the price of crude oil will remain high till the end of the year, as it receives support from Saudi Arabia and Russia cuts.

Saudi Arabia had extended its one million production output cut to December 2023, while Russia settled to drop its production by 300,000 barrels to drive up prices.

Aside from the voluntary cuts by the two countries influencing crude oil costs, a



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further drop in supply is expected due to the season of refinery maintenance, which Melek said is close by.

Refinery maintenance is a turnaround period that occurs between March to May and September to November.

It usually leads to a production break.

"We do think that prices could keep up near these levels for quite some time. But I don't think it's too permanent. And we might have seen the end of this

THE National Economic Council on recently affirmed that the \$3bn emergency loan-for-crude oil the Federal Government secured in August would be deployed to stabilise the naira, whose value has continued to fluctuate in the Investors & Exporters' window and worsened in the parallel market, hitting N1000/\$ earlier this month.

Addressing State House correspondents after the 136th NEC meeting, which was held at the Aso Rock Presidential Villa, Abuja, the Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule, said, "So, we are very confident and we still believe very strongly that with the plan that will come out and with all these items that have been listed on the improvement of revenue, the \$3bn shall be useful to us down the line."

On August 16, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited revealed that it

with the LGAs receiving N44.752 billion.

The sum of N12.027 billion (13 per cent of mineral revenue) and N0.296 billion (13 per cent of savings from NNPC) went to the relevant States as derivation revenue.

From the N177.092 billion augmentation, the federal government received N93.292 billion, the 36 States received N47.319 billion and the local government areas got N36.481 billion.

FG set to support small businesses with N75bn

THE Federal Government has set aside a N75 billion intervention fund to support small businesses in response to the country's current economic challenges. The fund is expected to be disbursed, starting from March 2024 to strengthen the manufacturing sector. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Doris Uzoka-Anite made this known recently while declaring open this year's Abuja International Trade Fair (AITF).

Uzoka-Anite was represented by the Director of Commodity and Export, Kaura Irimiya. The minister

"CBN will spend \$3bn loan to stabilise economy"



Cardoso

secured an emergency \$3bn crude repayment loan from Afrexim Bank to relieve pressure on the naira.

It said the loan would enable it to settle taxes and royalties in advance.

It would also equip the Federal Government with the necessary dollar liquidity to stabilise the naira, with limited risk.

However, the naira has continued to fluctuate in the I&E window and worsened at the parallel market, hitting N1000/\$ the week before last. Asked when the intervention would kick in and if there would be a need for a supplementary budget, Sule said "The \$3bn that was taken in order to stabilise the naira. As you have seen we have

a new team at the CBN and the new team that is just coming in is asking for a little bit of time in order to work out the modalities.

"It is one thing to take the loan it is another to plan the process of the stabilisation because it's going to take a while.

"The CBN governor was just confirmed a few days back and he started rolling out his plans of what to do."

On the supplementary budget, Sule "Supplementary budget is a request that will come as a result of whatever is happening right now. I'm not sure there is a need for a supplementary budget immediately. So far, there have been no supplementary budget requests that were presented to NEC."

revenue (IGR).

"We in the FCT are calling on the private sector to come and invest in the territory to boost our IGR with the assurances that the administration is determined to put in place the necessary infrastructure to ease their costs."

Speaking on the theme, 'Sustainable Financing and Taxation', Dr Al-Mujtaba Abubakar said AITF has served as a trusted global trade platform attracting over five hundred thousand consumers and providing an opportunity for business relationships.

FAAC shares N1.1trn to federal, state, local govts

THE Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) has shared a total sum of N1.101 trillion revenue that was generated in August, 2023 to the three tiers of government being monthly allocation from the Joint Federation Account.

Despite the recent increase in monthly revenue generation, the balance in the excess crude account (ECA) has remained \$473,754.57.

A communique issued by FAAC at its September, 2023 meeting showed that a total revenue of N1,483,902 trillion was available in the month of August 2023. Total deductions for cost of collection was N58.755 billion, total transfers and refunds were N254.046 billion and savings were N71.000 billion.

The communique indicated that the N1.1 trillion total distributable revenue is comprised of distributable statutory revenue of N357.398 billion, N321.941 billion raised from Value Added Tax (VAT), N14.102 billion generated from electronic money transfer levy, N229.568 billion that came in from exchange rate differential, and augmentation of NN177.092 billion.

Gross statutory revenue of N891.934 billion was received for the month of August 2023. This was lower than the N1, 150, 424 trillion received in the month of July 2023 by N258.490 billion.

The gross revenue available from the VAT was N345.727 billion. This was higher than the N298.789 billion available in the month of July 2023 by N46.938 billion.

The communique stated that from the N1.1 trillion total distributable revenue, the federal government received a total of N431.245 billion, 36 states and the FCT received N361.188 billion, while the local government areas got N266.538 billion.

A total sum of N26.473 billion (13 percent of mineral revenue) and N14.657 billion (13 percent of savings from NNPC), were shared to the relevant States as derivation revenue. From the N357.398 billion distributable statutory revenue, the federal government received N173.102 billion, the state governments received N87.800 billion and the local government areas received N67.690 billion.

From the N321.941 billion VAT revenue for the month, federal government received N48.291 billion, states received N160.971 billion, while the LGAs got N112.679 billion.

The available N14.102 billion electronic transfer levy was shared as follows: federal government: N2.115 billion; state governments: N7.051 billion, and LGAs: N4.936 billion.

A breakdown of the figures shared by director of press in the office of the accountant-general of the federal, Bawa Mokwa, showed that federal government took N114.445 billion from the N229.568 billion that came in from exchange differential, while all the state governments received N58.048 billion,



Edu



Congratulatory Message

From

Langtang North LGC

Hearty Cheers! Nigeria @ 63

THE Transition Implementation Committee Chairman of Langtang North Local Government Council, **Hon. Godwin Nanmwa Kumzhi**, on behalf of the Executive and Traditional Councils, management & staff of the Council and indeed the entire peace loving people of Langtang North LGA, join well-meaning Nigerians, home and abroad in felicitating with the President and Commander in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, **Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR)**, the Vice President, His Excellency, **Kashim Shettima (GCON)**, Senate President, **Senator Godswill Akpabio** and members of the Senate, Speaker, **Tajudeen Abbas** and members of the House of Representatives, the Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, his deputy, Her Excellency, **Mrs. Josephine Piyo**, Speaker and members of the Plateau State House of Assembly as well as the entire citizens of our great country on this memorable occasion of the 63rd Anniversary celebration of our political independence.

Indeed, Nigeria as a sovereign state is truly blessed with both human and material resources and having a strong veil of unity; has come a long way in our democratic journey towards sustaining our remarkable feat as the giant of Africa.

While we felicitate with Nigeria and Nigerians on the celebration of our nationhood, we, in Langtang North Local Government are proud to identify with the "TIME IS NOW" mantra of the **Governor Caleb Mutfwang** led administration on the Plateau; anchored on securing Plateau and placing her on the trajectory of socio-economic development.

Although the challenges are enormous, they are not insurmountable. The best is still possible and the time is now.

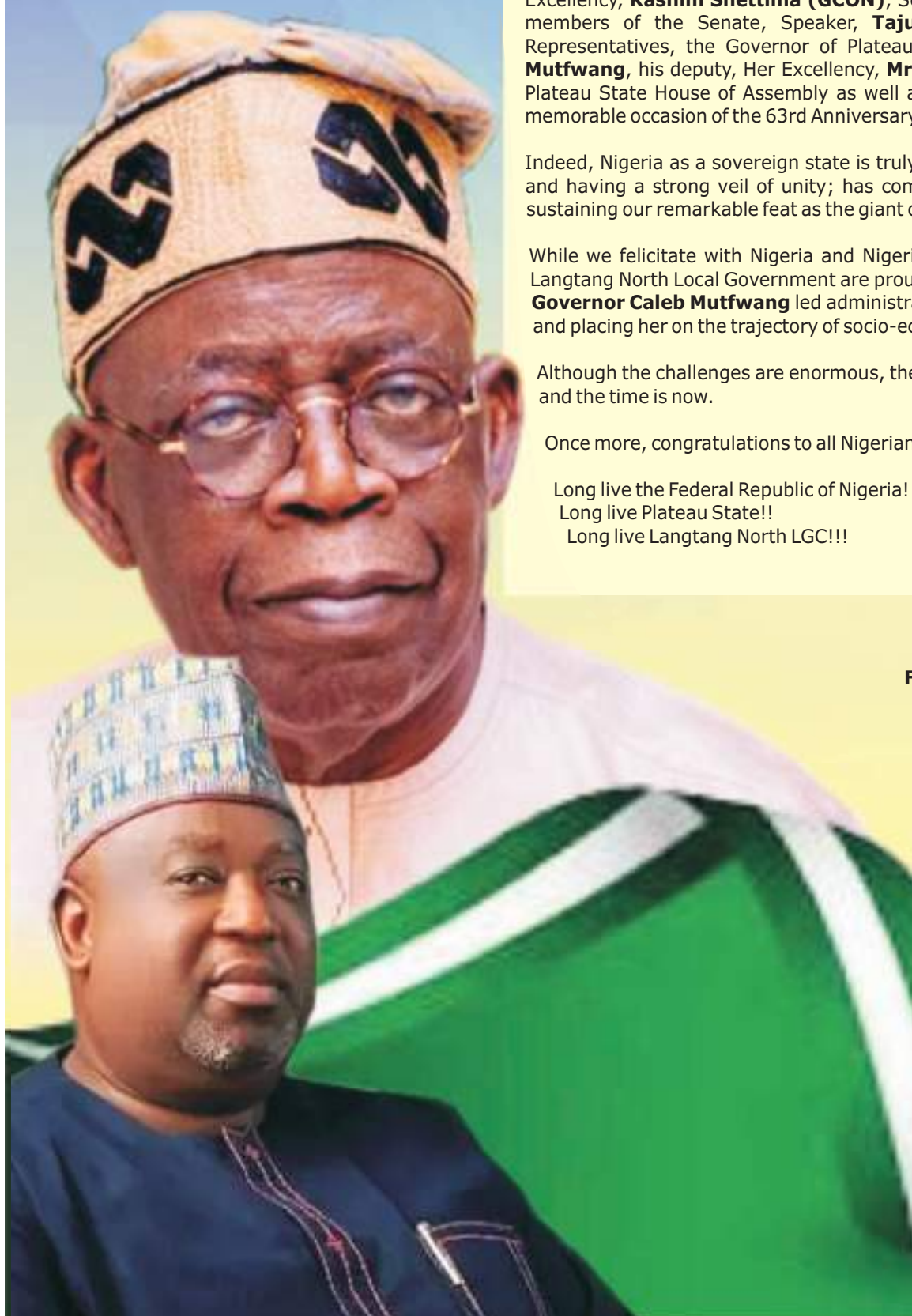
Once more, congratulations to all Nigerians.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!
 Long live Plateau State!!
 Long live Langtang North LGC!!!

SIGNED:
NANKAP FRIDAY PAITOS,
 Information Officer,
 For: TIC Chairman, Langtang North LGC



Hon. Kumzhi



ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Is solid minerals sector a game-changer

Nigeria, renowned for her vast reserves of mineral wealth finds itself at a crossroads as it grapples with the policy measures aimed at revitalizing the underperforming mining sector. Consequently, the Nigerian mining sector has long been seen as a potential powerhouse for economic growth and development. JOSEPH NNANNA writes,

THE proposed Solid Minerals Corporation represents a strategic move towards diversifying Nigeria's revenue stream and positioning the country as a major exporter of vital solid resources

Recently, the Minister of Mining and Solid Minerals, introduced the Transformation Agenda, which includes the establishment of the Nigerian Solid Minerals Corporation. This corporation is intended to oversee the operations of mining and exploration activities in Nigeria. It is a state-backed initiative aimed towards attracting significant foreign direct investments and forming partnerships with international miners for the extraction of gold, coal, iron ore, bitumen, lead, limestone, and barite, with the promise of unlocking the potential of Nigeria's mineral resources and diversifying the economy. This move begs the questions: Can this proposed solid minerals corporation be the solution to the mining sector's issues? Can Nigeria leverage this proposed solid mineral corporation to attract foreign earnings amid the scarcity of FX, seeing that the country heavily relies on the proceeds of crude oil to earn FX - which, consequently, affects the strength of the Naira?

Over the years, the mining sector has encountered various challenges that have stymied its growth. First and foremost, the sector wrestles with illegal mining activities, which not only deprive the nation of much-needed revenue and FX, but also exacerbate environmental degradation and social conflicts. Secondly, there is a shortage of infrastructure and modern technology, hindering the exploration and extraction of valuable minerals. Lastly, bureaucratic red tape and inconsistent policies have deterred both local and foreign investors from actively participating in the sector, resulting in untapped potential and revenue losses.

Despite the hurdles, the proposed Solid Minerals Corporation holds promise as a solution to the mining sector's challenges. On the positive side, it aims to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by creating a conducive environment for investors, fostering economic growth, and providing job opportunities. On the negative side, establishing the Solid Minerals Corporation in Nigeria, may introduce added bureaucracy and potential corruption risks. As such, statistics regarding the sector's growth, revealed that the solid minerals sector contributed a noteworthy N193.59 billion in revenues in 2021 alone, and a cumulative revenue contribution of N814.59 billion between 2007 and 2021, according to a report from Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI). Nigeria boasts of 44 different types



of commercially viable minerals, estimated to be worth a staggering \$700 billion as per the Solid Minerals Development Fund (SMDF), with gold, coal, iron ore, bitumen, lead, limestone, and barite, representing just the tip of the iceberg.

The proposed Solid Minerals Corporation represents a strategic move towards diversifying Nigeria's revenue stream and positioning the country as a major exporter of vital solid resources. Taking Australia, the world's largest exporter of lithium, as a case study, Nigeria can draw inspiration and position itself as a major exporter of vital solid resources. Lithium is a highly sought-after resource essential for energy companies like Tesla, making it a valuable commodity in the global market. However, while the establishment of a state-owned mining sector, the Nigerian Solid Minerals Corporation, holds significant importance to the growth of the Nigerian economy, it is crucial for the government to proceed with caution. This is necessary because investors and industry operators often view such initiatives with skepticism due to concerns about potential nationalization, as seen in the case of South Africa. Thus, learning from South Africa's experience provides a valuable insight into how Nigeria should approach this endeavour.

Nigerian Solid Minerals Corporation as solution to mining sector issues

Over the last 8 years, spanning from 2013 to 2021, a comparison of the revenue generated by

Nigeria from oil and solid minerals reveals a dynamic landscape influenced by factors such as oil prices, production levels, and mineral market conditions. Historically, Nigeria being one of Africa's largest oil producers and exporters, has consistently relied significantly on revenue from crude oil.

Consequently, the fiscal health of Nigeria has been intricately tied to the volatile fluctuations in global oil prices. In 2013, for instance, oil prices were relatively high, averaging around \$109 per barrel of Brent crude oil, resulting in substantial revenue from oil.

The subsequent years witnessed significant volatility in oil prices, with prices dipping in 2014, 2015, and 2016 due to oversupply and weakened global demand, leading to a decline in Nigeria's oil revenue. Although there was a partial recovery in oil prices in 2017 and 2018, volatility persisted, affecting Nigeria's revenue during these years. In 2019, oil prices stabilized somewhat, but the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 triggered a sharp decline in oil prices and revenue due to plummeting global demand. In 2021, oil prices began to recover, but they remained below pre-pandemic levels, presenting ongoing challenges to Nigeria's oil revenue. In 2022, global oil prices surged higher amid the Russian war in Ukraine and supply chain disruptions affected the global economy coupled with OPEC and OPEC+ cuts in supply of crude oil.

On the other hand, revenue from solid minerals has historically been relatively modest compared to oil

revenue; thus, it offers stability and growth potential. Nigeria boasts of significant solid mineral resources, including gold, lead, zinc, tin, and iron ore. Recent years have seen concerted efforts to revitalize the solid minerals sector, including policy reforms and initiatives aimed at attracting private sector investment. While solid minerals revenue may not have matched oil revenue during the past 8 years, it has the potential to provide a more stable and diversified income stream. This comparison underscores the vital importance and feasibility of diversifying Nigeria's revenue sources by developing the solid minerals sector. Sole reliance on oil revenue leaves the country exposed to the volatility of global oil prices, as evidenced by the significant price fluctuations over the years. Though solid minerals revenue may initially be lower than oil revenue, it offers stability and the potential for long-term growth especially along the value chain when fully developed and optimized. Moreover, it reduces Nigeria's vulnerability to the unpredictable dynamics of the oil market.

Considering the revenue data and the challenges associated with oil dependency, diversifying into the solid minerals sector becomes imperative for Nigeria's economic stability and long-term sustainability. This time, it is different from previous proposals because Nigeria is actively considering diversification. The President is actively pursuing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to boost the economy and make

Nigeria an attractive destination for investors after years of decline. Thus, the changing economic landscape and commitment from the government underscore the timeliness and necessity of the Solid Minerals Corporation, with the cornerstone of its feasibility lying in Nigeria's remarkable endowment of mineral resources.

Unlocking Nigeria's mining potential and policy recommendation

The feasibility of the Nigerian Solid Minerals Corporation as a solution to the mining sector's issues, hinges on its ability to combat illegal mining activities and improve resource management. The use of satellite geo-mapping tools is imperative in this regard. These tools enable precise resource identification and tracking, promoting transparency and accountability in the sector. Additionally, such measures align with Nigeria's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, signalling a commitment to environmentally sustainable practices. Amidst these efforts, careful planning and implementation are essential to ensure that the corporation achieves its objectives without causing undue concern among investors and industry stakeholders. If executed effectively, the Nigerian Solid Minerals Corporation has the potential to be the long-awaited solution to the mining sector's persistent challenges, driving economic growth and diversification in Nigeria.

Prof. Nnanna, chief economist, Development Bank of Nigeria.

METRO-FOCUS

Giving Jos a new look

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Once upon a time, the heart of Jos was the envy of most states. Everything was orderly. Sellers of clothes were in the market and so were the sellers of food stuff. The roads were used for the purposes they were built for. Garbage was disposed of in the right place as at when due. We didn't appreciate what we had.

Immediately the administration of Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang took over the mantle of leadership, one of the actions he took, was declaring a state of emergency on environmental sanitation. Prior to that, his predecessor, Simon Bako Lalong, had resurrected the monthly sanitation exercise. But it was not implemented strictly. Mutfwang has made it a point of duty by ensuring that it is enforced. And those who disregard it, immediately face mobile courts where they are charged accordingly.

Overgrown grasses and shrubs are now the norm around us. The most worrisome are those seen in the heart of the city especially around public spaces, institutions and even offices. For a state whose logo is 'peace and tourism' an unkempt environment calls for concern. It gives us a very bad name among the comity of states.

One of the things most governments are engaged in is selling their states to investors. To sell one's product successfully involves packaging. If Plateau will make a headway in that direction, then some measures have to be taken to make that a reality.

A drive around town has revealed how unkempt the environment around most public institutions are. Take for instance, the long stretch of Airforce Military School fence that faces the road that goes down to Rayfield, seat of government, it is overgrown with shrubs. And it makes the area look bad. In the past, the school authority used to ensure it was well trimmed.

The outward appearance of most offices, schools, institutions are wearing an unkempt outlook. Where there should be flowers, one sees overgrown grasses or shrubs. A good example are properties opposite St Finbarr's Catholic Church, Rayfield. This is the same road that leads to Government House. The attention of the owners of these properties should be drawn to the fact that they have a responsibility to keep the property neat not only inside but outside because it affects how the state looks.

It is also on record that majority of these structures are residential houses of people who do not live here on the Plateau, but wish to have a gigantic building and only employed the services of young people as security to look after their property without any serious maintenance.



Most of these houses are around Rayfield, Millionaire Quarters, Ibrahim Taiwo, JD Gomwalk road, Yakubu Gowon Way, Murtala Muhammad Way, Apollo Crescent, both State and Federal Low Cost, Bukuru Express Way and so on. Sadly, as beautiful as these buildings are, maintaining their surroundings is a problem.

We are not in any way discouraging lovers of Jos-Plateau from coming to build here, but helping in making Plateau healthy, beautiful and safe is what we are requesting. It is possible that you were attracted to the state by its serene environment, clement weather, beautiful topographical setting and hospitable nature of its residents. However, we are requesting that you help in making this town more beautiful and attractive.

Unfortunately, more attention is always given to grasses inside the premises, leaving the side facing the road bushy until the exit of rainy season when they are gathered and burnt. This is making the beautiful city not attractive and we do not expect government or Plateau State Ministry of Environment to send

its cleaners to these institutions or houses to clear the grasses for us.

Although, some few have interlocking tiles to the road lane, but majority of these institutions and houses do not care about how their outside view looks like. For some institutions, all they care about is what their take home would be at the end of every month.

They fail to understand that when you fail to make the environment of your organisation clean and attractive to whoever comes in, you are destroying what it was meant for and it affects patronage especially when it is a business organisation.

Even for the fear of snakes and other reptiles, one needs not be told to cut those grasses to avoid any avoidable incidents that may bring pain to us while still at work or on our way out. It is not safe to deliberately create hiding places for these dangerous reptiles in a big city like this.

This has made the beautiful city of Jos look untidy of recent. It is of note that we are exiting the rainy season having witnessed regular downpour and it has ensured grasses are outgrown

everywhere. But it should not be a reason for us to leave the environment bushy.

Government on its part should make deliberate efforts to ensure the citizenry use the time dedicated for the sanitation for the purpose it was meant for. This may involve engaging the services of sanitation supervisors in areas they are familiar with. What obtains in most households is that they use the sanitation hours to sleep longer hours and afterwards, play sports until the sanitation is over.

Plateau State can borrow a leaf from Lagos State. Every end of month, a particular day of the week has been chosen as environmental sanitation day for the market and business community. On this particular day, the market does not open until after their sanitation. The way it is carried out, everyone gets involved. This exercise has brought sanity to the market.

It would be recalled that years back, the state government contracted waste management to some private organisations, but not much was achieved. Although, it started well but it crashed along the line either for

non compliance on the side of the citizens or lack of seriousness on the part of the contractors. Only God knows!

In spite of the several meetings and negotiations between these contractors and the State Ministry of Environment over the years, waste materials and grasses were seen along our major streets. It is possible that the failure of this privatization was what forced government to go back to the old practice of strict monthly sanitation exercise.

However, it will also be good if government would instruct institutions and residential houses to not just stay indoors during this exercise as a sign of respect to the order, but should be seen clearing their surroundings. All hands should be on deck to change the look of Plateau State.

In fact, drastic step should be taken against these institutions or residential houses who deliberately leave grasses to outgrow, so that, our dream of being the tourism haven of Nigeria would be achieved. It may not be out of place to sensitize the people even as a fine could be charged against any defaulter.

NEWS

Over 350 Nigerian pilgrims arrive Jordan

By DORCAS PANKYES

THE pilgrimage was initially scheduled to take place in April but was halted due to the increase in the value of the US dollar, which affected the ability of Nigerian pilgrims to afford the trip. However, with the stabilization of the dollar, the pilgrimage was able to resume.

In a statement issued by Pam Ayuba, Special Assistant on Media to Executive Secretary, Nigeria Christian Pilgrimage

Amman Jordan recently.

The pilgrims were warmly received by officials of Tabar Tours and Hajjat Tours and Travel upon their arrival at the Amman International Airport. Over 350 pilgrims from various states in Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Lagos, Bayelsa, Imo, and Cross Rivers, make up this particular batch.

The Easter pilgrimage in Jordan holds significant religious importance for Christians, as it allows them to visit biblical sites and follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. It is a spiritual journey that deepens their faith and connection to their religious roots.

The resumption of the pilgrimage is a positive development for Nigerian Christians, as it provides them with the opportunity to fulfill their religious obligations and strengthen their bond with God. It also promotes cultural exchange and strengthens ties between Nigeria and Jordan.

The Nigerian government, in collaboration with tour agencies, has been working hard to ensure the smooth and successful completion of the pilgrimage. Strict health and safety protocols are in place to protect the pilgrims from the ongoing Covid-19



Pam

pandemic.

Overall, the resumption of the Easter pilgrimage in Jordan is a significant step forward for Nigerian pilgrims, as they are able to resume their religious journey and reconnect with their faith after experiencing a delay earlier in the year.

On the first day of the tour, pilgrims were taken to River Jabbok where Jacob wrestled with the Lord demanding to be blessed or he would not leave Him. God blessed Jacob and changed his name to Israel, marking the total transformation of the Israelites from there forward.

The next point of the visit was at Um Qais, Gedara, an ancient Greco-Roman city of Decapolis, a borderline between Jordan and Syria where Jesus Christ healed two young men who were possessed by demons.

According to the Bible account, as recorded in Mark 5:7, the demons were cast out into a swine of pigs and died thereafter at a river in the valley of Gedara.

Pilgrims were also taken to Tall Mar Elias, believed to be former Tishbi, close to the

ruins of a village known as Listib said to be associated with the birthplace of the Prophet Elijah.

According to the biblical history of the people of the Ancient Near East, (ANE), Elijah was a native of Giliat in Transjordan as recorded in the book of 2 Kings 17:1. Recent archaeological discoveries were said to have substantiated this theory, following the two churches that were built on the Tall (Hilltop) at the end of the Byzantine era.

Jesus was said to have passed through this trade route with His disciples to Syria and adjoining villages to preach.

In all the sites visited, Nigerian Christians prayed for continued unity of the country, seeking the face of God for the new administration of President Bola Tinubu to succeed. They prayed for peace and development of the land and that governments at all levels should fear God and deliver dividends of democracy and reduce poverty. Prayers were also offered for the sick and the remaining electoral cases at the various election petition tribunals nationwide.

PLATETAU State First Lady, Barrister Mrs. Helen M. Mutfwang has been decorated as Drug Abuse Ambassador and also chairman State Drug Control Committee (DCC) in the state.

Barrister Mrs. Mutfwang was decorated by the Management team of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Plateau State command led by commander Umar M. Yahuza during courtesy visit on the First Lady at they Governor's residence Rayfield Jos, recently.

The First Lady while in audience with the NDLEA management team applauded the Command for intensifying efforts towards protecting the future of the youth, particularly in the fight against drugs or substance abuse in the state.

Barr. Mrs. Mutfwang described the fight against drug abuse as a noble and very crucial one, if the future of the youth must be safeguard in the society.

She said that government and stakeholders are seriously concerned with the increasing rate of youth indulging in drug abuse. She noted that noble means should be put in place by both government and stakeholders in order to overcome the menace in the society.

Barr. Mrs. Mutfwang also told the NDLEA management team that the project she is currently proposing and working towards, if it comes to reality would equally touch some of the youths in the society.

The First Lady assured the NDLEA management team of her office's readiness to

NDLEA decorates First Lady as drug abuse ambassador

By JIDAUNA DARING

collaborate with the agency to combat the menace which she said has currently destroyed the future of the youth in the state.

She then commended the NDLEA state command for using the media to champion the course of educating people on the danger of any kind of substance abuse through sensitization programmes and encouraged them to sustain such tempo.

Earlier in his remarks, commander Umar M. Yahuza who led the NDLEA management team appreciated the First Lady for the warm reception accorded them during the visit.

Commander Yahuza told the First Lady that the purpose of their visit was to brief her on some of the activities being carried out in the fight against the consumption of substance abuse.

He said that the Command thought it very expedient to pay her courtesy visit so as to explore more ways of

collaboration to fight the menace both in the urban and rural areas.

Commander Yahuza also stated that drugs trafficking and substance abuse in Plateau State and Nigeria as a whole have become worrisome, looking at the destructions it has done to the youth.

He pointed out that the kinds of drugs being taken by the youth have continued to increase more crime or social vices in the society.

Commander Yahuza appealed to the First Lady to also create time and visit the command's rehabilitation centre which was under construction before the work stopped. He added that the centre aim was to provide skills to the affected drug addicts in the state.

Our correspondent reports that the state drug control committee stakeholders includes: Ministry for Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, security agencies and schools.



Mutfwang

Bello approves grading, upgrading of 300 traditional stools

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi recently approved the grading and upgrading of 300 traditional stools in Kogi

Our correspondent reports

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

that the approval was part of the outcome of the Executive Council meeting held at the

Lugard House in Lokoja recently.

Bello, who presided over the meeting, said the grading and upgrading of the stools became imperative in view of the important roles the traditional rulers played in enhancing peaceful coexistence amongst citizens.

The governor, in a statement issued by his media aide, Onogwu Muhammed, upgraded Akinrin of Ekinrin from non-class to 1st class, Ohireba of Ebiraland from non-class to 1st class and Obaje Otalu-Atabaka from 2nd class to first class.

"The grading and upgrading of the 300 traditional stools in Kogi is part of our decisions at today's executive council meeting," he said.

The council also approved a Bill for a law to establish the Kogi State Oil Producing Area Development Commission, KOSOPADEC.

Also approved was a Bill for a law to establish the Kogi State Meat Hygiene and Inspection for the safety of lives of residents of the state.

Diphtheria outbreak: 2.2 million children require vaccination - UNICEF

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has called for widespread vaccination against Diphtheria following confirmed cases of its spread across Nigeria.

In a press release sounding the warning and issued by UNICEF's Communication Assistant, Nchekwube Nwosu-Igbo, it said the outbreak has so far resulted in over 11,500 suspected cases, more than 7,000 confirmed cases and has already claimed the lives of 453 people who are mostly children.

To respond effectively to the outbreak, UNICEF Nigeria says it needs to raise an additional US\$ 3.3 million until the end of the year. "So far, on behalf of the government, UNICEF has deployed 9.3 million doses of diphtheria vaccines to Kano, Bauchi, Borno, Yobe, Katsina,

Nigeria is home to a staggering 2.2 million children who haven't received even a single dose of vaccine, the second largest cohort in the world.

"We must collectively take urgent action to drastically reduce this number. Every child deserves protection from preventable diseases. This is not negotiable". The release quoted Dr. Rowan Khan, UNICEF Representative.

UNICEF Nigeria is therefore calling on all partners, stakeholders and the international community to rally together to ensure that every child in Nigeria is reached with life-saving, vaccines.

The children's agency emphasized the importance of strengthening routine immunization, community engagement and health systems to avoid similar outbreaks in

"The devastating impact of this diphtheria outbreak is a grim reminder of the importance of vaccination.



Bello



Goodwill Message

From

**Plateau State Contributory
Healthcare Management Agency
(PLASCHEMA)**



THE Director General, Management, and entire staff of the Plateau State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (PLASCHEMA), **Dr. Agabus Nanfwang Manasseh** join other Nigerians in rejoicing with His Excellency, **Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and His Excellency, **Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, the Executive Governor of Plateau State on the occasion of Nigeria's 63rd Independence anniversary celebration.

We also extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Speaker and Honorable members of the Plateau State House of Assembly, as well as all the peace-loving people of Plateau State on this momentous day which stands as our national pride and resilience.

As an Agency dedicated to the well-being of our citizens and the pursuit of Universal Health coverage in Plateau State, we recognize the importance of this day in our Nation's history. Our mandate to regulate, supervise, and implement the State social Health Insurance Scheme aligns with the broader goal of ensuring financial protection for individuals and families from the burden of exorbitant medical bills.

We seize this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang** on the resounding affirmation of his election by the Governorship Election Petition Tribunal. This triumph is a testament to the overwhelming mandate the people of Plateau State gave you in the March 2023 elections.

May this Independence Day serve as a reminder of our collective commitment to progress, unity, and the well-being of our citizens. Together we can achieve a healthier, more prosperous future for all. Happy Independence Day, Nigeria!

Signed:
Dr. Agabus Nanfwang Manasseh
Director General, PLASCHEMA



Independence Goodwill Message

From

Plateau State Specialist Hospital

THE Chief Medical Director, **Prof. Christopher Sabo Yilgwan** on behalf of the management and the entire State of Plateau state Specialist Hospital, Jos heartily join the entire people of Plateau State in facilitating with His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Mutfwang** the Executive Governor of Plateau State and his Deputy Her Excellency **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, the Plateau State Executive Council, the National and State House of Assembly members, the Judiciary, Plateau State Traditional Council and the entire hospitable and peace loving people of Plateau State on the occasion of Nigerian's 63rd independence day celebrations.

As we celebrate this year independence day, we wish to salute and cherish the memories of our Heroes past, who made it possible. Our renewed hope and commitments in the Plateau project of our dreams is further substantiated with the tribunal victory of our dear Governor. Indeed, all distractions are over and the "TIME IS NOW" to move Plateau State forward.

Your Excellency Sir, your few months in office have re-kindled the hope of the people of Plateau State that you are a tested, trusted, dedicated, sacrificial and God fearing leader who has the political, economic, spiritual will and capacity to move Plateau to it God's ordained place.

Some of these evident in your dynamic and pragmatic decisions so far taken. Your swift response in the health sector cannot go unnoticed especially your recent approval of an improved hazard allowance for Health workers, payments of back logs of unpaid salaries, demonstrated the importance the "TIME IS NOW" administration attached to the healthcare of its citizenry.

In addition, your recent visit to the hospital and your commitment to completing all the abandoned projects as well as initiating new ones in the hospital assures us of your desire to make Plateau State a medical tourism destination globally.

May your tenure be filled with continuous positive impact for the collective benefit of our dear and cherished state.

Happy 63rd independence day to all Nigerians at home and in diaspora.

Long live Plateau State Specialist Hospital!
Long live Plateau Stat!!
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

Signed:
TALATU ACHAN ANGI ANIPR
Public Relation Officer
For: Management Plateau State Specialist Hospital



Prof. Yilgwan

NEWS

NCPC boss honored as Distinguished Peace Ambassador

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Rev Dr Yakubu Pam, the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Christian Pilgrims Commission (NCPC), was recently honored with the prestigious Peace Ambassador Award by Citizen FM, Abuja.

Mr Salmon Salami, the Chief Operating Officer of Citizen FM, presented the formal letter of the award to Rev Pam in his office on September 29, 2023.

Expressing his gratitude, Rev Pam mentioned that he was deeply delighted to receive this recognition from Citizen FM. He emphasized that his dedication to promoting peace was not for personal recognition but for the betterment of the country.

He also stressed the importance of fostering peaceful coexistence and good governance at the grassroots level.

Rev Dr Yakubu Pam emphasized the importance of peace and harmony in the country, especially in the face of various challenges and conflicts. He reiterated his commitment to working tirelessly to promote peacebuilding and reconciliation among all Nigerians, regardless of their religious or ethnic differences.

Rev Pam commended Citizen FM for their unique contribution to promoting peace and stated that their efforts would undoubtedly benefit the nation. He expressed confidence that the FM station would reap the rewards of their endeavors in due course.



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Furthermore, the Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to the management of Citizen FM for acknowledging his efforts and recognizing the significant role he plays in advocating for peace. He urged other media organizations to prioritize the promotion of peace and harmony in their coverage, as this would contribute to national development and peaceful coexistence.

In his remarks, Mr Salmon Salami, the Chief Operating Officer of Citizen FM, praised Rev Dr Yakubu Pam for his tireless efforts in promoting peace and unity in Nigeria. He highlighted the impact of the Executive Secretary's initiatives and programs in fostering interfaith dialogue, promoting understanding, and preventing conflicts.

Mr Salami stated that the decision to honor Rev Dr Yakubu Pam as a distinguished Peace Ambassador was based on his remarkable

achievements and contributions to peacebuilding. He commended the Executive Secretary for being an exemplary leader and urged him to continue his good work.

The Peace Ambassador award presentation is scheduled to take place at a ceremony organized by Citizen FM, where prominent individuals, government officials, religious leaders, and members of the public will gather to celebrate the achievements of Rev Dr Yakubu Pam and other distinguished peace advocates.

The award serves as a motivation for the Executive Secretary to redouble his efforts in promoting peace and harmony in the country. Rev Dr Yakubu Pam remains committed to his role in the Nigeria Christian Pilgrim Commission and will continue to work towards peacebuilding, reconciliation, and unity

By FWENJI GO'AR

NUDGOSA set for 2023 National Convention

THE Nawair Ud Deen Grammar School, Old Students Association, NUDGOSA, Obantoko, Abeokuta, Ogun State has put in place all modalities to hold its 2023 National Convention at the school's main field between 14th and 16th of December, 2023.

The decision was made during a meeting of the National Executive Committee of NUDGOSA, National Convention Central Working Committee, Chairmen and Secretaries of Chapters and Sets at the school compound recently.

The Chairman, NEC, Honourable Fasiu Bakenne, who also doubles as the chairman CWC, in his remarks said that the meeting was primarily meant to discuss and assess the preparedness towards the national convention and to review and approve the proposals and submissions of the constituted committees.

The National General Secretary and Chairman, 1980 set, Mr Bode Fabule highlighted the order of the event to include roadwalk

and debate/quiz competition for day one, jumat service and chapters/sets night for day two, and a grand finale which includes anniversary lecture, project launch, project commissioning and donations for the third day.

Fabule also highlighted some previous achievements of the old students which include construction of blocks of classrooms, renovation of blocks of classrooms, furnishing of laboratories and donation of computer sets to the school.

Other previous achievements were sponsorship of sporting activities, sponsorship of production of the school magazine, award of scholarship to indigent students, and the ongoing construction of the multipurpose school hall.

Damilola Sanni, Chairman, Mobilization and Publicity Committee and Publicity Secretary of the 1980 set, highlighted goals and expectations of the 2023 convention as mobilization of funds for the infrastructural

development of the school, launching of projects, and strengthening of bonds among the old students.

Sanni said that the 1980 set donated a three classroom block during the last convention and is also planning another project for presentation during the coming 2023 convention.

Chairman, 2023 Convention Fund Raising Committee, Dr Lateef Odekunle, said the convention is the largest assembly of all old students and is a forum that enables all old students from all over the world and all walks of life to connect with their alma mater and with one another and that the meeting offers valuable resources and networking opportunities with a rich platform for bonding and camaraderie.

Nawair Ud Deen Grammar School was established on the 19 of January, 1962 in Elegu, Abeokuta by the Nawair Ud Deen Society of Nigeria.

The school started in full in 1964 when they moved to their permanent site at Obantoko, Abeokuta.

Rights of parents, teachers will be protected - PTA Chairma

By NAMU SANUSI

THE newly elected Caretaker Chairman of the Police Children School, Zaria Road Jos, Mr Namu Sanusi Allahnana has said that he would ensure that the rights of parents and teachers would be protected.

Allahnana stated this recently during a



Ado

congress meeting where they were elected to serve as the new PTA Executive.

According to him, he would ensure that the PTA has a platform to communicate without hindrance. 'I will not be a party to a situation where parents and teachers are harassed.'

He urged parents to always forward their complaints to the Executive for a dialogue than to keep malice with one another.

Mr Namu Sanusi said as the Chairman (PTA), he would make his phone

numbers available to all parents to call and get clarification on any issues of concern.

Earlier in her speech, the Headmistress of the school, Mrs Zainab Ado, congratulated the newly elected Exco over what she described as a well deserved choice.

She advised them to carry all parents and teachers along so as to erase doubt.

She also urged them to be free and fair to all parents, adding that it is only by doing so that they will make their work easy.

Building Materials Exhibition: WACL leads in tiles production

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Stakeholders at the just concluded Built Environment and Building Materials Exhibition have declared the West African Ceramic Limited (WACL) as leading in made in Nigeria tiles

The ceramic company located in Ajaokuta Local

Government Area of Kogi State was also adjudged as the highest employer of indigenes of the state.

The stakeholders made the declaration during the grand finale of the Building Exhibition held recently in Lokoja, the Kogi State capital.

Arc. Onyike Amaka, representing the Managing

Director of WACL, Bhaskar Rao, at the event, disclosed that the company, makers of Royal Tiles, Royal Marbles and Natural Granites has become a household name in Kogi State, nationally and internationally owing to the reliability of its products.

Amaka also revealed that the West African Ceramic Company since its establishment, remained the highest employer of Kogi indigenes. "Over twenty thousand of its employees come from Kogi State," she revealed.

According to her, aside offering employment opportunities to Kogi people, the company is equally providing Corporate Social Responsibilities to the host communities spanning through: award of scholarships, medical outreaches, succour to

flood victims and other assistance to communities across the state.

The convener of the Kogi Built Environment and Building Materials Exhibition, Engineer Oladipo Bayode, recalled that the WACL through its Managing Director, Bhaskar Rao has partnered with this event since the inaugural edition in 2017

Bayode called for the cooperation of the host community and urged the people to continue to assist in the provision of logistics support for the smooth operation of the company in Kogi State

He explained that when Made in Nigeria products are being patronised locally and exported to international markets, it will help in building Nigeria's dwindling economy.



Bello

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Nigeria at 63, any hope?

Continued from page 10

victor, no vanquish," the ills of that war seems to be hovering around till today. Gowon himself was to be toppled by General Murtala Ramat Muhammed in 1976 while he (Gowon) was in far away Kampala, Uganda for a meeting of the then Organization for Africa Unity (OAU). Several events followed leading to the assassination of the Head of state, General Murtala Ramat Muhammed till October 1979 when the military high command, led by General Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo handed over to a democratically elected government headed by Alhaji Shehu Usman Shagari.

Again, the civilian party was soon to be over as the Alhaji Shagari-led government was sacked by the military exactly at the twilight of its first term of four (4) years in 1983. Replaced by Major General Muhammadu Buhari it continued to be an avalanche of military coups. Interim National General Buhari with all the rhetoric of corrective regime lasted for only

eighteen months as he was hove aside by the gap-toothed Minna-born General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida.

General Babangida would go down in Nigeria's history as one of the leaders that ran the longest and costliest transition programme. Yet, he took Nigerians on a ride as the transition programme became a sham. It simply came to naught. Indeed, it became a nightmare to Nigeria and for Nigerians as the (in) famous June 12, debacle almost led Nigeria to another war. The June 12 election mishap popularly believed to have been won by the late business mogul, Chief Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola, otherwise known as MKO Abiola of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) has become Nigeria's election albatross:

With General Babangida "stepping aside" and with the contraption called Interim National Government (ING) headed by the late boardroom guru, Chief Ernest Shonekan, it

was just but a matter of time before the military hawks, step in. It would be recalled that General Babangida cunningly left General Sani Abacha as Chief of Defence Staff. So, it was a matter of time before Chief Shonekan would get lost. And it took no time for that to come to past.

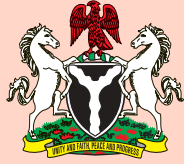
With General Abacha on the saddle, Nigeria entered perhaps its, worst face of draconian dictatorship as no voice of dissent was spared and indeed, the fear of Abacha the dark-goggled Kanuri-born General was the beginning of wisdom. The fear of it all was that, General Abacha clearly wanted to transmuted from the dreaded military dictator that he wanted to become an unknown, unpredictable civilian president that he wanted to be. But for "divine" intervention, only God knows where Nigeria, the giant of Africa would have been at the moment.

Then enters General Abdulsalami Abubakar who cautiously guided Nigeria to

another return to democratic rule in 1999. At the moment, the man on the saddle is a protagonist of the June 12 struggle and apostle of the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola-Ajiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu. Though since 1999, Chief Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, Mr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan and Muhammadu Buhari held sway, the man of the moment is Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu.

By all standards, with over twenty (20) years of uninterrupted democratic government, Nigeria can be said to have taken a giant stride in this direction considering the coup-prone nature of the country. But is it yet Uhuru for Nigerians? Are Nigerians getting and enjoying the dividends of democracy? After about twenty-four (24) years of the much mouthed "government of the people, for the people and by the people", (apology to that famous American President, Abraham Lincoln), do Nigerians have something good to show?

Though the incumbent -Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu inherited myriad of problems it becomes incumbent on him to provide solutions. Insecurity, unemployment, lack of medicare, corruption, poverty and hunger are amongst so many malaise bedeviling the country. Does the Jagaban have the magic wand to turn things around? And with the recent removal of the "legendary dubious" fuel subsidy, Nigerians are not finding things easy. And what about the looming strike action from the umbrella bodies of workers, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC)? In past sixty three (63) years of its existence as an Independent nation, one can say with truth that this is the most trying times for Nigerians. Indeed, Nigerians are "living in hell" Therefore, President Ahmed Bola Tinubu should as a matter of necessity up-his-ante so that there can be, literally, light at the end of the tunnel.



Independence Message

From
**Ministry of Water Resources
 and Energy, Plateau State**

On behalf of the Permanent Secretary, **Pharmacist Abel Gotau**, Management, and staff of the Ministry of Water Resources and Energy, I wish to felicitate with **His Excellency, Ahmed Bola Tinubu, GCON**, President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, **His Excellency, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Her Excellency, Ngo Josephine Piyo**, Deputy Governor of Plateau State, the Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly, **Rt. Hon. Moses Sule**, and the peace loving people of Plateau State on the occasion of 63rd Independence Celebration.

As we celebrate this day of freedom and unity, let us reflect on the journey that has brought us here. Our beloved Plateau State has been a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and natural beauty for decades. Today, we stand strong and united as a symbol of diversity and progress.

Let's renew our commitment to peace, unity, and prosperity on this special day. Plateau State has always been a shining example of coexistence, where different ethnic groups live together in harmony. Let's continue to cherish and protect this unity, for it is our strength.

Let us also remember our remarkable progress in education, agriculture, and healthcare. Together, we have built a state that is not only rich in natural resources but also in human potential, let's harness this potential to create a brighter future for all our citizens.

As we hoist our flag high and sing our anthem with pride, let us resolve to work hand in hand to overcome challenges and achieve greater heights. Plateau State, our home, deserves nothing less than our best efforts.

We congratulate His Excellency on the victory of the Election Tribunal and express the commitment of the Ministry to ensuring the development of the Water and Energy sectors and create the desired impact on the lives of Plateau citizens. May the peace and prosperity we celebrate today endure for generations to come.

Happy Independence Day, Plateau State!

Long live the leader of 'the time is NOW' TEAM!
 Long live Plateau State!
 Long the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Plateau at Independence Plateau Unity Prosperity For All

Signed:
Noel N. Nkup
Hon. Commissioner



Independence Anniversary

**Goodwill Message from
 Christian Pilgrim Welfare Board**



The Management and the entire Staff of the Plateau State Pilgrims Welfare Board warmly felicitate with the President and Commander in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR)**; the Vice President **Alh. Kashim Shettima (GCON)**; the Senate President, **Sen. Godswill Akpabio**, the Speaker House of Representative **Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas**, and all members of the National Assembly on this auspicious day of Nigeria's 63rd Independence Anniversary.

We also felicitate with our dear Governor of Plateau State, **His Excellency Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, the Deputy Governor **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, **Rt. Hon. Moses Sule**; the Plateau State Chief Judge, **Justice David Gwong Mann**; the Chairman, Plateau State Traditional Council of Chiefs and Amirs, His Royal Highness **Da Jacob Gyang Buba (CFR)**, Gbong Gwom Jos; members of the Plateau State House of Assembly; members of the State Executive Council, the Political class and the entire Citizens of Plateau State.

As we celebrate Nigeria's 63rd year of nation-hood, we salute the commitment and dogged determination of our amiable Governor **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang** for working hard to return Plateau State to its glorious position, a path of success and prosperity as evident in your leadership quality and the appointment of Men of timber and calibre in your Cabinet.

We also salute your support and commitment towards fostering an outstanding Christian Pilgrims programs and other spiritual exercise in the State.

Your Excellency, we wish you good health, wisdom and strength to push through with your Policies and Programs. We have no doubt in your courage and ability to surmount all leadership and security challenges in Plateau State.

Happy Independence Day celebrations to all Nigerians.

Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Long live Plateau State

Long live Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board.

Signed:
Ruth Kirna'an Ngupar
Director Administration,
CPWB

SUNDAY PEOPLE

NUJ PATRON RECEIVES NEW NUJ EXCO AT HIS PALACE IN WASE

The Emir of Wase and Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Patron, HRH Muhammad Sambo Haruna received the new Executive Council of NUJ, led by the immediate past Chairman, Mr. Peter Jatau in his Palace, Wase LGA



Mr. Paul Jatau, immediate past NUJ Chairman (right) introducing the first female NUJ Chairman, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo (left) to the Patron, HRH Muhammad Sambo Haruna



NUJ Patron, HRH Muhammad Sambo Haruna, Emir of Wase taking the new EXCO round facilities at the Palace



Mr. Paul Jatau (standing) introducing the new EXCO to His Royal Highness



Emir of Wase, HRH Muhammad Sambo Haruna, outgoing Chairman, Paul Jatau, Secretary, Peter Amine, first female Chairman, Ayuku Pwaspo in a photograph with Executive Council of NUJ

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



Goodwill Message

From

Ministry of Works, Plateau State



THE Commissioner, Ministry of Works, Plateau State, **Hon. Adams Bulus Legshak** heartily felicitate with the President and Commander in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, **Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR)**; the Vice President, **Alh. Kashim Shettima (GCON)**; the Senate President, **Sen. Godswill Akpabio**; the Speaker House of Representative, **Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas**; the Chief Justice of Nigeria, **Justice Olukayode Ariwole**.

We also felicitate with our dear Governor of Plateau State, His Excellency, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, the Deputy Governor **Ngo Josephine Piyo**, Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, **Rt. Hon. Moses Sule**; the Plateau State Chief Judge, **Justice David Gwong Mann**; the Chairman, Plateau State traditional Council, His Royal Highness, **Da Jacob Gyang Buba (CFR)**, Gbong Gwom Jos; members of the Plateau State House of Assembly; members of the State Executive Council; the Political class and the entire hospitable and peace loving People of Plateau State on the auspicious day of Nigeria's 63rd independence Anniversary.

To our indefatigable Governor, the on-going roads rehabilitation is an attestation of your Sterling leadership qualities and ability to deliver a world class social infrastructure to the State.

We assure you of our loyalty and continues commitment to statutory responsibility. We pray that God will continue to grant you wisdom in your productive lifestyle of leadership which is aimed at alleviating the plight of the masses.

God bless Nigerians!



Signed:
Engr. Beedee M. Bot
(Officer Overseeing Office of the Permanent Secretary)



Road Runner
 Michael Agada
 SAFER TOGETHER
 magada122@gmail.com
 +234 803 333 5313

Risk factors for cyclists, motorcyclist and pedestrians

Cyclists and motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable road users, mainly because we often fail to see them. Vehicle drivers are programmed to look out for other vehicles of similar or bigger size, as such anything of lesser size is not registered. The campaign THINK ONCE, THINK TWICE, THINK BIKE was designed to help drivers overcome this peculiar challenge.

Look out for **cyclists** at road junctions especially and try to allow them as much room as possible when overtaking. If you can't give them enough room, you need to slow down. Cyclists, particularly the young or those laden with shopping and bulky objects, can wobble or swerve suddenly. Even professional looking cyclists in cycling shorts and wearing helmets will not wish to risk damaging their wheels in potholes or drain covers, so be prepared for them to avoid poor road surfaces. Many cyclists may suddenly dismount if the hill they are climbing becomes too steep. Try to anticipate the actions of a cyclists. A glance over the shoulder for instance could mean that they intend turning right or will move into your path. The same goes for motorcyclists. Remember that they are exposed to bad weather, slippery or uneven road surfaces and crosswinds. Motorcyclists have the same rights and privileges as vehicles and other road users. It is important to make allowances and give them plenty of room.

Pedestrians: all pedestrians are vulnerable road users and should be seen as such; particularly children, the elderly, the mentally retarded and people living with disability. It is dangerous to assume that every pedestrian is physically and mentally fit enough not to step out and finish up under the wheels of a car. Generally speaking, you should give way to pedestrians who are crossing the road as you turn into a junction. If they are still at the pavement as you turn into the road, make sure before continuing that they have seen you and are not going to step out. In particular, look out for elderly people crossing the road. Their hearing and eyesight might not be so good. They cannot necessarily judge traffic speed so well and do not always realize the dangers involved in crossing the road. Nor will they be able to move quickly if they have misjudged the gap, so be prepared to slow down and give them time to clear the road.

Disable people need particular consideration. It is obviously difficult to tell if someone is deaf but take care if someone fails to look your way as you get closer. In civilized world, there are guide dogs for the hard of hearing as well as the visually impaired. The guide dog for the hearing impaired usually has an orange lead and collar while that of the visually impaired pedestrian has a loop type of harness. A white stick indicates the carrier is visually impaired. If the stick has two reflective red bands around it, the bearer is hard of hearing. Again, give these people plenty of time to cross the road.

As a driver, take great care near **children**. Children can dash impulsively across the road simply because they have spotted friends on the other side. Children are particularly unpredictable and you really need to be driving slowly and with special care in residential areas, near schools, parks and ice-cream vans. Be aware of the time of day when children are going to and from schools. If there is a school-crossing traffic warden holding a lollipop stick, or Stop-Children sign, then you must of course stop.

As a driver or any other road user for that matter, you just need to recognize where the risks lie, the types of conditions vehicles and road users that can potentially increase these risks. You identify the risky situation, assess it and adjust your speed and general driving habits accordingly. It is entirely up to you to decide how to deal with things. Just remember-your ability to take appropriate action lies in the speed at which you are driving.



NEWS

Air strikes destabilize activities of IPOB

By DORCAS PANKYES

IN its efforts aimed at dislocating their nefarious activities while denying them the liberty to carry out their destructive acts and killing sprees on innocent and law-abiding Nigerians, aircraft under the Air Component of Operation UDO KA II, recently, carried out several strikes on IPOB/ESN locations at Mother Valley Orsumughu in Nnewi South Local Government Area of Anambra State and at Aku Ihube in Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State.

The strikes at both locations achieved their intended outcomes and were deemed effective.

This was disclosed in a statement signed by Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, the Director of Public Relations and Information, Nigerian Air Force and was issued to newsmen in Abuja.

The statement further explained that acting on credible intelligence that IPOB/ESN terrorists had perfected plans to disrupt civic activities lined up in the coming days in Anambra State and other states in Southeast Nigeria from their concealed bunkers/hideouts at Mother Valley Orsumughu, air strikes were authorized in conjunction with ground troops and other security agencies on the location believed to also house some of their weapons and ammunitions.



Gabkwet

The strikes hit the target and were deemed successful following the ball of fire, fleeing terrorists at the location as well as feedback received.

According to the statement, Air strikes were also conducted same day, in close coordination with surface forces at IPOB/ESN hideout camps in Aku Ihube In Imo State after detailed analysis of intelligence on the terrorists converging for a likely rendezvous at their hideout.

Consequently, air strikes were also authorized to strike the hideout. The targets were acquired and attacked in succession, with a high degree

of success.

Efforts by the NAF and other security agencies at ensuring all Nigerians, irrespective of where they reside, are safe and free to conduct their activities without fear or being threatened will continue, the statement said.

It further sought the cooperation of Nigerians. "While the determination of the security agencies is unwavering, the support of all Nigerians to the security agencies remains critical to defeating these criminal elements whose only intent is to sow fear and division among the citizenry", it concludes.

PWD: Group seeks partnership with NUJ

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Community Advocacy Group of People With Disability, in collaboration with the Leprosy Mission in Nigeria, has sought partnership with the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to advocate for inclusiveness in all aspects of human endeavour.

The Chairman of the group, Mr. Ibrahim Daniel Arome, led the Advocacy Group on a courtesy visit to the Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Kogi State Council, Comrade Adeiza Momohjimoh, at the NUJ Press Centre in Lokoja.

Their aim was to appeal for publicity regarding the plight of people with disabilities in Kogi State.

During the visit, the chairman of the group, accompanied by some members of his executive committee, lamented that the Nigerian system is very harsh and discriminatory towards people with disabilities.

Arome emphasised the need to create awareness for the government and the public to recognise that individuals with various forms of disability are first and foremost human beings, deserving of equal rights in



Arome

all aspects of life, including work, property ownership, and the ability to live without hindrances or discrimination. He expressed concern about the lack of accessibility to several places, such as schools, hospitals, markets, government and private offices, hotels, and recreation centres, for people with disabilities.

The current lack of accessibility provisions, particularly the absence of ramps for the benefit of persons with disabilities, is a pressing issue.

Arome called upon

professionals in architecture, engineering, surveying, and related fields to prioritise the provision of such facilities.

The Kogi State NUJ Chairman, Comrade Adeiza Momohjimoh, commended the group for their visit and assured them of the journalists' willingness to cooperate and assist persons with disabilities.

He also announced the union's intention to engage an architect to amend and provide accessibility features for persons with disabilities at the entrance of the Secretariat/Press Centre.



INSTITUTE OF HUMAN
VIROLOGY, NIGERIA

HAPPY 63RD INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

From

INSTITUTE OF HUMAN VIROLOGY NIGERIA



Dr. Patrick Dakum

Gov. Mutfwang

On behalf of the management and staff of the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria, IHVN, we wish Mr. President and Commander in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, **Bola Asiwaju Tinubu**, the Vice President, **Senator Kashim Shettima**, Senate President, **Senator Godswill Akpabio** and all distinguished senators of the 1st Assembly, Speaker, Federal House of Representatives, **Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas** and his Honourable Colleagues in the Green Chamber of the National Assembly, Chief Justice of the Federation, **Justice Olukayode Ariwoola** and the entire Judiciary, Ministers of the Federation, Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Minister and the 36 states governors and their legislators, traditional and religious leaders and all Nigerians both at home and the diaspora a happy 63rd Independence Anniversary.

Our independence, which the First President, **Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe** said was gotten on a platter of gold is characterized by grave, complex and complicated challenges of building a virile, viable and stable nation such as: crystallization of unity in diversity, robust democracy, economic viability, security, protection and promotion of socio-economic wellbeing of the citizens, egalitarianism, patriotism and elimination of corruption from the system.

We can weather all storms of retrogression and stagnation and come out strong, prosperous, and formidably united if we are willing, determined, and undaunted.

As we commemorate our 63rd anniversary, we should always pray, think, and act on the values we will add and make our country great.

IHVN wishes us all a memorable Independence Anniversary..

Once again, Happy Independence!
Signed:

Dr. Patrick Dakum,
Chief Executive Officer,
Institute of Human Virology Nigeria

POLITICS

Association endorses APC candidate, Ododo

from AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Members of the Tailoring Association of Nigeria (TAN), Kogi State Chapter, have unanimously endorsed the gubernatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress, Alhaji Ododo Ahmed Usman, in the November 11th election. The Spokesperson of the group, Mrs. Blessing Dauda, made this known yesterday in Lokoja when they hosted the Convener of Avoyi Team 4 Ododo and some of her executives at their monthly meeting. Mrs. Dauda who said that their decision to support Ododo's candidacy was influenced by the genuine regard and recognition shown to them by Hon. Avoyi Nwogu, the Convener of Avoyi Team for Ododo, who vowed to make their votes count as they displayed their P V C on Electronic Media, said according to her, every tailor is influential within their communities as they all have shops, workers and family members made up of their children, relatives, apprentices, and others who recognize us. If you follow one tailor, many others will be won over. The Tailoring Association also voiced their concern about the lack of representation in the political process and requested the next government to ensure their continued inclusion in the future governance structure. Responding, the Convener of Avoyi Team for Ododo, Hon. Avoyi Nwogu, assured the group of Alhaji Ododo Ahmed Usman's commitment to the welfare of the people, sharing instances of Ododo's generosity, stressing his dedication to uplifting the lives of the less privileged. Hon. Nwogu in highlighting some of the leadership qualities of Alhaji Ododo Ahmed Usman said, "He cares for the people. He is a passionate giver. I recorded a handicapped guy some time ago on my social media handle who needed help, and before we knew it, he personally went and settled the medical bills of this young man. This has been the trend. He has been impacting lives long before he ever thought he would become a gubernatorial candidate. "If you give your votes to him, it will not be a waste, just the same way the present government under Governor Yahaya Bello has worked hard to change the narrative of women and youths being relegated to the background in previous governments, Ododo will



Ododo

build on these achievements and do more. " of Avoyi Team for Ododo, Hon. Avoyi Nwogu, who is also the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Electronic Media, said the manifesto of Alhaji Ododo Ahmed Usman covers the interests of women, children, and youths. She mentioned that recreational centers, where more people would be trained to acquire skills and become self-reliant, would be established if Ododo is voted into power. In their separate remarks, the Diaspora Coordinator of the Avoyi Team for Ododo, Mrs. Monisola Ayelabowo, and the Treasurer of the

group, Mr. Woziri, praised Ododo's good works and how he has continued to impact lives positively before coming to the limelight. Mr. Woziri specifically mentioned how Ododo sponsored four elderly women he had met at a function, who got teased by someone to go to Jerusalem for pilgrimage and laughed it away based on their limited resources and background with one of them saying, "Who dash monkey banana" and were later amazed that Ododo heard and footed all the bills. And even sponsored another young man to go with them and ensure the elderly women's safety

Don't rig Ekiti poll, Coalition alerts governor

Coalition of Civil Society groups in Ekiti State, under the aegis of Alliance for Equity and Justice Initiative, has accused the State governor, Abiodun Oyebanji of orchestrating plans to manipulate the outcome of the local government election scheduled to hold in December this year. The Civil Society groups further alleged that some preferred names have already been pencilled down as winners of the primary election by the governor, even when the election is yet to hold. In a statement by the groups coordinator, Comrade Kayode Oluwafemi, and Secretary, Hon, Kingsley Wale, described the governor's action as undemocratic and divisive, warning that if not quickly addressed will lead to the break down of law and order and jeopardize the chances of the party in the state. The Statement reads in parts, "The Alliance for Equity and Justice is in custody of documents obtained through very reliable sources, detailing attempts by the Governor to undermine the upcoming primaries for the Ekiti State local Government elections, scheduled for December 2023. "The documents indicate that some names has already been pencilled down by the Governor as winners of a primary election that is yet to be conducted. The

development raises serious concern to every peace loving citizens of Ekiti State and calls to question, the Governor's desire to conduct a free, fair and transparent primaries even within his own political party. "To put the records straight and disabuse the minds of some persons who may wish to see our noble effort at creating an atmosphere for a peaceful and transparent primaries as meddlesome, we have attached herewith, some very vital documents which shows that indeed, the upcoming party primaries will be anything but transparent except necessary



Oyebanji

From Abbas Gungura, Bauchi

Unsatisfied with the recent judgment of the Governorship Petition Tribunal held in Bauchi recently, the Governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress, APC in Bauchi State, Ambassador Sadique Baba Abubakar, has made it public that the party decided to go to the Appeal Court to seek for justice over the Tribunal verdict judgment which affirmed the election of Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed. He said "We went to the tribunal because we felt we were short-changed during the governorship election. But the judgment didn't favour us". He described the recent victory of Governor Bala Mohammed at the election petition tribunal as a temporary setback for his quest to reclaim his stolen mandate.

Abubakar, who is the former Chief of Air Staff of the Nigerian Air Force and closest rival of the incumbent Governor Mohammed of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the February 18 governorship election, made this known while reacting to the recent judgment of the Guber Election Petition Tribunal recently. While appealing to his teaming supporters, especially the All Progressives Congress (APC) members to remain calm and peaceful, he vowed to appeal the tribunal's judgment which affirmed the election victory to Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed. "I want to urge you, especially members of the APC, to remain calm as we work tirelessly to ensure that justice is done to us. We will

I went to Appeal Court to Seek for Justice -APC guber candidate



Bala

use all the instruments of the law to make sure that we get what belongs to us", he emphasized. According to him, it is well known that the APC won the governorship election but the ruling party is using the resources of the state to stay in power at all cost. "We went to the tribunal because we felt we were short-changed during the governorship election. We thank our teaming supporters and the well-meaning people of Bauchi State for their support in this journey of seeking justice. In Sha Allah, we will succeed", Ambassador Abubakar assured. "We thank Allah that the Nigerian Constitution has

given us the opportunity to seek justice in three stages. We will not relent until we get the right judgment", the APC guber candidate vowed. The APC governorship candidate who said information available to him indicated that many Bauchi citizens have been praying and fasting, giving alms to the needy to enable him succeed in the court, urged them to continue until their stolen mandate is restored. "You are all aware that a judgment was passed on the 20th of September by the Governorship Election Petition Tribunal which did not favour us. We are not going to stop, we will move to the next level of the judiciary", Ambassador Abubakar declared.

measures are taken immediately to reverse the situation. "It is rather very sad and unfortunate, that the Governor, who rode on the back of the good will, unflinching support, reputation and sterling performance of the former Governor, Dr Fayemi to ascend to power has now turned round with the likes of Chief Ayo Fayose, a former Governor of the State to try to undermine Dr Fayemi for reasons of political expediency. "Based on the above observations and to get it right with the hope of the party retaining the support of the entire citizens, come the December local Government elections, we recommend the following: The Governor and his team retraces their steps and take immediate and decisive measures to ensure a transparent, free, credible and all inclusive primary election conducted within the ambit of the party's laws and regulations and in total compliance with Ekiti State Independent Electoral Commission (EKSIEC) and party guideline and Electoral laws of the state. "That attempts by a section of the party heirarchy in the State, spearheaded by the Governor to emasculate and rubbish the upcoming primaries be immediately discountenanced. "The Ekiti State APC Local Government primary Election coming up on the 4th of October 2023 presents a golden opportunity for the All Progressives Congress (APC) to further consolidate its grip on the State but that can only be achieved through a credible, transparent, free and fair Primary election where all the aspirants will be treated equally and fairly, with all eligible members of the party competing on a level playing ground.

"It is only a primary election in which all the aspirants will see themselves as co-winners and happily congratulate each other, that will further engender peace and unity within the party and the State in general. "The onus of choosing a credible, acceptable and accessible candidates for the local Government elections in the State by all stakeholders, through a credible and transparent process, becomes very critical as any mistake in this regard is capable of further creating bad blood within the party and makes it easy for the opposition to take advantage of the loopholes. "The Alliance for Equity and Justice Initiative therefore, wish to use this medium to call on the Governor, his Excellency, Abiodun Abayomi Oyebanji to work harmoniously with his predecessor and benefactor, Dr Fayemi for the greater good and well being of the people of Ekiti State. "Any kangaroo primary elections for the upcoming local Government polls must be avoided in order not to further exacerbate the divisions within the party hierarchy in the State," the statement said. The state electoral body had expressed desire to conduct credible poll.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Lukaku unfulfilled in Premier League?

ROMELU Lukaku has left Chelsea to return to Serie A on another season-long loan deal, this time with Roma, and it means he remains one of the Premier League's great enigmas.

The Belgium striker's 121 goals puts him 20th on the list of top scorers in the Premier League's 31-year history, just shy of Dwight Yorke and Nicolas Anelka but above Cristiano Ronaldo and Didier Drogba.

Lukaku's latest Stamford Bridge departure comes 12 years after he first joined the Blues from Anderlecht as an 18-year-old, and it follows two summers on from him becoming Chelsea's then-record signing for £97.5m.

While his move to Roma is only on loan, he is already cumulatively the most expensive player ever, with his career transfer fees totalling nearly £300m.

The 30-year-old was more prolific - in a goals-per-game sense - than Wayne Rooney, Robbie Fowler and Jermain Defoe in the English top flight, scoring at a rate of 0.44 goals per game across 278 appearances.

Yet some critics suggest Lukaku was not a success in English football.

So was he underappreciated or, considering sheer potential and money spent to acquire him, a precocious talent unfulfilled?

Plucked from Anderlecht as a teenager, with his time on the Blues' payroll overlapping that of Kevin De Bruyne, Lukaku played 15 times across all competitions over his first two seasons for Chelsea without getting off the mark.

Instead he impressed on loan at West Brom, netting 17 times in the Premier League - more than any Chelsea player in that 2012-13 season. The haul included a famous hat-trick in a 5-5 draw against Manchester United in Sir Alex Ferguson's last match as a manager.

Lukaku's stock continued to rise on loan at Everton in the following season and he signed permanently at Goodison Park for what was a club record £28m in 2014.

The forward repaid that with 68 goals in 141 Premier League games, becoming the Toffees' top scorer in the competition and only the fourth player to score 80 career goals in the competition before turning 24 - after Michael Owen, Fowler and Rooney.

The 25-goal haul Lukaku netted in 2016-17 remains his highest total in a single league campaign. It was the first time an Everton player had scored more than 20 goals in a league season since Gary Lineker in 1985-86.



Lukaku

After criticising the Toffees for lacking ambition and then turning down a new contract, Lukaku was signed by Jose Mourinho's Manchester United for an initial £75m.

"Lukaku is a different player now to when Mourinho sold him at Chelsea. He's a better player and his record is sensational," said former Everton and United defender Phil Neville at the time.

"He plays on the shoulder of defenders, he likes to run over the top of defenders," added ex-Everton midfielder Leon Osman. "I don't think I've seen a better one-on-one-type finisher with the goalkeeper than Lukaku."

Lukaku's hot streak continued, scoring 10 goals in his first nine games in all competitions to better a club record set by Sir Bobby Charlton, who managed nine in nine, and the Belgian ended his debut season at United with 27 goals, including 16 in the league.

Lukaku was unable to maintain that form and his downfall at Old Trafford coincided with Mourinho's, who later said the forward "needs to be loved".

Criticised for his weight - and subsequently diagnosed with a digestive problem by Inter's medical staff - Lukaku went on a 12-game drought in 2018 and found himself out of the team under Mourinho's successor, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Speaking later to the LightHearted podcast, Lukaku suggested he, Paul Pogba and Alexis Sanchez were being made scapegoats at United.

He was bought by Inter for a club-record £74m and entered the most productive period of his club career, equalling Brazil great Ronaldo's club-record 34 goals in all competitions in his first season.

He also became the first player to score in 10 successive Europa League games, though the forward's own goal in the final - having earlier scored a penalty - helped Sevilla win 3-2.

Lukaku got the silverware he sought the following year - his first trophy since the 2010 Belgian league title with Anderlecht, where he won the golden boot aged 16 - when he scored 24 times as Antonio Conte's side won Serie A for the first time in 11 years.

"He always had immense physical and athletic qualities, but during the two years together we saw him grow even more in terms of presence on the pitch, teamwork, and composure in front of goal," Conte told L'Equipe.

Two years after leaving the Premier League, however, Lukaku was back at Chelsea, becoming a team's record signing for the third time in his career.

"I came here as a kid who had

a lot to learn, now I'm coming back with a lot of experience and more mature," Lukaku said.

"It's a slam dunk," said the Athletic's Italian football writer James Horncastle on 5 Live's Football Daily podcast at the time.

Blues striker Chris Sutton added: "If there was a criticism of Chelsea last season, it was that they possibly weren't ruthless enough and now they have a guy in who is an absolute glutton for goals."

That never materialised. Lukaku's return yielded eight Premier League goals in 26 games and he struggled to fit into boss Thomas Tuchel's system.

During a 1-0 win at Crystal Palace in February 2022, Lukaku touched the ball only seven times - the lowest number any player has managed in a 90-minute Premier League appearance since at least 2003, when that

data was first recorded.

"Of course it's not what we want and what Romelu wants, but it's also not the time to laugh about him and make jokes about him," said Tuchel afterwards.

"How can you pay that much money and not play to his strengths?" asked former Arsenal striker Ian Wright on Match of the Day.

Lukaku was also not helped by an interview conducted earlier in the season with Sky Sport Italia, in which he said he wanted to return to Inter in the near future.

That wish was granted when he returned to the Nerazzurri on loan last season, while his latest temporary move to Roma reunites him with former Chelsea and United boss Mourinho.

Perhaps it is in Serie A where Lukaku feels his qualities are most suited.

He scored 10 league goals last season, as he was blighted by injuries, but has 76 goal contributions in 97 Serie A games, meaning a goal or an assist on average every 99 minutes over three seasons in Italy, compared with every 132 minutes in his Premier League career.

That is complemented by a remarkable 75 goals in 108 appearances for Belgium, and Lukaku feels his record does not get the credit it deserves.

"When people talk about Lewandowski, [Karim] Benzema or [Harry] Kane, they call them world class," Lukaku said during Euro 2020.

"But when it comes to me, it's just considered good form. That motivates me to work harder and get stronger.

"I belong in that list of world-class players."

SOURCE: BBC SPORT



Ronaldo Koeman, Everton boss at the time, was not happy with a 2017 interview in which Lukaku suggested the club lacked ambition

SUNDAY SPORTS



Wiegman

Wiegman dedicates award to Spain players

ENGLAND manager Sarina Wiegman dedicated her Uefa Women's Coach of the Year award to World Cup winners Spain, as Fifa president Gianni Infantino said their success had been "spoiled".

BBC SPORT said that Spanish football federation president Luis Rubiales has been widely criticised for kissing forward Jenni Hermoso on the lips after the final.

Wiegman said the victorious Spain players "deserve to be listened to".

And Infantino wrote on social media: "This should never have happened."

Hermoso said the kiss during the presentation ceremony after the World Cup final win over England in Sydney on 20 August was not consensual.

Rubiales was suspended by world football's governing body Fifa on Saturday but has repeatedly refused to resign.

Wiegman led the audience at Thursday's ceremony in a round of applause for Spain, stating they "deserve to be celebrated".

"We all know the issues around the Spanish team," she said.

"It really hurts me as a coach, a mother of two daughters, as a wife and human being. And it shows, the game has grown so much, but there is a long way to go in women's football and society."

"I would like to dedicate this award to the Spanish team, the team that played such great football that everyone enjoyed."

Infantino later posted a photograph of himself with the world champions on Instagram, writing: "Sadly, the well-deserved celebrations for these magnificent champions were spoiled by what happened after the final whistle."

"Fifa's disciplinary bodies immediately assumed responsibility and took the necessary actions."

"On our side, we should continue to focus on how further to support women and women's football in future, both on and off the pitch."

Infantino was criticised for a speech he gave at the World Cup where he said women who

"pick the right fights" can "convince us men what we have to do" to bring progress in women's football.

The incident has sparked a global conversation about consent and power, with widespread protests taking place across Spain in support of Hermoso.

The forward's international team-mate Aitana Bonmati also spoke about the incident as she accepted her women's player of the year award at the Uefa event.

"Thanks to Sarina for her words. These are not very good times just now for Spanish football," the 25-year-old midfielder said.

"We have just won the World Cup but that is not really being spoken about because things have happened that I wish were not happening."

"As a society, we must not allow such abuses of power in a working relationship or such a lack of respect."

Spanish football federation regional leaders have called on president Rubiales to immediately step down, while Spanish prosecutors opened a preliminary investigation into whether the incident amounts to a crime of sexual assault.

Spain's Sports Tribunal (TAD) also met on Monday to discuss the Spanish government's request to suspend Rubiales, with a decision yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, Chelsea women's manager Emma Hayes says she is hopeful the situation will prove to be a "huge wake-up moment" in Spain.

"This is not just an isolated incident," said Hayes, speaking on Woman's Hour on BBC Radio 4.

"It is about a systemic problem over a number of years where the women's national team have complained on more than one occasion about the level of treatment and equality of opportunity and access for all of them."

"I hope that it will bring seismic and systemic change and you can see with the reaction across Spain it is certainly in support of Jenni Hermoso and the entire Spanish team."

"This is a huge wake-up

moment for Spanish society and it goes beyond Spanish football about how women feel they are treated or mistreated.

'Saudi Pro League' not a threat

LAST updated on 31 August 2023 31 August 2023. From the section European Football 633

The Saudi Pro League has been dismissed as a competitive threat by Aleksander Ceferin, president of European football's governing body Uefa.

The league has lured many high-profile players to Saudi Arabia over the last year, offering lucrative contracts and paying substantial transfer fees.

Ceferin feels the Chinese Super League made the same mistakes and said "that's not the right way to do it".

"It's not a threat, we saw a similar approach in China," he told L'Equipe.

"They bought players at the end of their careers by offering them a lot of money. Chinese football didn't develop and didn't qualify for the World Cup afterwards."

"That's not the right way to do it. They should work on

LIVERPOOL have agreed a deal worth £34.3m (40m euros) to sign midfielder Ryan Gravenberch from Bayern Munich.

BBC SPORT said that, the 21-year-old Netherlands international joined the German champions from Ajax last summer but has struggled for first-team football.

Gravenberch has made just one substitute appearance this season.

Liverpool have been linked with him for much of the summer and will now aim to conclude a deal before Friday's transfer deadline.

The Reds have already signed Alexis Mac Allister, Dominik Szoboszlai and Wataru Endo this summer in a refresh of their midfield.

Key midfielders Jordan Henderson and Fabinho have left Anfield to join Saudi Arabian clubs, while James Milner, Naby Keita and Alex Oxlade-

Liverpool agree £34m deal for Netherlands midfielder



Ryan Gravenberch has 11 caps for the Netherlands

Chamberlain also departed on free transfers.

Gravenberch came through the Ajax academy and made his debut for the club in September 2018 against PSV Eindhoven.

In all, the box-to-box midfielder played 103

matches for the Dutch club, scoring 12 goals, before joining Bayern for an initial 18.5m euros.

Last season he started just three games in his 24 Bundesliga outings for Bayern, and made his one appearance this season as a



Saudi

player and coach development, but that's not my problem."

Spending by Chinese Super League clubs was curbed by a transfer tax in 2017 but the Saudi Pro League has a long-term investment plan, with Michael Emenalo appointed as director of football to lead its acquisition and youth development strategy.

Why is Saudi Pro League signing Premier League stars?

SPL: Who's who guide to the league making headlines

Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola, who saw Riyad Mahrez and Aymeric Laporte leave for Saudi Arabia this summer, said the country's

financial clout has "changed the market" for transfers and elite European clubs "need to be aware of what is happening".

However, the Premier League's chief executive Richard Masters has said he "wouldn't be too concerned" about Saudi Arabia's growing influence in football.

Richard Masters: Premier League chief not worried about Saudi Pro League 'Mbappe & Haaland don't dream of Saudi Arabia'

The country's Public Investment Fund (PIF) has taken over four leading Saudi clubs including Al-Nassr, who signed Cristiano Ronaldo in December.

Karim Benzema and Neymar have been the biggest of many signings this summer while Al-Hilal made a world record £259m bid for Kylian Mbappe.

Benzema and Neymar are aged 35 and 31, respectively, while 24-year-old France forward Mbappe has decided to stay with Paris St-Germain.

Ceferin added: "There are players at the end of their careers and others who aren't ambitious enough to aspire to the 'top' competitions."

"As far as I know, Mbappe and [Erling] Haaland don't dream of Saudi Arabia. I don't believe that the best careers at the pinnacle of their careers would go to Saudi Arabia."

"When people talk to me about the players who went there, nobody knows where they're playing."

Ceferin also dismissed speculation that some Saudi clubs could join future editions of the Uefa club competitions or stage the competition finals.

"Only European clubs can participate in the Champions League, Europa League and Conference League," he said.

"Only European federations can apply [to host] a final, not even clubs. We would have to change all our rules, and we don't want that."

Fulham agree £22m deal with Everton midfielder

EVERTON midfielder Alex Iwobi is set to join Fulham after the two

clubs agreed a deal which could reach £22m.

The Nigerian, 27, will

now travel to London for a medical with a view to completing the move before the transfer deadline at 23:00 BST.

Iwobi has played in two of Everton's three Premier League games this season, with the Toffees yet to pick up a single point so far.

Injury kept him out of Saturday's home defeat to Wolves.

He joined the club from Arsenal in the summer of 2019 and has made 123 league appearances, scoring six times.



Iwobi has scored six league goals in four years at Everton.

SUNDAY SPORTS

Murray loses to Dimitrov in New York

ANDY Murray says he "might need to accept" a long-awaited deep run at a Grand Slam may not ever come after his latest effort was ended in the US Open second round.

Former world number one Murray, 36, lost 6-3 6-4 6-1 against 19th seed Grigor Dimitrov in New York.

Murray, ranked 37th, has not reached the last 16 of a major since resuming his career after hip surgery in 2019.

"It's unbelievably challenging to play at the highest level," he said.

"It's obviously disappointing to not play how you would like.

"Maybe I need to accept the deep runs and everything that I felt I'm capable of, they might not be there."

Putting together a run at a major was Murray's prime target this season as the three-time Grand Slam champion continues in the twilight of his career.

The Scot reached the Australian Open third round in January and, after skipping the French Open, lost in the Wimbledon second round last month.

Despite these setbacks at the majors, Murray has continued on an upward trajectory and recently moved up to his highest ranking since his comeback four years ago.

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"I still enjoy everything that goes into it. I enjoy the work, the training and trying to improve and trying to get better," said Murray, who reached the Doha final in February and has won three titles on the second-tier ATP Challenger Tour this year.

"That's what keeps me going.

"If I stop enjoying that - or my results, my ranking and everything starts to go backwards, if in a few months' time I was ranked 60 in the world or whatever instead of moving up - things might change."

Going into the four Grand Slam events with a seeding would, on paper, make going further at the majors a stronger possibility.

Those ambitions were hindered by the Scot pulling out of tournaments in Toronto and Cincinnati this month because of an abdominal injury.

Falling narrowly short of the top 32 going into the US Open did not help his chances in New York.

Having recovered from the injury, Murray played well in his opening-round win over France's Corentin Moutet but his level dropped considerably against the wily Dimitrov.

"If I want to have deep runs in these tournaments, I'm going to have to come up against players like Grigor," said Murray, who lost to fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the Wimbledon second round.

"Whether I was seeded or not here in the top 32, I don't think that guarantees I'm going to have a deep run either."

A lot of credit must go to



Murray

former world number three Dimitrov - coached by Dani Vallverdu, who used to work with Murray - for executing a clear gameplan which set out to frustrate the Briton.

Dimitrov's backhand slice regularly took the pace out of the rallies, forcing Murray to trade from the back of the court and making the contest physical with some long duels.

Murray was always chasing after being broken in his first service game of each set, while he was only able to convert two of the nine break points he created.

It became a tough watch for those on Arthur Ashe Stadium supporting Murray, who remains a popular figure at the place where he won the first of his three major titles.

After falling a double break behind in the third set, Murray gave a gesture towards his

team indicating he was finished and his troubles were encapsulated by a double fault on a third match point for 32-year-old Dimitrov.

Dimitrov, who reached the US Open semi-finals in 2019, will play German 12th seed Alexander Zverev in the last 32.

Murray, meanwhile, said he will fly home to the UK as quickly as possible and indicated he might not play for Great Britain in next month's Davis Cup tie in Manchester.

"If I'm being honest, the other guys deserve to play ahead of me," said Murray, who suggested Jack Draper should play instead.

"I think there is probably a chance that I'm not on the team. I'll try to get home this evening or tomorrow morning, then see where I go from there."

Fitzpatrick makes strong start to boost Ryder Cup

ENGLAND'S Matt Fitzpatrick and Germany's Yannik Paul made ideal starts in their final attempt to qualify for the Ryder Cup in the European Masters.

Fitzpatrick, the 2022 US Open champion, opened up with a seven-under 63 to share a six-way tie for the lead.

Paul was one shot behind on six under par alongside Sweden's Ludvig Aberg, who is hoping to earn a wildcard after turning professional in June.

"That's as good as I've played for a while," said Fitzpatrick.

"I played brilliant. I think I only hit two bad shots - one I

got away with and one I managed to get up and down."

Fitzpatrick's bogey-free round at a tournament he has won twice comes with him needing to finish tied seventh with one player or better to overhaul fellow Englishman Tommy Fleetwood on the world points list.

A victory for Paul would see him replace Robert MacIntyre in the final berth on the European points list.

Scotland's MacIntyre, who played in the same group as Paul, is five shots adrift of the leaders after carding a two-under 68, while another Ryder Cup hopeful, Poland's

DAN Evans set up a US Open meeting with Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz on a day where four Britons reached the third round of the singles in New York.

Evans, 33, fought back to beat Dutch opponent Botic van de Zandschulp in a 1-6 6-1 6-3 6-3 victory in round two.

Evans followed Katie Boulter, Jack Draper and Cameron Norrie in recording wins on another action-packed day for the British contingent.

Boulter, who is Britain's top women's player, maintained confidence and composure to beat China's Wang Yafan 5-7 6-1 6-4.

Draper put his injury problems behind him with a statement 6-2 6-4 7-5 victory over Polish 17th seed Hubert Hurkacz, while Norrie won 7-5 6-4 6-4 against Taiwanese qualifier Hsu Yu-hsiou.

Former world number one Murray lost 6-3 6-4 6-1 to 19th seed Grigor Dimitrov, while Burrage - who was in the main draw at Flushing Meadows for the first time - was beaten 6-3 6-2 by Belarusian world number two Aryna Sabalenka.

Evans was the final British player in action and rounded off another successful day for the nation as he reached the last 32 for the sixth time in seven appearances.

It has been a strange season for Evans, who had a dearth of wins either side of a surprise title triumph in Washington last month.

Against Van de Zandschulp, he struggled on serve and returned poorly in the first set before considerably improving in each department as the

Boulter, Evans win in New York



Evans

match wore on. "It took a bit of time to get myself in the match and I played pretty sensible tennis," said Evans.

"I wouldn't say it was my best match level-wise but I did what I had to do".

It has taken her time to rebuild confidence and regain her ranking since dropping out of the world's top 100 as a result of a back injury which derailed her career in 2019.

But she has climbed to a career-high ranking this year on the back of winning her first WTA title in Nottingham and reaching the Wimbledon third round.

Now she has matched her Wimbledon performance at the hard-court Grand Slam in New York, having never previously won a main-draw match there.

"I'm super happy, I'm really proud of myself. I had to dig really deep," said the world number 61.

"I had to battle and go for it at the same time. Tactically, I was trying to be very aggressive, I got a bit tight in the first set and managed to loosen up in the second.

"I found ways to win points and it made it a little bit easier for me."

Boulter's win set up a meeting with American world number 59 Peyton Stearns on Saturday.

With his easy power from the baseline, 21-year-old Draper is a hugely exciting talent but his progress has continued to be stalled by a series of injuries.

A small muscle tear in his shoulder ruled him out of Wimbledon and, after a similar problem at the recent Winston-Salem Open, he feared it could stop him playing at Flushing Meadows.

But after what he described as a "mentally challenging" year, Draper is trying to put the problem "out of his mind" in New York.

He responded with another strong performance against Hurkacz, putting plenty of returns into play and drawing errors from his opponent.

Draper broke Hurkacz's usually reliable serve twice in the first set, doing the same in the second as it became increasingly apparent the Pole was struggling physically.

Slumped on his chair during a changeover in the third set, Hurkacz called to see the doctor and it looked as though he might have to retire.

The former Wimbledon semi-finalist gamely battled on, playing what Draper said was "some of his best tennis", and the British number five focused purely on his own side of the court to seal his progress.

Draper will play American wildcard Michael Mmoh, whose win ended the singles career of the retiring John Isner, in the third round.

Farah runs in London for final time

MO Farah will race for the final time in his home city of London at The Big Half on Sunday.

Farah, who has won four Olympic gold medals and six world titles, will retire after competing at the Great North Run on 10 September.

The Briton, 40, has won the Big Half three times, but has



Farah won The Big Half in 2018, 2019 and 2022.

not competed since finishing in ninth place at the London Marathon in April.

You can watch Big Half live coverage on BBC iPlayer and online from 08:10 BST.

"I'm excited to run my last ever London race at The Big Half," said Farah.

"It will be bittersweet, knowing it will be the last time I race competitively in my home town, but it's always such a great day and I know the London crowds will be cheering me on, as they always do."

There is a strong domestic field, with British athletes bidding to win places in Great Britain's half-marathon team for the World Athletics Road

Running Championships in Estonia on 1 October.

Jonny Mellor and Andy Butchart are the leading domestic entrants in the men's race, while Samantha Harrison and Calli Thackery are the two fastest in the women's field.

David Weir heads the men's wheelchair field while there is an intriguing match-up in the women's wheelchair race where defending champion Eden Rainbow-Cooper faces former world 100m champion Samantha Kinghorn.

More than 15,000 people will join Farah on a route that starts near Tower Bridge and finishes at the historic Cutty Sark ship in Greenwich.



Fitzpatrick



Mutfwang pledges commitment to football development

By DORCAS PANKYES

Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, the Executive Governor of Plateau State, was represented by Hon. Bashir Lawandi Datti, the Commissioner of Sports, Plateau State. In his speech, Datti warmly welcomed all attendees and expressed the state government's dedication to investing heavily in football development.

He said this during the 14th Annual General meeting of the Nigeria National League which was held on Friday at De Bridge Hotel in Jos, Plateau State.

Governor Mutfwang lauded the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) for their recent achievements and commended the efforts of the newly appointed NNL Board in revolutionizing football administration in Nigeria and Africa as a whole.

The governor emphasized the importance of collaboration between the government and football stakeholders to restore the lost glory of football in Plateau State and the nation.

He assured the delegates that the Plateau State Government would spare no effort in providing the necessary support for the development of football in the state. This commitment includes ensuring the best hospitality and security for visitors, creating an enabling environment for players, coaches, and officials to thrive, and investing in infrastructure that will uphold the standards of the game.

The atmosphere at the Annual General Meeting was one of unity and collaboration, as football enthusiasts expressed their optimism for the positive changes that lie ahead for the Nigerian National League.

The gathering in Jos showcased the collective efforts to rejuvenate and enhance sports, particularly football, in Plateau State. It also provided a platform for delegates to discuss and resolve pertinent issues that will shape the future of the league.

With the support of the Plateau State government and the dedication of the NNL Board, there is a renewed sense of hope for the growth and progress of football in the state and the country as a whole. The commitment to investing in football development reflects the state government's determination to leverage the power of sports as a tool for societal and economic transformation.

As the Annual General Meeting proceeded, stakeholders were expected to engage in fruitful discussions, propose creative solutions, and set strategies that will drive the Nigerian



Mighty Jet Football Club of Jos are in the NNL representing Plateau State

National League towards success and further elevate the profile of Nigerian football.

Earlier the President, Nigerian Football Federation, Allhaji Ibrahim Musa Gusau who was represented by Margaret Icheen, former NNF Chairman, expressed his gratitude and extended a warm welcome to all attendees at the 14th edition of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). He specifically acknowledged the contributions of board members, club presidents, LNSEO staff, and key

individuals who have played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the event.

He particularly commended the representatives from Egypt for their inaugural presence, highlighting their valuable input in terms of education, appointments, and networking opportunities. Musa expressed deep appreciation for their commitment and assured them of continued collaboration and support.

Emphasizing the dedication of Acuma leadership to achieving excellence in domestic football, Musa

thanked the club presidents for their unwavering confidence. He pledged to continue representing and supporting their interests.

In order to maintain consistency and ensure optimal service delivery, Musa urged all participants to align themselves and strive for the best possible outcomes. He concluded by extending his wishes for a pleasant and memorable stay at the meeting, encouraging participants to take advantage of the exceptional weather and engaging experiences. The

14th edition of the AGM is poised to be a significant platform for exchanging ideas, forging partnerships, and further enhancing the football landscape in Nigeria and beyond.

In his part, the Chairman Nigeria National League, Mr. George Aluo, expressed deep honor to be among the esteemed assembly of friends. He extended warm greetings on behalf of the Board and acknowledged the support of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF). According to him, the AGM marks a new beginning as the newly

appointed Board embarks on a journey to revitalize the league and transform its image. The chairman called for the collective effort of stakeholders to join in the noble endeavor of repositioning the NNL.

The NNL board reached an agreement on the date at the ongoing annual general meeting in Jos, Plateau State.

The teams will be divided into four groups (Southern and Northern Conferences).

40 teams will take part in the NNL, 21 in the Southern Conference, and 19 in the Northern Conference.

It would be recalled that the 2022/23 NPFL season was also run in an abridged format.

Heartland won the NNL title last season.

Meanwhile, Charity Isaac has won another Bronze Medal in the 42 kilogram Wrestling Girls' Category for Team Nasarawa in the ongoing Youth Games.

She defeated her opponents from Ebonyi, Rivers and Edo States before losing to her Ogun State counterpart in the Semi finals.

Doowuese Jorpo also clinched a Bronze Medal in Ayo Girls single event by defeating Kaduna, Oyo, Ogun, Rivers and Akwa Ibom states but was beaten in the semi finals by her FCT opponent.

Team Nasarawa currently have a total of Six medals so far consisting of One Silver and Five Bronze medals in Taekwondo, Golf, Judo, Karate, Ayo and Wrestling.

Man City's perfect start ends in defeat at Wolves

Manchester City's 100% Premier League record came to an end at Molineux as Hwang Hee-chan scored a second-half winner to give Wolves a shock victory against the champions.

City manager Pep Guardiola, forced to watch from the stands as he served a one-match touchline ban, was unable to intervene as his side failed to take control in their usual manner and free-scoring striker Erling Haaland was limited to a single chance.

Still, it did seem as though the visitors were on course to emerge victorious after Julian Alvarez curled home a brilliant free-kick to level Ruben Dias' early own goal.

But, just as Pedro Neto had gone on a right-wing raid before the opener, Nelson Semedo's forward surge inspired a second for Wolves, who ended a run of six straight defeats against City.

It completed a miserable day for former Wolves midfielder Matheus Nunes.

The Portugal international went on strike to secure his £53m move to City last

month and the home fans evidently have not forgotten as they jeered him every time he touched the ball before he was substituted at half-time.

Nunes misfires as City stumble

Whilst most observers feel it is a foregone conclusion that City will become the first side in English football history to win four league titles in a row, there are signs to provide reason for optimism amongst their rivals.

City have now gone behind four times in their last five matches and have now lost successive games for the first time since January following their midweek defeat to Newcastle in the EFL Cup.

Although he was in an unaccustomed position alongside football director Txiki Begiristain, there was the familiar sight of Guardiola rubbing his head in frustration at a team that is struggling to find the fluidity they have been so accustomed to producing so easily.

Phil Foden tried his best to spark the visitors into life and Jack Grealish was introduced for the final 10 minutes to try to inspire a late revival.

It was not to be though, with Nunes' performance a clear disappointment as he struggled to impose himself on the contest and failed to reappear for the second half as youngster Oscar Bobb took his place.

There was an acceptance last season from virtually

everyone at Wolves that at some point in the not too distant future, Nunes would leave.

But having haemorrhaged talent throughout a tortuous summer, it left a sour taste when the 25-year-old refused to turn up and train in order to force his transfer to

City.

When City's half-time change was announced to the crowd, the home fans reacted with glee, chanting "what a waste of money". When the final whistle sounded, the chant had changed to "Nunes, Nunes, what's the score".



Hwang Hee-chan has now scored in his last four Wolves home games