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# Sunday Standard

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# Unemployment and the Nigerian state

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Lalong



Ajaero

**Kaduna recruits 7,000 vigilantes: FG, consider state police**

**RECENTLY, Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State flagged off the training of 7,000 vigilantes as part of his administration's efforts to enhance community policing.**

**THE 7,000 personnel drawn from all the local government areas of the state are being trained at the Police College, Kaduna.**

**THE Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, was on the right track recently when he re-emphasised the need for state policing in the country to curb insecurity. His remarks at the legislature's plenary urged the National Assembly to initiate the process of amending the 1999 Constitution accordingly so that it would enable each of the 36 states establish their own police forces. Without further delay, the NASS, state assemblies and all stakeholders should mobilise, move quickly and devote policing before insecurity destroys the country, he charged.**

**STATES like Bauchi have 20,000 youths into the state's Vigilante and Youth Empowerment Agency, established and modelled after Amotekun in the South-West.**

**LIKE Governor Sani Said, the advantages of these security operatives being trained in the Police College is that they will know the terrains and there will be no hiding place for threats. Consequently, it will take off jobless youths off the streets by way of giving them employment.**

**A state like Plateau should borrow a leaf from Kaduna and Bauchi to comb out criminal elements and mercenaries paid to achieve ethnic cleansing in the communities. In this case, the structures are there in the form of Operation Rainbow. What is needed is just the blue print.**

**THE evidence of this is being written in innocent blood being spilt daily, property ransacked, entire communities despoiled and terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery, organised crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cultism across the country.**

**OVER 100,000 persons were killed 2009 to 2015 in Borno State alone, said Kashim Shettima, then state governor and currently Nigeria's vice-president. Another 63,111 were killed across the country June 2015 to May 2023 by terrorists, bandits, Fulani herders, communal combatants, cult gangs and in extra-judicial killings by security agents according to the Council on Foreign Relations' Nigeria Security Tracker.**

**WITH 371,000 officers, the Nigeria Police Force is overwhelmed, and many parts of the country lack any permanent police presence. Insurgents of different stripes taking advantage of this have seized control of some hinterland territories, imposing brutal, bloody rule over the locals.**

**TO battle banditry and insurgency, empowering communities with technology tools is essential for the success of community policing. The steps of organizational transformation, developing community partnerships and shared problem-solving rely on effective communication resources.**

**BENEFITS to community policing, include expanded outlook on crime control and prevention.**

**ENCOURAGING community members to become active problem-solvers, educating the public on public safety issues, identify the root cause of neighborhood crime, increase trust in law enforcement.**

**THE President Tinubu administration should, as a matter of urgency, look into community policing. This is necessary because every community has its peculiar security challenges.**

**WE throw our weight behind Kaduna, Bauchi etc. Without reservations, we believe our security operatives are overwhelmed and to complement their efforts, Federal Government should encourage state police.**

**NEWS**

**FG to construct 1,000 houses in 7 states - Shettima**

**T**HE Vice President, Kashim Shettima, said on Friday that President Bola Tinubu has approved the construction of 1,000 houses in Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger and Benue States.

Mr Olusola Abiola, Director of Information, Office of the Vice President, in a statement, said Shettima stated this at the commissioning of projects executed by Borno State Government in the last 100 days.

The Vice President explained that the housing projects were part of a broad plan by the Federal Government to address conflicts in the north.

Shettima also revealed that Tinubu approved N50 billion to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to kick-start the Pulaku initiative which was a non-kinetic solution to the crisis confronting the people of the Vice President explained that the housing projects were part of a broad plan by the Federal Government to address conflicts in the north.

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**Shettima**

kinetic solution to the crisis confronting the people of the people of the north west.

President Tinubu has approved the construction of 1,000 houses in Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger and Benue States with all the ancillary facilities of schools, clinics, veterinary clinics and ranches for the Fulani community in Kaduna and Benue states

"President Tinubu insisted that all the victims must be carried along," he said.

The Vice President assured that all parts of the country would benefit from the developmental strides of President Tinubu.

Shettima also stated that the Federal Government was planning to re-ignite wheat production in the country.

He noted that President Tinubu was aware of challenges confronting Nigerians and would make efforts to address them.

The issues confronting Nigerians will be addressed. We will use all available vehicles to fix things. President Tinubu means well for this country and he is determined to change the fortunes of the nation for the better.

"Tinubu is a person filled with a lot of empathy for the less privileged in the society. Some of the painful decisions taken by the government were products of the circumstances we have found ourselves in.

"Be rest assured that in the coming weeks and months, this government will unveil a lot of projects and programmes that will touch the lives of many," Shettima said.

He commended the vision and leadership of Gov. Babagana Zulum of Borno State, particularly in his capacity to address the welfare of the people.

We are extremely lucky in having him as our leader, Governor and brother at this time. Gov. Zulum and I have the best of relationships.

"We have become the reference point in relationship management between a successor and predecessor in modern day Nigeria.

"I want to thank him for all the empathy and support and most importantly for putting Borno first," he stressed.

Out of 77 new projects completed in 100 days of Zulum's administration, the VP commissioned the Shuwari II Community School and Healthcare Centre.

Shettima also commissioned the Alikaramti Community School and the Gamboru Liberty Day Secondary School, all within Maiduguri metropolis.

**G20 Summit: African Union joins G-20**

**T**HE African Union on Saturday joined the Group of Twenty (G-20) at the ongoing summit in New Delhi India.

African Union on Saturday joined the Group of Twenty (G-20) at the ongoing summit in New Delhi India.

"Advancing a more inclusive G20 that echoes the aspirations of the Global South! PM Narendra Modi extends a heartfelt welcome to President African Union and the President of Comoros Azali Assoumani. Thrilled to have the African Union as a permanent member. A milestone for the G20 family indeed," the Office of the Prime Minister of India said in a post on the social networking platform X.

Mr Modi said AU membership will strengthen the G20 and also strengthen the voice of the Global South. A position India has touted since assuming the G20 presidency.

AU chairperson, Moussa Faki, welcoming AU's membership of the G20, said, "This membership, for which we have long been advocating, will provide a propitious framework for amplifying advocacy in favour of the Continent and its effective contribution to meeting global challenges.

India took over the presidency of the G20 in December 2022. The G20 is a group of 19 countries and the European Union whose focus is global economics and development.

The G20 was founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss global economic and financial issues.

The G20 was upgraded to the level of Heads of State/Government in the wake of the global economic and financial crisis of 2007, and, in 2009, was designated the "premier forum for international economic

cooperation".

The G20 Summit is held annually, under the leadership of a rotating presidency. The G20 initially focused largely on broad macroeconomic issues, but it has since expanded its

agenda to include trade, climate change, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption.

**Commercial airlines to relocate to new terminal -Keyamo**

**C**ONCERNED about the teething problems of relocating the international airlines to the new terminal, which was necessitated by the recent fire outbreak at the old International Terminal in Lagos, the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr Festus Keyamo, has set up a task force to resolve these challenges within the shortest possible period.

The members of the task force are Engr. Hassan Musa, Retired PS and ex-Director of Dept. of Air Transport Management (Team Leader); Adebayo Oladipo, General Manager, Aerodrome NCAA; Mr Collins Mukoro (SA to the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development); Mrs. Uyooyou Edhekpo (SA to the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development) and Mr Henry Agbebire (SA to the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development).

Our reporter recalls that during the Honourable Minister's inspection of the Lagos Airport on Thursday, August 31, 2023, he had given a deadline of October 1, 2023, for the relocation.

However, the management of Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), had to fast-track the implementation of this directive in response to the recent fire outbreak, which raised safety concerns and affected passengers' movements.

In an official statement issued on

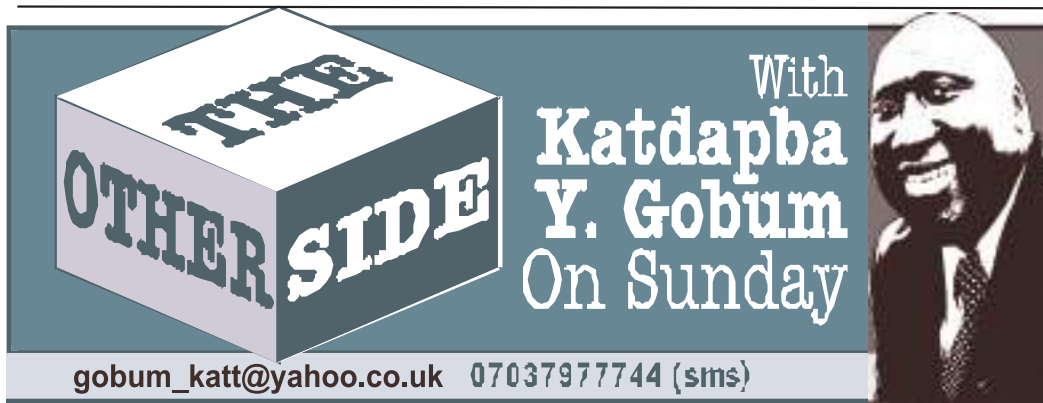
Saturday, signed by Head Press and Public Affairs, Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Oluseyi, the Ministry urged all passengers and other stakeholders to be patient and bear with them as the inconvenience caused will soon be resolved, adding that their understanding plays a vital role in making this transition smoother for everyone involved.

According to the statement, the primary objective of this task force is threefold, which encompasses working diligently towards resolving all concerns raised by passengers regarding congestion, discomfort, and related issues stemming from terminal relocation.

Secondly, focusing on minimising any form of discomfort during this transition period.

"Efforts will be made in streamlining processes at both terminals while closely monitoring operations 24/7. Measures such as enhanced signage, dedicated support staff, improved communication channels will be implemented proactively", the Ministry emphasised.

Also, the Task Force are to pledge transparency throughout this process by providing regular updates on progress made in addressing concerns arising from airline relocations.



With  
**Katdapba  
Y. Gobum  
On Sunday**

**OTHER SIDE**

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**At the heart of good leadership is the sacrifice to involve all by making sure they all played their parts in building the Fellowship in the state. No wonder, each time he called on members for financial support, they 'responded with great joy like the Corinthian Church, whose generosity compelled them to give out of their deep poverty for the work of the Lord'.**

**F**OR Pentecostals resident in the Plateau State capital, Jos, the inauguration of the new officials of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) chapter at the Living Faith Church on Richard Road on August 27, 2023 should elicit some concerns.

Being one of the biggest auditoriums available in the city, it lived up to its billing by accommodating as many as those who were guests at the history making event of the Fellowship.

The lyrics of 'To God be the glory', great things he has done by Fanny Crosby first published in 1875 echoed all through the inauguration service. Later as the event progressed, members got to know more of why they had to sing the song.

The efforts in mobilization certainly paid off. Buoyed by the successes the out-gone officials had built in the last eight years, the Bishop Dele Olokotun-led Planning Committee put in all that was needed to bring all that matter in the Fellowship from the national headquarters; north central zone; state and local government areas of Plateau.

As colourful as it was planned to be, top on the list of guests was Mrs. Josephine Piyo, Plateau State Deputy Governor, who represented Governor Caleb M. Mutfwang; PFN National President; Bishop Francis Wale Oke; Prophet Isa El-Buba; National Vice President North Central; Rev Dr Akinnola Damilere National Administrative Secretary, Apostle Chris Bature, chairmen and representatives from states that made up the North Central Zone, Rev Fr Polycarp Lubo, state CAN chairman, who Bishop Wale prefers to call PenteCatholic chairman and Rev Dr NC Thompson, patron of PFN Plateau State.

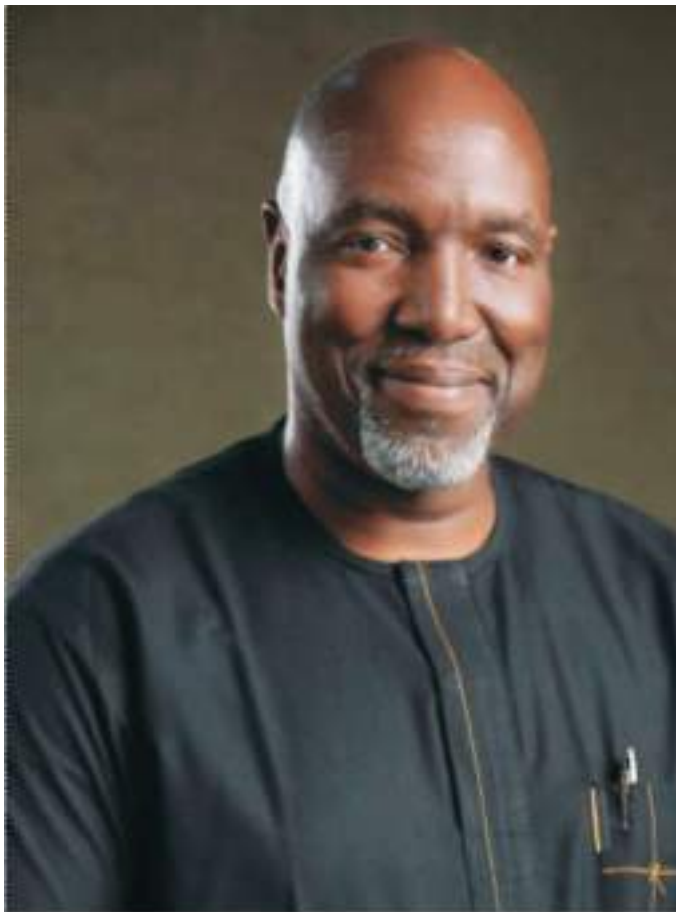
Other leaders of the Fellowship who registered their presence included: Immediate Benue State chairman of PFN, Bishop Joseph Orinya, Archbishop Kurudu, Benue, Rev Promise Yohanna, Bauchi, Apostle Patrick Ifechukwu, Nasarawa and Rev Dr Femi Adetunji among others.

On account of what organizers wanted to achieve, more than just bringing guests from all fronts; they hardly forgot the labours of their past chairmen. Not all may have made it to the event; the fact that Rev Dr Kenneth Ononeze, Rev Dr Wilson Ezeofor, Rev Dr Sam Alaha, Rev Davou Chuwang were on hand was a signpost that all was well in the house.

It was a way of saying, the labours of PFN's leaders since 1989 cannot be in vain. No wonder, they were asked to come forward to be appreciated the more, while the out-gone chairman read his speech. Equally appreciated for service rendered which has kept the Fellowship united are members of the Advisory Council as well as zonal vice chairmen and chairmen of the local government areas and members.

If you were Rev Dr Steven Dangana, Senior Pastor, Citadel of Peace Assembly, Jos; the out-gone

## PFN: Champions are indeed unstoppable



**Rev Dunka**

chairman of the chapter, the joy written all over him, was indeed palpable. For the first time, the National President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, Bishop Francis Wale Oke was guest speaker at an inauguration in Jos. That underscored the importance attached to the event, but more importantly how Plateau State chapter is considered in the Fellowship nationally.

At the heart of good leadership is the sacrifice to involve all by making sure they all played their parts in building the Fellowship in the state. No wonder, each time he called on members for financial support, they 'responded with great joy like the Corinthian Church, whose generosity compelled them to give out of their deep poverty for the work of the Lord'.

For the eight years during Dangana's reign from 2015 until it happily ended Sunday, August 27, 2023, the basis for the success of the team was in the unity that pervaded the Fellowship membership and other churches through the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN). The journey of the Fellowship found an encompassing and workable theme to drive its mission, by building and strengthening the structures from the ward level to the state.

To underscore the unity and togetherness of the Fellowship, one programme after another was churned out; starting with buying a property in Munchongopyeng; 35th Year Anniversary Celebration, where a number of fathers of the faith were honoured; the State

Thanksgiving Service that brought the then Nigeria's number two citizen, Prof Yemi Osibanjo; the State Recognition Award and Fund Raising Dinner; and humanitarian interventions in Bassa and Jos North.

The choice of the guest speaker, Bishop Francis Wale Oke was not lost. Being the fiery preacher that he has remained over four decades, the message was the word needed for the season. For him, champions are unstoppable; therefore, the time has come for a North-South Partnership where Christians in the south would be of help to their counterparts in the north in the spread of the gospel and other areas that would enhance the Great Commission work.

To bring this to fruition, a land that will serve as a citadel of prayer has been acquired to serve as the Fellowship's headquarters. For the purpose of raising a prayer altar, and to get things running, Rev Dr Steven Dangana's first national assignment, which was announced by Bishop Oke is to coordinate the partnership between Christians in the North and South.

The National Leader of the Fellowship paid tribute to the foundation laid by the Dangana-led executive committee. He affirmed that Dangana carried every leader in the course of his tenure; and that was evident by the presence of past leaders at the inauguration. That is the mark of distinction of a man who remained in front with a vision for the Fellowship.

Perhaps one of the happiest leaders during the inauguration was Apostle Isa El-Buba. There are many reasons; but having received a clean bill of health for stabilizing the zone

to become one of the most admired from Bishop Francis Wale Oke was enough for El-Buba to walk and speak with a broad shoulders.

El-Buba praised the efforts of the out-gone leaders represented by Rev Dr Steven Dangana, who, together with his team built and worked on what was positive for the chapter.

The handover after inauguration by him of the Rev Dunka Samuel Joseph Dechi Gomwalk-led executive to Bishop Francis Wale Oke was emotional by every stretch of the action on the podium. His wife, Pastor Elisabeth Dunka Gomwalk is women coordinator of the Fellowship.

They were given an elaborate charge: Hit the ground running following the roadmap and vision set at the national level. The tasks are enormous, yet they are able to be surmounted because 'God will fulfill his divine will and purpose for PFN'.

Apostle El-Buba, speaking matter of fact, told guests Rev Dunka Gomwalk 'represents a generation. His father laid the solid foundation of the defunct Benue-Plateau State. He represents in many respect, a movement in the spirit realm; that a new face shall come upon the earth'.

At this point, from where yours sincerely sat, Rev Dunka Gomwalk's handkerchief must have become wet from drying the tears that dropped from his eyes. Who wouldn't, after just being reminded of the pioneering efforts of his late father, Commissioner of Police, Joseph Dechi Gomwalk whom he knew for only eight years and the work he has been entrusted with by the Fellowship?

The late JD Gomwalk without a second thought was the path finder of the aspirations of the people of the Middle Belt. He paid the supreme prize for efforts directed towards lifting the people of the zone from emasculation and domination in 1976. He has since remained a reference point by the people he once superintended, and indeed governments that came after his.

For Rev Dunka Gomwalk, he has his work well cut out. He served in the last executive committee as state General Secretary; and would therefore wish to make a mark as they have been fired to do more. After receiving the blessings of a father with his team, he spoke to the guests as a leader should.

The Fellowship had prayed for Rev Gomwalk and his team. His church, Covenant Word Christian Centre International members were resplendent in the colour they chose to come and celebrate their spiritual father.

Rev Dunka Gomwalk told the Fellowship and guests that an honour had been bestowed upon him; as such he would build on the foundation that has been laid by past leaders. He therefore solicited for support from member churches of the Fellowship.

He promised, God helping his team, to unite the church while working closely with the Christian Association of Nigeria on the Plateau

as well as drawing inspiration from the zonal and national leaderships of the Fellowship.

Six days after the inauguration, his sons and daughters at the Covenant Word Christian Centre International (CWCCI), which he started in March 2004 and he is Senior Pastor, were not done with the celebration. Hence, on September 1, 2023, the church held a befitting reception in his honour in the church auditorium. They showed that a prophet is with honour with his people.

The organizers made sure that almost all the leaders of the Fellowship that witnessed the inauguration came around to honour the new leader and servant of God. They came in large numbers, his family, even as his church members swarm around wearing grateful faces of the honour done them.

Speaking at the reception, a man known for shooting from the hip without missing and Anglican Bishop of Jos, Rt Rev Dr Benjamin Argak Kwashi said the gospel is in the family's blood; having received it from their grandparents.

As a result, Kwashi prayed that Dunka will live and teach the gospel in season and out of it, even as the gates of hell shall not prevail against his work until Jesus returns.

Rev Kwashi praised the efforts of the past chairman, Rev Dr Steven Dangana, who, according to him has used his capacity to know people and relate well with them; in his quest to show the light of the gospel.

At the reception, an elated out-gone chairman PFN Chairman, Rev Steven Dangana noted that the task of leadership is not in completing the tenure, but in finding the right successor. In this context that PFN has succeeded in the transition to have a new leader; and thus successfully retiring him; thus giving him the peace he thought should.

While praying that Rev Dunka would perform ten times better than what the old exco did in eight years, Dangana prays that 'he will do spiritually what his father was not permitted to do physically, even as Prof Nenfort Gomwalk insisted that people did not understand that CP Joseph Dechi Gomwalk was way ahead of his time; a clear 47 years after he was dispatched from the face of the earth in circumstances that have continued to haunt those who carried out the act in 1976.

Nenfort Gomwalk, a Professor of Microbiology and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos; which Dunka's father helped found noted that it was a thing of joy that God does not make a mistake as he usually picks certain families to carry out responsibilities in serving the people.

A new phase and chapter have been opened for the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, Plateau State chapter. It is hoped that the prayers of members and the team's commitment would drive its activities in the next four years.



NEWS

**WICE holds workshop on writing skills**

By POLYCARP ISHAYA, Pankshin.

**Trading places**

**G**OD'S plan is for parents to take care of their children, provide for them, protect, love and care for them. However, in man's quest for numerical strength, man has bitten more than he can chew.

For a typical African man, it is a pride to have a large family. In the past, one of the reasons for a big family was so that one could have so many hands on the farm. But today most parents would tell you 'so that I will have many people taking care of me when they growup.' They say it without batting an eye.

During my days in the university, it was very common to see a young girl from a humble background carrying the weight of her family. In most of the cases I came across, they were the breadwinners of their families. They provided for their families, paid the school fees of their younger ones and even elder brothers.

One case that still stands out is that of a lady who was forced into marriage at twelve to a rich farmer in a remote village at Shendam, just because her father needed her bride price. She had the sense to run off before she was deflowered by her grandfather husband. Somehow she found her footing through the help of an uncle in Mangu and she enrolled in secondary school.

By the time we became close, she was not only the breadwinner of her family but also the authority. We were then in the university. The weight of the responsibility on her shoulders made her sexually immoral. Every move she made was geared towards getting the attention of men and sleeping with them for money. Going on like that, she had countless boyfriends with whom she was intimate just so she could cater for her family.

This lady was staying in a one-room self-contained apartment, but you should see how many dependants used to come for holiday. Shamelessly, her parents, including her father who sold her off to rich farmer, were always very demanding. She used what she had to provide for her family at the expense of her reputation, notwithstanding that a good name is better than rubies (Bible).

Another scenario is that of a father whose daughter was schooling in

Kaduna and living big due to the heavyweights she was going out with. Every time the father needed luxury items like designer perfumes or money, he called his Kaduna daughter who never failed her daddy.

At this point, the father had stopped giving her financial support. She had become an authority over her life and came and went as she wanted. She had a nice apartment in the heart of Kaduna. And she dressed expensively at all times complete with gold earrings and necklace. In fact, she smelt like money and radiated money. But her lifestyle when one came close to her was nothing to write home about. It was prostitution with the high and mighty and involved strengthening herself with Babalawos, witch doctors.

As we were growing up, there was a mother who was fond of lamenting to her daughter, 'Your own na kobo fuck you dey do? Your friends dey buy car, build house even for their parents. You still dey eat my food. Na two heads dem get?'

The mother was frustrated that her daughter was not a blessing to her because she was not immoral and neither was she bringing in ill-gotten wealth to better their lives like so many girls her daughter's age were doing. Instead her daughter still depended on her for everything.

It is not only girls that carry the weight of responsibility. I was told of a man who hates to see people giving birth to more than two children especially if one is not capable of providing for the kids. He became like that because he started paying his younger siblings school fees since he was in medical school. His parents naturally transferred that responsibility to him. He was not allowed to enjoy his money like his mates. His parents made it look like it was his responsibility.

The cases are inexhaustible. Parents have forgotten that these are some of the reasons why their voices don't carry weight. And vices abound in our society because we have left our positions due to laziness or self-centredness.

The first step is for every parent to be responsible and assert our positions in our home. The future of our children is in our hands.



Dr Beatrice Oganah-Ikujenyo (Chairperson, WICE), Dr Omolola Ladele (Speaker at the symposium), Prof B.B. Lafiaji-Okuneye (Provost of the College)

**T**HE National Association of Women in Colleges of Education (WICE), North Central (Women at work enhancing qualitative teacher's education) held its central zonal workshop with the theme: "Equipping the 21st Century academia with research grant proposal writing skill". This was held at the Federal College of Education, Pankshin Auditorium Hall in Pankshin.

Delivering her welcome address, the chairperson of Women in Colleges of Education (WICE) Federal College of Education (FCE) Pankshin chapter, DR. (Mrs.) Peace Sorochi Longdet said it's an honour done to FCE Pankshin chapter by the zonal coordinator of WICE to host this year's 2023 workshop. She urged the participants at the workshop to pay more of their attention to the resource persons' paper presentations in order to achieve the goal for the workshop.

The Zonal Coordinator of WICE, North Central Nigeria, Dr. Caroline Igbo-chi in her address at the workshop sincerely appreciated the acting provost of the college, Dr. Christiana Fwenji Zumyil, the chairperson of WICE, FCE Pankshin chapter for accepting to host them.

She implored all the participants to participate actively in the workshop as a lot has been put into the planning. Igbo- I hi also pointed out that the aim of the workshop is to equip the participants with skills in grant writing. And advised them to step it down in their various chapters.

She congratulates all WICE members who have bagged their doctorate degrees, appointed into higher offices and attained one feat or the other. And charged them to see the feat as a call to greater service.

The Chairman of the

occasion, Dr. Hember Emmanuel, who is a chief lecturer with the college, lauded the activities of the WICE, FCE Pankshin chapter. He said, he was proud of WICE in supporting the growth and development of education in their various colleges nationwide, and urged them to keep the flag flying for the betterment of the society.

Speaking separately during the opening ceremony of the workshop, the father and mother of the day Prof. David Wonang and Prof. Janet Diket Plang rejoiced with the North Central WICE on the occasion of her zonal workshop and considered it a rare privilege and honour to have been invited to serve as father and mother of the day.

According to them, the zonal workshop is one of those capacity building strategies that will keep the WICE members abreast academically, socially and morally to the current realities, therefore, it is indeed a deliberate effort towards equipping them for academic excellence, worthy character development and socialization in their colleges of education, families (basic unit of the society) and the society in general.

They therefore, enjoined all the members of WICE to be committed to this course in order to remain focused and up to date in their primary assignment of teaching, research and community service as well as in promoting peace, unity and positive social change in general, both in the college and at the homefront for a better society. They also urged all the participants at the workshop to take this opportunity to widen their

scope of knowledge in skills writing and also to be able to step it down in their various colleges.

The high point of the opening ceremony was the presentation of awards of excellence to four (4) deserving staff of Federal College of Education Pankshin by the college chapter of WICE. The recipients include Dr. Sunday Jacob, Dr. Ziporah Duguryil, a former national president of WICE and she is currently the Director TETFUND Centre for Excellence, FCE Pankshin.

Others include Dr. Peace Sorochi Longdet who is the current Chairperson of WICE, FCE Pankshin chapter, comrade (Prince) Hyacinth Henlong Tuamyil, a former chairman of Non-Academic Staff Union (WASU), FCE Pankshin from 2007-2015 and he is currently the chairman of Non-Academic Staff Union of Plateau State Council.

Another high point was the official induction of the Acting Provost of the college (FCE Pankshin), Dr. (Mrs.) Christiana Fwenji Zumyil as the patron of National Association of Women in Colleges of Education (WICE) by the national president represented by the national ex-officio, the zonal coordinator and the chairperson FCE Pankshin Chapter.

In her speech an acceptance speech the Acting Provost FCE Pankshin Dr. Christiana Zumyil said, she is full of gratitude to the WICE National body for finding her worthy to serve them in the capacity of a patron and she assured them of, her unflinching support, commitment and determination to take the association to a greater height.



# SUNDAY POLITICS



Tinubu



Wike



Edu

## Expecting positive impact from Tinubu's Ministers

**Upon assumption of office as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu's palatial house in Lagos, his home State, became a "Mecca" or so to speak, "Pilgrimage" for political appointment seekers. I am aware that his friends, associates including Governors, who served between 1999 to 2007, besieged only to have a heart-to-heart contact with him. [SAMPSON UHUEGBU](#) writes.**

**I**N all, the President picked his lieutenants and sworn them in as members of his cabinet. The newly appointed ministers include:

Former Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, as Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT); ex-Osun state governor, Adegboyega Oyetola, as minister for Transportation.

Other new Ministers are Dele Alake, Solid Minerals; Muhammad Idris, Information; Mohammed Badaru heads Defence Ministry; Bello Mattawale, as Minister of State, while the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security is being headed by Abubakar Kyari.

Abubakar Mohmoh was appointed Youths Minister, Communications and Digital Economy – Bosun, Yusuf Tuga, Foreign Affairs; Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy – Wale Edu; Minister of Works, Dave Umahi and the Coordinating Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Ali Pate.

Betta Edu appointed Minister of Humanitarian affairs; Poverty alleviation, John Eno; Sports, Marine and Blue Economy headed by Bunni Tunji Oje, among others.

Not all that lobbied for these evitable appointments could get it. But the President has inaugurated the favoured ones among the millions that sought for the positions.

Much jobs are expected from the newly-inaugurated

Ministers, especially now that we are in an economic quagmire. The country's economic situation is nothing to write home about. The citizens are deeply worried because of the fuel pump price.

Negative implications of the uprising has drastically affected the prices of food stuffs and other goods and services across the country. Everyone is feeling the harshness of the economy. Hikes have continued to be experienced on daily basis due to the fact that fuel is vital product on our daily activities.

The Federal Government should realise that one of the things that can endear them to the citizenry remains the ability to reverse the fuel pump price to the affordable reach of everyone. Only that bold move could make Nigerians to truly believe that the Tinubu-led administration has something to offer.

From the administrations of ex-President, Goodluck Jonathan, to the immediate-past leader, Muhammadu Buhari, the ugly story appeared same. That is, Stagnancy in the system! When shall the story change for good? Hardship is never the anticipation of Nigerians from the Tinubu's government. Only a new normal is needed this time.

Ministerial appointments should no longer be regarded as a "Political settlement of the core loyalists". The Ministers should be closely monitored by the President with the view of ensuring that

every single project by the Federal government is completely executed devoid of excuses.

Also, a Federal Minister should see him or herself as a chosen one picked among the millions that qualified for the positions. It should not be taken as portfolios for jamboree sake or an opportunity garnered by a "gladdima" means. A federal Minister should work for the development of his State of origin. He must have become a development-conscious person whose interest should supersede that of self.

Down to Imo, The Ministerial position favoured an Oguta-born Medical Doctor turned Banker; and Immediate-past Commissioner for Finance, Dr Doris Uzorka-'Anite. Congratulations, to her. This is first of its kind since the creation of the State that Imo indigene having the portfolio as Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment.

Imo had produced Ministerial appointees right from the inception of democratic system of government. Former Minister of Information; Chief Walter Ofonagoro, Professors Fabian Osuji and Chinwe Obaji, were Education Ministers respectively.

Recall that Professors Anthony Anwuka, who was a one-time Vice Chancellor of the Imo State University, Owerri and wife of the late Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO), Viola Onwuliri, had held the



Lalong

positions as Minister.

Achike Udenwa, who ruled Imo for Eight years; and the present Imo PDP Chairman, Chief Charles Ugwu, were in charge respectively as Ministers of Commerce and Industry. Former Imo Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. Goodluck Opiah and an ex-ANPP Imo governorship candidate, Barr. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, took over as Ministers for Education, State.

Now that Imo is flying the flag as the Honourable Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Doris Uzorka-Anite is at the front burner of that ministry, what would Ndi Imo vis-a-vis Nigerians gain from her appointment as the Honourable Minister?

Dr Uzorka should use her good office to attract investors to Imo. The Governor, Sen. Hope

Uzodimma, as a bridge-builder, has always extended hands of fellowship to willing individual and groups that desire to partner towards the development of the State.

We had cried out in the past over the need to industrialise Imo and make it an industry hub like Anambra State and other States. The defunct industries along Owerri-Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, Onitsha road Industrial layout should be revived and furnished with a state-of-the-art equipment. Resuscitating the dead establishments would create jobs for the unemployed youths and reduce criminalities in our communities.

Let us feel the positive impact of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment in all

ramifications across the State as one of our own is now at the helm of affairs of that sector.

## POLITICS

## 100 days: Media gives assessment of Gov. Kefas

From Victor Gai Jalingo

**G**OVERNOR Agbu Kefas had recently convened a meeting with the media where they gave an assessment of his 100 days in office.

The meeting which was held at the Government House Exco Chamber involved members of his cabinet, party officials and security stakeholders in the state.

According to Governor Kefas, the purpose of the meeting was not for him to assess his administration but to allow the media to assess what he has done in the first 100 days in office.

"My concept of 100 days in office is to let the people tell me what I have done, not for me to tell them what I have done, so that I can evaluate my performance," Kefas stated.

He also took time to mention some achievements in the first 100 days in office which borders on security, agriculture, healthcare and so on.

He disclosed that students all over the state would be provided uniforms for free which would be part of the free education policy.

"We are harmonizing the uniforms. We are going to



Kefas

provide the uniforms for primary and secondary. Our children will be resuming school in January with new uniforms. Children are entitled to go to school and it is compulsory. I have given money for running the schools and no charges again," he added.

Keynote speaker at the occasion, Dare Akiniyi while heaping praises on the governor, disclosed that the governor's social media profile had grown within the short time of being a governor.

"24,000 people have been

following you on Facebook. You have come top among the first time governors. The facts are there," he stated.

Members of the media freely interacted with the governor where they made an objective assessment of the governor, advising him where necessary.

## AIEC, UNICEF, foundation train Tsangala school mallams

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

**T**HE Sokoto State Arabic and Islamic Education Commission with support from United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and funding from Eleva Foundation of the UK recently flagged off a 4 day training for 100 mallams of

Tsangaya schools on child safeguarding and alternative care for almajiri in the state.

Mr. Williams Nwaokorie of UNICEF, Sokoto Office, Child Protection Officer while addressing the participants

## Tribunal verdict: Ohere heads to Appeal Court



Abubakar

**S**EN. Abubakar Ohere (APC - Kogi Central) says he will appeal judgment of the election tribunal that voided his victory and declared Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan of the PDP as winner of the Feb. 25 National Assembly poll in the zone.

Ohere, who made this declaration in a statement in Lokoja, expressed great shock over the judgment of the tribunal that nullified his election, saying he was confident of victory at the Court of Appeal.

Our correspondent reports that the Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Kogi, declared Akpoti-Uduaghan the actual winner of the Feb. 25 senatorial election in Kogi Central.

The Tribunal Chairman, Justice K. A. Orjiako who read the unanimous judgment of the three-man panel, said Ohere's results were inflated in nine polling units of Ajaokuta Local Government Area while that of Akpoti-Uduaghan was intentionally reduced in the same nine polling units by the INEC Ward Collation officers.

Orjiako said: "After making the proper correction, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan (PDP) having polled 54,074 against Abubakar Ohere (APC) who polled 51,291 is hereby declared the authentic winner."

But Ohere expressed worry on the tribunal's decision, that as a respondent, he ought to have filed a cross-petition to be able to challenge votes in an election petition.

Ohere said: "I feel strongly that

the decision is contrary to Paragraph 15 of the First Schedule to the Electoral Act, 2022.

"As a matter of fact, I presented before the Tribunal through my team of lawyers, a decision of the Appellate Court which held that a respondent does not need to file a cross-petition to challenge votes in an election petition, if the ground for challenging the election is majority of lawful votes.

"While I am waiting for my team of lawyers to give me full details on the judgment, I urge all my supporters to be calm and

peaceful as their mandate is not lost.

"I know that I have an option of appeal which I shall exercise after due consultation with my lawyers.

"I am confident that we shall triumph at the next floor of justice by pointing to areas where we strongly disagree with the ruling. Your mandate shall be protected," he said.

The senator, however, urged his supporters not to be disturbed but to believe that they would get it right at the Appeal Court.

## RTEAN seeks partnership with police

By DORCAS PANKYES

**T**HE Chairman, Police Service Commission (PSC), Dr. Solomon Arase, recently met with the national leadership of the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN).

During the meeting, Dr. Arase called for a robust partnership between the association and the Nigeria Police Force to combat and contain criminal activities in the country.

Dr. Arase noted the strategic role that the association plays in the fight against crime, noting that the Police Force would be willing and ready to collaborate with the RTEAN. He highlighted the importance of gathering vital information from the association's members, who encounter people all over the country during the movement of goods and services.

Dr. Arase commended the RTEAN for its assistance to the police during elections and urged for an improved and enduring partnership.

He also praised the association for providing timely information on criminal activities.

In his response, the Executive National Chairman of the RTEAN, Dr. Musa Mohammed (Maitakobi), represented by the National Vice President Administration, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar Bishara, expressed admiration for the initiatives and reforms implemented by the PSC under Dr. Arase's leadership.

He acknowledged the progress made in areas such as community policing, training and development, and technological advancements.

The RTEAN vowed to contribute to the improvement of law enforcement practices, as stated in its constitution, by collaborating with the police.

The association expressed gratitude for the opportunity to learn from the PSC's best practices and pledged to incorporate these insights into their work.

They expressed their commitment to support the



Arase

PSC's endeavours and look forward to future collaborations, particularly in the area of youth recruitment. The association also proposed a well-coordinated security system between the Nigeria Police and RTEAN Marshal, which

currently liaises with the police in information sharing at motor parks and bus stops.

The Deputy President of the RTEAN also urged the PSC to utilize artificial intelligence to address the country's security challenges.

on, "Understanding Child Protection, The Ideal Almajiri Education, Child Protection said children are the primary beneficiaries of their works, hence, urging all implementing partners to ensure no harm of any form against them.

He also noted that the 100 mallams drawn from 8 local government areas of Sokoto State will be trained to support the endorsement and adoption of alternative care minimum standards for almajiri out of family care. He further said that a framework for monitoring compliance with alternative care will be developed as well.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Arabic and Islamic Commission's Secretary, Dr Umar Altine Dandin Mahe said that what has been brought is not new but what the religion admonished them to do.

He explained that children in Islamiyya and Almajiri schools should be seen as very neat, comfortable and given the needed care to appease others.

While commending UNICEF for its genuine commitment to children welfare worldwide, irrespective of religion, race and nation, Umar Altine admonished the clerics to pay attention to every segment of the training and make it interactive for better understaffing.

He also opined that a law be put in place to prescribe the acceptable age within which parents can take their wards to other places for Islamic education.

On his part, Sokoto State Executive Chairman of Zakkat and Waqf Commission, Mallam Lawal Maidoki, in a goodwill message, said the issue of

Almajiri and its proliferation should be carefully studied.

Maidoki who was represented by the Director of Endowment Services of Zakkat Commission, Mallam Jabbi Ibrahim Illela Dabore implored people to differentiate between the large number of children floating the streets and who are almajiri.

Making his presentation on "Child Safeguarding from the Lenses of Islamic Law" and "The Ideal Almajiri Education and Child Safeguarding," a Professor of Islamic Law from University of Maiduguri and UNICEF resource person, Umar Alkali urged Islamic teachers to admit global realities in dealing with children under their care.

Prof. Alkali, while warning that God will ask parents over their responsibilities to their wards, reinstated that Islam bestowed certain rights on children.

He also advised that any ward to be taken out of parents' care for Almajiri school, should not be less than seven years. However, the participating Mallams unanimously suggested and agreed that the ideal year should be ten years.

Professor Umar Alkali also clarified that the child could be attending schools both western and Islamic from their parents homes even before attainment of the said age.

Participants at the training were divided into two with 50 from 4 local governments to be trained for 2 days while the remaining 50 trained for another 2 days at Dankeni Guest inn Sokoto.

# Felicitations

FROM  
**QUA'AN-PAN LGC**  
ON YOUR



Days In Office



## Governor Mutfwang

The Transition Committee Chairman Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council, **Hon. Christopher Audu Manship (Wallat)** wishes to on behalf of government, the leadership of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) in the area, Stakeholders and the good people of the area joyfully felicitate with our beloved indefatigable Executive Governor of Plateau state, **His Excellency, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang**, our amiable mother and Deputy Governor, **Her Excellency, Ngo Josephine Piyo** as well as other government functionaries as you mark your first One hundred Days in office.

Your Excellencies, in just one hundred Days of your assumption of office, you have demonstrated great leadership prowess in reducing the high level of corruption in government offices, minimizing the senseless acts of terrorism and insurgencies in our communities, enacting sound policies for critical reforms in different sectors of governance, reducing some back-log of workers' salaries and pension inherited from the former government, restoring glory to the Civil Service and most importantly, laying a solid foundation for speedy and sustainable development in the agenda of your mantra **"The Time Is Now"**, to mention just a few.

Indeed, the golden fish has no hiding place hence your glorious ascension to a higher echelon in your political careers and we can judge from the programmes and policies approach of your governments that the confidence reposed in you by Plateau citizens will not be in vain.

Once more congratulations for achieving these feats so far and may God continue to lead you in the right track, shield you from the plans of your detractors and give you the needed impetus and wisdom to pilot the affairs of our dear Plateau state.

**Signed:**  
**Hon. Christopher Audu Manship (Wallat)**  
Chairman, Transition Committee,



## SUNDAY NEWS

### INEC broke Nigerians' trust with failure to e-transmit

He said, "Now guess what? When it was time for INEC to fulfill its own guidelines—for certain reasons, we could talk about that—INEC failed to do what it said it would do. Now it is right if you look at the law, and I think the judges have also affirmed that INEC has not really broken the law. But INEC has broken the trust of the Nigerian people.

"It's a problem for political legitimacy for people that came out of that system."

In fact, the Chairman of INEC went abroad and said, 'What we are going to do is that this results, when we get it, we would put it on our IReV in real-time'."

Akande further stated that, while INEC has not broken the law in accordance with the judgment delivered by the Presidential Election Petition Court, PEPC, Nigerians now have distrust in the body.

He said, "Now guess what? When it was time for INEC to fulfill its own guidelines—for certain reasons, we could talk about that—INEC failed to



Mahmood

do what it said it would do. Now it is right if you look at the law, and I think the judges have also affirmed that INEC has not really broken the law. But INEC has broken the trust of the Nigerian people.

"It's a problem for political legitimacy for people that

came out of that system." It was reported that the five-member panel, headed by Justice Haruna Tsammani, on Wednesday ruled that the Electoral Act 2022 does not contain a mandatory provision for the electronic transmission of election results.

### Wike denies reporting Bello over alleged contract variations

The Office of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister has rubbished report that surfaced online over the weekend claiming the FCT Minister, Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, intends to write the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to investigate the immediate past FCT Minister, Malam Muhammad Musa Bello, over some irregularities in the award of contracts in the FCT.

The Director of Press, Office of the FCT Minister, Anthony Ogunleye, via a statement on Saturday, described the reports as baseless and without any merit.

"We categorically and unequivocally state that these reports are entirely baseless and without any merit whatsoever. The FCT Minister, during his routine inspections of various projects within the FCT, has indeed expressed concerns and frustrations regarding irregularities observed in the procurement and execution of certain projects, amongst other observations which he very

publicly expressed.

"However, at no point did he contemplate or authorize any action by anyone within or outside the FCT Administration to invite the EFCC or ICPC to investigate the former FCT Minister in connection with these or any other matters," Ogunleye said.

He described the online story in question as nothing more than a product of the imagination of its authors, as it was ostensibly designed to mischievously sow discord and confusion among the general public.

He also urged the general public to disregard the story in its entirety, noting that it was a deliberate attempt to spread fake news and create unnecessary tensions.

"We view such misinformation with great concern and urge the public and well-meaning

Nigerians to exercise caution and discernment when encountering such unfounded reports," Ogunleye said.

He added that Wike is focused on his responsibilities to ensure the efficient and transparent administration of the FCT and upholding the highest standards of integrity and accountability in the discharge of his duties.

He stressed that any actions or decisions taken by the FCTA in this regard will be communicated through official channels and in accordance with due process.

Wike had Thursday, last week, expressed disappointment over the delay in the completion of many projects in FCT as a result of variation in contracts awarded several years ago.

#### Change of Name

##### TONGKIT

I formerly know as **FRANCIS PEACE** now wish to be known and addressed as **TONGKIT PEACE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note

##### IBIANG

I formerly know as **IBANG KEZIAH EBRI** now wish to be known and addressed as **IBIANG KEZIAH EBRI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## MUTFWANG AT NYSC TEMPORARY CAMP

*Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang recently visited the temporary camp at the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) at WAYE Foundation, Doi, Jos South LGA*



*Governor Mutfwang taking the national salute mounted by the Corp members on arrival*



*NYSC State Coordinator, Mrs. Ikupolati, Esther Tosin kneeling down in appreciating the Governor for visiting the NYSC Camp*



*Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang (right) with the Head of Civil Service, Barr. Rautha Dakok*



*From left are, Commissioners of Works, Hon. Adams Bulus Lekshak, Information, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, Youth and Sports, Hon. Bashir Lawandi Datti and Head of Service, Barr. Rautha Dakok in standing ovation for the Governors' speech*



*Corp members listening to the speeches*



*Governor Mutfwang, State Coordinator of NYSC, Mrs. Tosin and the Director of Protocol, Jibrin Sule Watle putting heads together*



*Director of Press and Public Affairs, Mr. Gyang Bere, Private Physician to the Governor, Dr. Meshak Daniel, GM of JMDB, Arc Hart Bankat with other government officials*



*NYSC cultural troupes entertaining guests during the visit*

Photos: DANLADI DUK



**T**HE Plateau State House of Assembly recently came up with two bills that are considered to be important to not only the people of Plateau, but the state at large. The executive bills include, 'A Bill for the Law to Establish the Plateau State Law Reform Commission, 2023 and the second is 'A Bill for a Law to Establish the Plateau State Citizens Mediation Centre', 2023

Having passed through second reading, an adhoc committee was set up to look into these bills, headed by the Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Gwottson Fom Dalyop.

The Law Reform Commission Bill is to be saddled with the responsibility which among other things, is to generally research, take and keep under review all state laws, and local government bye laws, with a view to ensuring their systematic and progressive development and reform in consonance with the prevailing norms in the state, nation and international community including, in particular, the codification of such laws and bye laws which will be beneficial to all. In a nutshell, when passed into law it would serve as a coordinating center for all state laws and local government bye laws.

On the other hand, the Citizens Mediation Centre Bill seeks to establish a center that will be saddled with the responsibility of mediating between parties on disputes such as landlord and tenant matters, contracts of employment, family matters, debt related matters etc. The center shall also help in reducing the huge legal fees paid by citizens to access the services of lawyers over minor disputes. We cannot deny the fact that these are issues people deal with on a daily basis.

To set the ball rolling, the bill was subjected to the committee stage for proper scrutiny and study. It was thereafter, arrived at the decision to conduct a public hearing as is customary. The purpose of the public hearing is to get stakeholders inputs and contributions with a view to carrying everyone along, from where observations and recommendations on the proposed legislation will be deduced. The following stakeholders were invited as part of the hearing: Nigeria Law Reform Commission, Plateau State chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association ( NBA), Nigerian

Public Complaint Commission, Plateau State Local Government Service Commission and Plateau State High Court of Justice. Others are Plateau State Judicial Service Commission, the state Attorney General and state Auditor General.

Speaking on what the people stand to gain from this legislation, the Deputy Speaker of the House, who also doubles as the adhoc committee chairman, Rt. Hon. Gwottson Fom Dalyop while enumerating the benefits said they were quite enormous. For instance when fully operational, the commission will be like a library where all the state laws

## On law reform and mediation center bills



and bye laws will be kept. To him, accessibility of laws will no longer be an issue because whoever wants any law on the Plateau can easily get them once he or she goes to the commission.

According to the lawmaker, there are laws that have been said to be obsolete, for example there are situations where some people have described certain punishments as common. Therefore, in order to make reforms on some of these obsolete laws, there needs to be put in place an agency of government that will harness the laws, bring them together and see how the House can come up with amendments to those laws.

At the public hearing, participants applauded the initiative by the tenth state assembly and for involving them in what they described as an epoch making event. One of the highlights was the unanimous agreement by stakeholders that the proposed legislation when passed, will improve the state legal system, revive the lingering dearth of obsolete legislations and enhance periodic reviews. However, The NBA speaking through Barr. Demon Dashe was quick to caution on the use of proper terminologies to dissuade any ambiguity.

On the part of the state Attorney

General Barr. Philemon Daffi, he defined law as an instrument of social engineering, adding that the mantra of the present administration which is 'the time is now', is not frivolous nor flippant but deliberate. To him, the importance of the Plateau State Law Reform Commission cannot be overemphasized, while giving his reasons that as attorney general, he has had cause to go around MDAs picking pieces of legislations concerning the state, which ought not to be so. Still wondering on why the state does not have its own reform commission, the attorney general said something went wrong because when the then northern Nigeria established her law reform commission, it was the then Benue/Plateau that became the warehouse of that legislation.

Barr. Daffi on behalf of the state government expressed desire to keep all laws in a single place for easy accessibility. As for the mediation center, he posited that there was need for the state to tap from global funds through the establishment of a center that will cater for mainly the needs of indigent members of the society. Even though government is aware of the existence of other organs that deals on alternative dispute resolution, the center which is

about to be established has a clear mandate in addressing needs of vulnerable members of our society.

The Plateau State Peace Building agency and the Multi Door Court House on the other hand, allayed fears of duplication of responsibilities given the establishment of the citizens mediation center. Both bodies however, understood the yet to be established commission as a complimentary body that focuses on the need of indigent members of the society. They called for closer collaboration in order to address the many societal ills bedeviling the state.

For Prof. Jummai Audi, Chairman of the Nigerian Law Reform Commission who could not hold back her excitement, The Plateau State House of Assembly has done quite well in coming up with this bill even though in her opinion, it ought to have been enacted long before now. She highlighted some of the benefits to include strengthening legislative processes in the state, simplifying and modernizing the law etc.

Other stakeholders who made inputs through their contributions and suggestions include Plateau Peace Practitioners Network, represented by the Chairman Mr. Pwajim Pwajok, the representative of Human Rights Commission in the person of Mrs.



**"To set the ball rolling, the bill was subjected to the committee stage for proper scrutiny and study. It was thereafter, arrived at the decision to conduct a public hearing as is customary. The purpose of the public hearing is to get stakeholders inputs and contributions with a view to carrying everyone along, from where observations and recommendations on the proposed legislation will be deduced. The following stakeholders were invited as part of the hearing: Nigeria Law Reform Commission, Plateau State chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association ( NBA), Nigerian Public Complaint Commission, Plateau State Local Government Service Commission and Plateau State High Court of Justice. Others are Plateau State Judicial Service Commission, the state Attorney General and state Auditor General. Speaking on what the people stand to gain from this legislation, the Deputy Speaker of the House, who also doubles as the adhoc committee chairman, Rt. Hon. Gwottson Fom Dalyop while enumerating the benefits said they were quite enormous. For instance when fully operational, the commission will be like a library where all the state laws and bye laws will be kept. To him, accessibility of laws will no longer be an issue because whoever wants any law on the Plateau can easily get them once he or she goes to the commission."**

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Tinubu



Lalong



Ajaero

# Unemployment and the Nigerian state

**Recently, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) declared 4.1 per cent as the unemployment rate in Nigeria. The NBS is the government agency saddled with the responsibility of gathering data to aid government in planning and policy formulation thereof, it is expected to have a near accurate figures. In this instance of unemployment, the scenario seems not to be so. Expectedly, the recent figure from the NBS has generated intense debate. VICTOR ALI examines the issue.**

**U**NEMPLOYMENT has become a hydra-headed monster bedeviling the Nigeria economy in particular and the Nigerian state as a whole. To say that the high state of unemployment in Nigeria is scary and worrisome is a grouse understatement. Indeed, it is a time-bomb waiting to explode. Needless to say, unemployment and underemployment are siemise twins that have impacted negatively on the Nigerian economy. The ripple effect of this ugly situation has manifested in other societal malaise like armed robbery, kidnapping banditry, cultism, prostitution et cetera.

Presiding over its First Federal Executive Council (FEC), President Ahmed Bola Tinubu acknowledges this grim reality by lamenting that Nigeria has an unemployment rate "that is unacceptable". His Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun concurred "... it is high and youth unemployment is even unacceptably higher". But the question that begs for answer is: exactly how many Nigerians are unemployed? It is obvious that nobody can give an accurate answer to

this question.

Unfortunately, lack of adequate, reliable and dependable data is a serious hindrance in policy formulation aimed at the country's development, growth and progress.

Recently, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) released a contentious figure that has become a subject of public and national discourse. Some few weeks ago, the National Bureau for Statistics (NBS) announced that in its 'revised analytical tools' for calculating unemployment among Nigerians, it arrived at 4.1 percent from 33.1 percent reported in March 2021, when it last reported the unemployment index of the country. Expectedly, the figures were promptly dismissed by pundits as a sham.

According to media report (**THE GUARDIAN**, Monday, August 28, 2023), "in arriving at the new figure the NBS said the old methodology defines the working age population as those within the age bracket of 15-64 years and considers working between 20 and 39 hours as underemployed as well as those working between one and 19 hours as unemployed. The NBS further

highlighted that while the unemployment it puts youth underemployment at 6.0 per cent and total unemployed population in Nigeria was estimated at a peak of around 63 million. This increased from the preceding year when around six million people were not in any form of employment.

And rising in its scan criticism of the unemployment figure giving by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), **The Punch** in its editorial (Wednesday, August, 30, 2023), noted that, "in a bewildering display of statistical acrobatics, the National Bureau of Statistics has pushed out a ridiculously low unemployment rate. Claiming a new methodology that stretches that meaning of gainful labour, the Nigeria Labour Force Survey put the jobless rate in the first quarter of 2023 at 4.1 per cent. It should halt such speciousness immediately: Nigeria jobless situation is huge and urgent measures should be taken by the national and sub national governments to half the slide."

Incidentally, it is obvious that both President Ahmed Bola Tinubu and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Wale Edun are averse with the magnitude of

the unemployment rate in the country. "But", according to the aforementioned newspaper, "the NBS is understating the grim reality, its report puts the jobless rate in Q1 2023 at unbelievable 4.1 per cent and 5.3 per cent in Q4 2022. This not only suggest an improvement early this year, but also a sharp drop in unemployment since Q4 2020 when it was recorded as 33.3 per cent.

"To many, this appears a crude joke, it would put Nigeria in the bracket of countries with the lowest jobless rates in 2023 as calculated by the IMF, such as China 4.1 per cent, Hungary 4.8 per cent, the Netherlands and Slovenia 3.9 per cent each; Australia 3.96 per cent; United States 3.83 per cent and United Kingdom 4.15 per cent. The NBS explained that the rate arose from a new methodology emanating from the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) global standard. Under this, the working Page is 15 to 64 years, and a person is deemed employed if he or she, worked for at least one hour in the last seven days during the survey period. In the old mythology, unemployed person was one engage in any activity to produce goods and services

for a minimum of 20 hours. The obvious absurdity in this should have cautioned the NBS to stick to the old methodology or adopt one that accords to reality."

"As the immediate past Stacion General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Yemi Kale, said, "the committee that had reviewed the rebasing on his watch believed and must Nigerians agree, that, one hour (counted as employment) did not make sense because income generated with that time frame was not necessarily livable." It equally challenged the current leadership of the Bureau to reject the new methodology and opt for another.

It opined that, NBS is a public institution, and its staff members are public servants and bound to listing to the concerns of Nigerians in fulfilling its mandate. All Nigerians are its stakeholders. The new methodology is unhelpful by grossly understating the country's precarious situation, period. There is no law compelling Nigeria to adopt a particular methodology. Instead it is her sovereignty prerogative to choose the one that best

**Continued on page 31**

## NEWS

## Gunmen attack Catholic Church, kill seminarian

From John FWAH,  
Kaduna

**A**RMED gunmen recently attacked a Catholic Church in the night, killing a seminarian at Fadan Kamantan, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

According to a release signed by Rev. John Joseph Hayab,

Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna State Chapter, the

criminals targeted the parish priest's residence. Lucky enough, the parish priest, Very Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Okolo who also doubles as the Chancellor of the Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, and his assistant were able to escape out of the house before the criminals set the entire Rectory ablaze. This resulted in the burning to death of a seminarian, Bro. Naam Ngofe Danladi who was just about completing his training into the catholic priesthood.

The release also said, "Our hearts are filled with pains at the wake of today 8 September, 2023 with the news of the attack in our land and against our people at Fadan Kamantan Parish of the Catholic diocese of Kafanchan, Zangon Kataf LGA of Kaduna State.

The report stated further that "What is disheartening about this particular attack is



Hayab

the fact that the place of attack is just by the Kaduna - Kafanchan major highway with a military checkpoint not far from the parish. The parish is located at the heart of Kamantan town and the attack was carried out at about 8:00 pm. This has made us wonder some more? Where is the hope? How much more terrible could the situation get?

We appreciate the willingness of the present administration to proffer practical, real and lasting solutions to the security

challenge in Kaduna State as made visible by the ongoing recruitment process of over 7,000 men and women into the Kaduna State Vigilante Services (KADVIS). In the light of sharing in the faith of the perceived goodwill of the present administration in Kaduna State, we invite the Governor of Kaduna State and all relevant stakeholders to immediately swing into action and ensure that those responsible for the Kamantan evil night are apprehended and made to face the law.

Security is everyone's business, it is disappointing that this kind of unholy activity could be recorded at the heart of Fadan Kamantan community and the criminals will operate unchallenged. It is a slap to the security forces within that jurisdiction. It is a slap to the religious leaders, traditional and community leaders. The position of CAN Kaduna State Chapter has always been that we as citizens must complement government in its primary responsibility of saving our lives and properties by proactively building a community security system that prevents any form of invading force into our community. Sadly, we are still here.

The executive of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Kaduna State Chapter and indeed all Christians in Kaduna State sincerely sympathize with the chief shepherd and local Ordinary of Kafanchan Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Julius Kundi, the parish priest and parishioners of Kamantan Parish, the Kurama community of Bro. Naam Ngofe Danladi, the leaders and the good people of Zangon Kataf LGA and Fadan Kamantan community over this unfortunate incident. We pray that the good Lord will heal our land and bring this menace to an end.

## Nigeria's Telecom contribution to GDP Hits 16% - Danbatta

By DORCAS PANKYES

**T**HE telecommunications sector's contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased significantly to 16 per cent in the second quarter of 2023, according to the data reported by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) based on the computation by the Nigeria Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

This was said in a press statement issued recently by Reuben Muoka, Director, Public Affairs.

The Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Prof. Umar Danbatta, stated this in a keynote address delivered at the annual Telecom Executives and Regulators Forum (TERF) hosted by the Association of Telecom Companies of Nigeria (ATCON) in Lagos recently.

According to Danbatta, from a 14.13 per cent

contribution in the first quarter of 2023, and up from the hitherto 15 per cent all-time-high record contributed in the second quarter of 2022, the telecommunications sector added 16 per cent to the national GDP in the second quarter of 2023 to set a new record.

The statement quoted the Chairman saying "Success factors and barriers to national broadband and digital economy aspirations", took the audience, promising executives of telecom companies and other industry stakeholders, through the giant strides being made by the Commission.

The statement further explained that from about 8 per cent contribution to GDP in 2015, when Danbatta came on board as the EVC of NCC, he said quarterly GDP has increased significantly to reach its current threshold of 16 per cent and that this has continued to positively impact all aspects of the economy.

"Through sustained regulatory excellence and operational efficiency by the commission, the industry has grown in leaps and bounds over the past two decades and this has impacted on all other sectors of the economy. The effective regulatory regime employed by the NCC and with the support from all stakeholders has been our major success factor as an industry," Danbatta said.

The EVC stated that while there are barriers to broadband deployment in the country, ranging from the issue of right of way (RoW), fibre cuts, high capital requirement for deployment, multiple taxations and regulations, among other challenges, the NCC is navigating regulatory complexities, digital divide and literacy, security concerns with firmness and increased collaborations with necessary stakeholders such as ATCON to create measures towards tackling the challenges.

On the RoW challenge, the EVC said there are about 46 different taxes directed at the telecom sector at the moment. Such charges and levies, coming in various names, are imposed on telecom operators by some agencies and tiers of government, especially at the state and local levels. Danbatta said the challenge translates into greater economic burdens on telecom subscribers in the country.

Speaking about connectivity, Danbatta said, "Over the years, we have

identified some clusters of access gaps all over the country but we have recorded a significant drop in the number of access gaps, as we continue to drive initiatives that boost access to telecommunications services."

He stated that the commission does this by enlisting government commitment to a digital economy with robust policy frameworks, promotion of investment and funding, stimulation of infrastructure development, digital inclusion and literacy, promotion of competition and market liberalization, effective allocation of spectrum, as well as driving the e-government ecosystem.

Danbatta said with various ongoing regulatory efforts, "The NCC is confident that we are going to reach 50 per cent broadband penetration threshold by the end of 2023 and by 2025, we would have met and possibly surpassed the 70 per cent broadband penetration target, as contained in the Nigerian National Broadband Plan (NNBP), 2020-2025."

The EVC particularly commended ATCON and its members for being partners in progress and for constantly engaging the commission in constructive ways towards finding solutions to the myriad of challenges confronting the industry. The EVC said a national broadband network and a thriving digital economy are not without their challenges.



### Cholera Outbreak: Nigeria registers 79 deaths, 1336 suspected cases

Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has registered over Seventy-nine (79) deaths and a total of one thousand, three hundred and thirty-six (1,336) suspected cases of cholera in the country and it was the latest cholera situation.

### Suspected kidnapper buries infant alive after collecting ransom

The Katsina State Police Command has arrested and parading a 30 year-old Abubakar Abdulaziz for kidnapping and burying an infant age 3 after collecting ransom from the family in the state.

According to the Katsina State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Katsina State, CSP Gambo Isa, the suspect entered the victim's compound at night and whisked him to an unknown destination and demanded for a ransom which paid to him, but still buried the child alive.

### Woman reportedly sold her 18 months baby for #600,000

A woman, age 33 of Sango in Odo/Oga Local Government Area, Ogun State with the name, Olaide Adekunle, was arrested for allegedly selling her 18-month-old baby for N600,000 to offset her bank loan.

This came in a press statement signed by the Command Police Public Relations Officer, SP Abimbola Oyeyemi, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital Monday.

The PPRO disclosed that, the husband reported that his wife left home for Lagos on March 15, 2023, with their baby girl, but returned home without the baby and all efforts to know what happened to the baby proved abortive as the woman was unable to give any reasonable account of the baby's whereabouts.

### Qua'an-Pan gets additional Divisional Police Office

The Management of Qua'an-Pan Local Government Council of Plateau State, has constructed a befitting Nigeria Police Force Divisional Police Office in the area to help curb criminal activities in the local government.

This is contained in the press statement signed by the Senior Special Adviser on Media, Publicity and Protocol, Hon. Mathias Yengoet Dajan, and made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital Wednesday.

Osinbajo warns elites against divisive rhetorics, religious bigotry

The Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, has warned Nigerian elites against ethnic profiling, religious bigotry and the promotion of divisive rhetorics in the quest for power of Nigeria and priorities unity, cohesion and progress.

He gave the warning while delivering a lecture at the Course 45 of National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru, Jos Plateau State saying, "there must be a deliberate policy backed by elites consensus which bars Nigerians from using the nation's diversity to negatively promote their personal ambitions.

\*\*APC congratulates Plang, on his election as Senator-elect Plateau Central

Plateau State Chapter of the All Progressive Congress (APC), has congratulated its Central Zone Senatorial Candidate, Hon. Diket Plang, for emerging as Senator-elect in the recently concluded rerun as INEC finally and rightfully declared him winner last week in Pankshin LGA.

This came in a press statement signed by the party State Publicity Secretary, Hon. Sylvanus Namang, and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital Sunday shortly after the declaration by the Returning Officer, Dr. Jima Lar at the senatorial headquarters Pankshin on Saturday.

### MOH inaugurates Advisory Committee on NTDs

PLATEAU State Ministry of Health, has inaugurated the State Technical Advisory Committee (STACON) on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) to provide technical advice to Programme Managers and support the implementation of control, elimination and eradication of NTDs in the state.

This took place at the conference hall of Lamonde Hotel Jos, the Plateau State capital Thursday, where stakeholders from Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), World Health Organisation (WHO), Christofel Blind Mission (CTM) and The Carter Centre (TCC) were in attendance.

### World Health Day: WHO celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The worldwide age long health organisation popularly recognized as World Health Organisation (WHO), has celebrated its 75 years of existence in promoting good health, disease prevention and controlling mortality rate in vulnerable people ensuing the highest level of health and well-being.

This took place on the occasion marking the 2023 World Health Day in Jos, the Plateau State capital Monday, starting with a press briefing organised by the Plateau State Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO and other partners who graced the occasion.

Compiled by EZEKIEL DONTINNA



Danbatta

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Corruption and impact on Nigeria's COVID-19 response

**Worldwide evidence of large-scale corruption during the pandemic affected the resources destined to fight it. Transparency International found that five months into the pandemic, the government purchased some goods at 25 times the original prize. Corruption in service delivery was identified in more than thirty countries, UCHE IGWE write.**

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic took the world unaware, tested the resilience of global health systems, and almost brought countries with ill-equipped health systems to collapse. It brought unprecedented disruptions in the worldwide supply chain that precipitated upheavals in society. As of early September, about 605 million persons have been infected by the virus, leading to about 6.5 million deaths globally. The coronavirus was novel, as well as the interventions to contain it. Even as the virus was raging, many citizens were very doubtful of the sincerity of government efforts due to the low public trust in government institutions. For a country like Nigeria, where government corruption is rampant, public distrust is deep, fueled by past experiences of decades of failed promises. Declining trust was one of the critical factors that affected the country's overall response to the pandemic.

**Just Like Ebola, Containment Measures Did Not Produce the Expected Results**

Although the pandemic has been devastating to the health and economy of the world, corruption worsened it. There were reported cases of artificial inflation, the proliferation of fake and counterfeit goods and wastage of public resources under several guises in the name of COVID responses. This is in addition to the fact that corruption in the health sector already costs the world an estimated \$500 billion per year, with severe consequences on access, quality and efficiency of health services. Governments made rapid policy decisions and incurred huge public expenditures to fight the pandemic. Just like the case of the Ebola crisis in 2013, where about \$1 billion in international public and private funds were disbursed to contain the pandemic, corruption contributed to the mismanagement of funds and diversion of relief supplies compromised containment measures.

COVID-19 has left a legacy of rising poverty and widening inequality. According to estimates from the World Bank, 97 more people will be living on less than \$1.90 in 2021 due to the pandemic. Documented corrupt practices during the COVID-19 pandemic include grand corruption schemes involving highly placed political actors, petty corruption involving service delivery personnel and corruption in procurement and contracting processes. Many emergency scenarios are characterised by fast responses and lax checks and balances. The government loosened the regulatory environment to expedite responses.

The details of how the billions of naira donated under the Nigerian Private Sector Relief Fund against COVID 19 (CACOVID) was spent remain hazy and unaccounted for till date. The Nigerian government's claim that it paid N5 billion worth of palliatives to the transportation sector is still surrounded by controversy. Another N56 billion was allegedly disbursed to small and medium-scale enterprises as a survival fund.

**Hastened Procurement and Waived Processes Provided Fertile Ground for Corruption**

In many countries with weak institutions, the response to the virus provided new opportunities to exploit the weaknesses in the system to divert funds and food supplies away from the ordinary people who need them most. In the bid to hasten procurement, the



**Nigerian youths**

usual processes, such as open competition and scrutiny, were waived to obtain essential supplies quickly. Justifiably, many governments had to act in haste without verifying suppliers or determining fair prizes. This allowed dishonest merchants and collaborators to bring in faulty products. There were cases of informal payments, favouritism and nepotism.

Worldwide evidence of large-scale corruption during the pandemic affected the resources destined to fight it. Transparency International found that five months into the pandemic, the government purchased some goods at 25 times the original prize. Corruption in service delivery was identified in more than thirty countries. The sense of urgency, increase in demand, and shortage of essential supplies like ventilators and personal protection equipment (PPE) necessitated the relaxation of checks and balances. It caused a strain on the global supply chain, making them vulnerable to corruption. Many contracts were issued without competitive bids.

**Details of Expenditure of Resources Mobilised Remain Sketchy Amidst Many Blunders**

Massive resources were mobilised nationally and globally to address both what was a health crisis and its economic side effects. For instance, Nigeria received \$3.4 billion in

emergency support to address the COVID-19 pandemic from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Furthermore, a total of \$6 billion was raised by other donors as complementary support to the Nigerian government. The World Bank approved an additional \$400 million credit as additional financing to support vaccine acquisition. Official sources said that N20,000 each was distributed to 2.6 million households between January and April 2020 under the conditional cash transfer programme. The details of how the billions of naira donated under the Nigerian Private Sector Relief Fund Against COVID 19 (CACOVID) was spent remain hazy and unaccounted for till date. The Nigerian government's claim that it paid N5 billion worth of palliatives to the transportation sector is still surrounded by controversy. Another N56 billion was allegedly disbursed to small and medium-scale enterprises as a survival fund. The distribution of cash grants and food support to food-insecure communities was wrought with irregularities.

Media reports indicate how the disbursement of the N50 billion COVID-19 loan to small businesses was negatively affected by a lack of transparency and inefficiency. Stakeholders further complained that the implementation of the N1 trillion meant to be disbursed to manufacturers fell short of expectations.

**Palliatives Were Diverted for Partisan Purposes Away from those Who Needed Them Most**

Civil society organisations like BudgIT revealed how palliatives meant for the public were hijacked by politicians and distributed only among party loyalists. Although a six-month expiry date is required for imported vaccines, the story of how about one million doses of vaccines were procured by the Nigerian government just before their expiration still remains a mystery. Although official sources confirmed that N500 billion was injected into the budget to fund emergency expenditure during the pandemic, there were no detailed disclosures about the processes undertaken to procure the items mentioned. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) confirmed discrepancies and infractions in the procurements and payments made by government agencies after the disbursement of COVID-19 funds.

**Anecdotal Evidence of Corruption Points To the Need for More Scrutiny**

Anecdotal evidence indicates that corruption affected the response to the pandemic, but the extent must be determined. Prominent human rights lawyer Femi Falana decried the hoarding of palliatives and accused the Nigerian government of being neither transparent nor accountable in their management

of the pandemic. Media reports indicate how the disbursement of the N50 billion COVID-19 loan to small businesses was negatively affected by a lack of transparency and inefficiency. Stakeholders further complained that the implementation of the N1 trillion meant to be disbursed to manufacturers fell short of expectations. All of these point to the need to comprehensively interrogate and evaluate the response to the pandemic to bring out lessons for the future. Civil society groups have pushed for this in the past, and one had gone to court seeking relief to compel the Central Bank of Nigeria to account for how donations received were spent. Many people remain concerned, while others have called for either a probe or a comprehensive audit. Either way, it is clear that new investments should be made to strengthen our institutions and enhance relevant anti-corruption policies. For instance, Nigeria's whistle-blower protection policy needs to be more robust and citizen-friendly. Specific multi-stakeholder initiatives that include civil society and the searchlight of transparency in the health sector could be potentially helpful.

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SUNDAY FEATURE

# Overcoming violent extremism in Africa

*Violent extremism refers to the actions of people who use violence to achieve ideological, religious, or political goals. Some notable extremist groups who use violence, instability, and civil disorder to achieve ideological, religious, and political goals include the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Boko Haram, the Taliban, and Al-Shabab. ADEBAYO ADELEKE Writes.*

**V**IOLENT extremism portends severe costs for the world, especially Africa. Terrorism committed through violent extremism cost Africa \$14 billion in economic costs in 2016 alone, even though 18 African countries spent more than \$259 billion between 2007 and 2016 to fight violent extremism and terrorism. Still, terrorist attacks fuelled by extreme religious and political beliefs have barely subsided in Africa.

In June 2021, armed men killed over 160 people during a village raid on Solhan, Burkina Faso; violence linked to Islamist groups surged by more than 22 percent between 2022 and 2023, respectively, comprising over 6,859 terrorist events. These gory incidents are part of the many continuing cases of terrorism and violent extremism in five context-specific African areas: the Sahel, Somalia, Lake Chad Basin, North Africa, and Mozambique.

To defeat violent extremism, African governments and policymakers must work seamlessly in a concerted effort that safeguards all African peoples' peace, welfare, and security

To defeat violent extremism, African governments and policymakers must work seamlessly in a concerted effort that safeguards all African peoples' peace, welfare, and security. This article will examine the varied ways by which violent extremism can become a thing of the past in Africa through much-needed strategic imperatives:

**Combating Terrorist Financing (CTF)**

Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen, more commonly known as Al-Shabab, is a Salafist jihadist military organization primarily based in Somalia and maximally operational across East Africa. Al-Shabab makes about \$100 million annually from illicit revenues generated through piracy, arms smuggling and trafficking, extortion of local businesses and individuals, collection of illegal fees, and facilitation of underhand trades, amongst many others. Al-Shabab uses a lot of these monies to finance terrorism in East Africa and worldwide. In 2009, the group officially pledged allegiance to al-Qa'ida, a global Islamist militant organization it supports, by spending \$24 million yearly on weapons.

We must identify and truncate their extensive monetary networks to defeat Al-Shabab and other similar extremist organizations. In October 2022, the United States Department of Treasury officially designated seven financial facilitators of Al-Shabab and placed them on a watchlist, including Abdullahi Jeeri, Khalif Adale, Hassan Afgooye, Abdikari Hussein Gagaale, Abdi Samad and Abdirahman Nurey. However,



African leaders can cooperate with international organizations and citizens must holistically address the root causes of conflict and violent uprisings by restoring the financial networks of terrorist organizations in Africa.

Security experts have advocated that combating terrorist financing (CTF) can be achieved through various legal and administrative measures. From a legal perspective, African governments and citizens. In the countries can implement the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999) while enacting domestic legislation to ensure the criminalization of offences related to the financing of terrorism. Administratively, African governments can embark on a unique financial investigation, asset freezing, asset seizing, and confiscation of terrorism-related assets while strengthening regional partnerships against terror financing.

**Strengthening governmental trust with local communities**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has reiterated that strengthening the trust between governments and citizens is essential for building civil tranquillity and achieving sustainable peace in conflict-ridden African regions. The Programme confirms that confidence remains an integral component of democratic societies. Any attempt at shortening the trust deficit

This can be done by employing the taxes paid by the citizens for national development and social investment purposes, eliminating corruption, improving resource governance, communicating soundly, promptly, and earnestly, strengthening election integrity, and eliminating pre-election and post-election violence, amongst many other governmental imperatives.

Once African governments sustainably implement these measures, social trust in local communities will increase, and violent extremism will decline as most African societies will move against it in the same direction.

**Developing robust and mobile defence capabilities**

A non-negotiable part of winning the war against violent extremism in Africa involves robust investment in the defence capabilities of many African countries, given that the security systems of many African countries remain grossly incapable of fighting and ending terrorism.

While the United Nations recommends that governments should ensure one police officer for every 450 citizens, the African reality is brazenly disobedient of the UN recommendation. Kenya has one police officer for every 1,150 citizens; Tanzania has one police officer for every 1,298 citizens, while Ghana retains one police officer for every 1,200 citizens. Officers in many African

countries need to be more funded and equipped. Little wonder many citizens in Uganda and other African countries now pay for their guards since the public security system is unreliable.

When it comes to sophisticated security systems, many African governments are deficient due to corrupt practices, which remain a long-standing bane against investments in robust and agile defense technologies. Nigeria's \$2 billion arms scandal, popularly known as "Dasukigate," remains a credible example of why violent extremism persists in many parts of Africa since the weapon-grade systems needed to embark on counterinsurgency efforts have been embezzled.

To fight violent extremism, African governments must start to embark on large-scale purchases of the sophisticated weaponry needed to fight terrorism, and it must embark on the drive as a matter of national emergency.

Conclusion  
Violent extremism remains a raging issue across many African regions, from across the Sahel, Somalia, Lake Chad Basin, North Africa, and Mozambique. To properly win the war against religious, ideological, and political fundamentalism, African governments must implement the suggestions above. I believe this will play a crucial role in restoring peace across Africa by helping to end violent extremism and other related tendencies.

**C**ONTINUATION from last week: AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)covid-19 vaccine user information leaflet).

#### Blood disorders

Very rare blood clots in combination with low level of blood platelets, in some cases together with bleeding, has been observed following vaccination with Vaxzevria. This included some severe cases with blood clots in different or unusual locations (e.g. brain, bowel, liver, spleen) and excessive clotting or bleeding throughout the body. The majority of these cases occurred within the first three weeks following vaccination. **Some cases had a fatal outcome.** Seek immediate medical attention if you develop shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, leg pain or persistent abdominal pain following vaccination (see section 4). Also, seek immediate medical attention if you experience after a few days severe or persistent headaches, blurred vision, confusion or seizures (fits) after vaccination, or experience skin bruising or pinpoint round spots beyond the site of vaccination which appears after a few days (see section 4).

#### Capillary leak syndrome:

Very rare cases of capillary leak syndrome (CLS) have been reported following vaccination with Vaxzevria. Some affected patients had a previous diagnosis of CLS. CLS is a serious, potentially fatal condition causing fluid leakage from small blood vessels (capillaries) resulting in rapid swelling of the arms and legs, sudden weight gain and feeling faint (low blood pressure). Seek immediate medical attention if you develop these symptoms in the days following vaccination.

#### Neurological events:

Seek immediate medical attention if you develop weakness and paralysis in the extremities that can progress to the chest and face (Guillain-Barré syndrome). This has been reported very rarely after vaccination with Vaxzevria.

#### Children and adolescents

Vaxzevria is not recommended for children aged below 18 years. Currently there is not enough information available on the use of Vaxzevria in children and adolescents younger than 18 years of age.

#### Other medicines and AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)

Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are taking, have recently taken or might take, any other medicines or vaccines.

#### Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for advice before you receive this

#### Driving and using machines

Some of the side effects of Vaxzevria listed in section 4 (Possible side effects) may temporarily reduce your ability to drive and use machines. If you feel unwell after vaccination, do not drive or use machines. Wait until any effects of the vaccine have worn off before you drive or use machines.

Vaxzevria contains sodium and alcohol (ethanol) This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per 0.5 ml dose, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'. This medicine contains 2 mg of alcohol (ethanol) per 0.5 ml dose. The small amount of alcohol in this medicine will not have any noticeable effects. 3. How Vaxzevria is given Vaxzevria is given as an injection of 0.5 ml into a muscle (usually in the upper arm). During and after each injection of the vaccine, your doctor, pharmacist or nurse will watch over you for around 15 minutes to monitor for signs of an allergic reaction. You will receive 2 injections of Vaxzevria. The second injection can be given between 4 and 12 weeks after the first injection. You will be told when you need to return for your second injection. When Vaxzevria is given for the first injection, the second injection to complete the vaccination course should also be with Vaxzevria.

#### If you miss an appointment for your second injection of Vaxzevria:

If you forget to go back at the scheduled time, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for advice. It is important that you return for your second injection of Vaxzevria. If you miss a scheduled injection, you may not be fully protected against COVID-19.4.

#### Possible side effects:

Like all medicines, this vaccine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. In clinical studies, most side effects were mild to moderate in nature and resolved within a few days. Fewer side effects were reported after the second dose. After vaccination, you may

## Knowing your Covid-19 Vaccines – AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) II



have more than one side effect at the same time (for example, muscle/joint aches, headaches, chills and generally feeling unwell). If any of your symptoms are persistent, please seek advice from your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. Blood clots in combination with low levels of blood platelets (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, TTS) have been reported very rarely, see section 2. Get medical attention immediately if within three weeks of vaccination you get any of the following symptoms: - experience a severe or persistent headache, blurred vision, confusion or seizures (fits) - develop shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, leg pain or persistent abdominal pain - notice unusual skin bruising or pinpoint round spots beyond the site of vaccination Get urgent medical attention if you get symptoms of a severe allergic reaction. Such reactions may include a combination of any of the following symptoms: - feeling faint or light-headed - changes in your heartbeat - shortness of breath - wheezing - swelling of your lips, face, or throat - hives or rash - nausea or vomiting - stomach pain. 4 The following side effects may occur with Vaxzevria: Very Common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people) - tenderness, pain, warmth, itching, or bruising where the injection is given - feeling tired (fatigue) or generally feeling unwell - chills or feeling feverish - headache - feeling sick (nausea) - joint pain or muscle ache Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) - swelling or redness where the injection is given - fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) - being sick (vomiting) or diarrhoea - low level of blood platelets - pain in legs or arms - flu-like symptoms, such as high temperature, sore throat, runny nose, cough and chills - physical weakness or lack of energy Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people) - sleepiness or feeling dizzy - abdominal pain or decreased



There might be need to travel abroad for treatment since our health infrastructure needs to be updated.

Since the vaccine is not medically approved but authorized for medical emergency use, the recipient of the vaccine has to be so informed, according to the Helsinki code, of their participation in an ongoing experiment and if they want to take part or not. That way the Government knows the willing and the unwilling participants and those who would want the no-fault compensation and those who prefer to settle in court or through out-of-court negotiations. This is very important for the Human Rights records of Nigeria. In fact, the Moderna covid-19 user information leaflet says that the potential recipient can decide to say no to the vaccine. So a civil servant has the right to say no to the Moderna vaccine. The only problem is that he or she might lose his or her job. What do we call this contradiction?

However, since there is a public law that places public health safety above individual rights, and individuals are going to be part of an experiment, according to the Helsinki code, through the use of vaccines that are still being tested, the Government should be ready to handsomely pay the civil servants who submit to this experiments by being vaccinated with the covid-19 vaccine in other to keep their jobs. Unless of course, the Government can employ some other punitive action like the forfeiture of one month salary which will be used to purchase more non-pharmaceutical covid-19 material for the civil service.

For those who cannot take the vaccines due to health or religious reasons, non-pharmaceutical covid-19 protocol should be in use because so far, they have reduced transmission and Government will do very well not to forget the need to still strike a balance between its public health concerns and its human rights records. Particularly in view of the fact that the vaccines do not completely guarantee and prevent covid-19 contagion, to or fro, for everyone vaccinated, and also have far reaching side effects that clearly endanger the recipient in varying degrees. These are indicated in the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine user information leaflet. It says some cases of covid-19 vaccination "have a fatal outcome" i.e death.

We have come to the end of the user vaccine leaflet for AstraZeneca. We borrowed a leaf from that of Moderna today. Next week we shall look at the Moderna covid-19 vaccine user leaflet in full..

**Sources:**  
**Patient Information Leaflet for Vaxzevria - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**  
**Vaxzevria, COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant]) (azcovid-19.com)**

**Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers (fda.gov)**

**No-fault compensation programme for COVID-19 vaccines is a world first (who.int)**

appetite - enlarged lymph nodes - excessive sweating, itchy skin, rash or hives - sleepiness or deep unresponsiveness and inactivity Very Rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people) - blood clots often in unusual locations (e.g. brain, bowel, liver, spleen) in combination with low level of blood platelets - **serious nerve inflammation, which may cause paralysis and difficulty breathing (Guillain-Barré syndrome [GBS])** Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data) - severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) - hypersensitivity - rapid swelling under the skin in areas such as the face, lips, mouth and throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing) - capillary leak syndrome (a condition causing fluid leakage from small blood vessels)

#### Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. **This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.** You can also report side effects directly (see details below). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

From the foregoing, it is observed that the list of side effects/adverse events not exhaustive. So says AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria). It means that there could be more than what the manufacturer has recorded or shared in the user leaflet since it is an ongoing experiment... So this being the case, it means that the no-fault compensation should not be a static amount or in any particular currency, but be negotiable by the Labour Union on behalf of their member or the lawyer of the civil servant who suffers a covid-19 vaccine injury, considering the high cost of medical care and the varying degrees of covid-19

**T**ODAY we begin a new series, which I have entitled "Why Jesus Came". In this series, we will be focusing on Jesus and the anointing upon His life. This, if I may also add, is the core message of Christmas, which as we know, begins with the announcement that THE SAVIOUR, CHRIST IS BORN. The core of the Christmas message expresses the depth of God's love for humanity. The Bible says in John Chapter 3:16, **For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son...** and then in John 3:17, **God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.**

Christ - who He is; the person of Christ; why He came; the anointing that He carries, and why His birth is such a blessing to the human race.

In Luke 2:9, we are told that Angel Gabriel appeared to As we talk about why Jesus came, examining the message of Christmas, our focus will be on shepherds on the hills of Judaea. They were the ones given the honor by Almighty God to be the first to receive the announcement concerning the arrival of the Saviour. Remember these shepherds on the Judean hills were Israelites, they were Jews, so they already had a background knowledge about the prophesy and they were expecting a saviour.

The Lord chose those lowly, humble set of people on the Judean hills that night to announce, what I believe to be the most important message that would ever be - the coming of the saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:9 says, **"and Lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, the glory of the Lord shone around these shepherds and they were sore afraid; and the angel said to them, 'fear not: for behold I bring you tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a saviour which is Christ the Lord'".**

For the record, Christ is not Jesus' surname but a title that denotes His office as Saviour, Deliverer and Messiah. It is His office as the One that God promised through the prophecies; through the Holy Scriptures that a saviour will come to this earth and will deliver mankind from their sin.

The word, "Christ" in Greek is "Christos", which means "the anointed one". Isaiah 10:27

says, **And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.** It is the anointing that destroys the yoke. Jesus is the anointed one; He is the one that has been anointed by God to destroy every yoke and shackle of sin and to totally neutralize Satan's rights to afflict mankind.

is no in-between. The anointing that Jesus carries is the only anointing that can thoroughly severe or cut a human being off from the dominion of the devil. There is NO freedom outside of CHRIST, no true and genuine freedom and deliverance outside of CHRIST. I make bold to say that, according to the Bible, **there is none other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved** (Acts 4:12).

Now, when the angel, Gabriel, appeared to the shepherds at



## Taking away the sin of the World



The Bible says in 1 John 3:8 the birth of Jesus, he made the announcement, as he lit up **He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.** That He might undo that which the devil has done - Not only is Jesus the anointed one, He also carries an anointing; He is the Lord.

There is absolutely no deliverance in any other name. Any other option that is given to you is a temporary option that will eventually bring you back into bondage: because the truth of the matter is, in this life, there are only two kingdoms; the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. The Bible says in Colossians 1:12, **giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.**

In this life, a man is either in the kingdom of light or in the kingdom of darkness and there

the good news, saying, **for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord** - the anointed One. (Luke 2:11).

This is the message that the angel was bringing and this is the core message of Christmas - the Saviour is born; the Christ is born, the one the world has been waiting for is born. Jesus Christ is the only one that can severe or cut mankind off from being tied to the devil. He is the only one that can guarantee a life free from satanic affliction. He is the only one that can reconcile man to God. He is the only one that can cause man to have an eternal habitation in Heaven. Jesus is the only one that can guarantee a life on the earth that Satan has no right to intrude. As the Bible says in Psalms 34:19, **many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.**

We are not insinuating that

Jesus came to give you a life that is free from challenges but that He came to guarantee that through the anointing that He carries, if you are connected to Him and have given your life to Him, that same anointing will come upon you as well; and He will fight your battles.

No matter what comes against you, that anointing will cause you to be victorious. Romans 8:31-32 says, **what shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?**

The anointing, that Jesus carries; the core anointing He carries is an anointing for salvation. The Greek word for salvation is "sozo", which means *to deliver, to preserve*. It also means healing, being made whole; to keep one safe and sound, to rescue men from danger or destruction. These are the virtues that the anointing upon Jesus carries. He is the saviour, He is the Lord. The core anointing He carries is the anointing to save.

God sent Jesus to this earth because He wanted all mankind to partake in His salvation. God desires that all of mankind, every human being living, to become connected to Jesus and the anointing He carries for it is only in Christ that we find true deliverance.

Now, the first anointing Jesus carries is that to deliver men

**The anointing, that Jesus carries; the core anointing He carries is an anointing for salvation. The Greek word for salvation is "sozo", which means to deliver, to preserve. It also means healing, being made whole; to keep one safe and sound, to rescue men from danger or destruction. These are the virtues that the anointing upon Jesus carries. He is the saviour, He is the Lord. The core anointing He carries is the anointing to save.**

from sin. Sin is the gateway to every satanic affliction in life. John the Baptist made this declaration concerning the Lord Jesus Christ at the waters of baptism when Jesus came to River Jordan where John was baptizing. Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness, submitted Himself to the ministry of John the Baptist to be baptized.

We see John 1:29 make the important proclamation, **Behold the Lamb of God.** When Jesus came, one of His assignment was to take upon Himself the sin of the world. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, **For He had made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.** When Jesus took and paid for our sin, He effectively broke the dominion and power of sin over our lives. Romans 6:14 says **For sin shall not have any dominion over you; for ye are not under the law, but under grace.** This means that the authority of sin is broken over our lives for the payment for sin has been made. Hallelujah!

To be continued.

**"Now, the first anointing Jesus carries is that to deliver men from sin. Sin is the gateway to every satanic affliction in life. John the Baptist made this declaration concerning the Lord Jesus Christ at the waters of baptism when Jesus came to River Jordan where John was baptizing. Jesus came to fulfill all righteousness, submitted Himself to the ministry of John the Baptist to be baptized."**

## INTERNATIONAL

## Ukraine condemns 'sham' elections in Russian-occupied regions

**P**EOPLE living in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine are being asked to vote in what the authorities are describing as local elections.

Ukraine's foreign minister called the polls a "sham", saying the votes would not have any legal standing.

Candidates are all either Russian or pro-Russian, and include governors hand-picked by Moscow.

Many taking part in early polling have been asked to cast their votes in the presence of armed Russian soldiers.

Ukrainian officials have warned people not to participate. They say any Ukrainian citizens involved in organising the elections can expect to be punished in the future.

The Council of Europe, a human rights body, condemned the move in the "illegally annexed Ukrainian territories" as a "flagrant violation of international law, which Russia continues to disregard".

Not only are these areas an integral part of Ukraine, but the decision to hold elections there "creates the illusion of democracy", the council said in a statement.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also decried the polls saying: "Russia's sham elections in occupied areas of Ukraine are illegitimate." This sparked a response from the Russian embassy in the US, which accused Washington of meddling in Moscow's internal affairs, state media reported.



**The elections are taking place in regions of Ukraine that Russia claimed as its own last year**

The elections, which conclude on Sunday, are taking place in four regions that Russia does not even fully control - Donetsk and Luhansk in the east, and the southern regions of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

Together they make up 15% of Ukraine's sovereign territory.

These are the areas that Russia formally claimed as its own in September last year, after holding so-called referendums on the future of the occupied lands.

Those referendums were condemned by the international community as a sham - with reports of over 99% support for the regions switching to Moscow's control - and at times involved armed soldiers going from door to door to gather votes.

The exiled mayor of the city of Melitopol Ivan Fedorov described the current local elections as "illegal and worthless", saying that many candidates in the Zaporizhzhia region were

not residents, with some even coming from Siberia.

He told the AP news agency the city had faced tighter security in recent days and residents were intimidated because voting in an occupied city was like "voting in a prison".

The Zaporizhzhia region is also the focus of Kyiv's counter-offensive, which was launched in the summer.

Ukrainian generals claim they have breached Russia's formidable first line of defences in that region, suggesting the counter-offensive there is poised to gain momentum.

Analysts at the US-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW) say recent advances there are "tactically significant" and are "widening the Ukrainian breach of Russian defensive lines in the area and threatening Russian secondary lines of defence".

The focus of Ukraine's efforts there have been around the village of Robotyne, which is some 56km (35 miles) south-east of the city of Zaporizhzhia, the regional

**A** cash boost of hundreds of millions of dollars and more control of land in the occupied West Bank are among Palestinian demands in the event of a three-way deal involving the US, Saudi Arabia and Israel, the BBC has learned.

Officials from the Palestinian Authority (PA) held talks in Riyadh with Saudi counterparts on Wednesday.

They were also due to see US officials.

The Americans are long thought to have been pushing for a landmark pact to normalise Israel-Saudi ties.

It would be underwritten by Washington and would include a major security deal the Saudis want to achieve with the US. But the prospects for such agreements face significant obstacles and remain distant.

However, given the scope for a historic realignment of ties in the Middle East, there is continuing speculation over the framework for any deal, with American shuttle diplomacy picking up again after trips by officials to Riyadh, Amman and Jerusalem this summer.

US President Joe Biden is

## Palestinians agree on historic Saudi-Israeli deal



**Netanyahu**

likely to see a Saudi-Israeli deal as a breakthrough foreign policy prize he can present to voters ahead of next year's election.

Saudi Arabia is a leader of the Arab and Islamic world. It has never formally recognised Israel since the creation of the state in 1948.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talked up the possibility last month, claiming: "We're about to witness a pivot of history."

Any deal, though, would be deeply controversial.

In return for recognising Israel, Saudi Arabia is said to be demanding US guarantees for advanced American-made weapons

and, most contentious of all, a civil nuclear programme including in-country uranium enrichment.

Israel for its part would benefit from trade and defence ties with the Gulf superpower and further historic integration it has always sought in the region, following on from other Arab state normalisation deals brokered in 2020.

For a deal to succeed it would have to be seen to involve significant Israeli concessions to the Palestinians.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, needs to assuage his

## Hong Kong, Southern China battle widespread flooding

**H**ONG Kong and southern Chinese cities are battling widespread flooding as the region endures some of its heaviest rainfall on record.

The weather bureau said the downpour, which began on Thursday, is the biggest to hit the city in nearly 140 years.

Emergency services said more than 100 people had been taken to hospital and several rescues had taken place.

Pictures from the city on Thursday night showed the torrential rain turning streets into raging rivers, flooding shopping centres and public transport.

The city's cross harbour tunnel, a key route connecting the main island to the Kowloon peninsula in its north, was inundated. The rain also triggered landslides in Hong Kong's mountainous areas - blocking some highways.

More than 200mm of rain was recorded on Hong Kong island, Kowloon and the north-eastern part of the city between 18:00 local time (10:00 GMT) and midnight - a total that exceeds the amount the entire city typically receives within certain months.

Heavy rain has also

drenched southern China, with the city of Shenzhen - across the border from Hong Kong - reporting its heaviest showers since records began in 1952.

Hundreds of flights have been suspended in the wider Guangdong province, while local authorities advised residents in low-lying areas to consider evacuations.

Tens of millions of people live in the densely populated coastal areas of southern China.

But Hong Kong's security chief Chris Tang said on Friday the discharge had no impact on the city's

floods and the action was safe for both Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

China's meteorological administration expects extreme rainfall to continue in the country's southwestern region on Friday and Saturday.

The latest downpour comes less than a week after two typhoons, Saola and Haikui, hit southern China in quick succession - and sparked a citywide shutdown in Hong Kong.

Climate change has increased the intensity and frequency of tropical storms, leading to an

## Civilians reported dead in attack on river boat

**I**slamist militants have attacked a river boat in north-eastern Mali, killing at least 49 civilians, the interim government says.

They also reportedly attacked an army camp, killing 15 soldiers, while around 50 militants are said to have died.

The government has declared three days of national mourning.

The Islamist threat has been growing despite claims by the military that Russian Wagner Group mercenaries are turning the tide of their campaign.

The northern city of Timbuktu has been under blockade since the end of last month and there have been several other recent attacks on transport.

The BBC could not independently verify the government's latest



**The Islamist threat has been growing in Mali**

report, which was read out on national TV.

Militants reportedly attacked the boat as it was traveling on the River Niger from the town of Gao to Mopti. The river is a key transport link in a region where there are few quality roads and no railways.

Militants also attacked an army camp in the Bourem Circle in the Gao region.

The Malian army said on

social media that the boat had been attacked around 1100 GMT by "armed terrorist groups".

The al-Qaeda linked group, Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), said it had carried out the assault on the army camp but has not mentioned the boat attack. It is one of several Islamist groups operating in northern Mali and



**Workers rescuing a driver stranded after waters rose quickly**



## INTERNATIONAL

# Africa is not witnessing anti-colonial reevaluation

Let us stop celebrating coups aimed at furthering the interests of a few military elites as acts of anti-imperialist resistance. **TAFI MHAKA** writes.

On August 17, Arikana Chihombori-Quao, former permanent representative of the African Union to the United States, claimed the recent military coups in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Guinea were part of the early stages of an "African revolution" against Western neocolonialism.

"What is going on now in Africa is a revolution similar to what we saw with the demise of the mighty Roman Empire, similar to what we saw with the fall of the mighty British Empire," Chihombori-Quao said in an interview with New York-based Nigerian news channel Arise TV.

This wave of military interventions is a reaction to the West's ongoing "plunder of the continent's natural resources", she explained. "This is just the beginning of the African revolution and it is not going to stop."

Chihombori-Quao went on to argue that these recent coups "led by our people" represent "children of Africa taking back what is ours" and have nothing in common with the brutal Western-led military interventions of the past.

Sure, Western powers committed particularly heinous crimes against young African democracies in the last century. The Western-orchestrated 1960 coup in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), for example, saw the country's first democratically elected prime minister, independence hero Patrice Lumumba, assassinated by a hastily put together firing squad and his remains dissolved in acid. All for the fear that he may have brought the DRC closer to the Soviet Union and given Moscow access to its precious natural resources.

These recent coups thankfully did not include such atrocities and were not overtly aimed at furthering the interests of colonial power. But does this automatically mean they were "led by our people", and aimed at delivering on the people's wish to end colonial plunder, as Chihombori-Quao claims?

Not so much.

First of all, every single one of these coups was led by powerful and privileged high-ranking army officers – men whose lives are far removed from the everyday experiences of "our people". And these men appear more than willing to suppress the voice of the people, whenever it happens not to align with theirs. They have no problem with crippling democracy or even physically harming the very people they claim to represent when it fits their agenda.

These men not only upended the democratic process by toppling governments brought to power by reasonably free and fair elections, but are also dragging their feet about setting a date for new polls. Mali's military government – like the unelected



**A supporter holds a t-shirt reading "France Must Go" as supporters of Niger's National Council of Safeguard of the Homeland (CNSP) protest outside the Niger and French airbase in Niamey on September 2, 2023 to demand the departure of the French army from Niger.**

regimes in nearby Chad and Sudan – has repeatedly delayed a transition to democracy. There is not much hope for Niger, Burkina Faso or Guinea's swift return to full democracy either.

In May, the United Nations reported that Malian troops – with the help of foreign military personnel – tortured, raped and killed at least 500 civilians during a five-day anti-dissident operation in Moura in March 2022.

Around the same time, Human Rights Watch reported that on April 20, 2023, Burkinabe soldiers burned homes, looted property and summarily executed at least 156 civilians in a similar six-hour operation in Karma, northern Yatenga province.

Coup leaders like to talk the anti-imperialist talk because it gives them legitimacy and helps them garner public support, but they are much more reluctant to walk the walk.

Burkina Faso's interim president, Ibrahim Traore, for example, likes to employ fierce anti-imperialist rhetoric at every opportunity.

Speaking at the Russia-Africa Summit in July, for example, Traore took a swipe at Africa's older leaders, saying, "The heads of African states should not behave like puppets in the hands of the imperialists."

But, ironically, he has openly demonstrated sycophantic affection for Vladimir Putin of Russia, a prominent and particularly brutal imperial force in Eastern Europe, and increasingly in Africa.

Traore is not the only "anti-imperialist coupist" in Africa who appears suspiciously blind to Russia's demonstrably brutal imperialism.

The military government in Mali is known to be very close to the Kremlin and has had help from the Russian Wagner mercenary group in its efforts to stifle dissent. Niger's coup generals have also openly asked Wagner for help in dealing with the West African regional bloc, ECOWAS.

So much for coup leaders standing with everyday Africans against imperial powers.

This, of course, is not meant to minimise the harm Western colonialism inflicted on Africa. The West has been for centuries, and remains to this day, the most destructive outside actor and the strongest force against swift, independent development and deepening of democracy on the continent.

Indeed, the remnants of the West's abusive colonial arrangements are still crippling African states, politically and economically.

For example, 14 African countries, including Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso, still use the neocolonial CFA franc – which is guaranteed by France and pegged to the euro – as its currency.

In return, France requires these countries to keep 50 percent of their foreign exchange reserves with the French treasury.

This adverse and costly financial entanglement has allowed Paris to exercise undue and outsized influence over CFA franc countries' economic and political affairs.

As a result, most of these countries have struggled to flourish in the postcolonial era. Niger, for example, is one of the world's poorest and least developed countries. Along with Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea, it

occupies the lowest ranks on the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index.

While Russia is undoubtedly a destructive imperial power, both in Africa and elsewhere, it is the West that is primarily responsible for Africa's chronic economic and developmental shortcomings.

This is perhaps why Chihombori-Quao is turning a blind eye to the close relations Africa's new military leaders have with Russia, and insisting on presenting them as anticolonial revolutionaries.

In fact, she seems to believe in the anti-imperialist credentials and anticolonial intentions of these generals so much that she describes their actions not as coups but an "ideological realignment of economic, political and social values".

But what have these military regimes said or done so far to achieve that much-longed-for realignment? Are they charting a new path forward for an independent Africa, free of all imperial intervention and manipulation? Have they, for example, announced any plans for bringing an end to the CFA?

Sadly, it seems, these new military regimes, despite their anti-imperialist posturing, lack a strong ideological grounding and political direction.

I am an African. I know what colonialism has done, and what neocolonialism is still doing to these lands. As such, just like Chihombori-Quao, I also long for an African revolution to put an end to this plunder. I want predatory Western governments and companies to end their exploitation of Africa and all African nations to stand tall and independent in the international arena.

But I refuse to support

undemocratic actions.

What we are witnessing in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and beyond is not the beginning of an "African revolution". What we are witnessing is just a few military elites taking advantage of the genuine suffering and frustration of their people to further their interests. They are employing anti-imperialist rhetoric to win support from the streets, but doing very little to actually further Africa's independence and free it from the clutches of outside powers.

Every coup, regardless of any anti-imperialist or populist facade it may put on, is an attack on democracy. Military rule, however people-oriented it may appear to be, is always a threat to the rule of law. And it is not the ideal vehicle for promoting solid economic growth and development.

Chihombori-Quao is right – African countries do have a moral and economic imperative to end neocolonialism. Nevertheless, they also have an obligation to respect people's human rights and implement any necessary sociopolitical and economic changes to ensure true African independence within a democratic framework.

Let us stop celebrating harmful power plays by self-centred military elites as acts of anti-imperialist resistance, and focus instead on planting the seeds for a true African revolution that would end neocolonial theft of our resources for good, and empower everyday Africans to shape their own future free from oppression.

Source: Aljazeera



# If I wasn't an Actor, I would be doing music — Actress Favour David

*Nollywood has been gifted with a bunch of exceptional actors especially female actors and one of the amazing actors who has been doing so well in the industry is Favour David a plus size aspiring actor who has been in some of the biggest movies in the Eastern part of Nigeria. In an exclusive interview with Glamsquad magazine entertainment reporter Chiazor Daniel, the talented actress who is currently in her final year studying accounting at Godfrey Okoye University opens up about her career, aspirations and future as an actor.*



that happens there so she did not want any of her kids going into movie like my dad though it was my elder sister that was head over hills about being an actor so I just forgot about the movie entirely and faced musically fully even though I refused to hit the studio until I felt I am ready.

**How has your growing up influenced your career as an actor?**

Well, I will say it has influenced it positively, you know while growing up I learnt a lot from my parents especially my mom, I think that molded me into the person I am today because I grew up to be determined and focused in life. I am as well very strong even though I think I talk less and friendly, I mean it's really helping my career now because I am experiencing less stress in this industry. I have a vision and I

**What was growing up like for you, did you think that one day you would end up doing movies?**

Growing up for me was really fun, I had a lot of experiences and No I didn't think I would one day end up doing movies, though my dad was into movies and music; he was really talented in both so my siblings and I took after him. I really preferred music to movies back then because I didn't see movies as something I could do because I was shy and still a quiet type even though I was stubborn and besides my mum didn't like the movie industry because of the rumors of everything



## Famous couples who became close friends after ending marriage

*Not all marriages last forever, but that doesn't mean the separation has to be final. Some former celebrity couples decided to stay friends, even after they went through a divorce. Whether they have children that they're co-parenting, or just decided to have an amicable separation, these celebrity couples can prove to be an inspiration for all of us.*

### Demi Moore and Bruce Willis



Although Demi Moore and Bruce Willis were married for over a decade, and eventually got a divorce in 2000, they are still very good friends. Demi even attended Bruce and his second wife's vow renewal ceremony in 2009.

### Channing Tatum and Jenna Dewan



Although they went through a difficult divorce, the former couple are still friendly with each other. Jenna Dewan said that she is happy about starting a new chapter in her life.

### Orlando Bloom and Miranda Kerr



Miranda Kerr also has a good relationship with both her ex and his current partner, Katy Perry. The supermodel revealed that they often hang out together and that Orlando Bloom likes Miranda's new boyfriend too.

*Continued on page 26*

# FEVE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

By Paul Frysh

# How to listen to your body

**R**ED Flags? Your body will often let you know if something suddenly goes drastically wrong. If something feels really off -- like changes in being able to see, talk, walk, think clearly, or communicate, or having chest pain or shortness of breath -- call 911. Don't wait to see if you feel better. If it's a stroke or heart attack, you need medical care right away.

**Do You Need A Rest Day?** You don't feel up to your regular workout. Should you pass? Tune in. Do you feel sore and worn out? Then you may need a lighter day. Or are you feeling tempted by your favorite show and your couch? How often you need rest depends on how hard you work out and what you do, and how you feel. If you're not in pain, some movement is usually a good idea. A certified personal trainer can give you a training schedule that builds in recovery.

**Is It Aging?** Some pain from wear and tear on your body is natural as you get older. Or you may notice that you're not as flexible or strong as you used to be. The cushion at your joints and between the bones of your spine can start to break down. That could hurt and limit your movement. It helps to stay active, but when the pain doesn't go away, your doctor might suggest a specialized "rehab" exercise routine to manage it.

You may feel lightheaded or dizzy with a racing, fluttering, or slowed pulse. If it lasts more than a few minutes or happens often, it might be from an illness or heart rhythm problem. Serious chest pain or trouble walking or speaking could mean a heart attack or stroke: Get to a hospital. An easy workout that suddenly seems hard and raises your pulse longer than usual may mean you're overdoing it. Talk to a doctor about your symptoms.

**Burned Out?** If you're under stress that doesn't let up, it can really get to you. You might notice that you've got less energy, headaches, an upset stomach, or other symptoms. Little things that you used to be able to shake off now bother you. These may be signs that you need to step up your stress management. What



helps: exercise, positive relationships, meditation, smiling and laughing, and taking breaks from whatever causes you stress.

Everyone has times when they feel down or anxious. But if you have depression or anxiety, those conditions can affect you physically as well as emotionally. You might notice that you cry a lot, isolate yourself, avoid doing things you normally love, have tense muscles, find it hard to concentrate, and sleep or eat more (or less) than normal. These are cues to talk to your doctor or a therapist to get help.

**Appetite Changes:** If you find that you eat a lot more, or a lot less, than usual, your body may be telling you that something isn't quite right. It might be that you're stressed out and are eating for emotional reasons. Or you might be depressed, and that's dimmed

your appetite. Some conditions, and even getting older, can also affect your appetite. It helps to be active and to favor flavorful, healthy food. If that doesn't help, let your doctor know.

**Injured or Just Sore?** A good gym session might make you mildly sore. But muscle pain that lasts several days could mean you overdid it -- too much, too soon, or too hard -- and have an injury. It's best to wait until you're back to normal to exercise again. So to stay healthy and keep to your routine, keep your intensity low and ramp up slowly.

When you're working out and your body screams "Stop!" listen. You may have broken a bone or torn a muscle or ligament. Try RICE: Rest: Lie down and keep your weight off. Ice: 20 minutes at a time. Compression: Use a bandage for support. Elevation: Raise the hurt area (above your nose if you can). Go to an ER or clinic if the pain is intense, it worsens, or you also have fever and chills. Call your doctor if it still hurts after 2 weeks.

**Sleep Problems.** Do you often toss and turn at night? Your body may be saying you need more sleep. First, try simple things, like going to bed and getting up at the same time every day, sleeping at least 7 hours a night. Keep your bedroom cool, and don't watch TV or check your phone after bedtime. Being active during the day also helps. Avoid big meals and caffeine too close to bedtime. If that's not enough, ask your doctor what the problem might be.

**Pain That Doesn't Quit?** Are you noticing twinges and aches that happen over and over again? Don't try to cover them up with medication or just "work through" them. You want to stop a minor ache from turning into a major problem that won't go away. A doctor can help you pinpoint the source of the problem and treat it. You might need physical therapy so you start to feel it better.

**A New Lump,** whether you're a woman with a lump in their breast or a young man with a testicular lump, these are good things to get a doctor to check. You really can't tell what they are, just based on how they feel. They aren't always cancer, but it's important to find out about new lumps for sure, and as soon as possible, in case you need treatment.

Maybe you think you're starting to get allergies to pollen, or that your gut can't handle lactose or gluten. Or you notice that your skin is itchy and dry all of a sudden. These are things that are easy to jump to conclusions about. But it's a good idea to see a doctor to find out if you really do have an allergy or if something else is causing your symptoms. That way, you'll know what you need to avoid and how to treat your triggers.

**Trust Yourself,** you know yourself inside and out: how you feel on a good day, what feels "off," when you're sick, when you're rested. It can all show up in your body, from a clenched jaw from stress, to a sore calf muscle after hiking all weekend, to something serious. Sometimes it's hard to tell on your own, so never hesitate to ask your doctor, who's there to help.

Remember, when you go to your doctor to find out what's causing the problems you've noticed, there are a few things that will help. Bring a list of your symptoms, when they started, what seems to help, what makes them worse, and how you tried to fix the problem. Tell your doctor about all the things you take, including vitamins, herbal products, over-the-counter medicines, and prescriptions. And bring a list of questions that are



# THEY'RE SOWORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Women health

# Why are my nipples itchy?

**W**HAT'S Making You Scratch? Lots of things can make your nipples itchy. They're sensitive in general. They also stick out, and they can get irritated from friction, eczema, breastfeeding, or pregnancy. Rarely, itchy nipples can be a sign of a more serious condition. Even if your urge to scratch is great, the problem is usually easy to treat. If you've been using over-the-counter products for a couple of weeks and the itch isn't gone, check with your doctor.

**Dry Weather.** Cold, dry weather can lead to major itching all over your body, including on the breasts and nipples. If that's the cause, your nipples may look raw or chafed. Keep baths and showers to under 10 minutes. Use lukewarm water, since hot water washes away essential oils and dries out your skin even more. Gently pat your skin with a towel until it's almost dry, and moisturize with a thick cream or ointment. Run a humidifier to add moisture.

**Eczema.** It can cause a crusty rash on your nipples and the flat part around it, especially if you've had eczema before. Use a thick moisturizer with ceramides, a waxy ingredient that helps heal the skin. A topical steroid cream like hydrocortisone can help with swelling and itching. Your doctor can prescribe stronger prescription ointments. See them right away if you notice any oozing or tenderness, which could be a sign of infection.

**Soap.** Your new soap, lotion, or laundry detergent could be behind your itchy nipples. The chemicals in many cleansing products can cause a rash called contact dermatitis. It can show up as itchy red patches on your body. Switch to soaps and cleansers that are hypoallergenic, unscented, and free of dyes, and you'll know if that's the problem.

**Undergarments.**



Your breasts and nipples may be reacting to the elastic or dye used to make your bra or lingerie. Contact dermatitis can cause redness and itching on the areas of the skin that touch the fabric, like your nipples. If you've recently started wearing a new bra, go back to your old one for a while and see if

the itch goes away.

**Friction.** Your nipples can chafe when they rub against clothing while you exercise or because your bra is too tight. It's usually more painful than itchy, but some women say the friction can feel like itching or burning. Apply petroleum jelly to the area before workouts to protect

it from irritation, and make sure your bra fits well.

**Pregnancy.** Weight gain, morning sickness, hormone swings, and ... itchy nipples? Yep, add that to the list of symptoms of pregnancy. Blame it on hormone changes and skin stretching as your breasts and nipples expand to get ready for a nursing baby. Cocoa butter, coconut oil, or a lanolin ointment rubbed on the nipples can help lessen the itch.

**Breastfeeding.** Milk residue, plugged milk ducts, and problems with your baby latching on during feedings all can make nipples itchy and sore. It's important to keep the area clean and dry and to continue to pump or nurse. Lanolin ointment and silicone gel pads cooled in the refrigerator can help ease your discomfort.

**Thrush.** If you're breastfeeding, and if your nipples and surrounding area are not only itchy but shiny or flaky, and you feel sharp pain while nursing, see your doctor. Those are signs of thrush, a fungal infection. Your doctor may prescribe an antifungal cream to put on your nipples and breasts, as well as a mild antifungal medication you take by mouth.

**Menopause.** This stage of your life can make your skin thinner, drier, and more easily irritated. Blame it on your hormones going up and down and on lower levels of estrogen. Your body makes less oil, so it's harder for your skin to retain

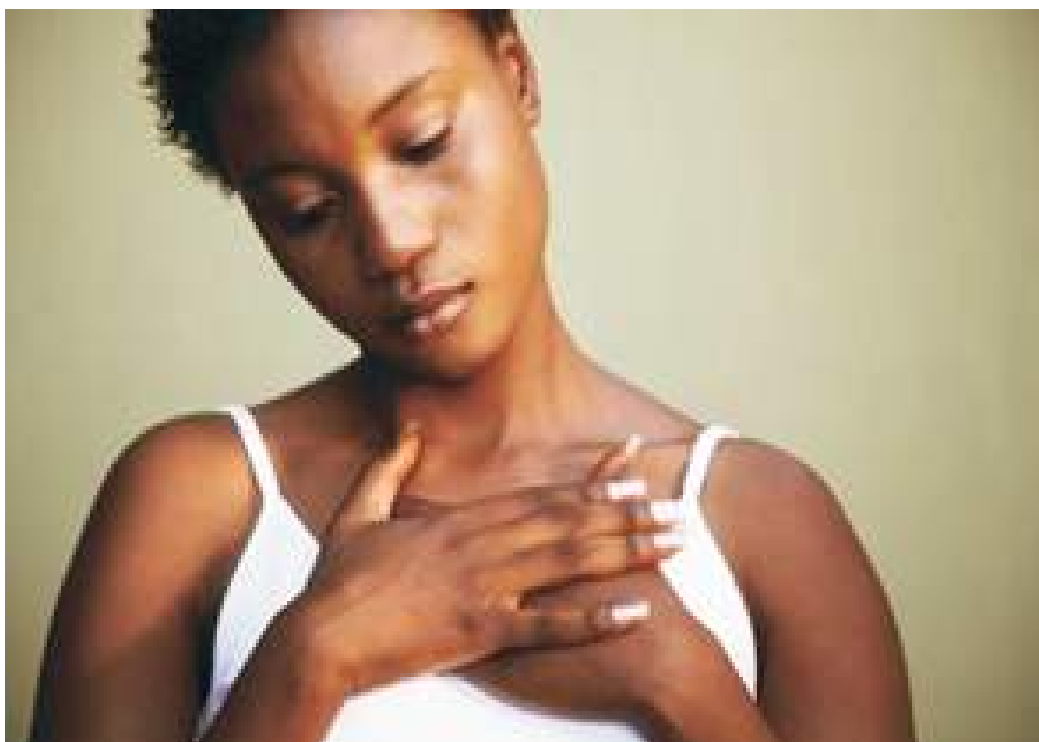
moisture. The itch can strike just about anywhere on the body, including the vagina and nipples. Fight the dryness by using mild cleansers, moisturizing often, and taking fewer hot showers.

**Radiation.** Treatment for breast cancer can lead to severe itching in the breasts and nipples, even long after it ends. Radiation kills skin cells and causes dryness, burning, and itching as the skin peels off. Massage the area with an ice cube, wear soft, loose-fitting clothes, and drink plenty of fluids. Oral antihistamines can help. Your doctor also can prescribe a corticosteroid to rub on the skin.

**Paget's Disease.** This rare form of breast cancer starts in the breast ducts and spreads to the nipple and nearby area. It can look a lot like eczema, with crusted, scaly, and itchy skin. But it often affects just one nipple, and you may also see blood or yellow discharge. If the rash doesn't respond to eczema treatments, you may need a biopsy of a tissue sample to be sure. Paget's disease usually is treated with surgery, followed by radiation.

**Benign Tumor.**

Sometimes, a noncancerous tumor in the breast duct can cause an itchy, crusted nipple. You may feel a small lump or notice a clear or bloody discharge from the nipple. To make the diagnosis, your doctor may X-ray your breast duct or order an ultrasound, mammogram, or biopsy. The treatment is usually surgery.





# Reality Bites

with Palang Kasmi  
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## 10 commandments of social media for men



**S**OCIAL media has come to stay with us. Aside the popular ones like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Linkdin, emerging trends keep popping up to build social and professional relationships. In as much as social media remains the fastest ways to build relationships, boost business,

attract followers, and make online profits through business, social, fashion, music, and in other ways, it is also a place for toying with caution. This is because many have tried to withdraw their posts after regretting it but is too late as the damage has been done, already

viewed by millions of users across the world. Whatever we want to post on social media, let's do it with decency and moderation so that we are not eventually left with trying to take our words, images, or actions back when it is already too late, and has been downloaded by thousands of users across the world.

This week, I have highlighted the 10 Commandments of Social Media for Men written by Joe Martin.

He lists the do's and don'ts of social media use for men. "There are a lot of things I love about being an American, and one is our First Amendment rights that give us the freedom of speech. But with racial, political, and even social unrest in our country, just because we can say almost anything we want doesn't necessarily mean we should" says Martin.

"A proverb says life and death are in the power of the tongue, and we should be careful how we use it. We should monitor our "free speech" in a way that both honors people and is respectful to our families" he says.

"So, I came up with the 10 Commandments of Social Media for Men—and the rationale for each one".

"Social media has damaged a lot of relationships because people

assume the worst of someone they disagree with."

**1. Always assume good intent.**  
**Rationale:** Social media has damaged a lot of relationships because people assume the worst of someone they disagree with.

**2. Always offer to talk to a persistent critic by phone or video conference.** Rationale: If he can't talk to you without an audience, then you probably shouldn't be talking to him at all.

**3. Do not post anything you have to defend.** Rationale: If what you have to say can't stand on its own merit, then don't post it on social media.

**4. Do not try to defend someone else's post, tweet, or opinion.**

Rationale: Someone else's opinion isn't your responsibility to defend it; it's theirs.

**5. Only post what your family would be proud to see you post.** Rationale: If your family wouldn't be proud of what you're posting, then you probably shouldn't. You're not only representing yourself with your words, but you're also representing them.

**6. Stay off of toxic people's social media pages.** Rationale: Freedom of speech also means freedom of choice. We don't get to pick our family members but, thank goodness, we can pick our friends.

Ignore and avoid toxic people.

**7. Never make posts that name-call, blame, shame, or accuse others.** Rationale: Remember, name-calling, blaming, shaming, and accusing says more about the perpetrator than the target.

**8. Post or tweet only to educate, not retaliate or humiliate.**

Rationale: My mother always told me, "Either you're building up people with your words or tearing them down; so, be a builder, not a breaker."

**9. Post and go, not post and watch.**

Rationale: If you're more concerned about how many people see, like, and share your post rather than the impact of it, you probably shouldn't be posting it.

**10. Never spend more time posting and tweeting than reading things that make you better.** Rationale: You're not just what you eat, you're also what you consume otherwise. If you're not careful, social media can become junk food for the eyes and a numbing agent for the brain. Sound off: What's the most difficult part of social media for you?



# EVER'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Living

By **JOHN COLEMAN**

# Signs it's time to leave your job

**A**T some point, all of us experience moments when we must face the difficult decision to let go of something that formerly...more

Over the last two years, record numbers of people have voluntarily left their jobs.

The movement is now so broad it has a name: The Great Resignation. Some of these people have left for more flexible work in the gig economy. Some are seeking a change in lifestyle. But many have been spurred by the Covid-19 pandemic and associated social upheavals to take a deep look at their lives and what gives them purpose.

Does this describe you? Are you feeling stagnant and in need of a change that can offer you greater purpose and engagement? This is entirely natural. Your purpose will shift and change over time, and it's right to constantly find new ways to reinvigorate it. But those periods of transition are challenging to navigate.

All of us experience moments when we must face the difficult decision to let go of doing something that formerly offered us purpose, as I highlight in the HBR Guide to Crafting Your Purpose. But big decisions, like a career change, should be approached thoughtfully. I always advise people to be thoughtful about reinventing their current work before moving on to something new, there are times where the right choice is to strike out on a fresh path.

As you consider whether to join the Great Resignation or take on a career transition, here are a few signs you might use to evaluate whether it's time to truly move on from work that previously provided you with meaning:

It's no longer encouraging your growth.

The best athletes will often



diversify their physical training or dramatically change their routines. This is because, at some point, everything we do too consistently ceases to be a source of growth. When you notice a source of purpose is no longer helping you grow, look to

reinvention or some other change. Leaving a job is a big decision, so I always encourage people to first see if there are ways to craft their work or make changes within their current professional environment before moving on. Often, reinvigorating

your work can be as simple as seeing it differently and modifying it in small ways, something often referred to as "job crafting." But if you've exhausted that path and can no longer grow in your profession, it might be time to move on.

You've achieved what you set out to achieve.

Sometimes, you may lack growth in your current position because there's nothing left to aspire to. A former colleague of mine played in the NFL. The first phase of his life was all about football. But after he retired, he found he was satisfied with that period of his life, which had been an incredible source of meaning, and was ready to leave it behind. Sometimes we simply accomplish what we set out to achieve and are ready to move on to new challenges.

You actively look for ways to avoid your job: I had a friend who loved writing. But at some point, she had grown tired of it and began seeking ways to avoid it — procrastinating, choosing almost any activity from laundry to yard work over putting words on a

page, and getting lost on social media when she'd finally sit down to write. She realized, ultimately, that she needed a long break from writing if she was ever going to fall in love with it again. Sometimes, you need to power through something to develop a positive habit (all of us should exercise, for example, but it can be hard to get started); but other times it's necessary to take a temporary or permanent break. A profession should be something we approach with curiosity and anticipation, not avoidance.

You regularly approach work with exhaustion, burnout, or dread: I previously had a job that I had once enjoyed but had truly begun to wear on me, so much so that it was hard for me to leave the house to go to work in the morning. This wasn't because the company or its people were bad; the fit just wasn't there anymore. If you regularly feel dread at approaching your work, it's time to seriously consider changing it or leaving it behind. Your life is short and precious, and your work should enrich it.

It's causing you to develop bad habits:

Another friend of mine worked at a company whose culture was toxic, and he found himself — even when away from work — behaving in ways he would have previously found unethical or inappropriate. He found himself being untruthful, for example, and misleading colleagues and clients. When he recognized this, he immediately left the firm. When something you look to for purpose begins pulling you further from it and from your values, you need to let it go. Never let a professional environment change you for the worse — particularly on matters of character.

Your workplace has become unhealthy.

Workspaces with colleagues who scream at or personally insult you, for example, or where you are worked to the point of physical collapse should, of course, inspire you to seek something new (if not pursue more serious action). Some workplaces are consistently harmful to your physical or emotional health. If you find yourself in that unenviable position, it's time to move on.

There are, of course, other signs. And again, trying earnestly to reconceive of your work and craft it to be more purposeful is always the best first course if you are feeling stagnant. But letting go of the old is part of keeping life fresh and allowing purpose to change over time. Your life is in your hands, something more and more people seem to be realizing. And the Great Resignation may be just the opportunity you need for a great reinvention.



## BUSINESS WORLD

# Understanding Entrepreneurship

*After security, if there is anything that the world badly needs, it is wealth creation through value creation or addition. As the world's population approaches 7 billion people, the world system correspondingly gets more and more complex with the need for sharp and apt solutions in the areas of production technologies; increased food supply as well as organised governance structures. AYUBA, YILGAK'HA writes*



One of the composite solution to multi-dimensional human problems is entrepreneurship which is the fundamental catalyst for cracking human capabilities in wealth creation. Most often, people hold the erroneous assumption that Motivational Speaking (MS) and Entrepreneurship (E) are the same but they are not.

While MS is basically about spiking or stimulating the passion of someone into doing something he would have done otherwise if left alone through the power of speech; E concerns the cracking of human ingenuity, creativity and innovative power towards the invention and exhibition of a new product(s), new method(s) of production or valuable and practical idea(s) that can be bought at a price.

Motivational speakers are ambitious hope and action promoters; entrepreneurs are ambitious and adventurous problems solvers through practical actions.

Motivational Speakers idea driven incubators who encourage people without necessarily having a product while entrepreneurs are product centred persons who stimulate people into production or business using their products.

A motivational speaker awakens the people about the existence of an opportunity or opportunities; entrepreneurs, spot such opportunities and seizes them without delay.

Motivational speakers teach people how not to fear risk; entrepreneurs are adventurous risk takers who take calculated risk in the process of creating a

value or market for their product. Motivational speakers are words-driven social reengineering agents; entrepreneurs are action-driven wealth creation agents.

Motivational speakers or books are encyclopaedia of ideas which might not, necessarily, be applicable under all circumstances; entrepreneurs have practical solutions that address contemporary problems as they unfold.

Motivational speakers sell their speech or books mostly to lazy thinkers who might not even read or apply them; entrepreneurs sell their products to customers needing practical solutions.

Motivational speakers index and share old or new ideas in a most convincing manner; entrepreneurs create or modify and sell their product or service in the most satisfying manner.

Motivational speakers end a living by the weapon of speech; motivational speakers end a living by the quality of their product or service.

It takes an orator to make a motivational speaker; one does not need to be an orator to make an entrepreneur but functional talent and skill power.

Motivational speakers thrive on dormant conditions or ideals demanding awakening or reawakening; entrepreneurs thrive on chaotic situations demanding solutions.

Motivational speaking can be imitated; entrepreneurship can only be demonstrated. In entrepreneurship, it is argued that 'when you teach a man something, he will never learn it'.

The entrepreneur rather learns by doing; not doing by learning! Motivational speakers diagnose

and encourage their publics to take drugs; entrepreneurs provide the drugs these publics take.

Motivational speaking is theory based; entrepreneurship is evidence based. In other words, motivational speakers tell ideal stories; entrepreneurs show ideal products.

Motivational speakers are like sign posts which guide people to a destination; entrepreneurs are the destination.

Motivational speakers produce the 'what' and how manuals; entrepreneurs show the product manual.

Motivational speakers are all round stimulators of human action including entrepreneurial actions; entrepreneurs are action packed and specific problem solvers.

Motivational speakers are like doctors who diagnose and prescribe drugs for cure from pharmaceutical companies; entrepreneurs are the owners of pharmaceutical companies who make these drugs that cure.

Larry King was a motivational speaker who blessed the world with the book, "How to speak to anyone anywhere"; Thomas Edison was an entrepreneur who blessed the world with light bulbs that illuminates the world even today.

Nick Vujicic was a motivational speaker who gave the world a book "Life without limit: Inspiration for ridiculously good life"; Henry Ford was an entrepreneur who cracked the world of automobiles.

Dale Carnegie was a motivational speaker who wrote, "How to win friends and influence people"; Wilbur Wright and Orville

Wright (Wright Brothers) were entrepreneurs who invented the first aeroplane.

Fela Duritoye who wrote the book ideas are gold is a motivational speaker; Elon Musk is a programming entrepreneur who has curved a niche for himself in world of automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Napoleon Hills who wrote, "Think and grow rich" was a motivational speaker; Steve Jobs is an entrepreneur who has fascinated the world with Pixar, NeXT and Apple computers.

Mike Monroe of blessed memory was a motivational speaker; Jack Ma the Chinese legend is another success story in entrepreneurship who founded Alibaba, a famous online trading platform that is revolutionising online trading in china.

Anthony Jay Robbins is a motivational speaker who wrote books like "Unlimited Power" and "Awaken the power within"; Mark Zuckerberg entrepreneurial acumen gave the world facebook which has changed the world's communication system today.

Eric Thomas is a motivational speaker; Satoshi Nakamoto entrepreneurial power creates cryptocurrency Bitcoin is catalysing cryptocurrency markets worldwide.

Avran Naom Chomsky is a motivational speaker, political activist and social critic; Bill Gates through entrepreneurial prowess Co-founded Microsoft that driving the digital age.

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani motivational speaker who earned herself a Nobel Peace prize laureate at the age of 17; Jeff Bezos is an entrepreneur who

created Amazon, a major shipping platform in the world.

Barrack Obama is a motivational speaker who against all odds became the president of the USA Sergey Brin is an entrepreneur who co-founded Google which has simplified access to information globally.

Leslie Calvin Brown is a motivational speaker who has influenced and is influencing many worldwide; Sheldon Adelson is an entrepreneur with the largest casino in the United States and making big fortunes. Gustaf Hagman and Robin Ramm-Ericson also founded the largest online casino and are making fortunes from it.

Deepak Chopra is a motivational speaker who is making advocacy waves alternative medicine; Anthony Werkman is one of the world's legendary entrepreneurs who created "Betway", one of the biggest betting sites that are changing the world of gambling.

The world has no short of motivational speakers but entrepreneurs who are always right on target. It is important to note that motivational speakers can make entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs could make motivational speakers but this is not automatic. For instance, writing a book on wealth creation does not automatically make the author of such book an entrepreneur but translating those ideas into practical or tangible wealth creating solutions. Books are mere rhetoric but entrepreneurship is a reality.

Entrepreneurs who combine the gift of motivational speakers are rare breed that can influence and change the world with ease. Such breeds do not only influence but add value to the wellbeing and welfare of societies. Mike Zuckerberg, Bill Gates and Jac Ma are typical examples.

The 21st century is the century of entrepreneurs. Because the century is chaotic, it needs deliberate risk takers; because it is highly populated and complex, it needs innovative organisers and producers; because it is speeding, it needs visionary thinking can create today solutions with the future in mind; because it is interconnected, it needs networking prowess. All these needs are entrepreneurship related.

It is instructive to note that even though motivational speaking and entrepreneurship differs, the one thing that makes them similar is that it takes self development to make any of them. A man who is committed to self-development towards entrepreneurship will become an entrepreneur while those committed to self development towards becoming motivational speaking will be motivational speakers. Point is, both motivational speaking and entrepreneurial skills can be acquired through learning and self development.

## BUSINESS WORLD

# Rice and its production in Nigeria

**It is what most citizens, especially little children, of our beloved nation savour. They often relish to have it on their menu. Either at home or outdoors. At social events, ceremonies, in eateries and during all kinds of cultural and religious festivals. ABDULSALAM MAHMUD writes.**

**F**RICE is what many will instantly order for. Because it is what they will love to eat. In Nigeria, many farmers cultivate rice. While some do it on a subsistence level, others go commercial.

Commercial rice farmers cultivate the staple food on large acres. Those who engage in subsistence rice farming need not have a plot of land, that is so massive.

Nigeria is among world nations that tremendously cultivates rice. Though the agricultural commodity is imported into the country, on a gargantuan scale.

There are however, many unknown things and interesting facts about the popular foodstuff. They may be a common knowledge to a few, but a majority will eagerly wish to know.

Okay, here they are. Rice is the seed of the grass species *Oryza sativa* (Asian rice) or less commonly *Oryza glaberrima* (African rice). As a cereal grain, domesticated rice is the most widely consumed staple food for over half of the world's human population, particularly in Asia and Africa.

It is the agricultural commodity with the third-highest worldwide production, after sugarcane and maize. Since sizable portions of sugarcane and maize crops are used for purposes other than human consumption, rice is the most important food crop with regard to human nutrition and caloric intake, providing more than one-fifth of the calories consumed worldwide by humans.

There are many varieties of rice and culinary preferences tend to vary regionally. Unfortunately, the production and consumption of rice is estimated to have been responsible for 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2010.

There are factors that affect the growth and production of rice. They include environment, soil properties, biotic conditions, and cultural practices.



Environmental factors include rainfall and water, temperature, photoperiod, solar radiation and, in some instances, tropical storms. Soil factors refer to soil type and their position in uplands or lowlands. Biotic factors deal with weeds, insects, diseases, and crop varieties.

Rice contains carbohydrates, which gives energy, but it can also raise blood sugar. Again, rice is one of the oldest cereal grains in the world, and people have grown it for at least 5,000 years.

It is a staple food for more than half of the world's population, and 90% of the world's rice comes from Asia.

White rice is the most common type, though brown rice offers more health benefits. Brown rice comes in a variety of shades, including reddish, purplish, or

black.

Rice requires warm, moist conditions for growth and is grown world-wide in tropical and warm temperate habitats. Rice has a typical grass structure with a series of leaves that form a false stem through which emerges the main stem when the plant flowers and fruits.

Rice reproduces sexually, producing bisexual flowers that develop into fruits (cereal grains) after pollination and fertilization. Aside from being an essential source of food, rice also plays a significant role in the economies of many countries.

Rice farming is a vital industry worldwide, with an estimated 150,000 varieties of rice cultivated globally. Rice farming originated in Asia more than 5000 years ago.

According to historians, rice was first domesticated in the Yangtze River valley in China. From China, rice cultivation spread to other parts of Asia, such as India, Southeast Asia, and Korea. Rice farming also spread to other parts of the world through trade routes, such as Africa and Europe.

Nigeria is the largest producer of rice in Africa, producing about 8,435,000 tonnes annually, followed by Egypt, Madagascar, Tanzania and Mali, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

Ironically, Nigeria is the 3rd highest importer of milled rice in the world, importing about 2 million metric tonnes of rice into the country.

Rice farming is one of the most lucrative types of farming in Nigeria. The staple food crop is also one of the most consumed staple foods and important cereal in Nigeria. It is estimated that almost 7 million tonnes of rice are consumed per year, in the country.

In July 2015, when the Federal Government announced plans to place a ban on the importation of rice into the country, Nigeria's local rice production started experiencing growth.

The demand for locally-produced rice (then) also increased. At the time, the ban placed on the importation of rice caused the price of foreign rice to soar, turning the attention of Nigerians to locally produced rice.

Suddenly, an opportunity for interested individuals, farmers, organisations and even some state governments to go into rice production, was created.

Rice mills like Abakali rice, Lake (Lagos and Kebbi State) rice, Anambra rice, Labana rice, as well as the production of Babban Gona's rice and many others, are among the producers of rice in Nigeria. There are abundant opportunities in the rice farming sector, for intending rice farmers.

In Nigeria, rice farming is common in the north. But the major rice-producing States are Kano, Gombe, Niger, Kebbi, Ebonyi, Anambra, Nasarawa, and Ogun.

The Rice Processors Association of Nigeria (RIPAN) and Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria (RIFAN) are the two popular bodies that coordinate the essential activities happening in the country's rice industry.

RIPAN, in particular, has remained unwavering in its commitment to boosting the local production and processing of rice. It has, among other things, advocated administrative policies and programmes that will enhance rice farming and processing in the country.

In summary, RIPAN is one association that has contributed a lot to the growth and development of Nigeria's rice industry. Already, few of the rice processors' feats have been highlighted in this piece. It cannot be exhausted.

But again, there is always another time to talk about issues of vital discourse in the country's rice industry, together with the activities of its key stakeholders, like RIPAN. I am sure the opportunity will come. Very soon!

**Mahmud is the Deputy Editor of PRNigeria, and wrote in via: babasalam1989@gmail.com**



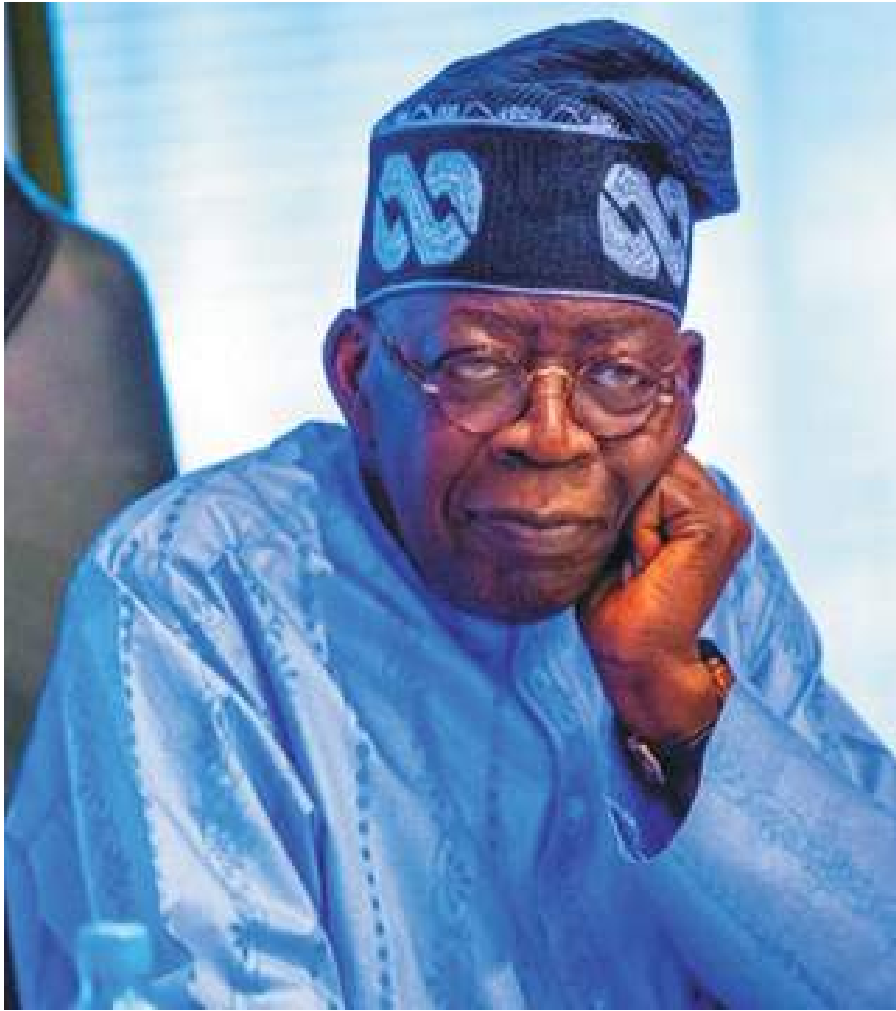


# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## 'Financialisation' as core of Nigeria's economic management strategy

*"Understanding the concept of financialisation and its economic implications and the strategy of positioning economies for the financialisation era has made a difference between outperforming economies and laggards in the last 10 years. The Nigerian economy has lagged behind in all economic growth and development parameters. The need to adopt financialisation at the core of all aspects of its economic strategy formation, execution and management is pertinent for Nigeria."*



**Tinubu**



**Bagudu**

**T**HE global economy has passed through many phases in the last couple of thousands of years and has seen different countries and economies dominating the global space and also falling into irrelevance over the period. The metamorphosis of human existence and the evolution of the global economy and globalization have developed over a long timeframe with various stages reflecting different characteristics and opportunities for growth, human development and wealth creation.

From the agrarian era to the industrialization revolution and more recently the information revolution. Various changes in the global economic space in contemporary times have signified the emergence of a new era, the era of financialisation. Financialisation's foundation was laid in the early 1970s with the fall of the Bretton Woods systems. Financialisation creates new opportunities on the Macro, National, and Micro levels, for growth and wealth creation.

Financialisation will create various opportunities in the economy by ensuring; proper valuation of national assets by financial markets, promotion of

funds flow into the economy, provision of new job opportunities

So, what is financialisation? Financialisation refers to the increasing importance of financial markets, financial motives, financial institutions and the financial elites in the operation of the economy and its governing institutions, both at the national and international levels. (Epstein). Financialisation transforms the economic systems at both the micro and macro levels.

The effects of financialization include a reduction in government participation in the economy, growing influence of financial markets, Increased cross-border financial flows, Rapid increase in domestic and international financial transactions and a change from industrialized economic structures to technology and service-oriented economies

The benefits of financialisation will include but are not limited to a large increase in the number of jobs available in the financial industry, Increased reliance on financial intermediaries and financial markets, Increased participation in the futures markets – futures contracts on bonds, equities, currencies, and interest rates, Profits are generated more through

financial channels as opposed to trade and the production of commodities and the financial sector will contribute to a more equitable allocation of money and risk across the economy Financialisation will create various opportunities in the economy by ensuring; proper valuation of national assets by financial markets, promotion of funds flow into the economy, provision of new job opportunities, efficient utilization of assets and resources and an efficient allocation of funds and risk across the country

The level of financialisation in any economy can be measured by its Industrial output, the proportion of industrial employment and industrial profits. All these can be measured against the financial services output in the economy. The table below compares the level of financialisation in Nigeria against a few countries;

The table underscores the level of financialization of the Nigerian economy and the need to take decisive steps to develop the economy in this direction. Conscious steps at financialization will improve job availability, increase GDP and improve HDI ranking.

The characteristics of the more financialised economies include; diversification of

wealth from income streams to balance sheet valuations, well-developed financial markets, development of the services industries, focus on the use of spaces and advancement in information technology. The Nigerian economic management team will do well to focus its energies on these areas. To underscore the above a couple of case studies are discussed below;

Saudi Arabia Listed its flagship Oil and Gas Company on the Saudi bourse at a listing value of \$2 Trillion. On the back of the listing, the Saudi government raised \$29.4 Billion for its Sovereign Wealth fund PIF for the purpose of investing in its industrial development plan and in the development of alternative energy sources. Saudi Aramco plans to be the largest electricity provider, globally, in 30 years and plans to export electricity abroad as the focus on oil reduces in the future. The listed company plans to pay in excess of \$153 billion to the Saudi government over the financial years 2022 and 2023.

India focused on developing its economy by setting up a National investment promotion and facilitation agency – INVEST INDIA which focused on marketing investible opportunities in India to the Global investment community.

This involved changing the rules of doing business in India and packaging state-owned entities for FDI. Its success is primarily attributed to the ease of FDI rules in India. Total FDI inflows in the country in the last 23 years (April 2000 – March 2023) are \$ 919 bn while the total FDI inflows received in the last 9 years (April 2014- March 2023) was \$ 595.25 bn which amounts to nearly 65% of total FDI inflow in last 23 years.

The two case studies discussed above focus on how two developing countries, Saudi Arabia and India were able to generate liquidity and wealth for their government and people by adopting the trend of financialization phenomenon. Both Countries have achieved tremendous success.

Areas of focus for Nigeria in price discovery and liquidity generation should include; Infrastructure development, Natural resources, Services and housing. This should be based on a thorough well-planned economic policy using project management methods for strategy formulation, responsibility allocation and execution.

**Ayoade, FCIB, FCS is managing director/CEO of MBC Securities Limited (Stockbrokers and Investment Advisers)**



Continued from page 18

# If I wasn't an Actor, I would be doing music — Actress Favour David



are Omotola & Genevieve and they are still my major influences and I see them as my role models. I love the way they work and the way they carry themselves, I admire the women they have become and I want to be more than that one day by God's grace and I know I will get there.

**Have you ever been a victim of molestation in the industry?**

No, not at all.

**You have gained wide acceptance by many after your first movie; how has this helped your acting career?**

Yeah that's true, after my first movie I have really gained a wide acceptance by many, at least now I have a number of people who are helping me and have taken it upon themselves to promote my brand and has really opened me up to more job opportunities, I'm really very grateful; God bless you all. I know ever since I've really been working much more than I expected.

**What's your brand as an actress?**

Well, my brand is not limited to any genre of movie, I can cast for any genre of movie be it glamour, epic or drama and so on and trust me I do better in all.

**If you were not into movies, what other career would you have been?**

Music of course, music is one of the things I love doing the most; I will still go back to it

will get there by God's grace.

**Are you a Graduate, tell me about your educational background:**

I am still an undergraduate, I attended my primary school at per Excellence Nursery and Primary school and did my secondary school at P.A.C college both at Owerri, Imo State and now I am in my final year studying Accounting at Godfrey Okoye University Enugu state.

Favour David & Uche Ogbodo on the set of King's Guard

**Who are your major influences in the industry?**

My major influences



someday though. One thing at a time you know.

**What should we expect from you in a couple of months?**

A lot, like an expansion of my brand to any extent and so many other things I intend venturing into that will affect lives positively one way or the other. Just wait for it because I intend taking everyone unaware.

# celebrities who are single parents

Continued from page 18

**Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony**



Jennifer Lopez said in an interview that she didn't feel her best during her marriage to Marc Anthony, but after their separation, they became great friends and parents to their twins.

**Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillip**



Although their relationship had its ups and downs, the former couple did everything in their power to offer their children a great childhood. That includes staying on good terms with each other too. Most recently, Reese and Ryan got together for their son's birthday.

**Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton**



Angelina and Billy remain good friends even after their split that happened almost a decade ago. Billy Bob Thornton revealed that even if they might not see each other often, they still talk regularly.

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Social Economic costs of learning in Nigeria

**Time to rescue our education sector from perpetual "state of emergency" is now. A Japanese statement you can apply in different circumstances interpret: Good thinking, good product. This statement is not applicable to Nigeria as the overt abandonment of our education sector is daunting and worrisome. DORCAS PANKYES writes.**

Neglecting the education of the present generation of Nigerians would, in many ways, endanger the prosperity of the future. But does anybody actually care? Educating young people today will determine how much progress we make as a country, going into the future. It is evident that with the neglect or near-total collapse of education in Nigeria, the future of our society is uncertain or may be gloomy.

Nigeria is at a tipping point regarding security, human capacity development and economic growth. However, the biggest challenge we face as a country is not about the challenges of today but a bleak future stirring Africa's biggest economy and the most populous black nation in the face.

Looking beyond the 2023 general elections, one sees our leaders' deliberate insensitivity and indifference at various levels to the destruction of education sector that offers us hope to safeguard and recover the future. That is the educational sector.

Recently, Nigeria's education sector crisis has become more evident. The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), which has been on strike since February 14, has extended this by three months. ASUP, the Union of Polytechnic lecturers, has commenced a strike action. There is zero public school registration for the WAEC examination in Sokoto and Zamfara States, and some candidates in some South-East States cannot participate in the UMTE examinations due to the sit-at-home orders of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

There are other horrendous developments in the education sector. What is frightening is the inability of our policymakers to connect the monumental rot and negligence of the education sector today to our bleak future.

Nigeria seems to be retrogressing in all aspects of education and skills acquisition. The net quantity and quality of education in Nigeria, in comparison to past decades, given our population and economy, is negative. The products of our education system cannot measure up to those in India, China or the European Union (EU).

The education sector crisis has been made worse by the intractable insecurity in various parts of Nigeria, the girl child educational inequity, and poverty that have made quality education unaffordable to many Nigerians. There is a total loss of confidence by stakeholders in our education system.

The loss of confidence in Nigeria's education is led by the political and other elite class. Over 95 per cent of the elites in government, business and technocratic professions are educating their children in tertiary institutions in Europe and the United States. Consequently, there is hardly any serious policy discussion about education in Nigeria.

Despite notable interventions of the UNICEF and the Nigerian government, we still have 18.5 million out-of-school children in the country; the second-largest number in the world.

Our education sector needs a quantum overhaul that targets its outcome. We need improvement starting from primary education,



where we see many out-of-school children. Secondary education needs a total overhaul, where we are witnessing declining standards and low attainment in national examinations like NECO and WAEC. The complete collapse of the higher education sector, where workers engage in incessant strike actions, leading to half-baked graduates who are grossly untrainable and unemployable, needs immediate attention.

Education has suffered from insecurity at the basic primary and secondary levels in most parts of the country. The "unknown gunmen" and IPOB agitators have terrorised the South-East and forced a sit-at-home observation on every Monday. This problem has affected schools in the five South-East states, where 20 per cent of the time allotted to education is lost each week. Students in the South-East states missed examinations scheduled for Mondays nationally during necessary national examinations like WAEC, NECO and UMTE.

Governments at all levels have indifferent attitude towards the educational crisis in the country. They have not articulated better ways of managing education to provide the needed quality for our children. Education policies are either not fit-for-purpose or not yielding the desired results, and education monitoring institutions are moribund, at best, where they exist.

As if this is not shocking enough, in Sokoto and Zamfara States, students in public schools did not register for the WAEC examination this year, either because the government did not pay for them, or because of various other militating factors. This anomaly indicates retrogression in teaching, learning and examination for certification.

In other parts of the North, the uptake of the WAEC examination is minimal, even with some state governments paying for the students. Students in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)'s camps are worrying more about survival than getting an education.

Government poorly funds most government schools, and they owe teachers' salaries. Most government schools in the South of Nigeria are overcrowded and always attended by children from poor backgrounds whose parents cannot afford the prohibitive costs of private primary and secondary education.

As the crisis in the education sector deepens, the attention of our political leaders is fastened upon elections and politics. While elections and politics are essential and must receive due attention, they however should not detract attention from the education sector, which is undergoing decay and needs urgent and immediate attention.

It is disturbing to note that the generation that had good government-funded basic education in the '80s and '90s is struggling to function productively nowadays; how much more will the children of this generation with poor education or no education, in some cases, become productive at all. The irony is on all of us.

The rich and middle class have insulated themselves from this problem. Children of people in these classes go to private schools abroad or at home, which continues to widen the gap between the poor and the rich, and invariably creates inequality. The children of the poor are half baked. In the past, education was the greatest leveller. Children of the poor often meet and outcompete children from affluent backgrounds in schools. They learn the confidence that comes with knowing that they are as good as anybody with hard work and intelligence, no matter their family background.

Our tertiary education sector is comatose with ASUU and ASUP strikes. The students are unproductive at home or sometimes nuisance to their communities. Imagine the impact on the quality of education of these students. Governments at all levels have indifferent attitude towards the educational crisis in the country. They have not articulated better

ways of managing education to provide the needed quality for our children. Education policies are either not fit-for-purpose or not yielding the desired results, and education monitoring institutions are moribund, at best, where they exist.

The future we want to build for our children will be worse than what we have now if we do not prioritise education. A stitch in time, they say, saves nine. We must focus and refocus all our physical and intellectual energies to rescue our education from total shambles and, that way, safeguard the future we desire.

It is disheartening that private education providers buy and sell quality education in many states. In some middle class and working-class families, tuition fees and other school-related charges take a chunk of their income.

The recommended average percentage of GDP on total government and private expenditure on education is 5 per cent. Most countries in the developed world spend even more than this average on education. For example, "among the 34 OECD countries' reporting data in 2015, 17 countries spent more than the average percentage (5 per cent) of GDP on total government and private expenditures on education institutions for OECD countries. Norway spent the most on education as a percentage of GDP at 6.4 per cent, followed by New Zealand at 6.3 per cent, the United Kingdom at 6.2 per cent, and the United States at 6.1 per cent," according to UNESCO. However, data from UNESCO also shows that the expenditure on education (as a per cent of GDP) in Nigeria was 0.85 per cent as of 2017. This statistic shows the negligence that our education sector is facing from all sections of the government. This must change!

Two futures are possible with our political leaders' indifference to educational issues. The first is one in which we will continue to relegate education to the rear of our development agenda; and our

youthful population, which ought to be a demographic advantage, becomes a burden. We will entrench and reinforce generational inequality and possibly poverty, insecurity, and, most importantly, dismantle the building blocks of the future. Conversely, we are setting our country up for endless, perennial crises because of the collapse of the essential building blocks of a functional society. Either way, we cannot win.

We know that the growth of the human mind and the broadening of the human intellect reflect man's immediate environment's physical development. Therefore, the development's physicality is just a reflection and reification of the extent of our mental and intellectual development. This idea underscores the importance of training and education as a key to societal growth.

We see this in what happens to a developed environment when undeveloped minds are allowed to inhabit them, and they trash them and reduce the place to the extent of the level of development of their minds, and converse is the case too. This fact underscores the importance of education to the development of Nigeria.

The children we do not educate today will pose a danger in the future, and they may fuel insecurity, criminality, and total dependency on the state for survival, not to mention the lost opportunity cost in productivity they would have given, were they educated. Now is the time to pay attention and call for a "state of emergency" in our education sector.

We must bring all ideas, talents, skills, and resources to the table to resolve some of the crises threatening to mar the future of the next generation of Nigerians. It is not just a policy and monetary issue. We need to focus on teacher education to improve the quality of teachers and engage in their periodic testing and retraining. The promotion of teachers should be tied to the quality of their teaching, personal development, and the impact of teaching on students. We need to provide them with the teaching resources and incentives they need to do a good job. Individual states should set independent standards for teachers' accreditation in their jurisdictions.

We must provide all forms of financial and psychological incentives to teachers. We must ringfence their benefits and emoluments in both federal and state budgets and never allow a situation where governments owe them salaries. The reward of teachers must be here "on earth and not in heaven." We should pay them wages when due and pay them a living wage. We must review the pay of teachers on the basis of current economic realities and attract the best to the teaching profession.

The future we want to build for our children will be worse than what we have now if we do not prioritise education. We must focus and refocus all our physical and intellectual energies to rescue our education from total shambles and, that way, safeguard the future we desire.

## NEWS

## NCC assures of strengthening communication sector

By DORCAS PANKYES

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has said it remains committed to its regulatory role of continually implementing requisite reforms to strengthen the communications sector in Nigeria.

Reuben Muoka, Director of Public Affairs, disclosed this in a statement that Adeleke Adewolu, the Executive Commissioner of Stakeholder Management at the NCC, stated this while addressing stakeholders at the combined second and third quarters 2023 meeting of the Industry Working Groups (IWG) on multiple taxation and regulations in the telecoms sector.

The meeting, which held in Ibadan, Oyo State on Tuesday, was convened as a precursor to a more elaborate Regional Stakeholders Workshop on Multiple Taxation and Regulations, scheduled to take place in the state on Wednesday.

The statement further mentioned that during the meeting, which was attended by senior executives of telecom licensees and their umbrella body, the Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), Adeleke Adewolu, as a staff member of the Commission, emphasized that the activities of the IWG are focused on establishing fair tax policies and eliminating instances of multiple taxation and regulations that affect the Nigerian telecommunications industry.

He stated that a lot of milestones have been recorded by the industry since the establishment of the IWG over two decades ago, as the platform has proven to be effective in articulating industry concerns in this area and also proffering solutions to these issues.

"Considerable industry gains have been recorded lately, particularly as it relates to the issue of multiple taxation. For instance, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu recently signed 4 Executive Orders designed to curb multiple taxation in the country.

"Key amongst them is the Executive Order for the suspension of the five per cent excise duty on telecommunication services as well as excise duties escalation on other locally manufactured products," he said.

He described the gains as laudable as, according to him, they continue to serve as inspiring landmarks for the industry, underscoring what can be achieved when the entire industry comes together harmoniously to speak with one voice on existential concerns undermining the economic health of the communications industry.

However, the Executive



Danbatta

Commissioner said there remains a lot of work to be done as the industry was still beguiled by arbitrary Right of Way (RoW) charges, hidden nuisance taxes and unauthorised regulatory encroachment into the communications industry.

As such, he said the Commission has continued to work assiduously to ensure harmonisation of RoW charges across the country.

He said aside several existing agencies the Commission has been working with, it is also collaborating strategically with sister agencies such as the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), in line with the National Economic Council (NEC) resolution of 2012 and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA).

"We are also working with the Nigerian Mainstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority

(NMDRA), all in a bid to ensure the regulatory actions taken by the agencies are well synchronised with the regulatory objectives of the Commission, in a manner that boosts market development and industry sustainability," he said.

While tasking telecom licensees to continue to bring burning issues on multiple taxation and regulation to the attention of the Commission as they experience in their daily operation, Adewolu also assured them of NCC's decision to always make necessary regulatory intervention to boost industry growth.

"The Commission is always inclined to execute the requisite reform that will strengthen the communications sector and deepen market development," he said. He urged all stakeholders at the IWG meeting to deliberate frankly and productively in highlighting pressing and key issues that require urgent

## Mutfwang surprises NYSC camp with a visit

BY PETER TITLE

Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State has paid a surprise visit at the temporary site of the National Youth Service Corps orientation camp recently which is at WAYE, Dwei, Jos South Local Government of the state.

Excitement was heightened among the staff and corps as the August visitor was received.

The governor put smiles on



Caleb

the faces of the corps and staff of NYSC by giving them some tokens.

The corps members who were visibly elated as well as the State Director of NYSC, Mrs Esther Tosin Ikupoleti by the Governor's visit entertained him with different performances from their cultural troupe.

Governor Mutfwang in his speech pledged to protect and support all corps members who had come to serve in Plateau State.

According to him, they were fortunate to have been posted to Plateau for their mandatory one year service, describing the state as a land of great fortune.

He noted that some of them were crossing the Niger for the first time and promised to lay a solid foundation for the satisfaction of all. Mutfwang stressed that they were seeing the opposite of how Plateau was being portrayed negatively.

"You are by the grace of God going back to your permanent site next time," Mutfwang assured the NYSC staff. "We will ensure everything is put in place for your comfort and

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

The General Overseer of Ebomi Ministry, Prophet Isa El-buba, in his quest to contribute to the development of a better society, has launched a foundation tagged: "Dr. Isa El-buba Foundation (DISEF)" to promote good governance that would fight poverty and support less privileged persons in the society.

He launched this recently, at the national headquarters of the Ebomi Ministry in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

Hundreds of people trooped in to witness the occasion and described the initiative as a saving grace to the poor.

Speaking at the unveiling of the foundation, the General Overseer said the foundation would be dedicated toward fostering holistic human capital development, deepening democratic good governance and sustainable growth in areas that would have direct bearing on the lives of citizens.

He said, "Our mission is to create a positive and lasting change, uplift communities and enable individuals to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives. We will nurture strong families, promote human capital development, deepen democratic governance and foster spirituality among Nigerians

"We will also enhance religious harmony through strategic intervention, partnerships, programming and community engagement. This foundation will empower communities to be

## Ebomi General Overseer unveils foundation to fight poverty

economically self-sufficient, politically engaged, socially just and educationally empowered. We will strive to create lasting positive change and sustainable development, promoting a brighter and more equitable future for all," he highlighted.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that the General Overseer, had in the past provided scholarships to hundred students from poor families, housing to displaced persons and financial support to poor women to boost their businesses.

He, however, promised that the new foundation would consolidate and sustain on the existing acts of charity and would also provide mentorship to young Nigerians to participate fully in result oriented activities that would widen their horizon towards self-reliability.

Earlier, the Taraba State Governor, His Excellency, Kefas Agbu, who doubled as the Chairman of the occasion, commended El-buba for the initiative, describing him as a great 'mentor and inspiration' to many Nigerians towards his determination for the emancipation of the poor in the society.

He said, "El-buba is not just a pastor but an inspiration and mentor to many Nigerians. He does not only teach Christ, but guides the



El-buba

people along the right path and offers hope to many others. He has brought positive changes to the lives of many and comforted many who are in difficult situations.

Unveiling the foundation, Governor Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom, who was represented by Professor Isaiah Essom, called on spirited individuals and groups to emulate the philanthropic gestures of El-buba and to support the foundation toward meeting the needs of the poor.

However, Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State who was also represented by his Chief of Staff, Mr. Jeremiah Satmark, commended the cleric for the initiative and promised to support any move aimed at providing succour to poor people in the state.

## Ministry appeals for transparent distribution of palliatives

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

AGLOW International, a non denominational Christian Women Ministry has appealed to state governments to be

transparent in the distribution of palliatives meant for the needy in the society.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has released billions of naira to State Governments for palliatives meant to cushion the effects of the removal of fuel subsidy on the people.

Mrs Lami Ibrahim Hassan, Northeast zone iv President of Aglow International, Nigeria, made the appeal in an interview with our correspondent during its Northeast Regional Convention held at the CAN Centre, Gombe, with the theme: "Divine Direction, Isaiah 30:21".

She said, "our prayer is for God to intervene concerning this hardship faced by the people and for God to help the government to hear the cry and attend to the needs of the poor and vulnerable".

According to her, the government should be able to come to the rescue of those passing through pains such as the widows and orphans. She added that, "Some people don't even have what to eat. We

are praying that the palliative being distributed by the state governments would reach those that are in dire need and those actually meant for it," she appealed.

She explained that Aglow International is an interdenominational Christian women ministry that brings Christian women together to impact positively on their lives both physically and spiritually.

She said, with close to 200 chapters across the country, Aglow International, Nigeria has strengthened the capacity of women in the ministry and has been penetrating more unentered areas to keep women aglow for Jesus Christ.

The three day event witnessed several activities such as lectures, sermons, music, prayer sessions among many others. Goodwill messages from Jane Hansen Hoyt, President/CEO, Aglow International and Mrs. Bisi Adeluyi, President, Aglow International Nigeria rounded up the occasion.

POLITICS

# Mutfwang charges MBEP on global best practices

BY PETER TITLE

**T**HE Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang has charged management and staff of the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (MBEP), to keep tabs with global best practices and to desist from any act that would frustrate the good intentions the government has for the people of the state.

According to him, the ministry has set the pace for keying into the agenda of the "Time Is Now", urging other ministries, departments and agencies to tow the same path so that good governance would be visible and be appreciated by the citizens of the state.

Governor Mutfwang gave this charge recently at the opening ceremony of a five day retreat and training for staff of the Plateau State Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning (MBEP), held at the Carter Conlon Conference and Retreat Center, Lamingo drive, Liberty Dam Road, Gwafan, Jos.

Organised by the Ministry in conjunction with Olive - Edge Consulting Group Nigeria Ltd with the theme, "The Green Cap Vision and the Seven Point Policy Thrust For Inclusive Budgetary Engagement: The Time Is Now For Good Governance On The Plateau" the Governor frowned at the duplicating roles being played by government agencies and promised to streamline them for optimal performance.

He noted that the ministry was central to the planning of



**Mutfwang** government activities, stressing that any ministry that does not bring development has failed woefully, adding that the government would not condone that in any way.

Mutfwang commended the ministry saying that they did not ask for any dime for the organization of the retreat, saying that it was a worthy exercise.

Earlier, the Commissioner of the Ministry, Mr Chrysanthus Dawam informed Governor Mutfwang that the main functions of the Ministry include, the provision of technical support needed for economic development and growth of the state.

According to the Commissioner, the ministry was also saddled with the responsibility of determining

and advising on policies that would best promote unity among all citizens living within the state.

Hon. Dawam further noted that the ministry enhanced the efficiency of public sector spending as well as general economic management and provision of focal points for the coordination of state policies and programmes.

According to him, their expectations for all participants of the ministry, other MDAs and the general public was to bring the necessary impact to generate a realistic budget for the growth and development of Plateau State.

The Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Peter Lamba Bot and a resource person, Dr. Uzoamaka Amakom said the retreat would not have come at a better time than now. He urged

From **MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan**

**T**HE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has declared that multiple taxation is an impediment to economic development in the country.

The commission made this declaration during a regional stakeholders workshop on multiple taxation and regulations in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital recently.

The workshop was attended by the Executive Commissioner (Stakeholder Management) of NCC, Mr Adeleke Adewolu, a law lecturer, Temidayo Ashonibare and various stakeholders among whom are representatives of state governments, experts and telecommunication companies.

Adewolu, while speaking on the theme, "Multiple taxation: An impediment to economic development", explained that multiple taxation has continued to be a bane on economic development in the country.

He added that the aim of the workshop was to address the problem associated with multiple taxation and find a way to solve the problem.

He maintained that it is worthy of note to know that the National Tax Policy 2017 emphasizes the need to eradicate multiple taxation at all tiers of government.

He also added that the policy states that taxes similar to those being collected by a level of government should not be introduced by the same or another level of government.

# 'Multiple taxation won't allow our economy to grow'

Adewolu while speaking further said that the paradox of multiple taxation is that it negatively impacts the ease of doing business, shrinks the tax base, incentivizes tax evasion and complicates tax compliance.

He said, "Despite the prospect of accelerated economic growth, the presence of multiple taxation, which the World Bank has termed 'nuisance taxes' has and continues to prove to be a bane on economic development in the country.

"However, before addressing how multiple taxation is an impediment to economic development, it is important to emphasize that taxation, in and of itself, is a veritable tool for economic development.

"The curious question, which this workshop will attempt to answer, is how a fiscal tool for economic development like taxation can become inimical to economic development. It is imperative therefore to correct some misconceptions about taxation, particularly the misguided notion of taxation as a penal tool on thriving business enterprises.

Taxation is the backbone

for public finance. It provides guaranteed and sustainable sources of funding for social programmes and public investments. It also serves as a tool curated by the government to effectively and efficiently distribute our commonwealth.

However, supporting the tax initiatives by the various tiers of Government includes indicating where a category of taxes have become cancerous to economic development.

"These type of taxes typically manifest themselves in the form of multiple taxation and by design, they reverse growth, stifle innovation and discourage investment. In parabolic terms, they are the scarecrows mounted by government to disincentivize development.

"The paradox of multiple taxation is that it does not lead to an increment in government revenue, rather the crippling effect of these taxes, are that it makes otherwise profitable businesses unprofitable. It negatively impacts the ease of doing business, shrinks the tax base, incentivizes tax evasion and complicate tax compliance".



Danbata

# Governor mourns renowned Islamic scholar

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

**G**OVERNOR Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State has received with deep sadness and a heavy heart the news of the passing away of a renowned Islamic scholar, Sheikh Abubakar Giro Argungu who died after a brief illness.

He described the demise of the cleric who died on Wednesday 06/09/2023, as a great loss not only to the Muslim Ummah but also to the entire northern region and Nigeria as a whole.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya said the late Sheikh Argungu was a distinguished scholar and

exemplary leader who devoted his life to the propagation of the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

According to him, "Sheikh Abubakar Giro Argungu's life was a shining example of commitment to the teachings of Islam and the promotion of peace and harmony.

"His contributions to Islamic scholarship has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of many, and his legacy will continue to inspire the ummah

and generations to come", he stated.

The governor, on behalf of the government and people of Gombe State, conveyed his deepest condolences to the immediate family of the deceased.

Governor Inuwa, who is also the Northern Governors' Forum Chairman, also extended his heartfelt commiserations to the leadership of the Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah wa Iqamatissunnah, JIBWIS where

Sheikh Abubakar Giro Argungu played a significant role in advancing Islamic teachings, noting that his absence will be terribly felt, but his teachings will live on as guiding light.

He then offered his sympathies to the government and people of Kebbi State and the entire Muslim ummah in Nigeria, praying Almighty Allah to forgive his shortcomings and reward his good deeds with a place in Jannatul Firdaus.

# Gov Inuwa applauds Tinubu's victory at PEPC

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

**G**OMBER State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, has applauded the judgment of the Presidential Election Petition Court (PEPC), which unanimously affirmed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's victory in the 2023 Presidential election.

Governor Inuwa Yahaya, who is also the Chairman of the Northern Governors' Forum, described the judgment as a victory for democracy and truth, adding that it is also a momentous affirmation of the Nigerian people's trust in the president's leadership.

In a statement made available to newsmen by Ismaila Uba Misilli, Director-General, Press Affairs, Government House Gombe,

the governor said, "This victory is a testament to the strength of our democracy, the resilience of our institutions, and the belief of our people in a brighter future".

He commended the PEPC's dismissal of the consolidated petitions presented by the People's Democratic Party, Labour Party, and People's Democratic Movement, along with their presidential candidates. The governor described the decision as a reinforcement of the people's will and the transparency of Nigeria's electoral system.

The governor also

congratulated the All Progressives Congress, APC family and hailed the legal team that represented the president and the party.

He also commended the erudition of the judges and indeed the Nigerian Judiciary for their diligent handling of the cases and ultimately upholding the sanctity of Nigerian democracy, noting that the meticulous review has unequivocally validated the legitimacy of the President and Vice President's election, confirming that they were duly elected by the majority of lawful votes.

To INEC, the governor said, it must be hailed for its

impartial role during the polls as the unbiased umpire in the electoral process.

"The victory of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and Vice President Kashim Shettima, GCON, in the presidential election petition court proceedings is a triumph for democracy and truth. It paves the way for the President to continue with his quality leadership for the benefit of all Nigerians".

He assured that the government of Gombe State wholeheartedly supports the President's vision for a better Nigeria and believes his leadership represents renewed hope for the nation.



Yahaya

## NEWS

## Bello approves 100% increase for corpsers' allowances

From  
**AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

**G**OVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has approved a 100 per cent increment in the allowance of members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) deployed to Kogi State for their mandatory one-year service.

The governor approved the raise considering the current economic realities and the overall importance of the NYSC scheme to national and state development.

He spoke during the closing ceremony of the 2023 Batch 'B' Stream 2 of the NYSC at the state Orientation Camp, Asanya, in Kabba /Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The governor also announced a donation of N37.7 million as logistics support for the Youth Corps members as they move to their respective places of primary assignments. He also called on private sector employers to prioritise their welfare.

He charged the corps members to be of good behaviour and encouraged them to embrace the spirit of 'One Nigeria' and treat all citizens as fellow Nigerians, transcending ethnic and religious boundaries.

He urged them to demonstrate diligence, hard work, commitment, and understanding throughout their service year, as these qualities would prepare them



Bello

to overcome challenges after completing their service period.

Governor Bello commended the State Coordinator of the NYSC, Pastor (Mrs) Adebimpe Williams, for the camp's overall infrastructure improvement and assured that other developmental requests would receive due attention.

The state coordinator of the scheme, Pastor (Mrs) Adebimpe Williams, and the Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Hon Idris Musa, commended Governor Yahaya Bello for his administration's longstanding support for the programme.

They also emphasised the importance of good behaviour at the corps members'

primary assignments, highlighting that absenteeism from a Place of Primary Assignment (PPA) remained a serious violation that the scheme strongly discouraged, with significant disciplinary consequences.

A total of 1888 corps members, comprising 977 males and 911 females, were deployed to Kogi State.

"As I said during your inauguration, every Commissioner is very important. You can make a difference where you are assigned, There is no ministry that is second class, and there are a lot of responsibilities in all the MDAs. All of you should respect each other," he emphasized.

congratulate you again over this well-deserved appointment in view of your commitment and dedication to service to the state and humanity in general" the union said.

The chairman also used the occasion to highlight some of the major achievements recorded by the union over the years.

Mannir Suleiman said that these include maintaining peace and unity among members which has taken the

From  
**ANENE AIKE, SOKOTO**

**B**ANDITS have terminated the lives of 2 persons in Bageyi village and kidnapped 22 persons - mostly women and also displaced thousands of locals from 4 other villages of Rabah Local Government Area in Sokoto State.

The bandits stormed the villages recently, shooting sporadically. In the confusion that ensued, they took those they kidnapped into the bush even as they demanded 2 million naira ransom for each of their captives, a family member of one of those killed related bitterly.

Narrating the episode while in tears, the family member who preferred anonymity said her relative, Abdul Namaiwa was shot dead instantly and the second person that sustained gunshot equally died the next day.

In her tears, she bitterly placed a curse on their tormentors. She said, "Only God will judge and punish the killers, our oppressors and enemies of humanity who are now posing as bandits to return us to the Stone Age era of slavery."

Another reliable source from the affected area who also

## Bandits kill 2, kidnap 22 in Sokoto

would not want his name on print for security reasons said, the villages affected include, Yola, Bageyi, Chiru-dikko, Chiro-Sabongari and Kaurami all in Rabah Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

He explained, "As I am talking to you now, we are in serious fear of the unknown because almost everybody from these affected villages have moved to take refuge in Rara ward of the local government.

The villager further said that the bandits come at will and take people as slaves while they demand for money that the villagers cannot pay, he added.

Continuing, the source said,

the bandits took 15 persons on the first day of invasion and 7 others on the second day and they are now demanding 2 million naira for the release of each of them.

He revealed that the relatives of those kidnapped pleaded with the bandits saying some of those taken to the bush are Almajiris and their Malam (teacher).

Nevertheless, the bandits refused to bend and said if the villagers would not pay ransom for the Almajiris, then they would kill all of them including their malams.

All efforts made to hear from the local government caretaker chairman proved abortive.



Egbetokun

## NLC Sokoto Chapter applaud workers for 2-day warning strike

**T**HE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Sokoto State Chapter, has lauded workers in the state for their full compliance in the 2-day warning strike embarked upon by the congress across the country.

Mr Abdullahi Aliyu, the state NLC Chairman, made

the commendation while addressing newsmen in Sokoto on Wednesday.

Aliyu said the organised labor would continue to pursue workers entitlement and ensure the present economic hardship on citizens is generously addressed.

"Our workers and other affiliates of the NLC have shown dedication and commitment toward ensuring the success of our struggle for better living condition for all.

"We will continue to remain on our oath to support the government to achieve the desired economy that will provide food on the table of the poor and the general public," he said.

The chairman also extolled the leadership style of Gov. Ahmed Aliyu, while assuring that the congress will continue to support his dedication and commitment.

"We are sensing a government that is fully inclusive, with a leader who distinguish himself as democrat not a ruler.

"This is a leader that before his 100 days in office has shown a great impact on governance, exemplified the importance of continuity in government," he said.

Aliyu added that with the current commitment, if sustained, the state will experience the governor's desire of making Sokoto a new state.

The labor leader further appreciated the governor for his pledge to initiate measures of supporting the civil servants in the state.

"One of the most important aspects is the restoration of the education levy which has been deducted from workers salary in the past six years," he said.

## Union lauds re- appointment of Executive Secretary

**H**EALTH Workers Union of Nigeria, (MHWUN), Katsina State Council has lauded the re- appointment of Dr. Shamsuddeen Yahaya as Executive Secretary (ES), of the State Primary Health Care Agency.

Malam Munnir Mohammed Suleiman, Chairman of the union stated this in a statement made to The Nigeria Standard, during a dinner organized by the union members to rejoice with Dr. Yahaya over his re- appointment.

The union said that the re- engagement of the ES did not

By **ABDULLAHI SHUGABA**

come to them as surprise in view of his dedication, honesty and track records over the years in his assignments in the primary health care agency.

"Because Dr. Yahaya has brought a lot of innovations, transformations, changes, prestige, hope and respect for the primary health care development agency in the state.

"Therefore, Governor Umar Radda has put the right peg at the right place for re- appointing the ES to continue with his job.

"The union wishes to

## NANS honours VC with National outstanding award

From  
**AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

Akubo's voyage in the private service with a touch of class, efficiency, knowledge, diligence and professionalism, which have become another definition of standard in the private service.

Khalid said: "Whichever perspective you choose to look at Professor Alewo Johnson Akubo, you will see class as his unique achievements are celebrated anywhere in the world.

"The Vice Chancellor is the future in the present, a very colourful individual and one of the most noticeable

representatives of our generation, a marvelous human being, and an equivalent of the entire library of success, a community builder and an efficient team player.

"Today youths are following your footpath so as to overcome the fall of public service standard in order to compete and excel in the global system where knowledge is prized."

According to him, what has made the Akubo's name a signature of success is his uprightness, desire to always uphold global standard ability to lead by example, which has also made him a successful leadership expert?

Khalid stressed that: "Part of reasons we honour you today is that you are indeed a great man of purpose, vision, integrity, a great leader of all leaders and a blessing to many generations."

Responding, Akubo appreciated NANS for counting him worthy of the prestigious award, which would remain an indelible mark in his career as an educationist and administrator.

The vice chancellor pledged to continue with his humanitarian services to raise young men and women to be positive and impactful global change agents.



Yahaya

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE

# Unemployment and the Nigerian state



*Continued from page 10*

meets her planning noted and national aspiration. This one does not.

"Unemployment and poverty have worsened in the past three years, driven by insecurity, economic shock and job losses. The NBS had said, last year that 63 per cent or 133 million Nigerians were living in multidimensional poverty. Inflation pushed an estimated four million more Nigerians into poverty. With millions of Nigerians languishing in poverty accentuated by the removal of the petro subsidy and hyperinflation, the 4.1 per cent figure is illusory. Reliable statistics are essential; enabling policy makers to identify economic, social or environmental issues that need to be addressed and to guide them in fixing the same. Therefore, data should not be slanted or understated no matter how well-intentioned" it declared.

Also writing in the **Daily Trust** (Monday, August 28, 2023) one Victor Kwambuge with the opinion write-up titled, "That NBS unemployment report," declared that, "NBS must wake up from the illusion. The reality is different from what

they are pushing. It amounts to high level mockery when someone comes out and declares these paltry figures at a time when job losses and redundancy has become the order of the day. These are trying times for the average Nigerian as people are now resorting to stringent austerity measures to ameliorate the hardship occasioned by the current social crisis and it is highly insensitive for any agency of the government to come up with cooked, frivolous, flippant, waggish, glib and fictitious figures in the name of unemployment rate. The data lacks integrity, sensitivity and it negates the principle of humanity and social justice".

But must Nigeria adopt the new methodology in determining the number of its unemployed citizenry? Certainly not because, there maybe some peculiarities in the Nigerian situation with the rest of the other climes. Hence, the National Bureau for Statistics (NBS), the government agency saddled with the responsibility of coming up with the most accurate figure should take this into cognizance.

The agency's immediate

past Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Nigeria's Former Statistician General, Dr. Oyeyemi Kale alluded to this. He argued that intellectually thinking mindset take the best option/measurement/solution to any issue based on what is truly believed as the best as against political thinking that pushes for international standards today and against it tomorrow depending on the agenda. (**The Guardian**, Monday, August 28, 2023).

According to him, "when we understand that the primary purpose for data is not politics or ego boosting/chest thumping but evidenced-based policy and to understand the problems and proffer solutions and then monitor success of those policies, we will get it. But apparently, we are not ready. So much for the informal sector workers were never captured, lie lying unintelligently with statistics. All that change is allowable hours, informal workers often tend to work even longer hours than formal workers. They are usually up before and often close after we formal sector people are home.

"An intellectually thinking mindset will make you simply look at what's the best

option/measurement/solution to any issue based on what you truly believe is best. Political thinking will make one push for international standard today and against it tomorrow depending on the agenda. You can't plan for gainful employment and measure something else because of so called international standards when various countries have different priorities. Yes, do your international comparisons but you must move importantly also provide for local demands/policies.

"This means your measurement oil should align with your policy goals. If the government aims to provide gainful employment, then you must measure gainful employment. If it is to guarantee just an hour of work a day then you measure that. We can also see here that contrary to the lies, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was always

fully and transparently captured throughout and to use ILO for international comparison but not for our own local needs, which is to inform policy makers, whatever that policy is. That must be the main objective of data, not pushing out unintelligent lies," he submitted.

It is a stark reality that the huge unemployment rate in Nigeria cannot be wish away. It is a monster which must be tamed or else it consumes the society in its entirety. It has been on record-severally that a lot of vices like armed robbery, banditry amongst other security challenges have been blamed on unemployment. The visible exacerbation of unemployment in Nigeria as mentioned earlier is a time-bomb waiting to explode. Therefore, government must evolved concerted efforts to tackle this perennial albeit

**But must Nigeria adopt the new methodology in determining the number of its unemployed citizenry? Certainly not because, there maybe some peculiarities in the Nigerian situation with the rest of the other climes. Hence, the National Bureau for Statistics (NBS), the government agency saddled with the responsibility of coming up with the most accurate figure should take this into cognizance.**

# METRO-FOCUS

## What informs parents' choice of school?

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

CHILD education starts from home. Parents are their first teachers and they have a key role in shaping up their children's character. A well balanced education at home and school molds a child's actual learning ability and the future of the child.

Good parenting is an accumulation of actions and interactions that you have with your child. It is driven with a purpose in mind to develop the child. While parenting aims to train children's character traits to be independent, to possess self-direction, honesty, self-control, kindness, and cooperation. However, good parenting creates a foundation for a child's healthy, positive development, etc.

Again, educated parents are more likely to provide a good education background for their children.

Education is the greatest leveler of every child in the community both rich and poor. Education provides a window of opportunity for all children except for the ones that are not opportuned to have access to it.

In Nigeria today, parents are very mindful of the month of September because schools are resuming, children are going to new classes. Others are transiting to secondary or tertiary institutions.

In September, most Markets are filled with customers, mostly parents trying to buy school materials for their children to resume school for the first term.

Recently, it was observed that some parents within the Jos metropolis prefer to take their children to schools that are not in their neighbourhood, instead of the schools within their



community. METRO FOCUS correspondent went round within Jos North Local Government Area to sample the

opinions of parents as to why they prefer to send their children to certain schools, even though far from their home.

It was noted that within the locality of Jos North, there are other schools both private and public that have the quality, standard and their school fees are affordable, but parents have their preferred school for their children's education.

Research has indicated that parents' involvement in their children's education is important not only when a child is in primary school but also when they are in secondary school and tertiary institutions, regardless of the child's gender.

Among parents that METRO FOCUS interviewed were Mrs. Patience Yitwa, a resident of Jos North. She said that her daughter gained admission into Junior Secondary School (JSS) one in Federal Government College (FGC), Jos, 2022/2023 academic session.

She added that her choice as parent to send her child to FGC was because the school has a good standard in terms of education and discipline. Another attraction is that their school fees is affordable.

A parent who refused his name

to be in print said that his son was expelled from his former school last session for some obvious reasons. So, he decided to look for a school that is far away from his community.

He believes that with the new environment for his son, this would help him have a different perspective of life, he added.

Another parent, who is a resident of Hwolshe community of Jos South Local Government, Mr Caleb Mannaseh said that some parents choose to send their children to a private school, even if the school is far from their community only to reflect their class or status. However, there are those that are attracted to certain schools for their wards because the school has good standard of education that would help in molding the pupils and students' character to help them achieve their dreams in life.

Manasseh said definitely, such a school will get patronage from parents who want the best for their wards, no matter the distance.

However, in most cases, Mr Manasseh said, no matter how much a parent likes a school for his or her ward, you have to cut your coat according to your

clothes. It is wise to take your ward to the school you can afford.

He added that sometimes, the environment also plays a vital role. The first thing parents consider before enrolling their children in a school is how safe is the environment?

Mrs. Deborah Waja who resides in Jenta Apata of Jos North Local Government Area said that she prefers to send her children to school that are far from her community, if the school has good standard and foundation to impact knowledge to her children.

She stressed that most of the schools in her community don't have the qualification to be called a school. "Most of the schools in my neighborhood started as Day Care, but today they have graduated to primary school without standard of education for pupils of higher grade. They employ unqualified teachers to teach the children", she said.

There are many schools in Jos that can only be described as 'mushroom schools. They start off like a joke, a daycare today, and by tomorrow, a 2 room apartment in an unsafe environment bearing the name 'school'? One wonders how these people get certified.

A teacher and parent, Mrs. Juliet Pam said that she is not bothered whether the school is within her community or far. As far as the school has the educational standard to impact knowledge to her children.

She maintained that she would love to have her children close to her, where she works as a teacher and that would help her to monitor her kids as well.

To this end, what makes a great parent is when kids watch their parents interact with one another respectfully. They get their first lessons on how to get along with other people. When they observe how their parents work through problems, they learn to resolve conflict.

When they see their parents show affection to each other, they feel comfortable and secure.

Nonetheless, the strongest lessons children learn are from what goes on in their homefront.

Education still remains key to development and having a better society and the world at large.

Parents should note that changing schools for their children should not be done based on your social status or trying to compete with other parents.

Education is a lifter to all, both poor and rich children, to those that attend public or private schools.





# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## DEPUTY GOV. PIYO RECEIVES CHRISTIAN NURSES, SECTOR COMMANDER

Plateau State Deputy Governor, Her Excellency, Hon. Josephine Piyo recently received in her office the National President, Fellowship of Christian Nurses, Analis Dasat and the Sector Commander, FRSC, Mr. Alphonsus Godwin on solidarity visit at Government House Rayfield, Jos



Hon. Josephine Piyo (left) responding to the message from the National President, Christian Nurses, Analis Dasat



Plateau State Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo (left) in a handshake with the State Sector Commander of FRSC, Mr. Alphonsus Godwin



Deputy Governor, Ngo Piyo, National President, Christian Nurses, Dasat in a group photograph with members of the Christian Nurses



Press Secretary, Office of the Deputy Governor, Martha Nyam (left) with others during the visit

## NUJ ELECTIONS

The 2023 Nigeria Union of Journalists, Plateau State Council took place on Friday at the NUJ Press Centre, Jos. The opening ceremony was witnessed by the representative of Governor Mutfwang, NLC RATTAWU and the Chairmanship contestants had 114 each there will rerun Thursday



Governor Caleb Mutfwang, represented by Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms Commissioner Information (left) putting heads together with the outgoing NUJ Chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau (right) and NLC State Chairman, Comrade Eugene Manji



Chairmanship candidate, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo of PRTV Chapel casting her ballot



Members of the outgoing NUJ EXCO, flanked by NUJ National Officials signing solidarity songs



Chairmanship candidate, Mr. Ralph Madugu of Impact casting his ballot

Photos: DANLADI DUK

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NEWS

## PLASU to partner TCCN on staff development

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Vice Chancellor of Plateau State University Bokkos (PLASU), Professor Bernard Malau Matur has disclosed that the university is set to partner the Theological College of Education, Bukuru, in the areas of staff development and linkages that would enhance growth to overcome funding challenges.

This came in a press statement signed by the university's Public Relations Officer, PRO, John K. Agam, and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently, shortly after the Vice Chancellor played host to the management of the college in his office.

According to Professor Matur, "Plateau State University Bokkos, will remain a home to all Tertiary Institutions, more so that faith based educational institutions have continued to contribute to the moral and spiritual well-being of the youth.

"I hope that the Theological College of Education Bukuru will grow and transform into a faith based University of Education that will help in molding young Nigerians in knowledge and character for the development of not only Plateau State, but Nigeria and the world over", he assured.

While promising to operate an open door policy that would be mutually beneficial to the college and Plateau State University, Professor Matur, said, knowledge sharing



Bernard

remained a pre-requisite for the development of the state.

Speaking earlier, the Deputy Provost of the Theological College of Education Bukuru, Mrs Tanphena Obed Dashan, said, they were in the university to congratulate Professor Matur, on his appointment and to also solicit for the Vice Chancellor's support which had been cultivated when he was the Commissioner for Higher Education.

She said, "a common ground can be reached between the college and Plateau State University and we promise to continue to pray for more wisdom, knowledge and understanding for the Vice

Chancellor to provide quantitative leadership that will make the university stand out.

"As a faith based institution, the College believes in producing quality teachers that would impact and transform the society positively through the molding of both the mind and the soul for National Development.

"Although, the college got the approval of the National Commission for Colleges of Education barely two years ago and it has been working hard for the growth and expansion of its programmes to help meet up with the academic standard of other colleges, hence our outreach to institutions like PLASU", Dashan enthused.

## CROSSING the road at Traffic Signal Point

Basically, the watchword for pedestrians here is

When the Red Man shows, do not cross.

When the Green Man begins to flash, do not start to cross.

III. When the Green Man is steady, check to be sure that traffic has stopped, then cross quickly.

If you have started crossing when the Green Man begins to flash, you have time to finish crossing. Do so safely to finish up.

Watch the traffic as well as the lights.

VI. Don not cross when the lights are on Green or Amber.

Junction without Traffic Light

When crossing at a junction without traffic light, pay attention to traffic turning into the road especially from behind you.

Manned Traffic Control Point

This is a point where a traffic officer controls traffic.

Do not cross the road when the officer has permitted vehicular traffic to move or has signaled you to stop.

Cross ONLY when the officer signals you to do so.

Look out for oncoming vehicles as you cross briskly.

At Bus Stop Board or alight from a bus or cab at an authorized Bus Stop.

Do not cross the road in front of a vehicle.

Do not board a vehicle while it is moving.

On Approach of Emergency Vehicle

An emergency vehicle is a vehicle designed and authorized to respond to emergencies. Emergency vehicles include, Ambulances, Fire Trucks, Law enforcement vehicles, etc.

Give way to all categories of emergency vehicles. On the road. They life they are trying to save may be yours of that of a relation or friend.

When walking with children

Children are easily distracted on the road by fancy sights like ice cream vans, siren blasting and flasher displaying vehicles, carnivals, processions etc. An adult walking with children must guide and keep them on

track at all times. Children must never be let loose as they may run off to dangers. As such: Walk on the walkway/extreme left facing oncoming vehicles.

Hold the child on the left and position yourself between the child and traffic.

Note that pedestrians include children have right of way immediately they step on zebra crossing. However, do not claim such right at the expense of your safety. Only the living can claim right of way.

Guide for children of School Age Using The Road

When crossing the road, use pedestrian bridge or Zebra crossing where they are provided.

Walk facing oncoming traffic.

Use the walkway where provided.

Avoid playing on the road.

Scream and run away as fast as you can from total strangers who stop to give you lift. They are most likely to kidnapers and robbers.

Do not accept any gift from total strangers.

Wear bright- coloured clothing when walking at night.

Work Zone Warning Signals

The lives of highway construction workers depend on vehicles who are expected to obey speed limits and other signs at work zones. Do not forget, the colour orange marks a work zone and means slow down. The sign "SLOW DOWN, MEN AT WORK" may also be seen at such places. Flaggers (Traffic Control Signalers) are responsible for guiding drivers and other road users through work zone areas. They wear orange or yellow reflective vests, yellow-green reflective shirts or jackets. They use "STOP" or "SLOW" paddles or red flag to direct road users and to let workers or construction vehicles to cross the road.

This is a high visibility barrier tape used to enclose an area in order to restrict unauthorized persons. it is used at crash scene to ensure that existing pieces of evidence are not tampered with. Do not enter the area or cross the tape when in place.

## Minister highlights NAF's role in Tinubu's 8-point implementation

By DORCAS PANKYES

THE Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Dr Betta Edu, has highlighted the significant role of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) in the successful implementation of the government's 8-point agenda, led by President Bola Tinubu.

During her courtesy visit to the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, recently, Dr Edu emphasized the necessity of NAF's capabilities in reaching out to Nigerians in dire need of assistance, particularly in inaccessible areas.

Dr Edu stated the commitment of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to reducing the number of Nigerians requiring humanitarian aid regardless of their location. However, the minister noted that achieving this goal would only be possible with easy access to victims residing in remote or insecure areas. Therefore, she sought assurance and solicited assistance from the NAF headquarters in delivering relief materials to these needy individuals.

Furthermore, Dr Edu announced that the families of NAF veterans and those who sacrificed their lives while on duty would be included in the expanded poverty alleviation

programme, set to be implemented in the coming weeks.

To ensure the accurate identification of NAF beneficiaries under this programme, the minister proposed the establishment of a humanitarian desk officer at NAF Headquarters to facilitate liaison with her ministry during the compilation and submission of the beneficiary list.

Dr Edu also commended the NAF for its ongoing support to the ministry and its parastatal in areas such as casualty evacuation, relief materials distribution, and the safe return of stranded Nigerians in conflict zones abroad.

In response, Air Marshal Abubakar highlighted the longstanding collaboration between the NAF and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation. He assured the minister of the NAF's readiness and willingness to assist in achieving the ministry's mandate, emphasizing the importance of effective coordination as the cornerstone of successful humanitarian operations.

Furthermore, Air Marshal

Abubakar proposed key areas for strengthening the partnership between the NAF and the ministry, including joint training and capacity building, as well as optimizing disaster response protocols to enhance efficiency and resource allocation. He emphasized that close collaboration would ensure aid reaches those in need promptly and effectively. During her visit, the minister, accompanied by senior officials from her ministry, also paid tribute to fallen NAF personnel by laying a wreath at the NAF Memorial Arcade.



Edu



## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Jungle justice, human rights violations and institutions

**No religious group – Christians, Muslims, Jews, traditionalists, pagans has any right to kill any citizen under whatever reasons, including blasphemy. SAMUEL OLOMU writes.**

**A**CCORDING to a survey conducted in 2014 by NOI Polls, 43% of Nigerians had personally witnessed a mob attack. According to SB Morgen's report, 279 mob justice incidents happened, leading to the death of at least 391 individuals between 2019 and May 2022, of which 223 of the cases happened in the South while the remaining 168 occurred in the Northern part of the country. This in fact is to say that the menace of jungle justice is not ending any time soon, we are still counting numbers.

Jungle justice is a form of self-help, the justice of the people by the people and for the people and of course, an extrajudicial form of justice — championed by a group of bystanders, 'street guys', 'garage boys', etc., who serve as the witness, accuser, judge and executor at the same time — where an alleged criminal/suspect is humiliated, beaten or killed. In short, it is a form of illegal and unconstitutional form of justice which regards not the involvement of the police or other law enforcement agencies.

In this essay, I inquire into the illegality of jungle justice by enunciating various statutory and judicial instruments that stands against it by giving a detailed account of the nexus between this vile practice and human rights and subsequently enunciate the causes and possible recommendations to this menace.

Jungle justice and human rights: An overview

Learned Oputa, JSC, in *Josiah v The State* said: "Justice is not a one-way traffic. It is really a three-way traffic: justice for the appellant/accused of a heinous crime of murder; justice for the victim, the murdered man, the deceased — whose blood is crying to heaven for vengeance; and, finally justice for the society at large — the society whose social norms and values had been desecrated and broken by the criminal act complained of..."

In *R v SUSSEX Justices, Ex parte McCarthy*, Lord Denning said, "justice should not only be done but must be manifestly be seen to have been done". These dictums and authorities however postulates that justice is cardinal and the procedures for the administration of justice has been spelt out in our laws. The singular question now is that, does the administration of justice extends to the people? I.e. can any person, other than the court administer justice on anyone?

The results are everywhere. Recently, a mob have gruesomely lynched a 35-year-old man, Olorunfemi Tope, after he reportedly crushed four persons to death in an accident at Ijoka area of Akure, the Ondo state capital, on April 11. The victim was alleged to be an internet



fraudster by the mob. Going down memory lane, one of the most popular of reported previous cases was the lynching of four University of Port Harcourt students "Aluu 4" on October 12, 2012, over alleged theft of laptop devices.

Last year, a mob of Islamist Fundamentalists lynched Deborah Samuel, a student of Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto, on the school campus on religious grounds. Also, in 2022, a mob of Hausa okada riders lynched a young man, simply identified as David, burning him to death over a misunderstanding that ensued because of an N100 balance with a commercial motorcyclist.

From all these cases, I have more than enough questions to ask. Questions like: What if the court will hold otherwise in these cases? Does the law approve the killing of a person without a fair trial? Or does our law approves one sidedness in the administration of justice? But how do we answer these questions?

Since no due process of law is followed in the administration of instant justice by the people; then it becomes an unarguable fact that, jungle justice is illegal and therefore, breaches many provisions of the constitution (as amended), Administration of Criminal and Justice Act (2015), Criminal Procedure Act (2004) and some other statutory provisions.

Section 33 (1) of the 1999 constitution provides for the

right to life of every citizen but however specifically gives that sole right (to carry out such proceedings and conviction of the person) to a court of law. Similarly, Article 4 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1986 states that the life and integrity of every individual shall be sacrosanct, and no one shall be unlawfully denied of it.

This is to say that the mob's brutality and use of violence erode the essence of legal clauses by condemning and killing other persons, thus contrary to the legal provisions which upholds the right to human life and specifically exempt it to different grounds including the sentence of a court in regard of a criminal offence. And to do otherwise will be unlawful, barbaric, capricious, unconstitutional and in all respect condemnable.

Jungle justice is also against the right to inhumane and degrading treatment. This right is provided for under Section 34(1 & 2) of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria, Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 7 of the ICCPR, and Article 1, Paragraph 1 of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In essence, all these legal sources clearly emphasize that any torture or severe physical and mental pain shall not be inflicted upon any person (crime suspect) to punish extrajudicially or obtain a confession from them

during a criminal investigation. Mob justice infringes this right as it involves alleged suspects being subjected to physical violence, torture, inhumane and degrading treatment, which consequently results in mental and physical health complications.

In the same vein, section 36 (4, 5 and 6) of the Constitution also makes an emphasis on the procedures and due process to take regarding conviction of a suspect. In the apple eye of the law, every person charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed to be innocent until proved guilty with the offence by a competent court of law — even if the person is caught doing the act. In essence, anything outside the provisions of the said section of the constitution is tantamount to infringement upon freedom to fair hearing as enshrined in the constitution and jungle justice will not stand otherwise.

Similarly, section 8 (1 and 3) of Administration of Criminals and Justice Act (2015) gives jungle justice no room, and thus, prohibits jungle justice. And by implication, any person caught or arrested participating or engaging in mob justice may face relevant criminal charges.

And in affirmation and support to the above statutory provision, the Supreme Court, Anthony Ikechukwu Iguh, JSC in *Kalu v. State* held the dictum that:

"...for a valid and proper arraignment of an accused person, the following three conditions must be satisfied namely:-

(i) The accused person must be placed before the court unfettered unless the court shall see cause otherwise to order;

(ii) The charge of information shall be read over and explained to him to the satisfaction of the court by the Registrar or other officer of the court; And

(iii) The accused shall then be called upon to plead instantly thereto (unless, of course, there exists any valid reason to do otherwise such as objection to want of service where the accused is entitled by law to service of a copy of the information and the court is satisfied that he has in fact not been duly served therewith)..."

But, despite the warning signs of the law, Nigerians who perpetrates jungle justice have failed to yield these signs and regrettably, the story is not changing anytime soon.

Causes and possible recommendations

Despite the explicit provisions of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria and the state's embrace of international human rights treaties, the condition of human rights is in shambles, occasioned by mob action and the age-long state's institutional inefficiencies. While the mob

violates the rights by disregarding the conventional justice system, the police and court complicate the justice process with corrupt practices. Citizens in Nigeria are at the mercy of police personnel in their unprofessional and illegal conduct.

First to consider is the dysfunctional judicial system. The court is the last resort of a common man but now, even the common never find solace in that abode. Justice delayed is justice denied. In actuality, the administration of justice is slowed down by our legal system. A quicker delivery of justice is one of the crucial tools usable in the fight against jungle justice. Criminal trials and proceedings shouldn't be delayed excessively. Additionally, anyone caught should be made to face the consequences set forth by the law.

Also, the law enforcement agencies has lost their credibility and as such, the people no longer have trust in them. Section 4 of the Police Act (2004) empowers the police as the only agency recognized and certified by law to apprehend and prosecute a suspect. Unfortunately, the Nigeria Police Force, which is charged with such a duty, has a poor reputation and is equally weak. Police are perceived as aiding and abetting criminality. In essence, the NPF needs to be reorganized—rehabilitated even. There is a paramount need to end jungle justice by building an effective and efficient police that would be capable of enforcing the law and preventing people from taking the law into their hands.

Moreover, ignorance and illiteracy is one of the major causes of jungle justice. Over the years Nigeria has breed thousand of citizens who are not aware of their rights, duties and obligations as citizens. They are not aware whatsoever of the constitution of the land and as such they tend to act in the contrary to the stipulated laws of the law. Therefore, the public's reorientation and education about respect for the rule of law and fundamental human rights (right to life and freedom from fear of hearing) should be the mission of both governmental and non-governmental groups.

In conclusion, this article has reflected in its introduction the prevalence of Jungle justice in the Nigeria society. It also evaluated the illegality of jungle justice as it relates to human rights of an aggrieved person and thereafter concludes by enunciating the various causes and possible solutions to ameliorate this menace. But back to the big question; is jungle justice ending anytime soon?

## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Hudson-Odoi makes Nottingham Forest bow in defeat

**C**ALLUM Hudson-Odoi played 62 minutes as Nottingham Forest Under-21s were beaten 2-1 by League Two club Harrogate Town in the EFL Trophy group stage.

The 22-year-old winger, who joined Forest from Chelsea on Friday, was substituted soon after George Thomson's penalty gave the Sulphurites the lead.

Anthony O'Connor curled in with eight minutes left to make it 2-0 but Detlef Esapa Osong quickly pulled one back.

Meanwhile, Newcastle United U21s lost 1-0 at League Two Wrexham.

Sam Dalby pounced in the box to net the only goal in the 13th minute, with Tom O'Connor coming close to doubling the lead in the 65th minute when his free-kick hit the crossbar.

Elsewhere, League Two clubs Forest Green Rovers, Gillingham, Accrington Stanley and Crawley Town all had success against League One opposition, with Crawley beating Charlton Athletic 4-3 and the Gills coming from behind to see off nine-man Leyton Orient 2-1.

Third-tier sides Bolton Wanderers, Bristol Rovers, Blackpool and Oxford United all registered comfortable wins among the 14 ties on Tuesday.

Hudson-Odoi was one of seven players to sign for Forest on transfer deadline day, and was included in the Premier League club's U21 side which was captained by former Porto and Atletico Madrid defender Felipe.

The England international's only real moment of note in front of a

crowd of 1,178 at the EnviroVent Stadium came in the opening half hour when he sent a long-range effort well over the bar.

Crawley Town came out on top from a see-saw encounter at home against managerless Charlton, in which the Reds took a first-minute lead through Harry Forster.

The Addicks went 2-1 up as Miles Leaburn and Tyreece Campbell struck within the space of four minutes, but Crawley levelled in first-half stoppage time when Klaidi Lolos headed in.

George Dobson put the Londoners back ahead before goals from Nick Tsaroulla and Rafiq Khaleel settled it for the hosts.

Gillingham responded to successive league defeats by beating Leyton Orient thanks to Cheye Alexander's penalty and an own goal from Omar Beckles.

O's manager Richie Wellens was starting a two-match touchline ban but the visitors led two minutes before the break after an own goal from home goalkeeper Glenn Morris.

However, Orient forward Shaq Forde was sent off for an off-the-ball incident just after the hour mark and Brandon Cooper was dismissed three minutes later for a foul on Macauley Bonne, and the Gills scored twice in the last 10 minutes to grab all three points.

Forest Green Rovers beat Shrewsbury Town 3-0, with Dylan Kadji, Tyrese Omotoye and Matt Stevens on the scoresheet, and AFC Wimbledon also came out on top against higher opposition as the



Callum Hudson-Odoi, who has won three international caps for England, cost Nottingham Forest less than £5m

Dons beat Stevenage 6-5 on penalties following a 1-1 draw.

Accrington rounded off the upsets courtesy of a late own goal from Corey Whelan, which gave them a 1-0 win at home against Carlisle United.

Wales forward Mark Harris took his tally to five goals for the season with a double in Oxford United's 3-1 win against 10-man Northampton Town.

The former Cardiff City man scored either side of Kyle Edwards' effort after Tyreece Simpson had given the Cobblers an early lead from the penalty spot, and the hosts had Max Dyché sent off with 14 minutes remaining.

Bolton Wanderers made it six wins from nine games in all competitions at the start of the season with a 3-0 triumph over Salford City at the Toughsheet Stadium.

Carlos Mendes Gomes opened the scoring in the first minute with a 25-yard shot, Ricardo Santos headed in the second in the 12th minute, and Aaron Morley rounded off the scoring when he fired into the bottom corner seven minutes after half-time.

Bristol Rovers were 3-0 ahead at the break against Cheltenham Town through strikes from James Gibbons, Anthony Evans and Aaron Collins.

The Robins pulled one back five minutes after the break when Gibbons put through his own net but another own goal, this time from Rob Street, restored the Pirates' three-goal lead.

Sonny Carey and debutant Kylian Kouassi gave Blackpool a 2-0 win at Barrow and Barnsley also got their campaign under way by the same scoreline against Grimsby Town, with Owen Dodgson and Aiden Marsh scoring.

Fleetwood, who sacked boss Scott Brown on Sunday, saw off Tranmere 2-0 after Rovers defender Dan Pike was sent off with 18 minutes remaining for a second bookable offence.

Jayden Stockley scored from the resulting penalty kick and Phoenix Patterson added the second in the 82nd minute.

Meanwhile, Ben Garrity's 18th-minute goal gave Port Vale a 1-0 home victory over Crewe Alexandra

as the visitors had Ryan Cooney sent off deep into stoppage time for a second bookable offence.

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Callum James Hudson-Odoi (born 7 November 2000) is an English professional footballer who plays as an attacking midfielder or left winger for Premier League club Nottingham Forest.

During his time with Chelsea's academy, Hudson-Odoi was part of the squads which won the U18 Premier League in 2017 as well as back-to-back FA Youth Cup titles. His form at youth level was rewarded in January 2018 when he was handed his senior debut and he has since made over 110 appearances for the club.

Hudson-Odoi also enjoyed considerable success at youth level for England, being part of the squad which ended as runners-up in the UEFA European Under-17 Championship and which won the FIFA U-17 World Cup in the same year. In March 2019, he became the youngest player to debut in a competitive match for England, doing

so in UEFA Euro 2020 qualifiers against the Czech Republic.

Hudson-Odoi was born in Wandsworth, London to Ghanaian parents and raised in Wandsworth, London. He is the younger brother of non-League striker Bradley Hudson-Odoi and the second son of former Hearts of Oak Ghanaian midfielder Bismark Odoi. He has a younger brother. Hudson-Odoi was educated at independent Whitgift School in Croydon.

Hudson-Odoi joined Chelsea in 2007 and made his under-18 debut in August 2016. He went on to net eight times in twenty-five appearances in his debut campaign, assisting the under-18's to their eight FA Youth Cup triumph. Following this, Hudson-Odoi was promoted to the under-23 team at the age of sixteen and went on to score four times in three games during their EFL Trophy campaign, including a double in their 2-2 draw with League One team Plymouth Argyle.

On 20 December 2017, Hudson-Odoi first appeared in Chelsea's matchday squad in their EFL Cup tie against AFC Bournemouth, remaining as an unused substitute in the 2-1 victory. On 28 January 2018, Hudson-Odoi made his first-team debut in the FA Cup match against Newcastle United. He came off the bench in the 81st minute, replacing Pedro in a 3-0 home victory. His Premier League debut came as a substitute on 31 January in a 3-0 home loss to Bournemouth.

Following an impressive 2018-19 pre-season under the newly appointed Maurizio Sarri, the Italian announced that Hudson-Odoi would stay with the Chelsea first-team squad for the forthcoming campaign. Following this, Hudson-Odoi was handed the number 20 jersey. On 5 August 2018, Hudson-Odoi made his first start for the club during their FA Community Shield defeat to Manchester City, featuring for 59 minutes in the 2-0 loss. In his first Europa League start against PAOK, he scored his first goal for the senior team, which went on to win 4-0 at Stamford Bridge on 29 November.



## SUNDAY SPORTS

## Serbia defeat Canada to reach basketball World Cup final

**Bogdan Bogdanovic scores 23 in win over Canada to help Serbia reach its second final in the last three editions. Lisa Marie David writes.**

**S**ERBIA have beaten Canada 95-86 to reach the men's basketball World Cup final, where they will face either Germany or the United States.

Bogdan Bogdanovic was Serbia's top scorer, with 23 points, in Friday's semifinal in the Philippines' capital, Manila, followed by Ognjen Dobric and Nikola Milutinovic, who each scored 16.

Svetislav Pesic's side were leading 52-39 at the break and never let go of the lead, imposing their will in the paint and controlling the boards.

For Canada, RJ Barrett scored 23 but Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the team's leading scorer, passer and rebounder, was held scoreless in the first 15 minutes amid tight coverage and foul trouble.

He finished the game with 15 points, two rebounds and nine assists, far below his tournament average of 25 points per game.

Serbia, the 1998 and 2002 winners, compete without their best player, Nikola Jokic, who decided not to play at the World Cup after leading the Denver Nuggets to the NBA championship in June, giving himself time to rest before the looming title defence.

Serbia also had to regroup during the tournament following the shock of losing reserve forward Borisa Simanic after he wound up needing a kidney removed after getting elbowed in a game against South Sudan.

Canada started the tournament with an emphatic 95-65 win over reigning Olympic silver medallist France, and had the second-lowest odds – behind the United States – of winning gold for the first time in their history. But it got into a slew of foul trouble early on in the semifinal, which kept the defence from getting on track, which in turn kept the offence from getting easy baskets.

The Canadians will now face the Germany-US loser for the bronze on Sunday, when they will try for their most significant international medal since winning silver at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Serbia lost to the US 129-92 in the final of the tournament's 2014 edition in Madrid, Spain. The Balkan nation lost in the quarterfinals of the 2019 tournament in China.

The Serbia men's national basketball team represents Serbia in international basketball competition and is controlled by the Basketball Federation of Serbia. Serbia is currently ranked sixth in the FIBA World Ranking.

From 1992 to 2003, the national team played under the name of FR Yugoslavia and from 2003 to 2006, under the name of Serbia and



**Serbia players celebrate after winning the match against Canada**

Montenegro in international tournaments. Following the Montenegrin declaration of independence in 2006, Basketball Federation of Serbia retained the place of Basketball Federation of Serbia and Montenegro as a FIBA member. Therefore, all the results and medals from this period are succeeded by the Serbia national team.

With the start of Yugoslav Wars in 1991, and subsequent breakup of Yugoslavia, the Yugoslavia national team was disbanded. The team consisted of players selected from the population of over 23 million people, and the basketball infrastructure was evenly distributed among the six states which formed the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In 1992, FR Yugoslavia was established as the federation of the two remaining Yugoslav republics, Serbia and Montenegro. The newly established country had less than half the population of the former country. The Basketball Federation of FR Yugoslavia became the governing body of basketball for the new country. After the adoption of UNSCR 757, the national team was suspended from participating in international tournaments. Due to

these sanctions and ongoing war, the national team was prevented from participating at the 1992 Summer Olympics, EuroBasket 1993 and 1994 FIBA World Cup.

Without much sponsorship for the war-impooverished country, the national team made its comeback to the international scene at the EuroBasket 1995 in Greece, where it won the gold medal; after defeating Lithuania in the final. At the 1996 Summer Olympics, the team lost 69-95 to the United States in the gold-medal game. After the defeat, the national team would go on to claim the gold medal in their next two international competitions, EuroBasket 1997 and the 1998 FIBA World Cup; while winning the bronze medal at EuroBasket 1999 and reclaiming gold once again at the EuroBasket 2001.

One of the most notable wins for the Yugoslavia national team came in the quarter-finals of the 2002 FIBA World Cup, where the host nation of the tournament, the United States was eliminated 81-78. The significance of the win was tremendous for the Serbian people in general, as the public in Serbia perceived the United States political leadership responsible for the breakup of Yugoslavia, and

destruction of the country's infrastructure; as well as civil victims during the 1999 NATO bombing of Yugoslavia. Thereafter, the Yugoslavia national team went on to win the competition, by defeating New Zealand in the semi-finals and Argentina in the final 84-77 in OT to win the gold medal.

In 2002, FR Yugoslavia consisted of the states of Serbia and Montenegro. The merged nations came to a new agreement regarding continued co-operation, which, among other changes, promised the end of the name Yugoslavia. On 4 February 2003, the federal assembly of Yugoslavia created a loose state union—the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. The following years were underwhelming as the national team failed to make the podium at international tournaments, after decades of winning medals.

At the EuroBasket 2003, the team came in sixth place, but due to their world champion status, were automatically qualified for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Greece. Entering 2004, the national team participated in the less important Diamond Ball tournament, prior to the 2004 Olympic Games where they won the gold medal. Although the team was unable to carry over the momentum heading into the Olympics, and were eliminated in the group stage with a (1-4) record, finishing in 11th place.

After two consecutive tournament disappointments, hopes of getting back on the podium returned for the EuroBasket 2005 where Serbia and Montenegro was the host nation. Heading into the tournament, was brought back for a second stint as head coach of the national team. However, they were eliminated in the play-off stage by France 74-71, and finished in ninth place. After the tournament, Obradović stepped down, and blamed a bad atmosphere among the team's star players for the failure. The team then participated at the 2006 FIBA World Cup on a wild card, due to the results in the past on the initiative by FIBA prominent administrator Borislav Stanković. Although the national team of Serbia

and Montenegro came up short once again, with another ninth place finish.

On 21 May 2006, Montenegrins voted in an independence referendum, with 55.5% supporting independence. The subsequent Montenegrin proclamation of independence in June 2006 and the Serbian proclamation of independence on 5 June ended the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro and thus the last remaining vestiges of the former Yugoslavia.

Following the dissolution of the state union of Serbia and Montenegro, the national team participated at the EuroBasket 2007. There, the team finished the competition failing to make it out of the group stage after three close losses. The result failed to qualify the team for the 2008 Summer Olympics, which was their first time missing the Olympic tournament after missing it in 1992 due to suspension.

In December 2007, the legendary Dušan Ivković hinted that he would take the helm as head coach of the national team.

Under Ivković's coaching, a new generation of players led by Nenad Krstić and Miloš Teodosić returned some of the old glory by taking the silver medal at Eurobasket 2009. At the 2010 FIBA World Cup, after narrowly defeating Croatia in the Round of 16, Miloš Teodosić hit a deep three-point shot to upset the favourites of the tournament Spain in the quarter-finals.<sup>[10]</sup> Entering the semis, Serbia would come up short, after a controversial referee's error to the tournament's host Turkey 83-82. With the youngest team in the competition, Serbia eventually finished in fourth place after losing to Lithuania 99-88 in the bronze-medal game.

At the EuroBasket 2011, the team failed to reach the semi-finals, finishing the tournament in eighth place; thus failing to qualify for the 2012 Summer Olympics. At the EuroBasket 2013, the team was once again eliminated in the quarter-finals and finished in seventh place.



**Serbia's Bogdan Bogdanovic in action with Canada's Dillon Brooks**

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Minister calls for strategic sports governance

**S**PORTS minister, John Owan-Enoh, has called for more focus on governance, following President Bola Tinubu's victory at the Presidential Election Petition Tribunal (PEPT) on Wednesday.

Owan-Enoh made the call in a statement signed by his media aide, Kola Daniel, on Thursday in Abuja.

The minister congratulated President Tinubu for his victory at the tribunal, saying it has once again confirmed the president as the winner of the February 25 Presidential poll.

According to Enoh, the former Lagos State governor was the best man Nigeria needs at this critical time and enjoined all Nigerians to support his reins he continued on his maewed hope agenda, and date to bring development to Nigeria.

"I join millions of well-meaning Nigerians to congratulate President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on his victory at the tribunal.



Owan-Enoh

"It represents a win for Nigeria and a victory for democracy, as the yearnings and aspirations of our people have been upheld by the judgement delivered," he said.

Owan-Enoh called on Nigerians to join hands with the present administration to move the nation forward, especially after the

verdict of the tribunal.

"I call on all individuals to join hands and work for the betterment of our country, as this is the only country we have.

"It's our collective responsibility to move the country out of the doldrums to greater prosperity. Now that the verdicts have been made, all focus should be on governance," he added.

By **ABBAS GUNGURA**

**I**N appreciation of Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State for including two of its members into the recent constitution of Interim Management of Wikki Tourists Football Club of Bauchi.

SWAN Bauchi State chapter has assured of partnering with Bauchi State government to uplift the standard of sports in the state.

The Bauchi State SWAN Secretary, BalaBawaji, in a signed press statement made available to sports journalists in Bauchi, said the appointment of Umar Saidu and DaudaCiroma to serve in the new Management Board of the state darling team is well received with thanks and appreciated by the association.

He therefore commended Bauchi State Commissioner of Youths and Sports Development, Muhammad Salees for being proactive in intervening to salvage Wikki Tourists from total collapse by bringing in well experienced and tested

## Bauchi SWAN appreciates Gov. Bala



Mohammed

hands to oversee the affairs of the club under the Chairmanship of Alhaji Aminu Dalhatu Umar.

The statement however, appealed to all stakeholders in sports in the state to support the Aminu Dalhatu led team with prayers and encouraging words to return Wikki Tourists FC to its rightful position next football season.

While also commending Bauchi State Government under the good leadership of Governor Bala Mohammed for developing keen interest in sports development in the state, SWAN urged for timely release of funds by the government to enable the interim committee justify the confidence reposed in them by reciprocating the investment.

## Benue to revamp sports sector

By **TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi**

Governor Hyacinth Alia of Benue State



Akase

says his administration is poised to revamp the sports sector in the state by giving serious attention to the state's football team, Lobi Stars Football Club of Makurdi.

The governor who spoke recently in Makurdi during a phone-in programme in commemoration of his first 100 days in office said his administration will also bring back sports competitions such as Governor's Cup, Inter-state Football Competition as well as all secondary school games.

Governor Alia said other programmes such as ICT training which he said has already started, will become a constant thing during his administration as according to him, it will take youths off the streets thereby curtailing criminality.

He said women empowerment schemes are also on the front burner of his administration to enable women in the state to become self-reliant in order to support their families.

He added that as an agrarian state, his administration will support the people with improved agricultural inputs such as hybrid palm seedlings. These, he said, would enable them to have something that they can always fall back on.

The governor however warned against inflammatory and unsubstantiated statements from members of the public. He explained that such actions cause divisions and also pose security threats, insisting that those caught in the act will be made to explain their sources of information to security agencies.

In his contribution, the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Tersoo Kula assured people of the state that Governor Alia led administration will not betray the people's mandate.

He further assured the people of the governor's willingness and readiness to provide more democracy dividends for the people, adding that Benue State was

## Ex-U23 Nigerian Player takes charge of US U19 squad

**T**HE United States Soccer Federation has announced the appointment of former Nigeria Under-23 player, Michael Nsien, as the new Under-19 coach for their national team.

Nsien steps into the role following the promotion of Marko Mitrovic to lead the U23 squad. Prior to taking charge of the U19s, Nsien was in charge of the Under-16 team, leading the Baby Nats to a 2-1 victory over Nigeria in his final match last June.

Sporting Director, Matt Crocker, welcomed the appointments, saying both coaches are an "important



part" of the men's national team programme. "We're confident Michael is ready to

lead our under-19 age group, a critical level for our young players aiming to take

the next step in their careers," Crocker stated.

The 42-year-old Oklahoma native, whose parents are Nigerian, played college football at the University of Dayton between 1999 and 2003 before spells with LA Galaxy, Portland Timbers and UAE side Al-Shaab. He was also part of the Nigeria U23 team that narrowly missed out on the 2004 Olympics.

Since retiring, Nsien has earned all of UEFA's coaching qualifications. His peers have described him as a pioneering figure for Black coaches in the game.

## Oshoala nominated again for prestigious Women's Ballon D'Or

**B**ARCELONA Femeni and Super Falcons striker, Asisat Oshoala, has received a nomination for

the 2023 Women's Ballon d'Or.

Oshoala, known for her vital contributions to Nigeria's national team and her exceptional performances in Spain, continues to earn deserved recognition. The former Arsenal player was previously nominated for the 2023 Socrates Award, and her excellence has now earned her a place among the esteemed nominees for the Women's Ballon d'Or.

She will compete against talented players like Linda Caicedo, Rachel Daly, Alba Redondo, Mary Earps and others for the prestigious award. In the 2021/2022 season, the ex-Liverpool

star was the top Liga F scorer with 20 goals and four assists in 19 appearances. Last season, she continued her form, notching 21 goals and three assists in 28 domestic matches along with five goals in nine UEFA Women's Champions League games.

Despite fitness issues, Oshoala also impressed at the Women's World Cup, scoring against Australia to help Nigeria win. She will now look to compete against peers for the 2023 Women's Ballon d'Or with her nomination for the coveted prize.

Oshoala's consistency and attacking disposition make her a worthy nominee. All eyes will be on the



Oshoala

## SUNDAY SPORTS

# Gauff reaches first US Open final after protests

American teenager Coco Gauff reached her first US Open singles final by beating Karolina Muchova in a semi-final disrupted by climate protesters. Gauff, 19, wrapped up a 6-4 7-5 win over Muchova and will face second seed Aryna Sabalenka in Saturday's final. JONATHAN JUREJKO wites.

**F**OUR protesters chanting for the end of fossil fuels had interrupted the Gauff-Muchova match for 49 minutes.

One man glued his feet to the floor on Arthur Ashe Stadium with some chants of "kick them out" towards the protesters.

Security escorted three out but it took longer to remove the fourth. The United States Tennis Association said all four were in New York Police Department custody.

The drama was confined to the tennis court in the second semi-final where Australian Open champion Sabalenka dug deep to beat Madison Keys 0-6 7-6 (7-1) 7-6 (10-5) and prevent an all-American showpiece in New York.

It will be sixth seed Gauff's second attempt to win a Grand Slam singles final after finishing runner-up to Poland's Iga Swiatek at the 2022 French Open.

Gauff could not convert a match point when serving at 5-4, but broke Czech 10th seed Muchova to seal victory after winning a 40-shot rally to create the sixth opportunity.

Gauff raised her fist after clinching the win, signalling her defiance and fight, as the home crowd erupted.

After letting out another roar of celebration, she made a heart sign to the fans as a thank you for helping her get over the line.

Ultimately, the way Gauff finally secured victory was testament to her own resolve and a mental fortitude which she says has developed over a successful North American hard-court season.

"Some of those points it was so loud, I don't know if my ears will be OK. Please be louder - this is crazy," Gauff told the crowd in her on-court interview.

"I grew up watching this tournament, it feels so special. But the job is not done."

Ever since Gauff burst on to the scene as a 15-year-old phenomenon in 2019, she has been heralded as a future major champion.

Now she has earned another opportunity to reach the pinnacle of her sport while still a teenager after a gutsy win over Muchova at Flushing Meadows.

Gauff, who turned 19 in March, is the youngest American woman to reach her home Grand Slam final since Serena Williams in 1999.

It comes after she has enjoyed the best period of her career on the North American hard-court swing.

Winning her biggest singles titles in Washington and Cincinnati was the perfect preparation for the US Open and she has continued to thrive in front of expectant home crowds in New York.

Gauff made a fast start against a tight-looking Muchova, who was aiming to reach her second major singles final after also being beaten by Swiatek at the French Open this year.

A slew of mistakes from Muchova contributed heavily to a 5-1 deficit and once she settled - which enabled her to pose questions of Gauff's forehand - fought back to 5-4.

However, a poor service game from the Czech gifted the opening set to Gauff - and the drama of the protest came shortly afterwards.

The players were taken off court after the first game of the second set because one of the protesters, who were wearing Extinction Rebellion T-shirts, glued themselves to the floor.

"I just treated it like a rain delay," Gauff told ESPN.

"The only thing which was harder was that we had to leave the court and didn't know if it would be five minutes or an hour."

After the protesters were finally removed by police, the players resumed the match nearly 50 minutes



Coco Gauff is bidding for the first major singles title of her career

after the previous point.

The pair continued to hold serve in the second set until what had slowly developed into a gripping contest suddenly burst further into life.

Gauff broke for 5-4 but, like in the first set, could not serve out and needed to show all of her will to get over the line.

With most of the focus on Gauff, Sabalenka had been quietly and efficiently getting on with business.

The 25-year-old, who will become the new world number one after the tournament, had not dropped a set on her way to the last four but had to find a different way to win against Keys.

Keys, who was the runner-up in 2017, showed her pin-point quality from the baseline and hit an array of winners in a one-sided opening set.

By contrast, Sabalenka was spraying the ball and produced a series of unforced errors to benefit her opponent.

Sabalenka had won only one of her previous six Grand Slam semi-finals, including defeats when she held leads at this year's French Open and Wimbledon.

Flinging a racquet towards her team early in the second set illustrated her frustration and her body language throughout indicated her stress levels.

But she showed extraordinary determination to fight back and earn what must be one of the most satisfying wins of her career.

Keys served for the match at 5-4 in the second set, but she was broken to love as Sabalenka won 12 points in a row to turn the tide.

Although Keys regained composure to save two set points at 6-5, Sabalenka dominated the tie-break to force the decider.

The pair battled for supremacy in a tense third set, exchanging breaks in the seventh and eighth games, leading to the first-to-10 match tie-break.

Sabalenka thought she had won at 7-3 - like she would in a normal tie-break - and had to regain focus to reach the US Open final for the first time.

"Somehow, I don't know how, I turned around this match and it really means a lot to be in the US Open final for the first time," she said.

US Open finalist Coco Gauff says she is not "upset" at climate protesters for interrupting her semi-final with

Karolina Muchova.

Four people stood chanting for the end of fossil fuels in the Arthur Ashe Stadium upper tier before the second game of the second set in New York.

The contest was delayed for 49 minutes at Flushing Meadows, with one gluing their feet to the floor.

American Gauff, 19, said protests like these are "history-defining" moments. Security escorted three out but it took longer to remove the fourth.

"Would I prefer it not to happen in my match? 100% yeah," said Gauff. "I'm not going to sit here and lie. But it is what it is."

"I always speak about preaching, you know, preaching about what you feel and what you believe in."

"It was done in a peaceful way, so I can't get mad at it. Obviously, I didn't want it to happen when I'm winning 6-4 1-0 and I wanted to keep the momentum going."

"But hey, if that's what they felt they needed to do to get their voices heard, I can't really get upset at it."

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) said all four were in New York Police Department (NYPD) custody.

"The fourth protester affixed their bare feet to the floor of the seating bowl," the USTA said in a statement.

"Due to the nature of this action, NYPD and medical personnel were needed in order to safely remove this individual from the stadium."

Extinction Rebellion NYC wrote on X (formerly Twitter): "Tennis as usual won't be possible on a planet in which humanity fails to keep global warming below 1.5C."

"If activists don't disrupt these games, the climate will."

Play stopped at 20:05 local time in New York when sixth seed Gauff had established her early one-set lead.

While the players waited, Czech 10th seed Muchova received some medical treatment and Gauff practised serves.

Gauff, who went on to win 6-4 7-5 after a thrilling end to the match, said she had predicted there might be an interruption at Flushing Meadows this weekend.

"I had a feeling it was going to happen this tournament," she said. "It happened at the French Open, it happened at Wimbledon, so just following the trend, it was definitely

going to happen here.

"I was just hoping it wasn't my match, and honestly, I thought we made it through."

Members of the crowd voiced their frustration at the stoppage and directed chants of "kick them out" towards the protesters.

Eventually, the players were instructed to leave the court and head to the locker room as security staff and NYPD officers tried to resolve the situation.

"Two of them were removed, they quietly left without further protest," US Open tournament director Stacey Allaster told ESPN.

"When security got there, they found that one of the protesters had physically glued themselves in their bare feet to the cement floor."

The protesters were wearing T-shirts with the logo of the Extinction Rebellion protest group and bearing the slogan 'End Fossil Fuels'.

Earlier this year, Just Stop Oil protesters interrupted play at Wimbledon by throwing orange-coloured confetti and jigsaw pieces on to court 18.



The protesters were wearing T-shirts with the logo of the Extinction Rebellion protest group and bearing the slogan 'End Fossil Fuels'



# 'Super Eagles will take Sao Tome match seriously'



Super Eagle putting heads together

**The President of the Nigeria Football Federation, Ibrahim Gusau, has assured Nigerians that the Super Eagles will take the match against Sao Tome and Principe seriously, despite already securing the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations qualification.**

PUNCH reports that the Super Eagles will on Sunday, lock horns with Sao Tome and Principe in an AFCON qualifier in Uyo.

Gusau gave the assurance on Thursday, in Abuja, when the National President, Sports Writers Association of Nigeria, Isaiah Benjamin, led a delegation on a courtesy visit to his office.

The NFF boss told newsmen after the visit that the Federation will leave no stone unturned to ensure victory for the team.

"I want to assure you by the grace of God, in spite of the fact that we have already qualified for the AFCON, we still have the integrity to protect Nigeria and Nigerians.

"I know the players also have that at the back of their minds and by the grace of God, we are going to come out victorious on Sunday, Insha Allah," he assured.

Gusau said the match will also serve as preparation for the 2026 World Cup qualifiers scheduled to commence in November.

"As you are aware, the coach has invited the best players for the match, which a lot of people were even looking at

that it doesn't warrant that. "But don't forget that we still have a very big task ahead of us, which is the World Cup qualifiers, which starts in November.

"After this match, we don't have any time to bring the Super Eagles players together again.

"So, it's imperative for the coach to have the best team at his disposal so that he can make sure he has a team that can face the next challenge," he said.

The Super Eagles will commence their 2026 World Cup qualifiers against Lesotho on November 13.

Earlier, the SWAN president, Benjamin, said the visit was meant to strengthen the synergy between the NFF and SWAN.

"Based on your track records in the football circle, even before becoming NFF President, we had no doubt that you will deliver. It will be my joy that we work and achieve success together," he said.

While stressing the need for all hands to be on deck to take football to the next height in the country, Benjamin reiterated SWAN's commitment to professional and balanced reportage of NFF's activities.

Football (soccer) was brought around the beginning of the 20th century during Portuguese rule, later in the 1930s, it held its first provincial championship and continued up to 1974, before the nation became

independent. That time, football was the only sport in the nation played.

Since 1977, the São Toméan Football Federation has been organizing the national championships, Campeonato Santomense de Futebol. Also during that time when Principe did not have its island competition, the island championship was also the national championships until

1985. That continued from 1986 to 1988, 1991, 1992 and from 1994 to 1997.

Since 2013 the winner of the São Tomé Primeira Divisão (São Tomé) has competed against the winner of the Príncipe Island League. Previously the Landessieger was determined in only one finals game. On Principe six clubs of the island play in the first Inselliga, of which the

last placed in the second division, the Segunda Divisão descends. On the much larger island of São Tomé, the FSF maintains three game levels. Ten clubs play there in the top flight, the Primeira Divisão. This is followed by a second league, the Segunda Divisão, with ten clubs. The bottom level represents the third league, the Terceira Divisão, which is divided into two groups of five teams each. From 2012 to 2015, ten clubs competed in the Premier Division.

The Campeonato Santomense is the club Sporting Clube Praia Cruz with 6 titles followed by Vitória Futebol Clube de Riboque with 5 championships (as of 2014). For the first time, UDRA de Angolares won the 2014 national championship. They won the double for the first time with his 2014 second consecutive victory of the national cup. Recently Sporting Praia Cruz won two straight titles in 2016.

Football is still the most popular sport today, it dominates most or much of the sports popularity in the nation, more than basketball and volleyball. Another sport known as futsal is non-existent in the country.

In various individual years the championship was suspended, as a result of politically unstable situations in the country or financial distress of the association. So far the title went 22 times to clubs from São Tomé, seven titles went to the island Príncipe.

The Taça Nacional de São Tomé e Príncipe is first held on the two main islands. The two winners of each main island determine the trophy in a

final. The record holder is eight Vitória Riboque cups. From its foundation in 1977 to the early 1990s, the national level was the only competition, from that time, Príncipe held its own cup competition and qualified to the quarterfinals of the cup competition. From 2001, São Tomé's own cup competition was established and the national competition reduced to two matches.

The São Tomé and Príncipe national team has been one of the weakest in Africa and, having been inactive between 2003 and 2011, was at one point no longer included in the FIFA World Rankings.<sup>[2]</sup> In 2011 the national team made a comeback, even beating Lesotho in a two-leg play-off in the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations qualification before being eliminated by Sierra Leone.

The São Tomé and Príncipe Championship is the country's top competition, with Sporting Praia Cruz and Vitória FC (Riboque) its most successful clubs. It is not however a league in the conventional sense but rather is decided by a play-off between the winners of the São Tomé Island League and the Príncipe Island League. Like Cape Verde

further to the northwest in the Atlantic, they are the only two countries in Africa where only the title of each national subdivision spends only a year in the competition and being the few remaining nations to do so. Unlike Cape Verde, it may be the only remaining nation that the national championship consists just the knockout phase and also just the finals match.

A national cup, the Taça Nacional de São Tomé e Príncipe, is also contested irregularly and also the Super Cup where the champion and a cup winner (sometimes a cup runner-up if a champion is also a cup winner) competes once a year.

## Brazil's Neymar overtakes Pele's goals

Neymar has surpassed Pele as Brazil's male all-time top scorer with two goals in a 5-1 win over Bolivia.

The forward, 31, who went into the World Cup qualifying match tied with legend Pele on 77 goals, missed a penalty before scoring twice in the second half on his 125th appearance.

"I never imagined reaching this record. I'm no better than Pele or any other player for the national team," he said.

Marta has scored a record 122 goals in 189 matches for Brazil's women's team.

Pele, who died in December aged 82, scored 77 goals in 92 appearances between 1957 and 1971. He was widely regarded to be one of the greatest footballers to ever play the game.

His official account on social media platform X paid tribute to Neymar's achievement.

"Congratulations Neymar for surpassing the King in goals for Brazil. Surely Pele is applauding you today!" it said.

Brazil coach Fernando Diniz said: "He came to do what he did: have fun, score two goals and break the record."

Neymar became the world's most expensive player when he joined Paris St-Germain from Barcelona for £200m in 2017.

He left the French side in the summer to join Saudi Pro League team Al-Hilal.

"He is a very big idol, people

must recognise him and accept him," Diniz added.

Elsewhere, Uruguay started their South American qualifying campaign with a 3-1 win against Chile under their new coach, former Leeds United boss Marcelo Bielsa.

