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## FG unveils draft regulations for upstream oil operations

**T**he Federal Government has unveiled seven additional draft regulations to improve operational and regulatory efficiency in

the upstream arm of Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

The unveiling was made through the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (UPRC) during which the agency engaged stakeholders in Abuja at the fourth phase of consultations to obtain

their inputs in finalising the laws.

The Chief Executive Officer, NUPRC, Gbenga Komolafe, said the stakeholders consultation was in line with section 216 (1) of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021, which requires the commission to consult with stakeholders prior to

finalising regulations or amendments to regulations.

Komolafe, who was represented by Executive Commissioner, Economic Regulation and Planning, Kelechi Ofoegbu, said one of the objectives of the PIA was to foster a business environment conducive for petroleum operations.

He recalled that between June 2022 and July 2023 the commission successfully produced 12 regulations which had been gazetted into law.

He said the best way to actualise this objective was by establishing a framework for the economic regulation of commercial operations in upstream oil and gas

ventures.

"This can be seen in NUPRC's efforts to ensure that regulations and key policies necessitated by the PIA are developed and gazetted timely so that the industry operators can align their operations with the PIA provisions as quickly as possible," he stated.



Komolafe

## FG approves contract appointments for retired healthcare workers

**T**HE Nigerian government has approved the appointment of doctors, nurses, and other clinical healthcare workers as contract staff after attaining their compulsory retirement age or years in service.

This is part of efforts to mitigate the mass exodus of health workers to developed countries,

which has led to an acute shortage of health professionals in the nation's health sector.

The approval was contained in a circular dated 5 October and issued by the Federal Ministry of Health.

In the circular, the government directed all chief executive officers of agencies, chief medical

directors, medical directors, and heads of regulatory bodies and schools to ensure strict compliance with a previous circular issued by the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation to all staff within their respective institutions.

This development follows a prior circular dated 30 August from the Office of the Head of the Civil

Service of the Federation (OHCSF).

The circular, titled 'Re: Review of retirement age to 65 and 70 years for health professionals and medical/dental consultants,' with reference number HCSF/SPSO/ODD/CND/100/S./145, was addressed to the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Health.

The circular, signed by

Olufemi Oloruntoba, the Permanent Secretary of the Service Policies and Strategies Office, on behalf of the HCSF, expressed the rejection of the proposed increase in retirement age for medical and dental consultants and other health professionals.

It cited several reasons for the rejection including the fact that healthcare professionals were leaving

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**Again  
gunmen  
kidnap  
varsity  
students in  
Nasarawa**

**G**UNMEN suspected to be bandits, have abducted at least four students of Nasarawa State University, Keffi (NSUK).

The incident, according to a source, occurred outside the school campus around Angwan Kare area of Keffi, on Monday night.

This is coming barely 24 hours after former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics) of NSUK, Professor Haruna Ayuba Kuje, was kidnapped on Sunday night.

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Representative of Governor Mutwang of Plateau State, Hon. Josephine Piyo, Deputy Governor in a photograph with the first female Chairman of NUJ, Ayuku Pwaspo, Government functionaries and NUJ EXCO yesterday during a courtesy call at Government House Rayfield, Jos

Photo: DANLADI DUK



News

**Local airlines demand jet fuel import licence**

**A**ON also asked the government to provide a dedicated line to access foreign exchange from the Central Bank of Nigeria to enable them to meet their obligations to passengers.

They called during a courtesy visit on the Minister of Aviation, Festus Keyamo, at his office in Abuja.

Abdulmunaf Yunusa, the President, AON, said the reason of the visit was to brief the minister about the challenges in the sector and proffer solutions, as well as congratulate him on his recent appointment as minister.

The association presented to the minister, where Roland Iyayi, the Chief Executive Officer, Top Brass Aviation, said there was a need to ensure the adequate supply of aviation fuel in the sector.

According to him, there is an urgent need to facilitate the liberalisation, procurement and

distribution of JetA1 nationwide and allow AON to procure a licence for product importation and distribution and also immediate review of industry multiple



Keyamo

taxes, fees and charges.

He said AON had been denied that right to get the licence for a long time, adding that airline operators were the end users and should be granted permission to penetrate the market to source aviation fuel and distribute.

**Again gunmen kidnap varsity students in Nasarawa**

*Continued from page 1*

The affected students are Rahila Hanya (SLT), Josephine Gershon (Computer Science), Rosemary Samuel (Business Administration) and Goodness Samuel of Geography Department.

Comrade Solomon Timmy, the head of the Student Union Government (SUG), confirmed the incident to newsmen on Tuesday, adding that the abducted victims are all 100-level students.

The SUG Secretary-General, Comrade Riwonga Lucky Ali, in a statement issued on Tuesday, urged students to remain calm as efforts are in place to secure their

release unhurt.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of NSUK Chapter of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Samuel Alu, has confirmed the release of Professor Kuje.

Alu said Prof. Kuje was released on Tuesday, and has been re-united with his family.

The former DVC was kidnapped by gunmen on Sunday night, at his private residence in Keffi.



Kuje

**Plateau NUJ wants government to overhaul own media**

**T**HE Chairman of the Plateau State Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ,

Mrs Ayuku Pwaspo has appealed to the state government to overhaul the

state owned media outfits, the Plateau Publishing Corporation, PPC, publishers of THE NIGERIA STANDARD newspaper and SUNDAY STANDARD and the Plateau

Radio and Television Corporation, PRTVC to project the image of the state by telling the Plateau story to the outside world.

the Fourth Estate of the Realm to partner with the government to harness the potentials of the state.

She commended the governor for efforts in tackling the security challenges that have bedevilled the state for years.

She pointed out that as agenda setters, their job was demanding and requires support and conducive environment to perform well.

Pwaspo stated that the NUJ secretariat was donated by the former governor of the state, the late Chief Solomon Lar in 1982 and successive administrations have done one project or the other with the recent remodelling of the Secretariat by the past governor, Barr Simon Bako Lalong. And appealed to the present administration to assist on the ongoing project, the NUJ House at the Press Centre which is a one storey building with 500 seater capacity hall and offices for lease.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang expressed delight for the visit and congratulated the Chairman, Mrs Ayuku Pwaspo for her emergence as the first female Chairman of NUJ on the Plateau and other officials at the recent election.

Mutfwang, represented by his Deputy, Mrs Josephine Piyo expressed confidence in the ability and competence of the first female chairman of the NUJ.

He urged Journalists as members of the fourth estate of the realm and as partners in progress, to remain apolitical just as he pointed out that they owe a lot to members of public and society who look up to them.

Governor Mutfwang assured the leadership of the NUJ in the state of his readiness to partner with them by making sure that a conducive atmosphere was provided for them to operate.

On the request presented by NUJ, the governor's representative promised to channel it appropriately.

**Pate to prioritize strengthening health sector**

**T**HE Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof Ali Pate, has said that strengthening health sector governance, and institutions, and ensuring efficient, resilient and affordable quality health systems are some of his agenda for the country's health sector.

Prof Pate also noted that medical industrialisation, unlocking the healthcare value chains, and embedding health security as part of economic and national security are also his priorities for the health sector.

Pate disclosed this in a series of messages on his X handle @muhammadpate on Monday night.

He said he assumed his position with the mandate to transform the health sector in line with President Bola Tinubu's renewed hope agenda.

The minister said, "A couple of weeks ago I assumed office as the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare @Fmohnigeria with the mandate to transform Nigeria's healthcare system for improved health outcomes in line with H.E. President Bola A. Tinubu GCFR @officialABAT Renewed Hope Agenda."

"Our agenda focuses on four pillars: Strengthening health sector governance and institutions, smart and effective regulations, digitization, enhancing citizen voices and our responsiveness, and making sure no one is left behind."

"Efficient, resilient, equitable, affordable and quality health system to improve health outcomes by delivering preventive, promotive, and curative services, at primary healthcare and hospitals, by properly trained and motivated health workforce, and sustainable domestic financing."

"Medical industrialisation and unlocking the healthcare value chains, to create jobs and promote economic development."

"Embedding health security



Pate

as part of economic and national security," the global vaccine expert said.

He added that though the task is huge and the journey is long, "With commitment by all levels of our government, sectors, and partners, we will achieve our vision of a healthy, prosperous, and thriving Nigeria. This we will do with utmost transparency and impeccable accountability."

The PUNCH reports that Pate stepped down from becoming the Chief Executive Officer of Gavi six weeks before assuming the position.

Pate was meant to resume as the CEO of Gavi on August 3, 2023, following the

**Gov Yusuf rewards casual worker for returning \$16,000**

**G**OVERNOR Abba Kabir Yusuf of Kano State has offered a permanent and pensionable appointment to a casual worker at the State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Dayyabu Haladu, who returned missing \$16,000 during the last Hajj operation in Saudi Arabia.

This is contained in a statement issued to newsmen in Kano on Tuesday by his Press Secretary, Sanusi Bature Dawakin Tofa.

According to the statement, the Governor also offered Haladu a gift of N1 million and an automatic slot to enable him to perform the forthcoming Hajj.

It said Governor Yusuf disclosed the gesture while receiving the report of the board for the 2023 Hajj.

He expressed appreciation to the casual worker for displaying self contentment, adding that such character was an

announcement of his appointment by the global health organisation on February 13, 2023.

However, in a statement made available to our correspondent on Monday, GAVI noted that it decided to appoint another CEO, seeing as Pate will no longer resume as CEO.

In the statement, Pate informed the board of Gavi that he received a request to "return and contribute to his home country, Nigeria."

However, Pate has restated Gavi's commitment to prioritise Nigeria in the rollout of malaria vaccine and to contribute to the overall health care in the country.

excellent behaviour worthy of emulation by all and sundry.

"As a casual staff whose allowance is nothing to write home about, this gentleman managed to return the lost money."

The Governor urged the people of Kano to maintain the hard-earned reputation of the state by showcasing the good virtues of trustworthiness, self discipline and contentment so that they could live a happy life.

In his response, Haladu said he returned the lost money to the state Pilgrims Welfare Board for the fear of Allah, knowing well that it was not proper to use what did not belong to him in spite of the current economic hardships in the country.

He thanked the governor for the gesture, describing it as the happiest moment of his life.

**FG approves contract appointments for retired healthcare workers**

*Continued from Page 1*

the country not due to their retirement age but primarily because of financial considerations and unfavourable working conditions.

Some state government had already increased the retirement age of medical doctors and other health workers and this has not addressed the spate of brain drain," it said.

The circular expressed dissatisfaction with the work ethic of healthcare workers, despite the government's efforts to encourage them.





# Business & Economy

## Borrowing and implications on economy of nations

Since the independence of African countries to date, most African countries have been borrowing from International Financial Institutions and the governments of various foreign wealthy countries to finance their countries' respective National Budgets of infrastructures and to also meet up with recurrent expenditures. SIMEON. E. OKORO writes.

SUCH financial institutions include the following such as the: World Bank (WB) also known as The International Bank For Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the African Development Bank (AFDB), the Paris Club, China and other International Donors Institutions which had adverse implications on African or undeveloped economies!

One of the adverse effects on the national budgets of African and under-developed economies is the constant depletion of nations' budgets as a result of loan servicing of high-interest rates paid on the principal loans borrowed. This implication is that little amount of funds is left for both capital and recurrent expenditures on a monthly and yearly basis!

This constant borrowing does not augur well for the African Continent's economies!

Most African countries are poor and under-developed, battling and struggling to survive and are poverty-stricken countries!

I never believe in Nigeria and other African countries' constant borrowing from China, International Monetary Fund (IMF), African Development Bank (AFDB) and other international Donors or Financial Institutions with a view by the Nigerian Government to invest in infrastructures!

It is majorly because Nigeria and some African countries are mono-product and consuming economies!

Mono-product economy is a situation whereby countries are solely dependent on a single product of majorly agricultural products or petroleum products to run their economies.

African countries must be producing continent. That is



why the governments of African countries have embarked on and resulted in constant borrowing from foreign international donor financial Institutions.

The conditions for borrowing are adversely affecting our national budget and the African economy.

African Economists must be ready at all times to challenge and question the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), African Development Bank (AFDB) and foreign Economists on their policies, models and theories put in place beginning with historical and contemporary economic models and theories!

Now, the Million Dollar Questions are:

Should the Government of

African Countries continue to depend constantly on the IMF, World Bank, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, African Development Bank, China, other International Financial Institutions and wealthy countries to finance their economies and national budgets?

Should the Government of African Countries continue to depend constantly on the IMF, World Bank, AFDB, China and other International Financial Institutions for loans to put in place infrastructures?

Note that as African Countries keep on borrowing from various foreign financial institutions, the more our local or national currencies is further devalued

which by economic implications and international trade makes the import of goods more expensive because our importers will have to pay more for the importation of goods and services for import duties while export of goods becomes cheaper and this by implications will have adverse effects on African countries Balance of Payments and Balance of Trade respectively!

This will also lead to an unfavourable balance of Payments and Trade.

Going Forward:

Firstly, African countries should begin to diversify their national economies in all sectors. Let us do away from being a mono-product economy and vigorously pursue more than one product economy. We can tap into the agricultural, solid minerals and petroleum sectors.

Africans must pursue vigorously agricultural and solid minerals sectors to the fullest, with a view to raking in billions of revenue for African countries!

Secondly, African countries should lay more emphasis on becoming producing economies. We should produce more products to revitalize moribund industries thereby leading to an increase in exports of our rich products.

The more we produce commodities, the more the increase in African-generated revenues to finance national budgets to run the economies of African Countries.

Thirdly, Our Economists intellectuals must begin to challenge and question some of American and European Economists' models and theories.

African Economists and intellectuals must also develop economic models that are suitable and appropriate to the economic realities of the African Continent.

Fourthly, African countries should embark more on industrialization drive to produce finished commodities from raw materials thereby creating more job opportunities for the teeming unemployed African population.

In conclusion, the need for judicious management of resources is imperative in order for African countries to see and witness rapid economic growth and development.

Yes, African economies can definitely compete favourably with other world economies!

©Mr Simeon Okoro is an Economist, Writer, Author and Columnist.

**"The conditions for borrowing are adversely affecting our national budget and the African economy. African Economists must be ready at all times to challenge and question the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), African Development Bank (AFDB) and foreign Economists on their policies, models and theories put in place beginning with historical and contemporary economic models and theories!"**





# Business & Economy

## FG denies paying fuel subsidy, to export PMS

THE Federal Government has denied reintroducing the subsidy on Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol.

It also said the pockets of queues observed by motorists in petrol stations across the country stemmed from hiccups in product distribution from the South to the North, not a lack of supply.

This came as the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited also declared recently that it would have gone bankrupt in June this year had it been the President, Bola Tinubu, did not halt subsidy on PMS in May.

NNPCL also announced that Nigeria would become a net exporter of refined petroleum products by next year, going by efforts to revamp its refineries.

Nigeria, through the NNPCL, currently imports PMS and other refined petroleum products consumed across the country, which has been ongoing for decades.

The Group Chief Executive Officer, NNPCL, Mele Kyari, told State House Correspondents after an audience with the President at the Aso Rock Villa that fuel subsidy had not been returned.

"No subsidy whatsoever. We are recovering our full cost from the products that we import. We sell to the market, and we understand why the marketers are unable to import. We hope that they do it very quickly and these are some of the interventions the government is doing. There is no subsidy," he stated.

Kyari's assertion came barely 48 hours after the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria confirmed the return of fuel subsidy.

Also, oil marketers had repeatedly stated that fuel subsidy had returned, as they explained that the landing cost of petrol as of last week was N720/litre. The commodity is currently sold at between N580/litre and N617/litre, depending on the area of purchase.

PENGASSAN's National President, Festus Osifo, had said the government still subsidised petrol due to the cost of crude oil in the international market and the exchange rate.

"They [government] are paying subsidy today. In reality, today, there is subsidy because, as of when the earlier price was determined, the price of crude in the international market was around \$80 for a barrel.

"But today, it has moved to about \$93/94 per barrel for Brent crude. So, because it has moved, the price [of petroleum] also needed to move. The only reason the price will not move is when you can manage your exchange rate effectively and you can pump in supply and bring down the exchange rate.

"So, if the exchange rate



Kyari

comes down today, we will not be paying subsidy. But with the exchange rate value and the price of crude oil in the international market, we have introduced subsidy," Osifo had explained.

In his inaugural address after taking the oath of office on May 29, 2023, Tinubu announced that the Federal Government was closing the curtains over the subsidy era. "Subsidy can no longer justify its ever-increasing costs in the wake of drying resources.

"We shall instead re-channel the funds into better investment in public infrastructure, education, health care, and jobs that will materially improve the lives of millions. Petrol subsidy is gone!" Tinubu had declared.

The President's announcement sparked the increase in fuel price from N197 to between N480 and N570. The pump price was subsequently reviewed upward to N617/litre.

Addressing journalists about the gradual return of fuel queues, on Monday, the NNPCL boss said, "We have seen in a very few states pockets of very low queues not disconnected with the road

situation.

"We're seeing the number of blockades on our road crossing products from the Southern depots into the Northern part of the country and it takes them much longer than they do now.

"They have to reroute the trucks around many locations for them to be able to reach, creating delays and some supply gaps. But that has been filled and we do not see such problems again."

While arguing that supply remained robust, Kyari explained that the full deregulation of the downstream sector had created market competition.

He said this phenomenon had led to minuscule price variations across gas stations, with consumers naturally patronising marketers with a lesser pump price.

"You must have noticed some fuel stations will reduce prices by two Naira and three Naira, so customers will naturally run to the places where you have that price reduction.

"That creates panic because those who don't know why they are doing it will think something wrong is happening.

## Despite reduction, BUA cement retailers retain old prices

Despite high expectations from consumers following the announcement of a price reduction in the unit price of BUA Cement, the price change is yet to reflect across major markets as the product is still being sold at the old price.

It would be recalled that the management of BUA Cement had recently announced a reduction in the ex-factory price to N3,500 per 50kg per bag, effective October 2, 2023.

A week after the announcement, the new price is yet to reflect as some retailers and cement distributors revealed that the price has remained unchanged.

A cement dealer at Canal

View Estate in Isolo Lagos, Alhaji Abiodun Haruna, said that "he was not aware of the new price regime."

He said that though he was still selling old stock, the possibility of downward price review was not possible.

He asked, "has the cost of production reduced? Has public energy source (PHCN) improved? Has the cost of fuel come down? What of the cost of transportation? It will be impossible for the price to just come down like that."

Haruna further disclosed that "they (dealers) were witnessing low patronage because of the harsh economy."

The managing director of Ajomobi & Co Enterprise,

THE National Bureau of Statistics report shows that portfolio investment into Nigeria declined by 83.54 per cent in the second quarter of this year to \$106.85m from \$ 649.28m in the first quarter.

This was revealed in the latest report of NBS titled 'Nigeria Capital Importation (Q2 2023)'.

According to the NBS, portfolio investment dipped by 85.89 per cent year-on-year with equity contributing \$8.52m, bonds contributing \$85.29m and money market instruments bringing in \$13.04bn. The three items had depreciated by 96.17 per cent, 71.67 per cent and 89.64 per cent respectively quarter-on-quarter.

Weeks back the Nigerian Exchange Limited in collaboration with the Debt Management Office and other partners had embarked on a non-deal road show to stir foreign investors' interest in Nigeria.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, foreign investment in Nigeria has experienced a significant decline, mirroring the trend observed in other emerging economies during the same period. Also, the downgrade of Nigeria to an unclassified market by FTSE in early September worsened the situation, as investors fear that their funds may be

## Portfolio investment drops by 83.54 percent -NBS

trapped due to the challenges with the foreign exchange market in the country.

On the floor of NASDAQ during the roadshow in New York, President Bola Tinubu declared that Nigeria is now open for investment.

He said, "It is not about if Nigeria is open for business, it is about who wants to do business with Nigeria. Our administration has moved the exchange rate regime to a managed float and removed fuel subsidy. I call on you to

come and invest in Nigeria."

The Chief Executive Officer, NGX, Temi Popoola, during the roadshow's stop at BBC in London, stated that the NGX was prepared to help the FG achieve its aim of increasing foreign investment.

"What we are trying to achieve is to emphasise to investors that Nigeria is open for business and also reinforce that the enormity of the challenges is clear and work has begun to address all the issues.



Adeniran

## IMF downgrades Nigeria's economic growth

THE International Monetary Fund has downgraded Nigeria's economic growth by 0.3 percentage points to 2.9 per cent for 2023 following weaker oil and gas production.

The IMF disclosed this in its new World Economic Outlook (for October) themed, 'Navigating Global Divergences,' released on Tuesday.

Earlier in July, the lender projected that Nigeria's economy would grow by 3.2 per cent in 2023. Then it predicted that growth in the country would be impacted by security issues in the oil sector.

Commenting on its new prediction for the country, the Washington-based lender said, "Growth in Nigeria is projected to decline from 3.3 per cent in 2022 to 2.9 per cent in 2023 and 3.1 per cent in 2024, with

negative effects of high inflation on consumption taking hold.

"The forecast for 2023 is revised downward by 0.3 percentage point, reflecting weaker oil and gas production than expected, partially as a result of maintenance work."

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's GDP grew by 2.51 per cent in the second quarter of 2023.

Growth in the sub-Saharan African region is expected to decline to 3.3 per cent in 2023 due to worsening weather shocks, the global slowdown, and domestic supply issues, the IMF noted.

It, however, stated that this growth will pick up by 2024 to 4.0 per cent in 2024, which is still below the region's historical average of 4.8 per cent.

Overall, global economic growth is projected to slow from 3.5 per cent in 2022 to 3.0 per cent in 2023 and 2.9 per cent in 2024, well below the historical (2000-19) average of 3.8 per cent, the IMF declared.

It added, "Advanced economies are expected to slow from 2.6 per cent in 2022 to 1.5 per cent in 2023 and 1.4 per cent in 2024 as policy tightening starts to bite. Emerging market and developing economies are projected to have a modest decline in growth from 4.1 per cent in 2022 to 4.0 per cent in both 2023 and 2024."

Inflation, which has been on a global rise, is expected to fall from 8.7 per cent in 2022 to 6.9 per cent in 2023 and 5.8 per cent in 2024, the IMF highlighted.

Lafarge are still the same.

He added that "BUA representatives have not informed us about the reduction in its product price, we also heard from the media. Many of us have old stock on the ground. We are not aware of the price reduction as we expect the company itself to inform us first and this is causing a lot of confusion."

Proshare in a report titled 'Nigeria's 2023 Cement Battles: Understanding the Place of Price, Power, and Privilege in BUA's Price Cut' said that "if BUA Cements recently announced price reduction is anything to go by, then questions need to be raised concerning the

possibility of reducing the prices of other consumer goods such as wheat/grain flour and sugar. However, with respect to wheat and sugar, the economics of the business appear widely different. While raw materials for cement production are almost exclusively local, the import cost components for sugar and wheat are high and variable.

"The volatility of Nigeria's foreign exchange market, the rise in domestic energy costs, the geopolitical challenges between Ukraine and Russia and the problems with crop production and supply chain disruptions in Brazil create different circumstances from cement."





## Business & Economy

# Not all inflation is the same

**Economics 101 will introduce everyone to the concept of inflation and an explanation that inflation occurs when the prices of goods and services keep rising. We may have also come across the very simplified definition of inflation being: "too much money chasing too few goods", and I doubt that anyone who has come across that particular definition ever forgets it. ZEAL ARAKAIWE writes**

IN a subsequent (and slightly more advanced) class, the concept of inflation gives birth to identical twins that are named: 'Demand Pull Inflation' and 'Cost Push Inflation'. For some reason, Demand Pull was the more favoured of the twins and Cost Push was treated as a step child and almost altogether forgotten and relegated to the background.

I'd like to dedicate this article to the memory of that lost twin, tell the story from his perspective and show how forgetting him has led many-a-central-banker astray to the detriment of entire economies.

So who is Mr. Cost-Push Inflation? In order to prevent us from having to abandon him once more, I'll keep it very short and simple: The rise in production costs gives rise to cost-push inflation.

I know I said I'd dedicate this to Mr. Cost Push, but just so we can see the difference, let me quickly run through the distilled breakdown of inflation.

**Inflation:** constant rise in overall process of goods and services

**Demand pull inflation:** when the rise in goods and services comes from an increase in money supply.

**Cost push inflation:** when the rise in goods and services comes from an increase in cost of production.



So while in general, inflation is the persistent increase in the cost of goods and services, cost push inflation in particular is the result of an increase in the cost of production inputs. However, demand pull occurs when the increase in prices results from a decrease in supply and/or an increase in demand.

Despite the fact that we can and will frequently refer to both as "inflation," it is important to make this distinction because each requires a different strategy for management.

What can be done to

combat cost-push inflation? The apparent approach will be to lower costs if cost push is brought on by a steady rise in production costs. And if we concur that interest rates and foreign exchange rates are currently Nigeria's two main cost factors, then one or both of them must decrease in order to address cost-push inflation.

Then, it becomes very difficult to understand why, over the past few years, we have been boosting costs by raising interest rates and allowing the currency to depreciate in order to combat cost push inflation.

In the past 18 months, in our current cost-push inflationary climate, we have increased input costs of the two major input components – foreign exchange rates and interest rates – by up to 100 percent and 40 percent, respectively, all in the ludicrous pursuit of lowering prices.

So, even when interest rates are hiked, a family with a set monthly income would not have reduced access to cash flow without a credit programme. We will simply raise the price of goods and services, thereby simultaneously raising people's costs of living and lowering their standard of living, hence increasing consumer pain.

It is difficult to comprehend why the CBN keeps raising interest rates given that:

1. The monetary policy rate and government borrowing and saving rates have no real correlation.
2. Consumer credit is either non-existent or rates

there are also uncorrelated to the MPR. This graph with five years data from 2018 shows the stark dislocation between government borrowing rate (treasury bills), inflation and the MPR.

If what we have cultivated via misplaced policy priorities is a bad case of cost push inflation being treated as demand pull, or perhaps, and it is quite possible, we have the twins coexisting in our economy and we may indeed be experiencing both demand pull inflation (from the excess money creation by the CBN and reckless spending over the last 5-8 years) as well as cost push inflation, with an all new board of governors within the CBN, an IMF meeting this week and a terribly flailed citizenry, a radical difference in thinking and approach to analysing and solving our inflation issue is needed.

• **Arakaiwe is a financial adviser based in Lagos**

*S h a r e*

**Despite the fact that we can and will frequently refer to both as "inflation," it is important to make this distinction because each requires a different strategy for management. What can be done to combat cost-push inflation? The apparent approach will be to lower costs if cost push is brought on by a steady rise in production costs. And if we concur that interest rates and foreign exchange rates are currently Nigeria's two main cost factors, then one or both of them must decrease in order to address cost-push inflation. Then, it becomes very difficult to understand why, over the past few years, we have been boosting costs by raising interest rates and allowing the currency to depreciate in order to combat cost push inflation.**



## Politics

# Kogi :Shetima flags- off APC guber campaign

From AMEDU JOSEPH,  
Lokoja

VICE President Kashim Shetima has flagged off the All Progressives Congress Governorship campaign in Kogi State with an assurance that the party's candidate, Usman Ahmed Ododo will win overwhelmingly.

Shetima while wooing Kogi people to vote massively for Ododo, hinted that the Federal Government has lots of developmental plan for Kogi State.

He stated that the Federal Government is already collaborating with foreign companies towards the resuscitation of Ajaokuta Steel Company.

Shetima, who was in Kogi for the official flag-off of the APC governorship campaign, said the choice of a Kogite, Shuaibu Audu as Steel Minister underscores the intention of the Federal Government towards revamping the steel company.

He also maintained that the Federal Government is putting measures in place towards dredging of river Niger, in a bid to attract meaningful development to Kogi State and Nigeria in general.

He therefore called on the people of the state to vote APC for them not to be left behind in the central scheme of things.

"For the people of Kogi State to benefit immensely from the eight point agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the natural resources that abound in the state, it is essential for them to vote for a younger and more patriotic person who knows much about the state.

"The president is a man of courage and conviction. He is a man pregnant with ideas on how to reposition the nation, and Kogi State which is one of the frontier states in the North can not afford to have a state government that does not belong to the centre.

"The President had approved funds for the construction of Ganaja road and be rest assured that Abuja - Lokoja - Okene and Kabba - Ilorin is also going to receive federal government attention to ease movement of the people.

"Most importantly to the people of Kogi State is the Ajaokuta Steel Company that is the largest steel Industry in Nigeria. The President appointed a son of Kogi from a prominent family in the state, Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu to be the Minister of Steel Development.

"Fundamentally, he was given the appointment to promote, project and preserve the interest of the people of Kogi State to see to the realization of the Ajaokuta Steel Company which of course is 98 percent completed"

He noted that the steel company when operational, would assist the present administration to fulfill its



Shetima

eight point agenda with respect to job creation, huge investment and revenue generation.

Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for providing the milestone of support that enables him to perform and reposition the state to the present status.

"You all knew where we all took the state from and where it is today in terms of healthcare delivery, education, infrastructure development and others too numerous to mention. You gave us support and opportunity to perform this much".

"What we are doing today is laying the foundation and it takes a man who has learnt through the road to build on

the foundation. That is why we are calling you all.

"I am confident that you will overwhelmingly vote Usman Ododo and on that day, we will be jubilating for the victory.

While presenting the party's flag to the gubernatorial candidate of the party, The APC National Chairman, Dr. Umar Ganduje said that the Governor has been able to transform Kogi State in many ways including the ability to present a successor that will succeed him.

The party candidate, Usman Ododo said he will consolidate on the achievements of Governor Bello, "We are coming to consolidate and improve on the achievements of Governor Yahaya Bello and I have no reason not to deliver.

## Benue Speaker commissions multiple projects, awards scholarship

From TERESE TUHWA,  
Makurdi

THE Speaker of the Benue State House of Assembly and member representing Gboko West state constituency, Hon. Hyacinth Aondona Dajoh recently commissioned three infrastructural projects in his constituency, awarded scholarship to three hundred indigent students and donated ten thousand (10,000) exercise books for both students and pupils in the constituency.

The projects include a multipurpose science laboratory at Government Secondary School Ikpa Mbatyerev, renovation of Grade 1 Area Court and building of Mbakwen Traditional Council Hall all at Wolhyev.

Chairman of the occasion and Speaker, Jigawa State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Haruna Aliyu, said, he was proud to be associated with the laudable projects embarked upon by the Speaker within his four months in office and described the projects as "people oriented".

The North West Chairman, Conference of Speakers of State Legislatures said "in less than one hundred days, my colleague has been able to put up these projects. I'm very

proud of him", Haruna eulogized Dajoh in an interview with newsmen.

The Jigawa Speaker also commended the Benue State Governor, Rev. Fr Hyacinth Alia for giving the state legislature free hand to operate and also commended the Speaker for maintaining a cordial relationship with the executive and judiciary arms of government which he acknowledged has set Benue on the path of unprecedented development.

Speaking in dual capacities as representative of Governor Hyacinth Alia and Guest Speaker of the occasion, Chief of Staff to the Governor, Rt. Hon. Paul Biam hailed Hon. Dajoh for achieving a lot for his constituents within a short time at the assembly. He encouraged the people to sustain their support and prayers for the number 3 citizen to continue to wax stronger.

Biam, who wondered where the Speaker was getting resources to assist his people and execute tangible projects for them, urged other lawmakers to take a cue from Hon. Dajoh by using their emoluments judiciously to help their people.

"Since he became Speaker, Hon. Dajoh has brought us to this constituency four times. At every point, he is either

From AMEDU JOSEPH,  
Lokoja

THE Social Democratic Party (SDP), has called on the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency on security in Kogi State over consistent alleged political killing.

The Director of New Media, Muri/Sam Campaign Council, Isaiah Ijele made the call in a statement made available to journalists in Lokoja recently.

The call according to him, has become necessary following the killing of two other thugs allegedly carried out by the entourage of the chairman of Dekina Local Government Area, Ishaka.

"There was sporadic shooting in Anyigba by Ishaka's entourage on Saturday of which two people believed to be thugs have just been confirmed dead.

"The thugs that died were killed by their own APC thugs and information has it that it was rivalry or sharing formula tussles because the governor was there today!!

## Declare state of emergency on security in Kogi- SDP



Ijele

"Soldiers arrested them emergency now in Kogi with two Siena cars loaded State.

with arms but Ishaka the "It would be recalled that local government chairman, barely a week ago, a lady member of APC was killed at those arrested by soldiers. Koto-karfe rally. We are witnessing this incident of killing again at Anyigba" Ijele and the Federal Government to declare a state of

## Reps member commends Governor Mutfwang

THE member representing Jos North/Basa federal constituency of Plateau this recently in an interview with THE

Representatives, Hon. Musa Avia Agah has the Abuja capital Hotel commanded the Governor said, "Barrister Caleb Mutfwang is a man of inclusive governance every one along with his posture of the developmental administration.

He commended him for the provision and distribution of welfare civil servants from

packages as well as infrastructure in the state within the 100 days of his administration.

Hon. Agah who disclosed this recently in an interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD at the Abuja capital Hotel said, "Barrister Caleb Mutfwang is a man of inclusive governance every one along with his posture of the developmental programmes across the state, look at the recent party with senior federal distribution of welfare civil servants from



Agah



Aondona

donating money to a church or he comes to commission projects.

"I want to stop to ask, where is this young man getting this kind of money? Does it mean I was not paid when I was at the Assembly?" The former Majority Leader of the Benue State House of Assembly asked rhetorically even as he noted that "if you are careful, you can put together your payment and do these projects".

He thanked the Speaker and his wife, Cynthia for their commitment to community development and advised Gbemacha people not to distract Dajoh from the good work he was doing.

In his speech, the Speaker, Hon. Dajoh appreciated the people of Gbemacha for finding him worthy to represent them and also his Assembly colleagues for electing him Speaker of the House.

He assured his constituents of sustained effective representation throughout his 4-year tenure.

"This is just the beginning. You elected me to represent you for four years and I believe we will keep on bringing you dividends of democracy without slacking", the Speaker assured.

Earlier in a goodwill message on behalf of Gboko Traditional Council, the TerGboko, HRH Gabriel Shosum poured royal blessings on the Benue Speaker, wishing him well to attract more government presence to his constituency.

He called on the Benue State government to construct the road linking Abetse-Ikpenger-Akpaegh-Selagi to ease movement as well as boost economic activities of the people in the area.

Governor Hyacinth Alia through his Chief of Staff commissioned the multipurpose science laboratory. While the Jigawa Speaker, Hon. Aliyu commissioned Mbakwen District hall. The state Chief Judge, Justice Maurice Ikpambese, commissioned the Grade 1 Area Court.

plateau state which is non-political and without, non- ethnicity among others everybody was involved".

According to the lawmaker, the administration of Governor Mutfwang is one of the most liberal in bthe state and worthy of emulation.

Representative Agah also reiterated his determination and commitment to put the welfare of his constitutions first and topmost in his priority by embarking on projects that will have direct bearing on the m and promised to carry everybody along in the constituency

He said, his representation will be for everybody, including members and residence of the constituency. To this end, he called for all hands to be on dack so that he will succeed.

It would be recalled that Hon. Musa avia Agah in his brief entry into the 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly had embarked on so many projects that have impacted the people of JOS North /Basa Federal



Politics

# Nigeria @63: A call for national confab



Tinubu



Akpabio

Democracy is adjudged to be the best system of government not only because it is the most popular system in the world but because it affords the citizens the opportunity to effectively participate in the affairs of their country through elective structures and processes. This prompted the nationalists to narrow their differences in the quest that ended the colonial administration in Nigeria in 1960 and ushered in the first republic in 1963. However, the increase in the numbers of "secessionist movements" demanding an end to the corporate existence of Nigeria seems to suggest that beyond the democratisation exercise, there is need for a national conference to assess the progress made on Nigeria project.

While addressing the nation on 1st October, 2023, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu explained that a progressive country is only possible within the ambiance of agreement and we have all agreed to live a united, peaceful, prosperous and reiterated his commitment to pilot the ship of the country to a promised land where the celebration of her independence will no longer be done on a low key.

Nigeria came into existence with the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914 and since then there have been efforts to consolidate this merger in order to ensure that the country becomes an enviable nation in the world. This informed the struggle that led to the independence of the country in 1960. Though, the intervention of the military in government in 1966, the

counter coup that followed cum the ethnic clashes especially in the Northern part of the country and the civil war that erupted in 1967 seems to have widened the gap by creating psychological trauma that further deepens the feelings of marginalisation.

To fast track the healing of this wound, the policy of 'Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation' otherwise referred to as three R's meant to reintegrate the secessionist Biafra into the bigger Nigeria were initiated by the federal government immediately after the war with a slogan of "no victor, no vanquished". However, looking at the resonance in the tunes of those blowing the trumpet of secession especially, in the southern part of the country, it is obvious that the memories of the war are yet to be erased from Nigeria.

In 2021, the country almost degenerated to a state of anarchy before Nnamdi Kanu and others agitating for the independence of Biafra land were arrested by the federal government. This arrest led to the declaration of operation sit at home protest by his followers across the South-east zone demanding the release of their leader.

Similar parade of secession seems to have been raising its head under the pretext of agitation for Odudua republic in the South-west zone before their leaders decided to go on exile due to federal might and intimidation. These ethnic feelings became more obvious with the results of the leading candidates at the last general election, February, 2023, reflecting ethnic and religious colourations. For instance, non of the leading candidates at the

election secured less than 65% of their votes from their regions of origin.

The peak of this ethnic demonstration and manipulation was when some of the politicians started using ethnic chorus such as "Yoruba Lokan," "emilokan," "Igbo has never produced president in this dispensation", "it remains four more years for the North to rule" and other jargons that ought not to be heard in a united and progressive country as weapons of political mobilisation to woo the electorate. Meanwhile, the issue of good governance and nation building which were supposed to be at the center of discussion were relegated to the background.

No wonder, despite the amount of money claimed to have been spent by the government in the quest to eradicate poverty in Nigeria, the syndrome still remains at an alarming rate.

In 2018, Nigeria was accorded the poverty capital of the world and till date the country is yet to leave the group of the top 10 poverty infected countries in the world. Of recent, the World Bank disclosed that no fewer than four million Nigerians were pushed into the poverty trap in the first six months of this year, with another 7.1 million more expected to join the conundrum if properly targeted measures are not taken to manage the impact of fuel subsidy removal.

That the fuel subsidy has been abused by the "have" at the detriment of the "have not" is not in doubt. The removal is something that is overdue because of the issue of corruption that has eaten deep into its fabric. However, the timing of and the manner it was

done show that the government is insensitive to the plight of the people.

A government that is sensitive to the plight of the people would have first of all put in place palliatives that will cushion the effect of the removal before removing it and not the other way round. This miscalculation is responsible for the unending arguments on the removal and the threat of the mother of all strikes from the labour unions and civil society threatening to shut down the country's economy if urgent steps are not taken to reduce the excruciating pains brought by the removal of fuel subsidy on their members.

While battling this hardship, another hike was announced at the education sector, particularly at the tertiary institutions where the tuition fees were increased by more than 100% with a promise that the federal government will roll out a borrowing scheme for students that don't have the

capacity to pay to borrow the money for their payment.

Unfortunately, the modalities to follow in accessing this fund and how to repay after school looking at the oversaturated labour market in Nigeria are yet to be released. No wonder, the micro nationalists are being treated as messiahs at their region of origin despite the federal government's labels of terrorist, secessionist, among others.

To redirect the steps of the country to a united front, a national conference must be given a chance. This will create an avenue for people from different zones to harmonise ideas that can move the country from its precarious situation to a prosperous destination where the feelings of ethnicity and religion will no longer threaten the unity of Nigeria.

**Oluwasanmi writes from Ibafo, Ogun state.**



Abbas



# IMAGES

## MUTFWANG RECEIVES FIRST FEMALE NUJ CHAIR AND EXCO

*Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang yesterday received the first female Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists Plateau State Council, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo and her executive council, they were received by the the Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo in her office, Government House Rayfield, Jos*



*NUJ Chairman, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo delivering her courtesy message to the listening of the representative of Governor Mutfwang and other Staff*



*Cross section of State Government functionaries to receive the NUJ*



*Cross section of the NUJ state executive council during the visit*



*Hon. Josephine Piyo ( middle ) praying for the first female chairman of NUJ, Ayuku Pwaspo and team during the visit*



*Representative of Governor Mutfwang ( left ) responding*



*Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo in a handshake with the NUJ Chairman, Ayuku Pwaspo*



*Cross section of journalists covering the visit by the first female Chairman and team*



*Hon. Josephine Piyo, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo, NUJ executive members and Government officials in a group photograph*

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



## Politics

# Adeleke and precept for good governance

**Oftentimes, we relish the progress in advanced societies and hope that similar experiences are replicable here. As good as those thoughts usually are, we do miss one critical factor, and that is the existence of a proper feedback mechanism that is applicable in those environments that primarily account for the growth and developments we see and cherish. SARAFIA IBRAHIM writes.**

ACCOUNTABILITY and transparency are the heart of good governance. If the government is about the people, it is incumbent that they are carried along in the administration of their affairs. This plain logic is what drives the incredible progress we see and cherish in a society that embraces accountability and transparency in governance.

And fortune enough for Osun state, this same philosophy defines the administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke. From the outset of his administration, Governor Adeleke was pointedly clear that he would be different. Unlike his predecessor who spent most of his time in office evading giving account of stewardship to the people, Governor Adeleke embraced it as the needed catalyst to achieve the needed progress for the state.

Early into his administration, Governor Adeleke did the usual by opening up the financial books of the state to the people through traditional rulers in the state. It was a move that provided a clear understanding of the financial situation of the state to the people, demonstrating a major shift away from the opaqueness and secrecy that defined the past in the administration of the state.

It was in furtherance of his commitment to transparency and accountability that Governor Adeleke hosted Ipade Imole on Thursday, October 5, 2023. Just as the name implies, Ipade Imole was a gathering of stakeholders that cut across every segment of the Osun society. It was a platform for the Governor to render accounts of his stewardship to the people and also receive feedback from the public.

"Ipade Imole will be a quarterly event. We have to let Osun people know how we are expending their money," Governor Adeleke disclosed at the event which was held at the Aurora event centre in Osogbo, before going on to add that "At this meeting, you can ask any question and we will answer



**Adeleke**

you. You put us in this position."

And true to his assurance, the Governor provided a detailed overview of the activities of his administration since he assumed office on November 27, 2022. This began with a 45-minute documentary of programmes, interventions and policies executed by the Adeleke administration under 10 months, providing pictures and video evidence of the monumental achievements that Governor Adeleke recorded in the various sectors during the period under review.

What followed was even

more encompassing, as the Governor's speech outlined not just what has been done or is currently ongoing, but also future plans of the administration in delivering for the people. Remarkably, the Governor made it abundantly clear that "this administration has not and will not borrow to fund ongoing infrastructure upgrades. From bridges to dualisation of existing roads among other infrastructures, we are pursuing value for money and public-private partnership. Our financial plan is sustainable."

Also, Governor Adeleke elaborately answered questions on the cost of projects executed by his administration, particularly

providing clarity that against the erroneous cost of N14 million per borehole quoted by the opposition, each of the 332 wards in the 332 wards across Osun state cost the government N1.5 million. This disclosure on the cost per borehole, not only deflates the circle of lies of the All Progressives Congress (APC) but also underscores the financial prudence in the Adeleke administration. Because a similar project under the Oyetola administration was done at a cost of N1.925 million per borehole, even though, none of it came with a generator set as is the case with the one executed by the Adeleke administration.

Away from this is the recurring question of the whereabouts of the N2 billion palliative fund received by the State Government from the Federal Government. For some weeks now, the APC had mischievously created an impression of abuse and misapplication. But Governor Adeleke defused the main opposition's ignoble narrative, pointedly noting that the N2bn is safe and will be applied for the benefit of the people of the state.

Governor Adeleke explained to the people that his government is careful not to repeat the mistake of the previous government that dragged the state into a financial mess that it is struggling with at the moment, hence, not rushing the application of the palliative fund.

"The N2 billion palliative fund by the Federal Government will be spent on three projects. One of them is the purchase of additional buses to complement the buses in the pool of the state, which has been repaired and soon to be unveiled for use," he disclosed.

The two other projects to be funded from the palliative fund, as disclosed by the Governor, are the rehabilitation of health centres in the state and the purchase of food items for distribution to the people of the state. Not only did this erase the erroneous conclusion of the APC on the fund, but Governor Adeleke was able to stress the commitment of his administration to allocate resources for meaningful interventions.

This is further evident in the disclosure of the Governor that the state is in receipt of a N7 billion refund from the federal government for projects executed by the State Government on its behalf and that it will be used solely to fund infrastructure projects across the state. In the past, a refund to the state from the central government was usually shrouded in controversy going by the lack of openness and transparency by the previous government. Governor Adeleke not only disclosed the received fund, but also provided clear direction on how and on what it will be utilised.

Projects ranging from the dualisation of at least two roads in each senatorial district, construction of flyovers in Osogbo and some other towns, installation of streetlights on newly constructed roads, fresh installation of boreholes in the 332 wards, Imole Housing Estate at 500 units in each federal constituency and Imole Transport service outlined by the Governor are likely to benefit from the fund.

However, the highlight of the Ipade Imole was the moment when Governor Adeleke disclosed that he had not accessed security votes as it is the practice of his predecessors. Governor Adeleke said his decision not to access monthly security votes is on principle and a personal sacrifice for the state, noting that "I do not take security votes which my predecessors do take. I said the money should be used for the good of the people." This disclosure is a further affirmation of Governor Adeleke's commitment to the service of the people, and not about self-benefit. For a Governor to sacrifice at least N500 million every month, which utilisation is hardly questioned, showed how passionate he's about progressing the state.

**"Governor Adeleke explained to the people that his government is careful not to repeat the mistake of the previous government that dragged the state into a financial mess that it is struggling with at the moment, hence, not rushing the application of the palliative fund. "The N2 billion palliative fund by the Federal Government will be spent on three projects. One of them is the purchase of additional buses to complement the buses in the pool of the state, which has been repaired and soon to be unveiled for use," he disclosed. The two other projects to be funded from the palliative fund, as disclosed by the Governor, are the rehabilitation of health centres in the state and the purchase of food items for distribution to the people of the state. Not only did this erase the erroneous conclusion of the APC on the fund, but Governor Adeleke was able to stress the commitment of his administration to allocate resources for meaningful interventions."**



News

# PS assures PLASCOFED of support

From Musliudeen Adebayo, Ibadan

Save The Poor And Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) has disclosed that it is not proper for the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Idowu Owohunwa, to address a press conference on Mohbad's death without autopsy result.

Ilerioluwa Aloba also known as Mohbad, corpse has been exhumed so as to allow autopsy to be carried out.

Our correspondent gathered that the Lagos CP, Idowu Owohunwa, had earlier addressed a press conference where he gave an update on the matter, although result of the autopsy has not been released.

SPANCI in its reaction, noted that the group was not satisfied with the Lagos CP's statement during the press conference when autopsy result has not been released.

The group in a statement signed by its President, Comrade Yemi Bello described the CP's statement during the press conference as decisive and diversionary.

Bello in the statement made available to journalists recently, insisted that the Lagos CP's press conference and the statement without autopsy result is not good for the cause of justice.

He said, "Lagos police CP's press conference and statement without autopsy result is not good for the cause of justice. SPANCI commend the IGP who is known for credibility and professionalism and also the effort of the Lagos State Police Command CP for their investigation in unraveling some mysteries relating to Mohbad's death.

"However, we are not satisfied with the release of the Lagos CP's press statement on Mohbad's death without the autopsy results.

"This could raise suspicion as the issue is a global issue and our legal and justice system is on focus not only by Nigerians but also international communities, hence the Lagos CP would have waited for the autopsy results since he has gotten a court order to detain the suspects for 21 days within which we believe the autopsy results would have been released.

"This action has called for these questions which we demand answers from the police. Is Lagos CP under any pressure or instructions to do so and from who is such order? Why did Lagos CP not wait for autopsy results before making a press statement?

"Is the statement not decisive, diversionary and concluding about the cause of Mohbad's death? What is now the essence of autopsy results when police already told us how Mohbad died?

"Does the investigative power of the police represent the decision of the court? Did police investigate the allegation of Primeboy on the wife based on the principle of fair hearing and justice? The



hospital said he was brought in dead. What of the man who claimed in a viral video that he saw Mohbad walk into the hospital by himself and even snapped with him but

was shocked when he later found out the claims that he was brought in dead.

I think there are still gray areas in need of investigation if justice will be served.

# CRIN Plans research institutes games festival

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Plans are underway by the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, CRIN, Ibadan, to organise "Research Institutes Games" festival next year.

Dr. Patrick Adebola, Executive Director, ED, of the Premier Institute disclosed this while speaking with journalists in Lokoja, recently.

He said that CRIN was given the hosting right of the 18th Research Institutes Games Association of Nigeria, RIGAN, Games Festival via an approval letter dated June 6, signed by Professor O.F Owolade, RIGAN National President.

According to the Executive Director, the festival is scheduled for December 2024 and coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of CRIN.

"Since getting the commemorative hosting mandate, the CRIN management has been working round the clock to achieve a memorable festival. The efforts include the inauguration of the Local Organising Committee, LOC, drawing a budget estimate for the event, assessment, and gradual upgrade of facilities in the institute.

"A major step was taken recently, when the LOC was inaugurated in Ibadan. Headed by Dr. Adebola as Chairman, Dr R. Ipinmoroti as Vice-Chairman and Mr J Onatunde-Onanuga as Secretary, the 15-member Committee was inaugurated by the RIGAN National President.

"We are good to go. Of course, we consider it a rare privilege to have been selected as a host of the RIGAN games. We are not leaving any stone unturned in reaching out to our long-standing partners and stakeholders to give the needed moral and logistic support towards a

superlative outing.

"RIGAN was created by the Committee of Directors of Research Institutes, CODRI, in 1979. It comprises forty-five (45) Research and Development Institutes under the aegis of Federal Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development; Science and Technology; Health; Education; Transport; and Environment.

"In 1980, RIGAN was formally launched by the then Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Fr. Sylvester Ugoh, who represented the former President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari.

"Established in December 1964, the only time CRIN participated in hosting the game was in 1997 when it

By DORCAS PANKYES

Authorities of the Gombe State Police Command have stated that they were on the trail of a gang of kidnapers who forcefully abducted a house wife and her brother-in-law from their house in Shabewa village of Dukku Local Government Area, Gombe State.

A statement from the Command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO) ASP Mahid Muazu Abubakar, Sunday evening, who called for calm, appealed to residents to disregard misleading information being circulated by mischief makers whom he said are bent on portraying the state in bad light for their selfish interests.

Mahid, while confirming the incident, said contrary to reports going viral on social media outlets that many people were kidnapped at Shabewa village, the facts of the case is that on 08/10/2023, at about 0255hrs, suspected kidnapers invaded the residence of one Umar Sambo 'm' of Shabewa ward in Dukku

# Police, local vigilante trailing kidnapers in bush

LGA with guns and other dangerous weapons and whisked away his wife and brother.

According to Mahid, the kidnapers entered Umar Sambo's residence in the early hours of Sunday, asking of his whereabouts from his first wife. "Fortunately, he did not sleep in her room and he was alerted and escaped into the bush before the kidnapers entered into the second wife's room", the PPRO said.

He said, "but after searching all rooms and could not find him, they kidnapped one of his wives, namely Amina Usman Aliyu, and his brother, Mustapha Sambo 'm' of the same address".

He said the police patrol teams in collaboration with vigilantes and hunters are already on the trail of the kidnapers inside the bush following directives by the Commissioner of Police, Etim Oqua, to rescue the victims and arrest the kidnapers.

The CP also assured the

good citizens of Dukku and the state at large, of the command's readiness and commitment to securing their lives and properties.

"The Command urges residents to remain calm and provide us with useful information that will aid in the quick rescue of the victims through the Command's emergency number 08150567771", the Police statement said.



jointly hosted it with two other Research Institutes in Ibadan. Namely: The Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria, FRIN, and the National Horticultural Research

Institute, NIHORT.

"Aside from its overall health benefits, the game will create a platform for interactions among researchers and other staff from various research and development institutes across the country. CRIN will use the occasion to showcase its strength and contributions to Agricultural Research and Development in Nigeria and as such, attract further collaborations from the array of government officials, stakeholders, investors, and private sectors that would be at the occasion.

"Many sports talents, including Mutiu Adepoju, Austin Eguavon, and M. Monye were discovered in previous RIGAN games. Next year's ten-day event is proposed to hold from 6 to 15 December", Adebola hinted.



Adebola,

# HIV/AIDS: Gombe makes headway in harm reduction - GOMSACA

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

The problem of drug abuse by People Living With HIV/AIDS is now being addressed by the Gombe State Agency for the Control of AIDS (GOMSACA) in collaboration with some major stakeholders in the state.

The Programme Manager of

GOMSACA, Hassan Mohammed, told our correspondent during an interview on the sidelines of a stakeholders meeting aimed at improving HIV/AIDS response in Gombe State, held at Emerald Hotel, Gombe.

He said new developments are coming up on how to help some of these people living

with HIV/AIDS reduce the harm they are facing as a result of the reckless use of drugs.

According to him, some of them could be seen with big wounds on their arms, hands or legs and these could be as a result of using different parts of their bodies to inject themselves, even their private parts, he revealed.

He stated that the meeting also discussed on gender and human rights issues, cases of abandoned children, rape among others where major stakeholders including the police came together to assist victims.

He explained that some of these victims are people living with HIV/AIDS and measures are taken towards improving the HIV/AIDS response in the state.

"This meeting is on drug users. There is an introduction of a drug called 'mat'. It's a medical assisted therapy for those who are using drugs. So, we are now sensitizing the stakeholders.

"These stakeholders will

now take the message to the society. It's a voluntary pilot programme that will be launched in January. It will focus on harm reduction", he stated.

Hassan Mohammed also explained the active role the Gombe State Government has been playing in the HIV/AIDS response. He stressed that the state is next to Lagos State in this regard.

"Gombe State has become a Centre where people talk about the manner HIV/AIDS is tackled. We're moving to a critical situation whereby there is a transition from donor driven to government driven.

"We're sensitizing the people that donors are going and the government is taking over the HIV/AIDS response. How do we now come in to sustain the gains on HIV/AIDS response in the absence of donor agencies?

"We have confidence that the state government will sustain the gains of HIV AIDS response in Gombe", he assured.



Mohammed



News

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Inuwa

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He explained that some of these victims are people living with HIV/AIDS and measures are taken towards improving the HIV/AIDS response in the state.

"This meeting is on drug users. There is an introduction of a drug called 'mat'. It's a medical assisted therapy for those who are using drugs. So, we are now sensitizing the stakeholders."

"These stakeholders will now take the message to the society. It's a voluntary pilot programme that will be launched in January. It will focus on harm reduction", he stated.

Hassan Mohammed also explained the active role the

Gombe State Government has been playing in the HIV/AIDS response. He stressed that the state is next to Lagos State in this regard.

"Gombe State has become a Centre where people talk about the manner HIV/AIDS is tackled. We're moving to a critical situation whereby there is a transition from donor driven to government driven."

"We're sensitizing the people that donors are going and the government is taking over the HIV/AIDS response. How do we now come in to sustain the gains on HIV/AIDS response in the absence of donor agencies?"

"We have confidence that the state government will sustain the gains of HIV AIDS response in Gombe", he assured.

# BEBM Exhibitions ranks ceramic MD's expertise high

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Chairman of Kogi Built Environment and Building Materials Exhibitions (BEBM Exhibitions) Advisory Council, Chief Bola Fejuku, Ba'alo of Oworo Kingdom, has ranked the expertise of the Managing Director of the West African Ceramic Limited, Ogoro Village, Ajaokuta, Mr. Bhaskar P. Rao high. They are calling on the Federal Government to grant him Nigerian citizenship status.

The royal father made the request in Lokoja at the recently concluded 5th edition of the Kogi Built Environment and Building Materials Exhibition Opening Ceremony and Recognition ceremony in recognition of Mr. Bhaskar P. Rao as one of the BEBM Exhibition's SHELTER DEVELOPMENT ICONS OF

THE DECADE.

"Rao's expert contribution towards the nation's economic and industrial development is worthy of Nigeria's recognition, particularly Nigeria's Housing, and recommends him for the citizenship of Nigeria", Chief Fejuku affirmed.

According to him, "the BEBM Exhibitions, The SHELTER DEVELOPMENT ICONS OF THE DECADE award series is an instrument of BEBM Exhibitions for the recognition of immense contribution to the development of the built environment sector and its practice in Kogi State, particularly in the area of Planning, Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Engineering, Building Construction and Building Materials Science, Environmental Sciences and Building Materials Production and distribution vocation practices and

businesses rendered to promote the built environment industry.

"Mr. Bhaskar P. Rao, the Managing Director of the West African Ceramic Limited, Ogoro Village, Ajaokuta was decorated as SHELTER DEVELOPMENT ICON OF THE DECADE at the opening ceremony of this year's exhibition. The event held from 19th to 21st September, 2023 with the theme; Profitability and Quality Advantages of Made in Nigeria Housing Development Options and Materials at the Indoor Exhibition Arena, Idrinana Hotels and Suites, Lokoja.

In the various remarks before the award investiture, the organizers and participants of the exhibition were resolute in their resolve on the need for the federal government of Nigeria to show appreciation for the enormous contributions of Mr. Bhaskar P. Rao to housing development in Nigeria.

Also noted were his unparalleled commitment and support of the capacity building and training of the key professionals and artisans in the built environment industry.

It was also observed that as Managing Director of the West African Ceramics Limited, he has demonstrated a high level of recognition of the place of host communities and its coordination and relevance in the conduct of peaceful businesses particularly mining of mineral resources.

This, they said he achieved through excellent project facilitation, interaction, advocacy and support to hosts communities.



Bello



# Curbing this new menace

IN recent weeks, Jos city has witnessed an unprecedented upsurge in jungle justice where motorcyclists have constituted themselves into a complete menace and turned our streets into a killing field. Lives have been snuffed out of people for no just cause and security agencies seem to be powerless to arrest the trend. One case that attracted serious attention and caused so much pain to the people was the killing of a young man, Fwinbe Thomas Gofwan. His, was a case of mistaken identity, who was not given the opportunity to explain himself before the mob descended on him.

Apart from Fwinbe, other motorists have had a brush with these agents of death. While some have lived to tell their stories others like Fwinbe were not as fortunate. Once upon a time, motorcycles were banned as a means of transportation in the Jos and Bukuru metropolis. Indeed, a law was made by the Jang regime outlawing the use of these means of conveying people. This was done with a view to curbing the excesses of the riders of this means of transportation as they had begun to use their motorcycles to engage in criminal activities.

Apart from providing a means of escape for criminals, the riders themselves indulged in the consumption of illicit drugs and became couriers who supplied these drugs to the hard-to-reach areas of the city. And, because they contributed to raise the rate of accidents in the capital city, something had to be done to hem them in. It was, therefore, some of these considerations that led the government to go hard on these set of people even though they provided a service and was a source of employment that was beneficial to the society.

Because of the sad events caused by the activities of these miscreants, the Plateau State Government has revisited the issue and has called on the motorcyclists

to strictly observe the law failing which will attract its wrath. What is left therefore, is the enforcement of the ban and meting out punishment to those who flaunt the order. It is instructive to mention here that once a law is enacted, it must be respected and obeyed. Laws are made for specific reasons to help curb the activities of members of the society and they are meant to be respected.

It is unfortunate that the long arms of the law is very slow in catching up with people who flagrantly disobeys what is meant to protect public good. We cannot continue to shield criminals no matter their ethnicity neither is it right to turn the other way because of the religion professed by those who engage in doing wrong. A criminal of whatever complexion should be treated as such. We must not allow sentiments to overwhelm us from doing what is right. After all, when these criminals finish dealing with those they perceive as their foes, they would not spare the rest of us.

**Because of the sad events caused by the activities of these miscreants, the Plateau State Government has revisited the issue and has called on the motorcyclists to strictly observe the law failing which will attract its wrath. What is left therefore, is the enforcement of the ban and meting out punishment to those who flaunt the order. It is instructive to mention here that once a law is enacted, it must be respected and obeyed. Laws are made for specific reasons to help curb the activities of members of the society and they are meant to be respected.**

In that regard, governments must fund security agencies to enable them carryout their functions effectively. They in turn must reciprocate by doing what is conscionable so as to deal with all fairly and just. They must ensure the general good in all they do so as to serve as reference to those who might want to veer off the mark.

To mitigate anticipated hardships from the removal of this means of transportation, government must work assiduously to provide options that can be relied upon. Thankfully, the PLSG has talked about reviving rail lines that would help move people between Bukuru and Jos metropolis. If this is done with speed, then people are not likely to feel the absence of these bikes.

Also, keke NAPEP riders must be re-orientated. They too are being used by criminal gangs to unleash havoc on unsuspecting members of the public. Their activities must be regulated. They should not be allowed to roam the whole city. If they are registered to service specific areas, criminal activities using keke are likely to be reduced.

On the whole, government must descend hard on whosoever disobeys any law it enacts. This will show some departure from the past when anybody was left to do as he pleased. The citizens too, must back government. They must endeavour to call the attention of security agencies to any noticeable infraction being perpetrated by anyone. If citizens walk by unconcerned when a crime is being committed, they should know that they share in the blame. We call on government to thus move swiftly so as to bring to an end this roguery that is adding to our community's multifarious problems.





## News

### NUJ Chairman charged to carry everyone along

BY HOSEA NYAMLONG

The first female Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Plateau State Council, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo has been encouraged to carry everyone along.

This was conveyed in a message by the Assistant Pastor of the Church of Christ in all Nations (COCIN), Local Church Council (LCC), Nassarawa Gwong Jos, Mr. Christopher Chung during the Thanksgiving Service in her honour on Sunday.

Chung in a sermon titled "Chosen to be holy and thankful for the peace of Christ", said that thanksgiving is an act of worship to God Almighty for all things HE has done for us in many ways in our lives.

He took his Bible reading from the book of Colossians chapter 3 verses 12 through 17. Chung emphasized that God's divine purpose had ordained her to lead the Union at this particular time, was to be seen as "holy and merciful to her. He tasked her to bear that in mind, as she endeavoured to work with others. He urged Pwaspo" to be compassionate, showing love, kindness toward all. Be gentle, humble enough to tolerate the weaknesses of people that you might come across in the cause of



Pwaspo

discharging your duty."

Earlier in a speech by the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Plateau State, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, he applauded her for being the first female chairman of the council and believed that she would make the difference as she pilots the affairs of the Union.

He appreciated the church for her prayers, support and commended members of the union for giving Pwaspo the mandate to move the council to a higher heights.

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** reports that the occasion was graced by dignitaries from all walks of

life. They include the immediate past chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau, Press Secretary to the Governor of Plateau State, Mr. Gyang Bere, Mr. Taddy Yakubu, representative of PRTVC General Manager and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Chairman, Plateau State, Rev Fr Polycap Alubo

By DORCAS PANKYES

The Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dr Oladele Alake, has reiterated the government's commitment to diversify the Nigerian economy by shifting focus from hydrocarbon resources to the minerals sector.

During a meeting with the Miners Association of Nigeria, led by their National President, Mr Dele Ayanleke, Dr Alake emphasized that Nigeria has relied heavily on a mono-cultural economy for too long and that the time has come to prioritize solid minerals as a major contributor to the country's gross domestic product.

The minister stated, "Our vision is to make solid minerals a source of pride and a significant contributor to Nigeria's GDP. We are diversifying from oil to ensure the survival of our nation, and this is our contribution to addressing climate change."

Dr Alake also highlighted the ministry's commitment to enacting policies that will improve the regulatory framework and create a more favorable environment for both local and foreign investors.

Addressing concerns about the involvement of state and local governments in mining activities, Dr Alake assured that the federal government would engage with them to

### Nigeria commits to diversifying economy



Alake

resolve any issues within the boundaries of the law.

He also revealed plans to deploy advanced technology and establish an inter-agency task force to ensure the mining sector operates efficiently and effectively.

The minister sought partnership with the Miners Association of Nigeria to enhance capacity and promote the growth and development of the sector.

Mr Dele Ayanleke, the

National President of the Miners Association of Nigeria, expressed full confidence in the seven-point agenda presented by the Minister of Solid Minerals

He believes that these initiatives, aligned with the renewed hope agenda of the present administration, will strengthen and elevate the mining sector, leading to significant contributions to national development.

### Cervical cancer: WHO commences vaccination of teenagers

From TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is set to commence vaccination of Benue State female gender aged nine to fourteen years with Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine

(HPVV) to protect them against cervical cancer.

The 5-day pilot campaign programme which will kick-off in the state October 24th, 2023 according to state Health Education Officer, Dr. Emmanuel Beekaa, targets female children that are

assumed not to be sexually active hence the selection of female gender within adolescence stage in their lives.

Dr. Beekaa told newsmen during the state media orientation and sensitisation meeting at the conference hall, Ministry of Health and Human Services, Makurdi that the programme was for both sexes but Nigeria was targeting only the female gender given limited quantity of the vaccines.

He said a total of 952 teams have been assigned to the state by the World Health Organization (WHO) to carry out implementation of the programme, which according to him, will cover the entire 23 local government areas in the state.

The vaccination is expected to cover target population from both special and out - of - reach sites which include schools, out of school, mobile and fixed teams.

In a presentation, a consultant with World Health Organisation (WHO) on Papilloma Virus Vaccine (HPVV), Dr. Mrs. Winifred Uzoamaka Onodu, explained that the health programme was to be carried out in two phases with the first phase commencing in 2023.

The states to benefit in the first phase, according to Dr. Onodu, include Abia, Adamawa, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Lagos, Nasarwa, Ogun, Osun, Taraba and the Federal Capital Territory.

The second phase of the programme, Dr. Onodu

further explained, will be launched in the remaining states of Borno, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Gombe, Imo, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Niger, Ondo, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara in the early part of 2024.

Dr. Onodu revealed that Nigeria was using Gardasil, a very high component of the vaccine and urged care givers in the state to present their wards to be vaccinated during the 5-day exercise.

One of the collaborating partners, Dr. Anita, who spoke on Risk Communication, Myths and Misconception about the new vaccine, tasked the media to help propagate the good news about the vaccine's efficacy.

She said since the public believes more in the information emanating from the media, it was incumbent on the media to help dispel misinformation that will be associated with the new vaccine.

In a vote of thanks, the Director, Public Health, Mrs. Esther Menger who stood in for the Permanent Secretary commended the World Health Organisation for including Benue State in the pilot scheme of the programme.

She sued for support from the media to help in disseminating information about the new vaccine.

The state media orientation and sensitisation meeting was attended by journalists representing different media organisations in the state.

### Nigerians tired of insecurity

By JOHN FWAH Kaduna ,

Senator representing Southern Kaduna Senatorial District at the National Assembly, Senator Sunday Marshal Katung, has pointed out that the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Major General Christopher Musa, is not a Chief of Defence Staff for Southern Kaduna. He is a Chief of Defence Staff for Nigeria.

He said, "As for insecurity in Southern Kaduna, if you

are a student of history and contemporary history in particular, you will know that insecurity has bedeviled the entire country, not just Southern Kaduna," the lawmaker explained.

Senator Katung also disclosed that the Senate is making efforts to make laws that will fight insecurity and poverty across the country to the barest minimum.

This is just as he said that the government can not run away from the fact that

"Nigerians are simply tired of insecurity."

The lawmaker was responding to questions from journalists shortly after a thanksgiving service in honour of Most Reverend Timothy Yahaya over his promotion to the level of Archbishop in the Anglican communion, Kaduna province recently. He said that the legislature, executive and the Service Chiefs are already working together to end insecurity in the country.

According to the lawmaker, "if necessary measures were put in place before the removal of fuel subsidy, people wouldn't have been subjected to too much suffering that they are currently going through.

"The major role of legislature is lawmaking, so we are bringing laws to ensure that insecurity and poverty are eliminated. And this can be achieved through collaborations with the executive.

- Katung

"So, we are doing the best we can, to see that the people do not suffer unnecessarily on account of this equivalent of fuel subsidy. While subsidy removal is good, there should be measures to ensure that people are not subjected to too much suffering.

The lawmaker allayed Nigeria's fear, by intimating them that the lawmakers and the Executive, are all putting heads together to ensure that the problem of insecurity is brought to an end. The Service Chiefs led by the Chief of Defence Staff have assured us that they have the formula to end this issue of insecurity.

"And we are believing in them, because we have seen efforts in the recent past, indicating that they are serious in tackling insecurity and bringing it to an end. So we urged them to keep up the efforts because Nigerians are simply tired.



Katung



## Foreign Commentary

# As the Middle East burns

**Armageddon. Apocalypse. Could it be that the last great battle has come to the Middle East? The world was stunned Saturday morning waking up to booms as flashes of red balls of exploding rockets landed on cities in Israel. OBOLI AUGUSTINE writes.**

TAKING the direct early hits were the towns of Ashkelon, Sedrot, Holit, Ofakim and Kibbutz Bee're in southern Israel. Heavily populated cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem were not spared either.

Coming from Gaza, it was easy to call out who the messenger of death was. And of course, it was Hamas, the arch enemy of Israel. By the last count, the organisation had fired over 5,000 missiles in the first two hours of the attacks, and it is counting. The attacks caught the Israeli security napping and shook the foundation of the small country.

By mid-day on Saturday, videos had emerged showing Hamas infiltration into Israeli southern villages with innocent persons being killed in cold blood and others kidnapped. Soldiers were also among the casualties. Sooner, it became clearer that the attacks were closely coordinated and had three prongs - air, land and sea component. About a thousand Hamas fighters were reported to have poured into Israel.

Expectedly Israel declared a state of war and started responding in kind by pounding Gaza from the air. Retaliatory campaigns were in full swing and bellow of smokes were rising all over Gaza. Death figures from both theatres swelled and the injured were in the thousands.

Not until about fifty years ago this day were the Israelis caught in their underbelly. In a similar fashion on October 6 1973, while the Israelis were observing the holist Jewish religious holiday, the Yom Kippur War broke out. A combined force of Syrian and Egyptian armies launched a surprise attack on Israel. Like the current situation, the Israelis did not see it coming. But that was fifty years ago. Since then much has changed in terms of electronic communication surveillance and sophisticated spycraft. So why did the Israeli intelligence fail woefully again?

Hamas is a Sunni Islamic Resistance Movement. It was established in 1987, after the first Intifada, and has its origins in Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood movement. Its sworn objective is the destruction of the state of Israel. Hamas grew into a powerful political force that challenged the influence of the PLO. In 2006 the organisation won the legislative election in Gaza. Over the years they pushed out the PLO in Gaza and became the de facto power. This did not sit well with the Israelis but they had to live with it and adopt a policy of containment. Since 2006 there have been occasional flare-ups between Hamas and Israel but it has never gotten to the level unfolding before our eyes.

So what exactly is the trigger for the current game of death? Perhaps,

no one specific trigger but a



Netanyahu



Abass

product of events over the years: Israeli occupation, the Al Aqsa mosques issue, maltreatment of the Palestinians, expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the unilateral end to the peace process which aims to address the Palestine question through a two-state solution.

Added to these is the flurry of actions taking place in respect of Israel in the Arab world that tend to negate the plight of the Palestinians. Specific mention should be made of the meetings for the normalisation of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. Saudi Arabia is the strongest supporter of the Palestine cause. Hamas sees the hobnobbing between the two countries as throwing the Palestinians under the bus and would do everything to thwart it.

Hamas has shown that Israel is not invincible after all. For a militant group to breach the much-taunted Israeli security networks around Gaza and conduct such a spectacular attack speaks volumes. It portrays one thing, the vulnerability of Israel.

No doubt, the question in Israel today is what went wrong? Was it a colossal intelligence failure? Was there a security black spot? What happened to their human and electronic surveillance over the Gaza Strip? Has Mossad the much celebrated Israeli spy Agency lost its 'mojo'? How did Hamas pull this earthshaken attack through without detection? An attack that took months to plan. Could it be that Hamas has learned over the years and mastered its acts? It is just a litany of questions.

Perhaps the Israelis will answer these questions down the road. The task at hand is to contain the macabre situation. But then stocks have to be taken. When a country is embroiled in an internal political crisis, undesirable things happen.

President Benjamin Netanyahu is partly the problem. He wants to be a lifetime leader and will do everything to hang on. He created the internal crisis with his sit-tight intentions which led to the alliance with far-right and ultra-religious parties to form a government. The alliance came with a baggage.

Netanyahu started a terrible policy of West Bank expansion and expulsions which left an unpleasant taste in the minds of persons with a conscience. In a bid to remain unchallenged, he started to tamper with the Israeli constitution to reduce the powers and influence of the Supreme Court. Demonstrations over this dictatorship drive and tendencies have been going on over the last year in Israel. It has also soured the relationship with the United States. The move fractured the Israeli society. Even Israeli reservists threaten to refuse call-up if the meddling with the constitution goes through. Luckily, they are now putting the nation first and rising to defend their people. So there has been internal infighting and a house divided cannot stand. Therefore, Hamas saw a window, thus the brazen attack. And there lies a lesson for any nation. A person's ambition cannot be greater than the interest of the vast majority.

By conjecture, who knows,

maybe the event of Saturday wouldn't have been precipitated had Israel been at peace with itself. It beats all imagination that an attack of the scale witnessed on Saturday could have been planned and executed within the plain sight of Israel without detection. Unfortunately, innocent persons, babies, children and grandmums on both sides are bearing the brunt. Persons who woke up with big dreams couldn't live to see the midday because of the bad decisions of political actors.

Typically, America and the larger West have declared their rock-solid and unwavering support for Israel. It was a fait accompli. America has also warned against persons and groups cashing in on the fluid situation to make some statement.

Indeed no group or nation should see the development as an opportunity for a self-serving move and add to the volatility of the situation. Iranian-backed Hisbolah and their ilk should exercise restraint because the temptation to jump into the fray would be high. Then the conflict will spiral out of control with consequences that will be dire and severe. I am not naive to think that the dynamics will not change more dramatically in the next few days and weeks as the conflict evolves but reasons should prevail.

We should be de-escalating instead of escalating the situation, or else it will amount to self-immolation and armageddon in the Middle East. Hamas's action is already being described as the

hand of Esau but the voice of Jacob. It is generally believed that Hamas is prodded from behind by Iran.

While not holding brief for Hamas for its dastardly attack, which has immense consequences for the organisation and region, the time has come to ask how we got here. The conflagration may be largely unprovoked but the seeds of discord were sowed in the past. The Palestinians are dislocated people without a homeland. Interestingly, they used to have a homeland until seventy-five years ago when the Zionist state of Israel was created out of Palestine for the persecuted Jews. Having settled down with the unalloyed support of the Western world, the relocated Jews became Oliver Twist and embarked on land grabbing, particularly after the failed Arab attempt to dislodge them.

The occupation of the land of Palestine is referred to as 'enakba' (the calamity). Ever since the Palestinians have found a way to make their voices heard through orthodox and unorthodox means. The Palestine Liberation Organisation, black September movement, Jenin Brigade, Islamic Jihad and Hamas are part of this struggle. Unfortunately, the more moderate group in this fight, the reformed Fatta Movement which is the face of Palestine that favoured a negotiated resolution and a two-state solution have been sidelined and left in a precarious situation. For over fifty years I have been hearing of peace process without peace. Many UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue have not been implemented. Israel refuses to negotiate with the Palestinian authority because they have the initiative and the upper hand.

The time has come for a rethink and change of strategy. Digging in helps nobody. That is while I applaud the position of Former Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert when he suggested that no one should be under the illusion that force is the answer. He insisted that negotiation with the bona-fide representatives of the Palestinians is the way forward. It couldn't have come from another person than him. He knows better having fought a bitter war with Lebanese-based Hisbolah in 2006 during his time as PM. When the dust of this conflict settles, perhaps we should think differently and signal enough of the bloodletting and wastage of life. We shall collectively declare that time has come for the reign of justice and peace in the region. People born in Israel and Palestine deserve a life devoid of intimidation, fear, death and wanton destruction. Let all men of goodwill work for this peace. There is no alternative.



## Foreign News

# F Kennedy Jr is running for president

Robert F Kennedy Jr - the anti-vaccination activist, environmental lawyer and member of America's most famous political family - is running for president as an independent. Although his chances of capturing the White House are slim to none, he could impact a close race.

Mrs Guoan and her husband Brandon drove more than an hour from the Detroit area to see Mr Kennedy in Michigan's state capital on Saturday.

Mr Guoan calls himself an "old school Democrat, a Kennedy Democrat." But the couple both voted for Donald Trump in 2020.

The BBC spoke to dozens of voters in an eclectic crowd of a few hundred in Lansing. They offered some clues into how a Kennedy campaign might alter the overall race.

Robert F Kennedy Jr is part of a Democratic political dynasty. He counts a president and senator among his uncles, and in 1968 his father was assassinated while running for the party's presidential nomination.

Mr Kennedy began his own quest for the White House earlier this year by entering the Democratic Party's nomination process. He never presented a significant challenge to President Joe Biden, however, and at a rally in Philadelphia on Monday he declared he is running as an independent candidate instead.

The announcement reflects how the policies and priorities of Mr Kennedy and the modern Democratic Party have diverged. His deep scepticism about vaccines and the push to support Ukraine, for example, are out of step with most Democratic politicians.

Mr Kennedy spent most of his career as an environmental lawyer but has been more recently known for spreading doubt and falsehoods about vaccinations through his foundation, Children's Health Defense, which got huge boosts in funding and publicity during the Covid pandemic.

His signature issue resonates more with grassroots Republican voters than with Democrats. A recent poll funded by a political action committee backing the Kennedy campaign indicated that in a three-way race, Mr Kennedy Jr would siphon off slightly more support from Donald



Kennedy Jr

Trump than from Joe Biden. However, another survey, conducted by Ipsos and Reuters, showed the opposite.

During his stump speech in Michigan on Saturday, Kennedy emphasised his environmental credentials, a populist economic message, and the history of his political family - only mentioning vaccines very briefly.

Matthew Ruggles says there is no way he will vote for the Democratic or Republican nominee for president

Many voters said they had voted for Mr Trump and

preferred his policies, if not his personality. But there were no shortage of self-declared Democrats or people who said they would refuse to vote for either of the major parties.

When it comes to the raw vote numbers, Ms Smith says, the true impact of an independent candidate can be hard to gauge, even years after an election.

In 2020, the closest state, Georgia, was decided by just more than 11,000 votes. At the same time, more than 60,000 Georgians voted for the Libertarian Party ticket headed by Jo Jorgenson.

## South Korea to suspend 2018 inter-Korean agreement

South Korea's defence minister has said he will push to suspend a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement in order to resume front-line surveillance on rival North Korea, as the surprise attack on Israel by Hamas raised concerns in South Korea about similar assaults by the North.

Talking with reporters in Seoul on Tuesday, South Korean Defence Minister Shin Won-sik cited the violence in Israel and Gaza to stress the need to strengthen monitoring of the North.

Shin was appointed by President Yoon Suk-yeol on Saturday.

The agreement, reached during a brief period of diplomacy between South Korea's former liberal President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, created buffer zones along land and sea boundaries and no-fly zones above the border to prevent clashes.

Shin was particularly critical of the inter-Korean agreement's no-fly zones, which he said prevents South Korea from fully utilising its air surveillance assets at a time when North Korean nuclear threats are growing.

Relations between the Koreas have decayed following the collapse of larger talks between Washington and Pyongyang in 2019 over the North's nuclear weapons programme.

North Korea has threatened to abandon the 2018 agreement while dialing up missile tests to a record pace, prompting the conservative Yoon to take a harder line on Pyongyang than his dovish predecessor.

While it would take a complicated legal process for South Korea to fully abandon the agreement, pausing the agreement would only require a decision from a Cabinet meeting, Shin said.

Shin's comments are likely to draw fierce criticism from South Korea's liberal opposition, which has described the agreement as a safety valve between the Koreas as relations continue to worsen.

There have been no major skirmishes between the Koreas since the agreement was reached in September 2018. But South Korea last

The Gaza Strip could be on the brink of a new humanitarian crisis if supplies are not allowed in, authorities say, as Israel responds to the Hamas attacks.

On Monday Israel declared a "complete siege" on the territory - saying electricity, food, fuel and water would be cut off.

According to residents, aid has not reached the enclave since Saturday.

There are deserted streets covered with rubble from collapsed buildings following Israeli airstrikes.

More than 500 people have died these attacks.

Gaza is home to about 2.3 million people in total - 80% of whom rely on humanitarian aid mainly due to the ongoing hostilities with Israel.

The territory is ruled by Hamas militants but Israel controls the airspace and its shoreline. It also restricts who and what goods can cross its borders.

Neighbouring Egypt strictly controls what or who can pass through its border with Gaza too.

Gaza hospital deluged as Israel retaliates with strikes

Explained: What is Hamas, what is happening in Israel and the Gaza Strip

November accused the North of violating the agreement's tensions-reducing requirements when it fired a missile near a populated South Korean island near their sea border, triggering air raid sirens and forcing residents to evacuate.

In June 2020, North Korea blew up an empty inter-Korean liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong to demonstrate anger over South Korea's unwillingness to prevent its civilian activists from flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border. Onth following consecutive failures in recent months, as Kim stresses the importance of acquiring space-based reconnaissance capacities to monitor US and South Korean military movements and enhance the threat of his nuclear-capable missiles.

## Burkina Faso commander linked to failed coup killed



Tohobougou

Burkina Faso's security forces have killed a fugitive commander wanted for his

role in last month's reported coup attempt.

Ismael Tohobougou was implicated in the plot and had been on the run after being summoned by the military prosecutor for questioning, the report said.

He was among military officers accused of taking part in a failed coup against Capt Ibrahim Traoré.

The coup reports sparked pro-junta protests across the country.

## Gaza 'soon without fuel, medicine, food'

- Israel



Netanyahu

and other questions

Since the attacks began on Saturday morning, Israel has stopped all supplies entering Gaza, including food and medicine.

Many are currently without electricity and internet, and could soon be out of essential food and water supplies.

Authorities have warned that fuel will run out within 24 to 72 hours. The UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA, has also warned of fuel supplies lasting a matter of days.

Even before the latest restrictions, residents of Gaza already faced widespread food insecurity, restrictions on movement and water shortages.

The Israeli infrastructure minister later ordered the immediate cut-off of water supplies to Gaza, saying: "What was in the past will no longer be in the future."

In a statement released before those announcements, the Palestinian health ministry said hospitals were facing a shortage of medicines, medical supplies and fuel due to Israel's actions.

It called on international actors to urge Israel to "restart power lines" and to supply emergency needs in the form of medicine, fuel and power generators.

Israel has launched retaliatory strikes on Gaza after the weekend attacks by Hamas

Israel has launched massive retaliatory air strikes into Gaza since

Saturday, killing at least 511 people and injuring 2,750, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

Sunday night saw a particularly heavy barrage of strikes, potentially the biggest Gaza has experienced in years - throughout the night several loud bangs could be heard in quick succession across the Gaza Strip.

As the strikes continued after dawn, black smoke filled the sky, and the dust from collapsed buildings could be tasted in the air.

Some of the strikes targeted the border area in the east of Gaza, from where Hamas launched their attacks on Saturday morning. Israel appears to be targeting those areas to try and shore up security there.

There have also been reports from witnesses of Israel using artillery fire in the border area.

What we know about Israeli hostages taken by Hamas

Life in the Gaza Strip Israel said it is striking Hamas targets in Gaza, but there are reports of civilians being hit.

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said two refugee camps in Gaza - Al-Shati (also known as the Beach camp) and Jabalia camps - were hit by Israeli airstrikes, reportedly leaving several injured and dead.

Video shared online from Jabalia showed widespread chaos, including a body being carried away and a man covered in blood and dust.

The foreign ministry also said air strikes hit a United Nations school in Gaza that was housing hundreds of civilians, including children and the elderly.

The UN confirmed the attack, saying the school was "severely damaged", but that no one was killed.

There have also been reports of a mosque, as well as homes, being hit.

According to Associated Press, 19 members of the same family were killed in a strike in Rafah, in the south of Gaza.



## Feature

# Leading students to spiritual growth

By LYDIA LAKAN

THE inaugural Church service of Karl Kumm University was held on the 3rd of September, 2023. The Church service was led by the University Librarian Dr. Mrs Lydia Endaben Lakan.

The sermon was given by Dr. Thomas Adisa of the Federal College of Animal Health and Production Technology Vom. He is also an Elder at COCIN LCC Vom Vet. The topic of the sermon was "THE LAW OF THE FIRST" Deuteronomy 21:17 New International Version (NIV). He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has.

That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to Him.

The law of the first arrival gives you the privilege of accessing certain blessings. It also attracts the attention of peculiar challenges and adversaries; which requires you to fight certain battles.

Don't be surprised that all the experiences or battles you've been fighting are all preparing you for this position of First Born in this system; Karl Kumm University.

The first Vice-Chancellor, the First Registrar, the Bursar or University Librarian, the first set of staff employed by the University or foundational students, know that God has been at work preparing you to enter into this position. God is very deliberate.

Nobody becomes first by accident or stumbles into becoming first. It is a deliberate crafting of God. Deu. 21:17b says "That son is the first sign of his father's strength".

Who is our father? If God is our father, then being first in this university means we are the sign of the strength of God and because God does not fail we cannot fail. "That son is the first sign of his father's strength". You are the first sign (a sign is a display) you are the one whom God wants to use to display his strength.

Nobody has the power or capability to defeat God so you cannot be defeated. When you start seeing battles around you, be assured that you cannot be defeated because you are the sign of God's strength.

My fellow staff and students, you cannot be defeated. Challenges will come, and temptations abound. Some students that came here very decent if care is not taken will begin to pick up ungodly characters, or some with hidden ungodly behaviour from homes will try to pull others into certain ungodly practices.

However, always remember that you are the First in this University and you must always remind yourself that you are the sign of God's strength. Verse 17a of Deuteronomy 21 says "He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has". By design the son is in a disadvantaged position, (his mother is not loved) and so is not worth the privileges. You may also be in a disadvantaged position but God is



saying "I choose you because you are the sign of my strength".

Some first men in scripture (Borrowing the principles of being first from these men) Cain: Gen 4:3. Cain had a privilege. He had the opportunity to represent God's first sample of the human race; he had the opportunity to have been the 'first' of all firstborns. God wanted to make Cain the sample of the blessing of being first.

His parents failed, but he had an opportunity to show a sample of a successful child of challenged parents. His parents were challenged but he had an opportunity to become an example of someone who could overcome the challenge. Cain did not understand the privilege he had as a First Born. Cain was obsessed with himself until Satan took over.

The next time we read about Cain was in a warning 'Don't be like Cain....' 1 John 3:12. This is not a good example. God discarded him. That will not be your portion in Jesus' name. Esau: Gen 27:7. Being the first son, his father was deliberate about blessing him. He was very conscious of the fact that Esau needed to be blessed.

Esau had the privilege of someone who should have collected a generational blessing. But Esau was

defeated by the need for instant and premature gratification. The next time we hear about him is a warning not to be godless like Esau. Hebrew 12:16. You will not eat your seed of greatness prematurely in Jesus' name. Reuben: Gen 35:22- The son of Bilhah, the firstborn of Jacob. He was to collect the juiciest of blessings, but he gave in to the power of lust.

He lusted after the young beautiful wife of his father. For one session of sex, he lost it. (Gen 49:3-4). A man who was designed to be his father's 'might' and 'first sign of his strength'. A man who should have 'excelled in honour and power' ended regrettably. You will not abort God's blessing for your life in the name of Jesus.

When sexual temptations or pressure around your academics come, you will like Daniel purpose in your heart, not to defile yourself no matter the temptation, no matter the pressure. Elder brother to the prodigal son: (Luke 15:11-32). He fails to rejoice when his younger brother returns home after a riotous life.

He went into depression, he went into sadness. He swam into a purposeless self-righteous and cold self-indulgence and failed to enjoy the privileges of being first; having the responsibility of

looking out for his lost brother and also rejoicing that a lost sibling is back. One of the things that kills a system is this kind of spirit. Failure to rejoice when others are being promoted or recognised.

This shall not be our portion as staff and students of this University in Jesus' name. Conclusion (Entering God's purpose for the first) The First must be consecrated: 'Consecrate me first.....' Exodus 13:2. It is consecration that will keep us from falling into the tragic examples we considered above.

We must let God set us apart for what He wants to do through us as firstborns in this University. You cannot be consecrated to one to whom you are not connected.

It begins with a connection to God. Jesus is the model of the firstborn Col 1:15. You must come under the blood: Just as the blood was used to spare the firstborns in Egypt, we must come under the blood. Hebrews 11:28 "By faith, he kept the Passover and the application of blood so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. "You must come under the blood.

**Dr. Lydia Lakan is the Chief Librarian of Karl Kumm University Vom**



# THEY'RE SOW WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Health

# 7 reasons teenagers start using drugs

By **BRITTANY POLANSKY**

FOR teens, it can start as experimenting with drugs or alcohol at a party. Then it turns to addiction and abuse later on in life. As 90% of people who struggle with substance abuse started using before they turned 18 years old.

The reasons adolescents start using can be genetics, their environment, or social pressures. Teenagers on drugs also have a higher risk of developing an addiction. These are some of the reasons teens start using drugs:

### 1. Peer Pressure

A peer pressure definition includes teens getting influenced by friends or family members. This happens with teens trying drugs or alcohol to impress people in their social circle. It gets done as a way to fit in, rather than a personal choice. Social pressure can also happen with someone the teen is dating or from an older sibling. Peer pressure often takes place when teens choose to attend parties or social events. This is where drugs like marijuana, cocaine, and ecstasy are popular.

Teens may start out by getting pressured with gateway drugs. Nicotine, alcohol, and marijuana are often seen as being less high risk by teens. Yet, this can sometimes lead to using more illicit drugs, like cocaine and heroin. These drugs pose extreme health risks and often lead to dependence and addiction.

### 2. Unstable Mental Health

The age of adolescence can be a fragile and emotional time. Many teens struggle with mood swings and changing hormones as their bodies develop. Some teens also have mental health disorders, which drugs and alcohol can make much worse. Here is more on the connection between depression and alcohol abuse and how it can affect a teen.

During teen development, they often experience an imbalance of hormones. This lets in feelings of anxiety and depression. So teens may turn to drugs and alcohol to help them relax and control stress triggers. Using drugs can also affect an adolescent's brain functions and development. An even scarier effect is that using drugs and alcohol can



also lead to an increased risk of warning signs of alcoholism or drug suicide. In these cases, a teen may need professional counseling or rehab. As this may reduce their risk of turning to drugs and alcohol.

### 3. An Enabling Environment

A teen's environment can also impact the likelihood of them trying drugs and alcohol. Teens look to older siblings and parents as the people who help to shape their lives. This has a big effect on how the teen will view drugs and alcohol. An enabling environment also happens when teens don't get reprimanded for their actions. This includes skipping classes or letting their grades slip. Engaging in risky behaviors is another sign that a teen may be acting out.

Teens with missing parental guidance or a mentor may be more at risk. Problems at home, abuse, and neglect can also turn the teen towards substance abuse. Parents may also ignore or fail to notice the

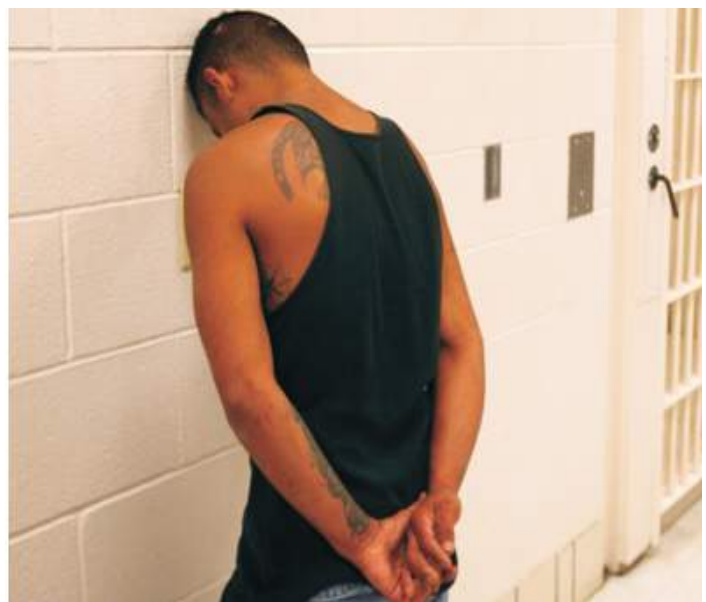
also lead to an increased risk of warning signs of alcoholism or drug suicide. In these cases, a teen may need professional counseling or rehab. As this may reduce their risk of turning to drugs and alcohol.

### 4. A Family History of Addiction

Genetics often comes into play for increasing one's drug and alcohol addiction risk. Teens with addicted families are more likely to develop problems with substance abuse. This can happen with one alcoholic parent or both parents struggling with addiction. The teen may also have an addictive personality that runs in the family. This can lead them to substance abuse problems.

### 5. Having Easy Access to Drugs

Teens that have drugs available to them can also get influenced in their decision to use. The type of neighborhood or community they live in can increase their exposure. This also includes which school they go to and the school's control over and policy on drugs. Some communities have a high amount of opioid abusers. This can increase prescription drugs getting sold in schools.



If parents have controlled substances in the home, it helps to keep an eye on the medicine cabinet. Internet browser controls are also important. As some teens even turn to the internet to buy illegal drugs.

### 6. An Experimental or High-Risk Personality

Some teens turn to drugs to help them deal with a big life transition or trauma. This often starts as a situational habit that turns to a characteristic that makes them more likely to try drugs. Some teens go through an experimental stage or young adulthood. A personal loss, use drugs to relieve boredom. These like the death of a loved one, can type of teens who use drugs are spur this. Changing schools or often chasing a dopamine release. Using drugs and alcohol will also affect the teen's decision-making process.

These teens may also exhibit risky, curious, or thrill-seeking behaviors. This includes drinking and driving and having unprotected sex. Teens

may also mix drugs and alcohol to enhance the effects.

Those who drink energy drinks also have a higher chance of using drugs and alcohol. This is due to their personality traits and behavior patterns.

### 7. Going Through a Tough Transition

Some teens turn to drugs to help them deal with a big life transition or trauma. This often starts as a situational habit that turns to a characteristic that makes them more likely to try drugs. Some teens go through an experimental stage or young adulthood. A personal loss, use drugs to relieve boredom. These like the death of a loved one, can type of teens who use drugs are spur this. Changing schools or often chasing a dopamine release. Using drugs and alcohol will also affect the teen's decision-making process.

Bullying and social media pressure may also be to blame for a teen who chooses to use drugs. Some teens may also be having a hard time figuring out their sexual identity. This can cause them to use drugs as

an escape or a means to cope. The stress of getting into college may also cause the teen to turn to substance abuse. The teen may also show signs that their grades are slipping. They may also show a loss of interest in academic and extracurricular activities. A teen going through a difficult time does not always guarantee drug use. But it may involve a combination of different factors, including struggling with change.

Getting them the help they need These 7 situations are the most common reasons that cause teenagers to begin using drugs. Remember that teenagers on drugs will often display some warning signs. It helps to pay attention to the symptoms and encourage support. There are also many options to take to begin the recovery process for yourself or a loved one. Counseling services and professional treatment programs have helped many teens struggling with addiction.





# EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

## Relationship

### Diphtheria : Health workers to report cases within 24 hours

- NCDC

THE National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has issued an urgent warning for all healthcare workers to report all suspected cases of diphtheria to their respective Disease Surveillance and Notification Officers (DSNO) within 24 hours.

The NCDC said diphtheria was one of the priority diseases in Nigeria requiring immediate reporting. Many deaths have been recorded in Nigeria since the outbreak.

Ifedayo Adetifa, the Director General of the centre, said: "It is essential that you report all notifiable diseases to public health authorities in the state your institution is based in and specifically to the LGA DSNOs for the location of your facility. This is necessary for follow-up action at State and National level".

Diphtheria is an infectious disease that manifests as sore throat and fever and spreads quickly through cough and sneezing, NCDC says. In severe cases, the bacteria produce a poison (toxin) that causes a thick grey or white patch at the back of the throat. This can block the airway making it hard to breathe or swallow and also create a barking cough. The neck may swell in part due to enlarged lymph nodes.

The poison may also get into the bloodstream causing complications that may include inflammation and damage of the heart muscle, inflammation of nerves, kidney problems, and bleeding problems due to low blood platelets. The infection is treated with the administration of a diphtheria antitoxin, administered through injection. Antibiotics are also given to eliminate bacteria and toxin production and to prevent transmission to others.

The WHO prescribes that immunisation programmes should ensure that three booster doses of diphtheria vaccines are provided during childhood and adolescence as recent outbreaks in several countries show inadequate vaccination coverage.

A hexavalent vaccine that would require fewer



Katsina, Federal Capital of Territory (FCT), Yobe, risk is in two phases. Phase Kaduna and Bauchi states; one, a five-day reactive 20 contiguous local councils catch-up campaign, is in six neighboring states planned for the affected 25 (Gombe, Jigawa, Borno, local councils in four states Nasarawa, Plateau and from August 7, 2023, and will Zamfara); and seven local target children less than 14 councils in Lagos and Osun years of age. Children, six states.

This came as the Federal administered the Pentavalent Ministry of Health, in vaccine, while children above collaboration with National four to 14 years would be Primary Healthcare administered Tetanus-Development Agency Diphtheria (Td) vaccine (NPHCDA), Nigerian Centre during the campaign.

for Disease Control (NCDC) He noted that 171 local 9 April 2023, 1439 suspected and partners, is mobilising councils in 14 states were cases were reported, with resources to respond being prioritised for full three 557 (39 percent) confirmed, effectively to an outbreak in rounds of catch-up including 73 deaths among four states. Already, a campaigns using the the confirmed cases. comprehensive response Pentavalent vaccine (for

Nigeria had previously plan has been activated to children less than four years) reported diphtheria ensure early detection, and Td vaccine (for children outbreaks, with the most containment of cases, and between four and 14 years). significant reported in 2011 prevention of further According to him, the 14 affecting the rural areas of transmission through a states for the phase two response are: Katsina, Borno State, in the country's multi-phased response response strategy. Kaduna, Kano, Yobe, FCT, northeast. strategy. Kaduna, Kano, Yobe, FCT, Kaduna, Kano, Yobe, FCT, Bauchi, Gombe, Jigawa, 171 local councils in 14 Permanent Secretary in the Bauchi, Gombe, Jigawa, states risk spread of ministry, Olufunsho Adebisi, Borno, Nasarawa, Plateau, diphtheria, FG warns who disclosed this in a Zamfara, Lagos and Osun.

In a report by The Guardians statement in Abuja, Adebisi observed that the Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze, the yesterday, said available three rounds of the phase Federal Government has real-time surveillance data two response catch-up warned that about 171 local shows active diphtheria campaigns are tentatively councils in 14 states are at outbreaks in 25 local councils scheduled for August 21, high risk of further spread of in Bauchi, Katsina, Yobe and 2023 (first round), diphtheria. It said the Kaduna. Adebisi said September 18, 2023 (second affected areas are: all 144 partnership aimed at round) and October 16, 2023 local councils in Kano, intensified mass vaccination (third round).

vaccination sessions, allowing more children to receive all the recommended doses for protection against diseases such as diphtheria is also being developed.

UNICEF expects WHO prequalification of the first whole-cell pertussis hexavalent vaccine during the third quarter of 2023. Data from the WHO show that 557 confirmed cases of diphtheria have been detected in Nigeria as of April 2023, affecting 21 of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

In December 2022, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) was notified of suspected diphtheria outbreaks in Kano and Lagos States. From 14 May 2022 to



**Editorial**

**Israeli/Palestinian conflict**

**THE unprecedented scale of attack launched by the Palestinian movement from Hamas from the Gaza Strip on Saturday aims to reshuffle the cards in the conflict that has divided the world along political and religious lines.**

**THE Israeli Palestinian conflict is dated back to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1947, the United Nations adopted a resolution 181, known as the partition plan which sought to divide the British mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states on May 14, 1948, the state of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli war. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced and the territory was divided into three parts; the state of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.**

**Over the years tensions rose in the region particularly between Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The recent deadliest attack on Israel territory's killing and kidnapping civilians and soldiers alike, the Palestinian group changed the balance of power on the ground.**

**THE conflict is seen from the religious aspect by faithful of the two major religion Christianity and Islam which has attracted comments that would rather fuel the conflict Israel is finding solution to.**

**HERE in Nigeria comments have started coming from influential religious leaders and regional association is in support of either the Palestinians or Israelis. It is unfortunate that someone will allied himself with somebody that is far away from you or do not know whether you exist or not.**

**UNFORTUNATELY most people misunderstood the conflict between the two who were under British terrorist over seas by attaching religious base sentiment to the conflict that is mainly on land dispute.**

**NIGERIANS should draw lesson from the conflict and its effect on development in the Middle East and not to attach any religious sentiments or support based on certain premedial interest. At this point in time, Nigeria has had enough conflict which has rendered development in both human and economy static despite our resource that ranks highest in the African continent.**

**We should focus on the need for both sides to exercise restraint in order to avoid its escalation to other regions as it was before. Conflict is not good whether it is close to you or far away as it can affect you directly or indirectly, it is also our hope that the wisdom will prevail soon and make it possible to prevent further loss of human lives and property.**

**We call on Nigerians to see the need for caution and avoid being dragged in conflict particularly those who hold strong religious bias on the Israel/Palestinians conflict. If we must make comment, it should be one that will proffer solution than to escalate tension.**

THE Down Base Community is said to be one of the busiest area in Faringada Jos, And one of the communities where businesses thrive due to it's population. However the road are in dilapidated state unconducive for the traders and passengers that make business in that particular area boom to say that it affects businesses and to say the least.

For the residents of this area, During the rainy season is the worst time of the year. When rain falls the road gets muddy, which causes car, trailers and trucks which move goods and services to get stuck and when it causes hold up it's delay goods from coming on time. And it makes the business men and women to lose alot of customers and profits.

That apart, the potholes usually make or cause accidents and unbearable delay for the people living in the environment. Also when rain falls the market structure gets affected and the risk taken to deliver some goods as a result of bad roads and potholes become worst.

Although traders at that community have raised concern over the issue of the road, But nothing has been done and they couldn't raise enough funds in repairing the road for market purposes.

The students population in that area are always complaining about how the problem of the road makes them go late to



**Construction of good road at Down Base Community**

school sometimes they are forced to trek long distances to the junction to get transportation to school because of how bad the road is.

And in the case of sickness, imagine the journey it could course someone to die because of the delay on the road. And in the case of pregnant women, it could lead them to losing the children or even die women at early age of pregnancy, could easily have miscarriage due to the bad road.

I want to use this medium to appeal to the Plateau State Government to come to the aid of Down Base by providing good road facilities, so that it would enable the people have

provisions shops in that area, have a smooth market and also for easy delivery their goods, without any damages to their vehicles or any form of delay.

Nevertheless, Government should consider the importance of road to both the business men and women and also for people who are resident of that area, by seeing the need to urgently fix the road for the protection of lives and property.

We need more of governments presence in Down Base and also social amenities as dividends of democracy.

**By Emmanuel Blessing, IT student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi.**

**Government should intensify the anti-corruption war**

CORRUPTION is a phenomenon all over the world and what it does is stopping the natural growth of countries or regions. That is why it is also known as an all-pervading circumstance and unnecessary hindrance for countries that are striving to move forward.

Today, no country is immune to the malaise as corruption. All and every country takes part in it involuntarily because that is the key to progress and development and hence people see power as the opportunity to acquire wealth

which they end up degrading themselves and run in the wrong direction. There may be a difference in the amount of corruption in all the countries, but it exists all the same.

Public life, personal life, politics, administration, education, and even research and security is also not immune to corruption. There is hardly any exception. Corruption is seen as a detestable act that must be punished in some countries, but that is not the case in India, as there is no

specific punishment for any corruption. Corruption is an offence that does not ruin lives but ruin families as well because once a person gets habituated to it, no one but themselves can stop them from it.

I therefore call on relevant authority to intensify the fight against corruption which is the bane of our country's awkwardness. The fight against corruption will enable the public to enjoy efficient and available service delivery from those in charge of public offices.

**Sunday Mercy Alandi ECWA Church Angwan Clinic, Tudun Wada, Jos.**

**Standard Cartoon**





## Opinion

# Tinubu, NSA and counter-terrorism strategies

By  
**GODIYA IBRAHIM**

"If you don't separate yourself from distractions, your distractions will separate you from your goals". The above saying aptly captures the dilemma of the Nigerian government whose "primary purpose", according to section 14(20)(b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, is "the security and welfare of the people..."

In his 80-page document, Renewed Hope 2023: Action Plan for a Better Nigeria, which can be considered his government's working document, and in his inaugural address, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu emphasised the urgent need that, under his leadership, Nigeria is safe again.

National security, as "the foundation of a prosperous and democratic society," occupies the first five pages of the document's first chapter. The new administration pledges to "mobilise the full extent of our national security, military and law enforcement resources to protect all Nigerians."

Needless to say, Nigeria has been severely challenged security-wise in the last decade and half. Hence, it is safe to say President Tinubu and his National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, inherited a very bad security situation. This, they have resolved to tackle headlong as part of the fulfilment of their campaign promises.

Since assuming office on May 29, the President and the NSA have thrown everything to the works to ensure quick wins. However, the recent abduction of students at Kaya Junior Secondary School in Maradun local government area of Zamfara State is a huge setback. But the duo are determined to turn the heat against these enemies of Nigeria.

The security situation is like taking one step forward and taking 20 backwards. This is certainly the handiwork of mischief makers and undesirable elements who are bent on tarnishing the efforts of Tinubu's Renewed Hope Government.

Against this backdrop, at the prompting of the NSA, the Army has launched a bold bid to pursue these terrorists into their holes and hiding. This operation is expected to last until this issue of insecurity is dealt with once and for all.

Security agencies must redouble their efforts because Nigeria is one of the world's most heavily armed countries, with a large number of small arms and light weapons in circulation. This makes it difficult for the security forces to control crime and violence.

In addition to the rise of non-state actors and armed groups such as Boko Haram, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and armed bandits. These groups are well-armed and motivated, and they have been able to carry out attacks in different parts of the country.

To get it right, the corruption concerns in the Nigerian security sector, which has resulted in inefficiency, must be checked because it has made it difficult for the security forces to respond effectively to security threats.

For the cynics, I have this for you: It is too early to say whether the Tinubu administration will be successful in tackling insecurity. However, what is clear is that the steps the administration has taken so far are encouraging. The new Service Chiefs are experienced and well-respected, and the new national security strategy is comprehensive and well thought-out. If the administration is able to implement its security strategy effectively, it could make a significant difference in the fight

against insecurity.

There is a silver lining. There is light at the end of the tunnel because I'm confident that the appointment of the former chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Ribadu, described by security experts as a square peg in square hole, will breathe new vitality into the fight against insecurity.

In addition to the steps listed above, President Tinubu and NSA Ribadu could also consider improved welfare of security personnel. This would help to boost morale and reduce corruption. Also, strengthening cooperation between the security forces and other stakeholders such as the judiciary and civil society organizations would help to create a more holistic approach to security.

They must address the root causes of insecurity such as poverty and unemployment. This would require long-term investment in education, healthcare, and other social services.

It is important to note that tackling insecurity is a complex and challenging task. It will require a sustained effort from the government, the security forces and the Nigerian people. However, if the Tinubu administration is able to implement its security strategy effectively and address the root causes of insecurity, it could make a significant difference in the fight against insecurity.

To maintain peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of Nigerians, the NSA should investigate the records of most disputes situations and method of adjusting conflicts such as religious disturbances and other corruption causes.

It is high time the Renewed Hope

Agenda perfected this discipline, drew information from a variety of overt and covert sources to provide intelligence needed to support the law enforcement operations, contingency planning, defence policies and procurement decisions.

There is an Act that also gives the office of the NSA the mandate to ensure the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive counter terrorism strategy and build capacity for the effective discharge of the functions of relevant security, intelligence law and enforcement and military service.

As I conclude, let me emphasise that only the active coordination and effective inter-agency collaboration will go a long way in enhancing intelligence sharing to fish out those sabotaging the nation's progress. For instance, after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the United States, it was discovered that rivalry between FBI and CIA hampered information sharing.

The good news is that President Tinubu and NSA Ribadu have the potential of freeing Nigerians from danger and security threats by providing maximum security against saboteurs of Nigeria.

Our intelligence and state security services are doing well but the president needs to arm them with model intrusive surveillance equipment, such that would assist them deploy eavesdropping devices and intelligence interference such as covertly accessing devices for both internal security and our boarders.

Another solution to insecurity in Nigeria is to enhance intelligence services. This can be done by investing in the training and equipment of law enforcement

officials such as the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Department of State Services (DSS).

As can be observed already, the NSA is beginning to get a direction after meeting with some foreign spy masters. No country can make the desired progress when its spy masters, both serving and retired, remain silent.

An emergency meeting should be convened of all the ECOWAS National Security Advisers, retired Nigerian police chiefs, retired military chiefs, forensic intelligence experts, and retired intelligence spy masters by President Tinubu to quash the incessant attacks in both the sea and on land to come up with a unified communications strategic intelligence codes on how to nail those behind the security challenges.

Also, traditional rulers and religious leaders should be taken into consideration after studying their psychological opinions about security. Let's not forget that many of the royal fathers in the country are retired detectives whose expertise and wealth of experience can be useful in the fight against insecurity.

Nigerians have demonstrated resilience in the face of numerous challenges, including political instability, economic hardship and other social issues. Their consciousness is however characterised by the spirit of endurance, adaptability and hope, as the people strive to overcome obstacles and improve their lives. By the power of the Almighty God and His Grace, President Tinubu and the NSA shall overcome the present security situation.

**Ibrahim is director, Communications and Strategic Planning, Presidential Support Committee.**

## Diphtheria crisis and the task before task force

In recent years, Nigeria and other world nations have been afflicted with killer pandemics and ravaging epidemics. These diseases exposed the flaws in healthcare systems, globally.

It however, provided an avenue for robust medicine/drugs manufacturing worldwide, and boosted governments' preparations for epidemics outbreaks, together with other matters concerning global health security.

In Nigeria, some of the serious health challenges we had recently included the Ebola and COVID-19 outbreaks. There is also Monkeypox which has since been renamed Mpox; Anthrax, and recently Diphtheria, which was first confirmed in July 2023, by the Federal Capital Territory Administration, FCTA, after it claimed the life of a four-year-old in the nation's capital.

The Director of FCT Public Health Department, Sadiq Abdulrahman, however said that they immediately swung into action by activating their emergency response and collected samples for testing at the National Reference Laboratory in Gaduwa, as well as the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control, NCDC.

But Diphtheria cases have been on the rise, according to the Director General of NCDC, Dr. Ifedayo Adetifa. At a briefing last week, she said the country now has 13,204 reported suspected cases, out of which 8,406 were confirmed from 114 Local Government Areas, LGA, across 18 states and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

At the moment, Kano, Yobe, Katsina, Borno, Kaduna and Bauchi are the hardest-hit regions and are said to collectively account for 97 per cent of all confirmed cases (8,406) where 6,202 (73.7 per cent) are seen in children aged 1-14 years.

Kano, Osun, Ondo among other states have since set emergency treatment centres with NGOs complementing their efforts to de-escalate the situation. Save the Children, a children humanitarian organisation, for instance, launched a wide-scale health response to diphtheria in the three most impacted states of Kano, Yobe and Katsina.

A statement from the organisation said its emergency health unit is deploying expert health

By **LAWAL DAHIRU MAMMAN**

and supply chain staff to help over-stretched clinics to detect and treat diphtheria cases, and to support mass vaccination campaigns across the worst hit areas, due to the fact that 80 per cent of the confirmed cases have been found to be people who are unvaccinated.

Faton Krasniqi, Save the Children's Interim Country Director for Nigeria, said: "The entire humanitarian community is alert to the crisis here. We are coordinating closely together and working alongside the Nigerian Ministry of Health to ensure we reach everyone who needs treatment and to contain the spread of the disease."

As cases continue to grow arithmetically amidst a vaccine shortage, three weeks ago, the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate, constituted an emergency taskforce in order to forestall further spread to other states and bring succour to the populace. The taskforce is to be co-chaired by the Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, NPHCDA, Dr. Faisal Shuaib and the Director General of the NCDC, Dr. Ifedayo Adetifa.

Other members of the taskforce include the Director of Public Health, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Anyaike Chukwuma, representatives from the World Health Organisation, WHO, United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, Federal Ministry of Information and the Northern Traditional Leaders Committee, NTL, on Primary Healthcare Delivery.

The minister was quoted as saying, "There should be massive mobilisation and sensitisation. This is where the NTL is critical. Our people should be aware of the disease, the dangers inherent in and what they need to do. We must mount a rapid response as our children are returning to school."

Pate also urged the taskforce team to liaise with the Governors of the 14 affected states at the time for counterpart funding, ownership and mass mobilisation, while also noting that UNICEF has

procured 1.2 million vials of tetanus-diphtheria vaccine as support to the Federal Government's response to the outbreak.

UNICEF representative, Dr. Rownak Khan, on his part said, "I want to affirm UNICEF's unwavering commitment to supporting the government's comprehensive response to the diphtheria outbreak."

"I'm pleased to announce that UNICEF, on behalf of the government, has procured 1.2 million vials of the tetanus-diphtheria vaccine which has arrived in Nigeria. These will be immediately dispatched to Kano, which is at the heart of this outbreak. Our collective aim is to safeguard the health and future of every child in Nigeria."

An international organisation, Gavi, the Global Vaccine Alliance, on Wednesday, also pledged its commitment to work closely with the Federal Government in its response to the diphtheria outbreak in the country, after which it commended the efforts of the coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare in establishing an emergency task force to combat the ongoing outbreak.

The organisation said the establishment of the task force is a critical step towards an effective response and Gavi is committed to playing its role as a member of the task force in partnership with all technical and resource partners to support its comprehensive response.

The taskforce, in swinging into action last week disclosed at a press briefing on the update of Diphtheria in Abuja, that the Federal Government is finalising the development of the National Diphtheria Laboratory to conduct preliminary and confirmatory testing of diphtheria in the country.

The NCDC Director General at the event noted that the Federal Ministry of Health through the NCDC and National Primary Health Care Development Agency, and partners has continued to work with the Ministry of Health of affected states to respond to diphtheria outbreaks across different states in the country.

"Last week the national diphtheria taskforce deployed National Rapid Response Teams, NRR, to Kano, Yobe, Katsina, Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Jigawa and Zamfara to support the outbreak response in the State across all pillars. I also want to use this opportunity to thank our partners at the World Bank, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Children's Fund, Médecins Sans Frontières, GAVI, and Breakthrough Action Nigeria, amongst others for their continued support of the national response," he added.

The team also said, "Through the laboratory network, we continue to conduct preliminary and confirmatory testing at sub-national and national levels respectively. Currently, we have 14 laboratories in the Diphtheria Laboratory Network with capacity to support diphtheria testing. Optimisation of five additional laboratories at the subnational is currently ongoing."

"We have conducted training for laboratory personnel at the sub-national level on laboratory diagnostic processes, quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity procedures, and data management. With the support of our partners, we have been able to conduct refresher training for the deployed National Rapid Response Team laboratory personnel."

"Currently, there is an ongoing installation of laboratory equipment (biosafety cabinets, autoclaves, and incubators) in Kaduna, Katsina and Bauchi states to aid the optimisation of labs in the states. There is also continuous provision of technical support to public health laboratory scientists across States. We are currently finalising the development of the National Diphtheria Laboratory."

The apt response by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, and his team is absolutely laudable. Nigerians are hoping that with Prof. Pate's emergency taskforce already at work, this nightmare called Diphtheria, which has claimed the lives of over 400 citizens, will soon be tackled.



## Feature

# Fuel subsidy removal: President Tinubu goofed

*In the last three months, I have written three articles showing clearly how fuel subsidy removal was the greatest error ever committed by a Nigerian leader. Information that the Bola Tinubu administration paid N169.4 billion as a subsidy in August this year to keep the pump price at N620 per litre, validates my position on the subject.*

PRESIDENT Tinubu and his team know that Nigerians are resilient. What he does not know is that there is a limit to endurance and the peoples tolerance of suffering.

Tinubu's government has decided to bring back the fuel subsidy to avert the likelihood of mass anger, which outcome cannot be exactly predicted.

It is clear that the President and his market fundamentalist team have come to the realisation that we are right when we argue that fuel subsidy is energy security that Nigeria cannot do without.

They can no longer sustain their arguments about subsidy removal, they now agree with some of us that maintaining fuel subsidy, which has a direct impact on the price of commodities, is a mandatory duty and not an option. They know they have goofed.

Perhaps those who feed on taxpayers' money to think for the government failed to educate Tinubu that removing the subsidy in a country like Nigeria with a huge poverty rate and pronounced infrastructural deficit, with a poor transportation system, is economy blasphemy that will lead to mass suffering and deaths.

Is the Federal Government unaware of this truth? The West, particularly the United States, who are quick to prescribe neoliberal capitalism to Africa as a solution for economic challenges, does not practise that on its own soil.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have pushed MrTinubu's government and other African states to embrace Neoliberal capitalism. The hypocrisy in their action is that they ensure that in the United States, Britain and the likes of them, that governments are committed to providing basic welfare packages for their citizens.

Unfortunately, the West, which



**Kyari**

has sustained a welfarist ideology by ensuring that its citizens live a decent life and government bears the costs, is using the IMF and World Bank to force MrTinubu's government and other countries in Africa to embrace neoliberal capitalism. African countries are pushing their citizens into poverty, with fuel subsidy removal as the most effective weapon. The problem is that African leaders and their Western allies do not have the understanding that the IMF and World Bank neoliberal capitalist prescription is to keep Africa permanently underdeveloped by destroying citizens' purchasing

power and the manufacturing sector.

The bitter truth which Mr. Tinubu's government and his neoliberal ideology auxiliary economists have refused to accept is that there is no country in the world that has made any progress on the basis of the IMF and World Bank neoliberal capitalism model, which they push in the guise of subsidy removal.

It is a known fact that countries like China and India, which have made measurable impacts in lifting their citizens from poverty and growing their economies,

refused to play by IMF and World Bank rules. Tinubu has to have this kind of understanding if he must put Nigeria on the path of sustainable growth.

Tinubu and his neoliberal Economists propagandists must know that the United States and the West do not practice this kind of wicked capitalist ideology they push to Africa. At least, the 2009 global recession has shown that in the United States, neoliberal capitalism is a mere intellectual exercise that is not applicable to real-life situations.

Even as the US battled the economic recessions, the government did not remove subsidies, didn't sack workers, didn't crumble its economy through currency devaluation and did not tax the citizens to raise money. As a matter of fact, the US government increased its expenditure and lowered taxes. The government did that so the poor would have money to spend on ground since the recession happened as a result of inadequate money in circulation. The private sector got bailouts from the government against the neoliberal rules of economic development.

Evidence before us is that subsidy is not the problem; it is the corruption in the way it has been managed. Nigerians must demand that MrTinubu's

government addresses corruption in the fuel subsidy management and reinstate it for the common good of all citizens.

The neoliberal Economists propagandists, who have lost touch with reality and have refused to embrace developmental economics, who are advising MrTinubu to continue with the neoliberal capitalist model that has been rejected by the West must stop.

MrTinubu's team needs to help him by exploring homegrown developmental economics models with governance and citizens' welfare at the centre. Wicked capitalism with cruel policies has not helped any country in the world and Nigeria will not be an exception.

Audu Liberty Oseni is the Coordinator of MAWA Foundation. Peter Obi must choose between being a patriot and a spoiler. It was convenient for him to celebrate when he defeated Asiwaju Tinubu in Lagos, but finds it faulty that he was beaten in some other places. He must quickly wake up from his dreamland to the stark reality of his defeat instead of wasting precious time keeping his supporters in suspense. He should congratulate the winner of the election, set a new tone to play constructive opposition, retool his Labour Party with a more vibrant leadership that can actively play the role of credible opposition, while preparing for another day. If he turns around to congratulate the winner, after the tribunal, it will not resonate with the aplomb of being a good sportsman. No election can truly meet the criteria for perfection the world over. Despite envisaged imperfections, nations move ahead through reforms and constructive engagement to deepen the process and make it more responsive to the challenges in the system. Nigeria's democracy is barely twenty four years old and still undergoing its own challenges. Through citizen's participation, mobilisation and conscientization, the likelihood to have a more robust electoral process will some day dominate the reality of our electoral system. Peter Obi still has age on his side, and can contest in future elections if he so desires. He must help the country to grow in the right direction and not be part of a process that may likely throw up violence to hurt an already fragile system. He should behave like a good Christian. For me, Peter Obi did not win 2023 presidential election, he couldn't have won; and the earlier he realised that, the better for his psyche and emotional stability.

THEWILL

**“The bitter truth which Mr. Tinubu's government and his neoliberal ideology auxiliary economists have refused to accept is that there is no country in the world that has made any progress on the basis of the IMF and World Bank neoliberal capitalism model, which they push in the guise of subsidy removal. It is a known fact that countries like China and India, which have made measurable impacts in lifting their citizens from poverty and growing their economies, refused to play by IMF and World Bank rules. Tinubu has to have this kind of understanding if he must put Nigeria on the path of sustainable growth.”**



News

FRSC boss alleges intimidation of staff by politicians

By JOHN FWAH Kaduna

THE Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Kaduna State Command, Nadabo, Kabir Yusuf has alleged that his personnel were being intimidated by some politicians in the state.

The FRSC boss asserted this during a media parley at the secretariat of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kaduna State Council at the weekend, where he also disclosed that his Command had received a letter from the state government, stating that its personnel should stay off the township roads.

Nadabo however, explained that despite the intimidation, the mandate of his Command is to ensure that the roads are safe for the citizens to use.

While addressing the media during the parley, the Sector Commander said: "I have also asked the Kaduna state traffic agency to stay off the federal roads and come to the township roads, but they are yet to comply.

"Despite the intimidation, we have been keeping quiet, not because we are afraid, but because of our civil way of doing things. And I can no longer sit down and be intimidated by some people.

"You can imagine a Local Government Chairman telling my patrol team to stop patrolling on the township roads, but to only operate on the highway. This shows how far they are taking things.

"If you ask FRSC to keep off the township roads, what if an accident happened then? Who do you call to assist victims?

"I am saying it again, that nobody will intimidate me, because I am here to serve the people of Kaduna State. The state traffic agency is not under my control, but courtesy demands that we work together in the interest of the people.

"But unfortunately, the state traffic agencies, especially in Kaduna, Kano and Lagos are now something else. They are all after revenue generation, and this is contrary to the norms of creating state traffic agencies.

"Maybe the governors are not aware that state traffic agencies are not created to generate revenue for the states, but they are being created to complement Road Safety where we do not have enough personnel to carry out our responsibilities in the state.

"By Monday, I will be seen



Uba

controlling traffic within the town, with a good patrol team that will be going from one place to the other; educating the motorists. And I want to see who will confront me and tell me not to carry out my responsibilities. Some people are now mixing politics with the safety of

lives of Nigerians. "In other countries, when you talk of security, the next thing is safety of lives. But in Nigeria, safety is being relegated and not seen as important. This is the reason why within 4 years, we have recorded 59 VIP crashes and nobody is saying anything about it."

Bauchi Correspondents' Chapel re-elects executive members

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE Nigeria Union of Journalists NUJ, Correspondents Chapel Bauchi, has re-elected its past executive members to run the affairs of the chapel for another 3 years. Those re-elected include: Ahmed Mohammed as Chairman, Auwal Hassan- Vice Chairman, Samuel Luka - Secretary, Khalid Idris Doya - Treasurer. The positions of Financial Secretary and Auditor went to Rauf Oyewole and Saad respectively.

The inauguration of the exco was officially conducted by the the state NAWOJ Chairperson, Hajiya Rashida Umar under the watchful eyes of Bauchi State NUJ Council

Chairman, Comrade Umar Saidu. The NUJ Chairman admonished the new exco to carry all the members along while discharging their responsibilities.

"My own is just to play the role of the state council. Honestly, I want to advise that this issue of leadership is a sensitive one and a very difficult task but some people take it for granted.

"As the state council Chairman, I will continue to work towards ensuring that all the eleven chapels in the state continue to operate peacefully. I am ready to work with the leadership of the various chapels towards promoting the ethics of the job.

"I want to enjoin the Correspondents' Chapel members to work as a team and forget about their



From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

Oil exploration: Inuwa tasks university on skills requirement

GOVERNOR Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya of Gombe State has tasked the authorities of the State owned university to introduce new programmes that will meet the skill requirements in the emerging oil sector.

This, the governor said, was in recognition of the commencement of oil exploration taking place in Kolmani, Akko Local Government Area of the state.

He gave the charge recently, while speaking at the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th combined convocation ceremony of the Gombe State University (GSU) held at the institution's complex.

He said, "With the commencement of oil exploration in Kolmani, the industrial transformation of Gombe State through the Muhammadu Buhari Industrial Park, and our investment drive across many areas, there is the need for the university to introduce new programmes in order to meet the skill requirements in those



Inuwa

emerging sectors".

He however emphasized that his administration is fully aware of the challenges being faced by the university, particularly in terms of funding as it seeks to expand its current infrastructure to

accommodate the growing demands for higher education and the introduction of new programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Governor Inuwa, who is also the Visitor to the university, assured that his administration will continue to support GSU into a reference point centre for learning and a source of pride to the people of Gombe State and Nigeria at large.

In his address, Vice-Chancellor of the Gombe State University, (GSU), Professor Aliyu Usman El-Nafaty, said the university which commenced with only three faculties (Arts and Social Science, Education as well as Sciences) in 2005, now has eight facilities, a college of Medical Sciences and a satellite campus in Dukku, expected to commence soon.

"We have forty (40) undergraduate and sixty-eight (68) postgraduate programmes, all of which have full accreditation statuses from the National Universities Commission (NUC).

who alongside Selya Yarnap, ensured they conducted a successful and acceptable election.

"Despite the heated situation, they accepted to serve as members of the Credentials Committee. The executives and the entire members of the chapel would never forget the sacrifice you made. May Allah reward you abundantly", he prayed.

Malam Ahmed who solicited for more support and cooperation from the members, appealed that the integrity of each person be respected in order to move together as one family.

In goodwill messages, members of the Chapel, Abbas Gungura, Bashir Hassan, Nasir Shuaibu and Austine Tsenzughul commended the reelected officials of the chapel for the successes recorded during their first tenure.

differences. It is normal to disagree and agree, but please try as much as possible to carry everybody along. The chapels operate under the state council and as such, they are to try and report to the state council regularly.

"The state council will soon organize a meeting with all the elected leaders of the various chapels in the state, with a view to inform them about the new happenings at the national level of the union," he said.

In his acceptance remarks, the re-elected Chairman, Malam Ahmed Mohammed expressed appreciation to the state council Chairman, Comrade Umar Sa'idu for his untiring support to the chapel.

He described the inauguration as historic in the chapel considering a g r e e m e n t s, disagreements and heated political situation witnessed before the election. And expressed happiness that it all came to an end with the support of the state council Chairman.

"With his support, we were able to come back as one family in the Correspondents' Chapel. We really appreciate the NUJ Chairman for using wisdom to address the heated political situation in the chapel," he said.

He however, appreciated the Credentials Committee Chairman, who is also the vice chairman of the state council, Ahmed Kaigama

CHANCE OF NAME

MOHAMMED

I, formerly known as MOHAMMAD ZULAI YAKUBU, now wish to be known and addressed as MOHAMMED ZULAI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MAMICIT

I, formerly known as MAMICIT BINZHI LOHNIM, now wish to be known and addressed as MAMICIT SARGWAK ZAURE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

DOKKO

I, formerly known as KUMNAN JEMKUR, now wish to be known and addressed as DOKOKO KUMNAN MALLAM. My correct date of birth is 2/3/2005 not 1/1/2002. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

BOLGANG

I, LABAR KARGWAK BOLGANG, wish to state that my correct date of birth is 2/2/2000 not 2/2/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.



## Feature

# Tinubu and the inventions of propaganda

*Bias, desperation, delusion, and deception govern the outputting of the distortionist mob. Mob distortions are purposive fabrications. They are oddly designed inventions pulled from a smorgasbord of fake news, injurious falsehood, slander, and prejudice. They come in the cloak of truth and certainty. They come in the swaddle of history and records. But in actuality, they are just a carefully curated jumble of lies, propaganda, disinformation, and misrepresentation, writes FREDRICK NWABUFO.*

WHAT the crocheters of the yarns of distortionist hypotheses seek to achieve may be to cause a breakdown of trust, to blackmail, poison perception, stoke crisis, cause disaffection, and ultimately, spur an uprising.

In the case of President Bola Tinubu, his vilifiers have always sought, but fruitlessly so, to poison public perception against him. They invent ahistorical accounts, contort records, fabricate stories, and think up utter ridiculousness.

During the campaigns, detachments of distortionists worked the mill of propaganda over time. They invented tales and doctored videos. Time has revealed the falsity of those videos as well as the dark entrails of the promoters. Today, the President is seen speaking extempore, clearly, intelligently with poise, panache, and a sprightly gait.

The traducing did not let up after the elections – even when it was expected that those in the adversarial phylum would form an opposition established on unrelenting issues of governance as they affect all Nigerians – and not on inanities and delusions. The fixation has been, laboriously, on the pursuit of a will-o'-the-wisp – not substance.

Despite indisputable evidence, punitive expeditions to the US were undertaken in furtherance of the smear campaign. There was nothing to be had from such endeavours ab initio, but to stir disruptive controversies and excite



Tinubu

supporters whose morale without reason; it claims was waning. The outcome of without evidence; it lies the Chicago State University without let; it defames and expedition is an indictment defiles without conscience; on the species of opposition and it opposes without a and their disposition of cause. All it seeks is to pull resistance. down and destroy – for as

This dimension of long as its longing for the opposition is ruinous, chief seat remains a perfidious, and insidious. It pipedream. tears down without At the heart of Nigeria's building; it talks down troubled and enchanted without uplifting; it attacks existence is wild and

minacious politics. Politics defiant of patriotism and national interest; politics vacant of soul and righteous purpose; politics of predation and degradation. Politics of gladiatorial contests and duels. Destructive, dangerous politics.

We cannot make progress if our politics persists to be cancerous and a contest of absurdities. We seldom debate policies, and even when we do, it is usually from insular, dopey, and blighted lenses.

Groundless tropes are the definers of our conversations when there are critical matters seeking attention. We keep going through the same foundry every cycle and expect a change. We have to be more purposive about governance and less obsessed with thrilling distractions.

Political parties, especially those in the opposition, have seminal roles to play in educating citizens, mobilising consciences, and activating the right

discourses. The opposition holds a decisive place in any democracy. Should this value be expended on asinities and on guerrilla warfare? If the essence of **seeking power is corrective and righteous, where is the sense in efforts to bring down the roof with every artifice and conjuring available?**

**No one is saying the opposition should be the consort of anyone, but patriotism dictates citizens must commit to the peace, unity, and progress of the country regardless of who is president.**

The Tinubu administration has been expansive and sensitive to Nigeria's complexional complexities, blurring the lines between "supporter and opposition" in appointments and in the provisioning of public goods. This clearly says it is all about governance and building a cohesive country for this administration. This is patriotism – what has been essentially lacking in governance in Nigeria.

However, it has become evident that debate in the next four years will be on the absurd. Perhaps, there is a cavity in the intellectual domain of the objurgators. I recall during the past administration; vicious conspiracy theories of ethnic domination and ethnic cleansing were noised as imminent truths. Ethnic epithets, slurs, and tropes defined oppositional aspects to that administration. All for what reason – politics. It was all politics.

Conspiracy theories are the animating force of Nigeria's political discourses. They give taste to falsehood, tension, fear, and prejudice. And often, they are eaten, digested, and regurgitated by the unwary. It is only four months in the life of this administration, but the crocheters of conspiracy theories are returning to their accustomed vocation. I would not give oxygen to the plot of lies and tall tales by reproducing them here.

But it is important that Nigerians understand that those desperate for power will do anything to keep them hooked on the opium of lies, fear, and prejudice.

Be discerning. *Nwabufo is the CEO of Line and Link Limited; publisher of TheLink News.*

***"This dimension of opposition is ruinous, perfidious, and insidious. It tears down without building; it talks down without uplifting; it attacks without reason; it claims without evidence; it lies without let; it defames and defiles without conscience; and it opposes without a cause. All it seeks is to pull down and destroy – for as long as its longing for the chief seat remains a pipedream."***



# NLC/FG agreement



By ISRAEL LAR

ON October 2, 2023 the Nigerian Labour Congress and the Federal Government delegate sign an agreement to avert was indefinite nation wide strike to ground the country.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, the Trade Union Uongress TUC and the Federal Government.

This agreement was signed as a last minute effort to help stop the nation wide strike which came after series of meetings by both parties.

It will be recall that the withdrawal of subsidy of Premium Motor Spirit(PMS) by the Federal Government which resulted in the increase on the price of the commodity, the Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC and the Trade Union Congress(TUC) issued a

strike warning schedule to commenced on October 3,2023.

After series of discussions between both parties to avert the nation wide, the following agreement were reached-

Firstly, the Federal Government granted a provisional wage increase of 35,000 naira only to all Federal Government Workers pending a new minimum wage was expected to be sighed into law as well as a minimum wage committee be inaugurated within one month on issues of the minimum wage in the country.

Also, the Federal Government suspend the collection of value added tax(VAT) on diesel and accepted to vote the sum of 100 billion naira for the provision of high capacity CNG buses for mass transit in Nigeria. Provision was also made for initial 35,000 CNG conversion kits, while state of art CNG work station is underway nationwide.

Furthermore, the Federal Government planned to implement various tax incentive measures for private sector the general public ;as well as in line with relevant International labour organization (ILO) conventions and Nigerian Labour Acts.

More so, the issue of outstanding salaries and wages of tertiary education workers in federal owed educational institutions was being referred to relevant MDA's for further

engagement.

Additionally, the government commits to 25,000 naira per month for three(3) months to fifteen (15) million house gold,including vulnerable pensioners.

Similarly, the Federal Government will increase it's initiatives on subsidized distribution of fertilizer to farmers across the country.

In the same vein, the Federal Government should urged state governments through it's relevant agencies to implement wage awards for their workers as well as consideration should be given to local governments and the private sector workers.

The agreement also includes a joint visitation to the refineries to ascertained their rehabilitation status and all parties commit to abide by the dictates of social dialogue in all future engagements.

More so, the NLC and TUC accept to suspend the planned indefinite nationwide strike for 30



days while the provision of funds as announced by President Ahmed Bola Tinubu for micro and small scale enterprises (MSME'S) be made available to beneficiaries among other agreement reached.

Needless to say that, the agreement between labour unions(NLC and TUC) and the Federal Government as palliative measures to cushion the effect of subsidy removal to a large enhance the standard of living of the people positively affect the productivity of employees and increase consumption spending on an aggregate demand on an economy.

The CNG will go a long way to reduce reliance on PMS on price reduction as well as it is efficient for vehicles and environment. However, this is a process that

could take a longer period before it's implementation. It therefore behoves on the government to put necessary mechanism in realizing this objective.

Subsidizing a distribution of fertilizer to farmers as a laudable initiative to boost food production/supply in the country. Hence the government must ensure that farmers life are protected while on the farms.

On the other hand, the federal workers constitute a fraction of the larger citizens, hence it behoves on the federal to persuade state governments to implement the wage palliatives to trickles down to the local governments as this will help on cushioning the impart of subsidy removals as well as enhance the living standards of Nigerians and boost the country's economy,

**More so, the NLC and TUC accept to suspend the planned indefinite nationwide strike for 30 days while the provision of funds as announced by President Ahmed Bola Tinubu for micro and small scale enterprises (MSME'S) be made available to beneficiaries among other agreement reached. Needless to say that, the agreement between labour unions(NLC and TUC) and the Federal Government as palliative measures to cushion the effect of subsidy removal to a large enhance the standard of living of the people positively affect the productivity of employees and increase consumption spending on an aggregate demand on an economy.**



By HOSEA NYAMLONG

MAY 29,2023 still remains fresh on the minds of the citizens of Plateau State as the day Executive Governor Barr. Caleb Mutfwang was inaugurated as the 6th civilian Governor to pilot the affairs of the state for another four years.

Recalling the mandate the Mutfwang was elected through the polls in March 18,2023 to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people of Plateau in no time.

It is on record that during Governor Mutfwang's speech, he assured the citizens that he would protect their lives and properties and build a united Plateau by creating an enabling environment that would attract the much needed investment and

economic activities.

Although on assumption of office, he was faced with security challenges in some parts of the state, which includes Mangu, Barkin Ladi and Riyom Local Government Areas where many lives and properties destroyed, citizens of affected areas were displaced from their ancestral home disrupting agricultural and economic activities and causing the untold hardships.

However, he inherited unpaid salaries of civil servants with a debt of about 3.7 billion naira from the previous government.

It was recalled that some of the steps he took to address security challenges was to seek audience with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to arrest and tackle the situation.

It is a welcome idea as a pragmatic leader who would want to ensure that it's citizens get the dividends of democracy as it was promised during his campaign. On this note, Mutfwang should know that the social contract that he had entered with the citizens of Plateau is still fresh and the hope of citizens is rising everyday.

Now that over the Tribunal has affirmed Mutfwang as the duly elected governor of the State. He needs to settle down for the business of day. Plateau citizens are craving for more, you have started the development plans for the state by setting up an economic team plans for four years starting from this year 2023 to 2027.It is believed that the plan is to transform the state for the betterment of citizens.

This can only be achieved by ensuring that the right people are appointed who would ensure your vision for the state comes to reality. Recently, you celebrated 100 days in office which citizens believed it was not the only benchmark for governance assessment.

It is expected that your administration and governance should go beyond the 100 days and provide practicable solutions to problems encountered.

Plateau State is blessed with both human and material resources and the only thing the state needs to reach its full potentials is to have people of integrity, transparent and accountable character in positions of

authority. It is already been established that you have engaged with International partners to strengthen the economic viability of the state through the World Bank etc.

Citizens would want to see the level of the economic relationship with other states deepened.

Nevertheless, it would not be out of place to say that you should ensure that the agreement entered with the partner, does not end up in paper form alone, but let it be seen practically.

Nonetheless, it is believed that as a pragmatic leader, your objective is to move Plateau State to higher levels that would compete with the International comity in both

governance and economy stand the test of time.

Moreover, you have assured the citizens of the state that democracy is the best form of government that focuses on improving the well-being of citizens and you have also made a commitment that the current security challenges rocking the state would soon be a thing of the past with the renewed promised in returning persons displaced by violent attacks to their ancestral homes.

Kudos to your efforts to transform Plateau State within this short period. To whom much is given however can much is expected. God bless Plateau state.

**Plateau State is blessed with both human and material resources and the only thing the state needs to reach its full potentials is to have people of integrity, transparent and accountable character in positions of authority. It is already been established that you have engaged with International partners to strengthen the economic viability of the state through the World Bank etc.**



BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

NOT quite long ago, Nigeria was ranked among the Polio Free Countries by Experts and Researchers from the World Health Organisation (WHO). This, no doubt, was a cheering news to Nigerians and it was a plus to the Federal Ministry of Health and partners in the fight against poliomyelitis.

No little hook could hold it back from the Federal Government of Nigeria for the successes recorded from August 21, 2019 to date without detecting any case of Wild Polio Virus (WPV), which showed how proactive and firm government has stood its ground in the fight this dreaded virus.

Although, it was at first, a tug of war in getting to persuade some families in communities, when Community Health Workers were deployed to create awareness on its importance to children under age 0 to 5 years to breast feeding mothers. It took government's efforts upon efforts to convince these breast feeding mothers' husbands and communities to allow for the immunization of children with Poliomyelitis.

This is because radio jingles and TV Vedios of how dreaded and harmful these viruses are to children and how it can cause emotional pains to families, leaving them with their loved ones crippled and in a disability state. It was unfortunate that, some in their ignorance believed it to be an act of witchcraft and could not allow their children to be vaccinated.

We must commend some major key actors and partners like the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community and Religious Leaders, who were not left out in trying to gain the trust of these communities who earlier rejected, but later agreed reluctantly to avail themselves and benefit from this gesture.

Apart from the door to door sensitisation by these key actors in communities across the country, there were also placards, signboards, and awareness on other Media Platforms. Funny enough before now, some based it on their religious beliefs and tagged the programme as a tactical plan to initiate their children into some diabolic "Whiteman's" world and the process was initially frustrated.

It would be recalled that, WHO had three years ago issued a Certificate of Polio Free Nigeria to the Federal Government, placing our country among the Polio Free countries and it was a major achievement to Nigeria's Health Sector which we celebrated.

However, it may sound confusing to many now who cannot place their minds on the possible resurgence of this virus. Surprisingly, the unexpected happened recently when reports of this deadly virus seemed to have resurfaced in some African Countries, reawakening the need to have National immunization Plus Days (NIPDs) recently.

However, according to WHO findings, "there are still risks as some children are either partially immunized. This makes the current success fragile as insecurity, suboptimal routine immunization coverage across

the States and poor sanitating post, a threat to sustaining these gains, hence the need for this NIPDs and subsequent polio mass campaign".

"The thirty-sixth (36) meeting of the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) on the international spread of poliovirus was convened by the WHO Director-General on 16 August 2023 with committee members and advisers attending via video conference, supported by the WHO Secretariat.

"The Emergency Committee

"The committee recognized that border vaccination may not be feasible at very porous borders between some affected African countries but was concerned by the lack of synchronization and cross border coordination in Africa. The committee is concerned by conflicts and insecurity in many of the infected countries as such circumstances allows the polioviruses to elude control in countries such as Yemen, Nigeria, Dr Congo, Mozambique and Sudan", it highlighted.

It was for this reason that the



## Plateau flag off NIPDs precaution against WPV1



reviewed the data on wild poliovirus (WPV1) and circulating vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPV) in the context of global target of eradication of WPV and cessation of outbreaks of cVDPV2 by the end of 2023. Technical updates were received about the situation in the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Burkino Faso, Kenya, Madagascar, Pakistan, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia".

Federal Government of Nigeria decided to flag off the National Immunization Plus Days (NIPDs) across the country. Here on the Plateau, Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, did not rest on his oars knowing the importance of this to a Plateau child, sung into action by flagging off NIPDs on September 27, 2023 at the Primary Health Care (PHC) Tudun-wada Jos-North LGA of Plateau State.

Declaring open the immunization exercise, the Executive Governor, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, represented by his Deputy, Her Excellency, Ngo Josephine Piyo, said, "this programme is a big programme because no parent would like to cheat his child. I am delighted to welcome you to the flag off campaign of NIPDs. "The state government is committed to achieving the

universal health programme and have embarked on complete over hold of health sector and urged parents and guardians to ensure that, children receive the Polio Vaccine from September 30 to October 3, 2023. I appreciate all stakeholders who worked tirelessly to see to the success of this programme", he appreciated.

Earlier, the Executive Secretary, Plateau State Primary Health Care Board, Dr. Raymond Juryit, commended Governor Mutfwang, for the show of interest in the health sector and that, with the new government in place, people should expect great things to happen in the health sector because they have trained staff for this exercise.

On his part, the National Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Faisal Shuaibu, commended Plateau State Government for its commitment and Rotary Club for supporting the Polio with over 300 million in Plateau State.

Meanwhile, the Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba, represented by Gwom Rwey Riyom, Da Samuel Jok, has appealed to the Plateau State government to help construct a good road to the Tudun-wada PHC because the road has not been safe to patients who come to receive treatment.

There were breast feeding mothers drawn from Jos-North and parts of Jos-South Local Government Areas, who trooped in with their children to witness the occasion, where the Plateau State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Cletus Bako Shurkur, commended them for turning out enmasse to receive the Polio vaccine.



# IMAGES

## FIRST FEMALE NUJ CHAIRMAN'S THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The first female Chairman, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Plateau State Council, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo Sunday held a Thanksgiving service at the Church of Christ in Nation (COCIN) Local Church Council, Nassarawa Gwong of Jos North LGA. Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo, flanked by the executive council of NUJ, former chairmen of the state council, veteran and Journalists with other well wishers attended the service



Leading Pastor of the Church, Rev. Emmanuel Joel Nimchefa making some remarks, while the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, Director of Press and Public Affairs, Gyang Bere, Chairman, Ayuku Pwaspo with her. EXCO paying attention.



Immediate past NUJ Chairman, Mr. Paul Jatau ( left ) exchanging greetings with Rotarian Sunny Dung Mnipr at the Thanksgiving



Rev. Emmanuel Joel Nimchefa praying for the first female chairman of NUJ and her Executive Council



From left are, former NUJ State Chairmen, Mr. Katdapba Gobum, Mr. Chris Gyang and wife ( middle )



NUJ State Chairman, Ayuku Pwaspo with the General Manager, PRTVC, Mrs. Kachollom Rita Pam represented by the Corporation's Director of News and Current Affairs, Mr. Yakubu Taddy, former NUJ Chairman



Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo delivering the CAN best wishes



Veteran Journalist and retired staff of PRTVC, Mr. George Pam ( left ) with the Director of Press and Public Affairs to Governor Mutfwang, Mr. Gyang Bere



Celebrant, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo (right) with the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



**Odd World**

**Next pandemic could be 50 times deadlier than Covid**

A looming "great pandemic" could be 50 times more deadly than coronavirus, top scientists warned today.

Latest figures show 223,906 people in the UK who died had Covid-19 on their death certificates.

Millions more were infected, leaving hundreds of thousands thought to be suffering from Long Covid.

But experts fear another pandemic could infect and kill even more.

American virologist Dr Robert Redfield, who served as director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 2018 to 2021, feared his grandchildren would be faced with an even bigger crisis.

He told the BBC : "I think they are at high risk for a great pandemic in the next decade or two and I think that pandemic is going to be caused by man not nature - either intentional bioterrorism or possibly just a lab accident."

Oxford University's Regius Professor of Medicine, Professor Sir John Bell, said the Covid-19 pandemic "could have been a lot worse".

"What are we going to do about detecting and managing the next pandemic, because that's where trouble comes from?" he said.

"I don't want to dismiss this last pandemic - a lot of people suffered a lot, there were lots of lives lost and it was a great tragedy ... it could have been a lot worse."

He said that if the Omicron variant had hit before the original Wuhan strain - which gave those it infected and who survived some immunity, and allowed vaccines to be developed - it would have claimed many more victims.

Modelling suggested that "if the first virus that appeared in Wuhan had not been the Wuhan strain but had been the Omicron strain - which we all know is much, much more infectious - and that

had hit an immunologically naive population - in other words a population that had never seen the virus before - the peak mortality in the UK would be about five times what it was with the original Wuhan strain," he said.

"Those were pretty dark days in April and May 2020 and I don't think we would have wanted five times the number of people dying.

"Had it been avian flu it would have been 50 times, so I think when we hear there's a great pandemic coming - if either one of those things were to happen it would be a great deal worse than what we saw."

Sir John warned the next pandemic could come either from zoonotic transmission - where it is passed from animals to humans - or an accidental lab leak.

He pointed to the 2002-04 outbreak of severe adult respiratory syndrome which was first identified in China and killed 774 people worldwide.

"We know historically that we do get pathogens that come from the animal kingdom that get into man that cause these sorts of outbreaks - the previous Sars outbreak is one but also occasional avian flu cases have come from animals," he said.

"We know that happens. We also know that labs that look after these very pathogenic viruses do leak."

He even raised fears of terrorists trying to steal viruses and use them as biological weapons.

Sir John said: "Don't forget that most terrorist organisations around the world have seen the havoc that can be provoked by these kinds of pathogens, so the concept that this is a biosecurity issue more widely shouldn't be a new one, it should be something that we are thinking about all the time."

*The Mirror*



**'Leaders with ideas not in power'**

ONE of the most respected erudite scholars of recent times, Prof. Patrice Emery Lumumba was once quoted as saying, "The tragedy with Africa is that those with ideas are not in power, while those in power have no ideas. When the people have a chance, they still vote for those with no ideas." For many who have followed with keen interest the silhouette criticisms offered by this scholar, it is daunting on us that some African states are far off the track of progress and or systematic integration. Therefore, much needs to be done in terms of implementing strategic policies of good governance to salvage our nation states from plummeting into anarchy, chaos and or total collapse.

During several of his lamentations, Prof. Lumumba always apportioned blames on our leaders who due to acts of administrative ingenuity contributed to the socio-economic and political retardation of this continent. Evidently, the continuous clinching to power of these visionless and corrupt leaders in Africa have but only succeeded in turning back the hands of time.

Some of these leaders who got the opportunity of leading their nations on the platter of gold have regrettably not been able to justify such opportunities. Between the early 1960's to late 70's, successive military takeover of governments across the continent saw the growing number of military dictators which led to the emergence of stooges and evil men of thoughts brutally engaging many democratic oppositionists leading to the death of hundreds of thousands. Few lucky ones were however able to escape into exile after knowing too well that their lives were in danger.

Most of these despots including the late Idi Amin of Uganda, Mubutu Sese Seko, Charles Talyor, Muammar Qadhafi including Joseph Kony, the Ugandan warlord, all never gave a thought about the nation's collective wellbeing.

In fact, Kony was one of the tyrannical warlords who disrupted, dehumanized and terrorized the people of the continent through his brutal leadership style. No doubt, his atrocities left a deep-seated hatred and ethnic divide amongst the citizenry.

Interestingly, Nigeria also experienced such acts of brutality when the military held sway. While several innocent citizens of this country were unjustifiably jailed and or killed, others who escaped these despotic regimes went on exile to save their lives.

In most recent years however, the transition of most of these African nations into democratic nation states have further entrenched democratic governance with great expectations. Many scholars had however hoped at initial stage that the democratization of African nation states would create fundamental stability and add value to the people of the continent. Thus, the coming of democracy to most nations of the continent after so much struggle and sacrifice was initially regarded a great relief to pro-autonomy and visionary scholars.

While democratic establishments in

some countries have led to the actualization of concrete pillars revamping basic institutional structures for greater prospects, some unfortunate nation states have equally been left aloft at the mercy of their corrupt and visionless leaders. Today, many of such emerging leaders based on greed and acts of personal aggrandizement have looted resources meant for the betterment of their citizens. Consequently, while their citizens continue to wallow in dehumanizing abject poverty, they have only concentrated on buying expensive castles abroad and participating neck-deep into more acts of economic sabotage.

In Nigeria, I have taken more time to scrutinize the long list of our leaders who have governed this nation for decades but not made the desired impact. In the midst of both economic and human resources Nigeria is blessed with; more than half of the nation's population is today living far below poverty line. Aside the biting difficulties of unemployment, insecurity and economic uncertainty, our educational sector is in total muddle. Just within a month, our national grid failed us twice sending strong signals that all is not well with our power sector.

Aside the rampaging activities of terrorists that have refused to allow us have a sound sleep; hardly a day passes by without any of us being told of one act of kidnapping and or armed robbery in this country. These unpleasant phenomena are completely overwhelming us because of the simple fact that we are yet to put our act together. To say the least, many have attested to the obvious fact that the citizens of this country have not allowed God to bless us with good leaders.

When our founding fathers were struggling to liberate this nation from the claws of colonial subjugation, they dreamed of a nation which after them would navigate itself and become a giant of Africa. Many of these past leaders of ours never anticipated for once that after they had gone, this country would be left fumbling in such an woeful and disgusting manner today.

After Nigeria's independence, the tales of this nation state has frighteningly continued to create an atmosphere of uncertainty as well as bash the hopes and aspirations of many. Today, Nigeria has become a nation state which requires all our prayers for it to overcome these difficult contemporary challenges. Some of these problems bedeviling us as a people were however unfortunately created by us.

Even as many citizens are yet to comprehend where the leaders of the country went wrong for us to deserve these unending calamities, some of them buried under the rubbles of a near failed state do know that only the citizenry can open a new chapter when the needful is done. Therefore, all we need to do to change Nigeria's disgusting narrative is to vote leaders with visions and intellectual capacity. Though it may take a long time to bring the nation back on track, with sincere commitments, sacrifice and total disregard to religious and regional sentiments, we can navigate the nation out of its present predicament for the better.



## View Point

## As Karl Kumm University matriculates students...

By BULUS GAMBO

COME November 28th 2023, Karl Kumm University Vom, in Plateau State Nigeria will matriculate its pioneer students for the 2023/2024 academic session. This became probable following the authorization received from the National Universities Commission, (NUC) for the university to commence its academic activities for this session. While this epoch making event is being awaited however, the institution is still offering admissions to prospective students and the excise will end two weeks before the matriculations. As it is, Karl Kumm University has many academic programmes available which have since been accredited and students obtaining lectures in faculty of Science and Computing and Faculty of Arts, Management and Social Sciences. Some of these courses include BSC Microbiology, BSC Information Technology, BSC Industrial Chemistry, BSC Biochemistry, BSC Computer Science, BSC Cybersecurity, BSC Physics/Electronics, BSC Industrial Mathematics, BSC Accounting, BSC Business Administration, BSC Entrepreneurship, BSC Economics, BSC Political Science and BA Religion and Philosophy. The idea behind the establishment of a university by COCIN was hinged on the proposal submitted to the leadership of COCIN by Prof Ezekiel G. Best towards the end of 2002 where he posited that COCIN needs to look ahead of its present efforts to consistent dreams of the founding fathers of the mission. The defining moment in the establishment of KKU took place on the 7th May 2003 after the General Church Council (GCC) resolved to start a university owned by COCIN. This was followed by a letter of intent for the establishment of the university issued the National Universities Commission, (NUC) on June 23, 2003. In November 2003, the church inaugurated Sub-committees to work on various aspects of the establishment of the university such as site selection, law, academic brief and finance amongst others. On March 1st 2004, the church Executive Committee (EC) received the report of the Site Selection Committee. Four sites out of several others were presented, both within and outside Plateau State and were evaluated. Vom in Jos South Local Government Area of the state was eventually chosen as the best site as a result of its proximity to other tertiary institutions and the existence of the long established Vom Christian Hospital, another COCIN edifice which could become the institution's Teaching Hospital. On December 7th 2007, a thanksgiving prayer service was held on the site of the then proposed Karl Kumm University. The foundation laying ceremony was eventually conducted 2nd November 2009 by the then COCIN President, Rev. Prof Pandang Yamsat. On the 8th June 2011, the church submitted the application forms to the NUC requesting the commission to carry out the verification visits that would lead to the granting of the necessary permission for the university to commence operations. This eventually took place after a follow-up visit by Professors Ochapa Onazi and Ezekiel Best. The Standing Committee on Private Universities, (SCOPU) of the NUC paid the first visit to the proposed institution in Vom between 9th February to 12th February 2014. The university was granted a licence on the 8th April 2021 by the National Universities



Prof. Nanven Gambo



Prof. Gambo with his management staff

Commission to operate as the 88th university in Nigeria. Today, after all set and done, Karl Kumm University can be said to have started on a sound footing as a result of the solid foundation put in place by the committee mandated to champion the establishment of the institution under the leadership of the Pro-Chancellor of this great institution and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Jos, Prof Ochapa Onazi. It is on record that Prof Onazi has played a critical role in the establishment of several universities in the country. While bringing his expertise to bear in establishing Karl Kumm University, the global scholar of repute also testified on the fact that within a little possible time-frame, the university will blossom and emerge amongst the best in the nation. But again, kudos must be given to the Chairman Board of Trustees, and former Executive Secretary of TETFund, Prof Suleiman Elias Bogoro, other members of the board, the COCIN leadership and management of the institution for their various contributions towards the commencement of studies in the school. No doubt, Prof Bogoro's team resourcefulness, self-abnegation, and unequivocal sacrifice contributed towards the establishment and kick-starting of the institution. Added to this enthusiasm is the passion

unabatedly exhibited by the incumbent COCIN President, Dr Amos Mohzo who so much believes in the tremendous philosophy behind the establishment of this great institution of learning. No doubt, the COCIN President has on several fora reiterated the need to support the institution to attain greatness. Karl Kumm University is starting its academic session for pioneer students in its permanent site due to the sincere commitment of the entire COCIN family as well as well-wishers who found it expedient to support this project come to fruition. Certainly, the university would not have come to be without the contributions and sacrifice of many who believed in the vision of the church to provide quality education and by so doing improve quality leadership in Nigeria and even beyond. The present management of the institution headed by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Nanven Audu Gambo has not left any stone unturned towards ensuring that the institution records a smooth take-off. Since Prof Gambo took over as the Vice Chancellor of the institution, he and the management have continued to tirelessly work for the progress of the institution. Coincidentally, the present Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof Gambo who was a student of the Prof-Chancellor, Prof Onazi back then must have been tortured well in the

area of resources management and service to humanity with integrity which has showcased itself within his period of leadership. Speaking recently, Prof Gambo advised all staff to live above board considering the great task ahead of the institution noting that the main objective behind the establishment of the institution should be the grace of God be realised in no distant time. The Vice Chancellor who personally has taken it upon his shoulders to unabatedly supervise unfolding developments in the institution further re-emphasized that it is also hopeful that within the next three years, Karl Kumm University will have more PhD holders as it intends to make the best use of them. Since the commencement of academic lectures, the Vice Chancellor has ensured that management's approach to transforming the university is simply unique and a distinguishing one which should not by any standard be compared with public universities in the country. Likewise, the institution is zero tolerant to indecent dressing even as students would be modelled to developing great personality and self confidence in their anticipated obligations. So far, all accredited courses offered by the institution have students who are on daily basis supervised and motivated to ensure that they are groomed to overcome leadership challenges ahead.

So far, the students of this distinguished faith based tertiary institution of learning have since commenced lectures under a serene environment depicting the seriousness attached to the need for the provision of excellent scholarly knowledge of global best practice. The institution in its quest to rise futuristic leaders is also convinced that this could not be achieved without inculcating the fear of God in these students. Thus, all these are encapsulated in the prospectus of the institution holistically intended to help these students redefine and key into contemporary leadership requirements for national integration and nation building. To ensure students' comfortability on campus, basic amenities required in the likes of modern solar water heater, 22KA Electric Generator and other facilities have been provided in the institution. In the area of security, though security lies in God's hands, the host community has since synergised towards the provision of more vigilantes to secure the perimeter of the institution. This aside, there are other internal security arrangements strategized for the comfortability of the students. Beyond this arraignments, the Vice Chancellor and his management are constantly interacting with students and staff towards creating an enabling environment for efficient and effective synergy for the progress of the institution. In this regard, several meetings have been held separately between the students and the management and lectures and the management to enable them understand problems of the university community so as to speedily address them. During one of such meetings, the Vice Chancellor admonished the lecturers to always be at their best so as to impact positive developmental knowledge on the students. The university is also firm as to the anticipated conduct of student both during and after lectures in school. As a faith-based institution, Karl Kumm believes in zero tolerance to unhealthy and indecent dressing. Obviously, the behavioural attitude of students must be in consonant with our spiritual values in Christ. Therefore, as these pioneer students settle for their academic career, a lot is expected from them and with the enabling environment so far created by the Vice Chancellor and his management team, the sky will be their starting point.



## Igala nation calls for state creation

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

As the debate on restructuring the Nigeria federation gathered momentum, the Igala nation in Kogi State has called for the creation of Okura state as a panacea for the underdevelopment of the area. Just as it called for the devolution and decentralization of powers of the central government to allow the states to control and manage their resources, adding that the centre should be allowed to manage issues relating to geography, ethnic and cultural diversities of the country.

This position was reached over the weekend in Ilokoja, Kogi state capital when Ukumu Igala, a Socio Cultural Organisation inaugurated its Kogi state Chapter. In a speech the National Leader of the Association, Major General Patrick Akpa (Rtd) noted that the Igala nation was one of the

most populous tribes in the Country had suffered setbacks from the colonial era till date, saying Igala people deserved a state of their own.

According to the General "The Igala nation is rising, We have all it takes to be a great nation like we were in the precolonial era. We have great agricultural potentials, that if we channel our energies into it we would be able to feed ourselves and the Country."

"We have solid mineral deposits such as coal, crude oil and good arable land that can be used for the sustenance of our state if created. Our sons and daughters are flying the Nigeria dreams both on economic and political fronts. We have sons as minister of the federal republic, MD of the Development Bank, DG, NASRDA and numbers of our people in management positions in government, in Banks and

other financial institutions, which affirmed that the Igala nation have what it required to be granted a state of his own," he asserted.

While commending the founding fathers of the Association whose main objectives was to create a voice for the Igala nation to make them speak with one voice on issues pertaining to the socio economic, cultural and political wellbeing of the people, he commended Dr. Micheal Idachaba, Igalas in the diaspora, Igala project, Ufedo Foundation and its former leader Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim (SAN) who worked tirelessly for the nurturing and sustenance of the Association. Reeling out the achievements of the Association under his watch, Gen. Akpa, reiterated his commitment to the security in Kogi East, saying that they have successfully organized security conference during the height of insecurity across the entire Igala/Bassa land which has contributed to the reduction of the incidence of kidnappings and armed robberies. He added that the Association has supported the National Identity Management Commission during the exercise of the Identity card Management Systems and sensitization of the people for 2018 census and continuous voters' registration exercises. He thanked all those who have supported the Association in one way or the other since its formation, urging all sons and daughters of Igala across the 36 states and Abuja to inaugurate their chapters to help in the rebuilding of Igala nation.

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

Gombe State Due Process Bureau will be honoured with the prestigious Nigeria GovTech Award as the best State MDA in innovative Digital Services following a popular nationwide nomination process.

The office of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms in the Presidency through a letter issued by the Director General, D.I Arabi, said Gombe State was nominated through a nationwide online voting process initiated on radio, television and newspaper publications.

The letter reads, "Sequel to a nationwide nomination and online voting process initiated on radio, television and newspaper publications, Punch newspaper publication of September 4th, 2023 (copy attached), we are pleased to inform you that your organization will be honoured with the prestigious Nigeria GovTech Award in the category of BEST STATE MDA IN INNOVATIVE DIGITAL SERVICES".

Speaking to our correspondent over the

## Gombe emerges best state in innovative digital services

development, an elated Director General of the Due Process Bureau, Gombe State, Mr. Babayola Mohammed Isa, attributed the success to the transparent and open door policy of the Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya administration.

He said he wasn't surprised by the turn of events because the activities of the Bureau has continuously built public confidence which is what

attracted recognition for the agency.

Mr Babayola is expected to receive the Distinguished GovTech Trailblazer's Award for the exemplary leadership he has demonstrated in advancing GOVTECH initiative and digital governance in the public sector at a dinner to be held at the International Conference Centre, Abuja during a two day Nigeria GovTech Conference from 12th to 13th October, 2023.



Inuwa

## Nigeria commits to diversifying economy

By **DORCAS PANKYES**

THE Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dr Oladele Alake, has reiterated the government's commitment to diversify the Nigerian economy by shifting focus from hydrocarbon resources to the minerals sector.

During a meeting with the Miners Association of Nigeria, led by their National President, Mr Dele Ayanleke, Dr Alake emphasized that Nigeria has relied heavily on a mono-cultural economy for too long and that the

time has come to prioritize solid minerals as a major contributor to the country's gross domestic product.

The minister stated, "Our vision is to make solid minerals a source of pride and a significant contributor to Nigeria's GDP. We are diversifying from oil to ensure the survival of our nation, and this is our contribution to addressing climate change."

Dr Alake also highlighted the ministry's commitment to enacting policies that will improve the regulatory framework and create a

more favorable environment for both local and foreign investors.

Addressing concerns about the involvement of state and local governments in mining activities, Dr Alake assured that the federal government would engage with them to resolve any issues within the boundaries of the law.

He also revealed plans to deploy advanced technology and establish an inter-agency task force to ensure the mining sector operates efficiently and effectively.

The minister sought partnership with the Miners Association of Nigeria to enhance capacity and promote the growth and development of the sector.

Mr Dele Ayanleke, the National President of the Miners Association of Nigeria, expressed full confidence in the seven-point agenda presented by the Minister of Solid Minerals.

He believes that these initiatives, aligned with the renewed hope agenda of the present administration, will strengthen and elevate the mining sector, leading to significant contributions to national development.



Bello

## Lawyer threatens INEC with legal action for delay in Taraba HoR

From **VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

A human rights lawyer, Pius D. Pius Esq. has accused the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), for its inability to conduct the bye election for Jalingo/Yorro/Zing Federal Constituency of Taraba State, describing it as "long overdue".

Pius, in a letter addressed to the INEC Chairman dated 9th October, 2023 and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD**, stated that INEC had violated the constitution which provided that election to fill a vacant position must not exceed 30 days. He also added to the provision of the Electoral Act which provides a

21 day grace period

The Jalingo/Yorro/Zing Federal Constituency seat had remained vacant following the death of winner of the February 25 election, Ismaila Yushau Mohammed

**THE NIGERIA STANDARD** had reported the death of Mohammed in April 2023 after a brief illness

"It will interest you to know that from the 22nd day of April 2023 to 13th June 2023 is 52 days. It is also well over 170 days now since the death of Ismaila Yushau Mohammed and the seat of the member representing Jalingo/Yorro/Zing Federal Constituency has been vacant since the inauguration of the House of

Representatives on the 13th June, 2023," he stated.

According to him, while other Nigerians are represented in the House of Representatives, the people of Jalingo/Yorro/Zing are not represented at all for over 118 days and counting which is contrary to Section 76 (1) (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended)

"Elections to each House of the National Assembly shall be held on a date to be appointed by the Independent National Electoral Commission, in accordance with the Electoral Act...the date mentioned in Sub Section (1) of this Section shall...where the election is to

fill a vacancy...not later than thirty days after the vacancy occurred," Pius stated

He added that Section 34 (3) (b) of the Electoral Act 2022, provides for just 21 days grace period after the death of a candidate

According to him, election for the constituency was "long overdue" and accused the Commission for giving priority to the Bayelsa and Kogi governorship elections which were off cycle elections and which ought to have come after the conduct of the Jalingo/Yorro/Zing Federal Constituency bye election.

"It is therefore surprising that your commission is



## Sports



The former England captain made 115 appearances for his country and 394 for Manchester United

# Five things to learn from David Beckham

By KATIE STAFFORD

A new Netflix documentary on David Beckham has given us an insight into the life of one of the most iconic English footballers of all time.

From free-kicks to haircuts, Beckham hit the front and back pages of newspapers, and even inspired a film title.

The documentary, titled Beckham, and jointly made by his production company Studio 99, sees Becks reflect on his rise from Waltham Forest under-12s to become a household name, with contributions from his family, former team-mates and Sir Alex Ferguson.

Beckham joined Manchester United as a trainee in 1991, making his first-team debut the following year before signing his first professional contract in 1993.

But it was in 1996 when he announced himself to the football world by scoring from the halfway line against Wimbledon.

Fame followed, but manager Ferguson had growing concerns about his celebrity lifestyle and his relationship with Spice Girls singer Victoria Adams.

"Getting the attention and becoming a celebrity was different to what I wanted," Ferguson said. "Getting David to keep his feet on the ground became more difficult."

Beckham recalled Ferguson going "absolutely mental" at him for choosing a different agent to the one he had suggested.

"He just wanted me to be the best footballer that I could be and to be married to a local girl that wasn't a superstar," he said.

As part of the 'Class of 92,' Beckham was part of the history-making 1999 treble-winning squad and won six Premier League titles.

He attributes this to the "family" dynamic at Old Trafford and

throughout the documentary calls Ferguson a "father figure".

"The way he was with me from a young age was special," he said.

"He was one of the most important people in my life from the age of 12. It was a family and that's why we had the success that we had."

World Cup moments: Beckham sent off

Beckham says he still "beats himself up" about the red card that he received against Argentina at the 1998 World Cup.

England ultimately lost the match on penalties, leading Beckham to become public enemy number one.

"I wish there was a pill you could take that could erase some memories," he said. "I made a stupid mistake and it changed my life."

"The whole country hated me. Wherever I went, I got abuse every single day. I was a mess."

Wife Victoria, who was pregnant during the months of the torrent abuse, blames England manager Glenn Hoddle for attributing the loss in his post-match interview to Beckham's sending-off.

She tells the documentary that Beckham was "clinically depressed and absolutely broken" during this period.

Manchester United team-mate Gary Neville added: "It was inhumane what he had to deal with and it would have broken 99.9% of footballers."

The documentary also addresses the infamous dressing room row of 2003 that saw Ferguson kick a boot at the midfielder.

The United boss was furious after an FA Cup loss to Arsenal, with Beckham reflecting: "When you see the boss' face like this, you don't want to be anywhere near him".

A heated verbal exchange between the two occurred when the midfielder answered back to Ferguson and swore at him.

Kit man Albert Morgan says Ferguson went "flying across in a rage" and kicked out at some clothes, which sent Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's boot into the air and hit Beckham.

"It was an absolute freak [incident]," Ferguson added.

Beckham was photographed with a plaster above his eye following the incident, although Ferguson maintained it was "just a graze" and no stitches were needed.

Morgan added: "I'm not going to talk about that - the only thing I will say is that I think it was stage managed because it wasn't even worth a stitch."

Following speculation of a move to Barcelona, Beckham signed a £24.5m deal with Real Madrid in July 2003.

By now his relationship with Ferguson had turned sour. The two never spoke about his transfer - something Beckham reflects on as a

good thing because it "would have broken my heart."

Soon after his arrival at the Bernabeu, former Manchester United assistant coach Carlos Queiroz was appointed head coach.

"I never got on with him," said Beckham.

"I was shocked that I was starting at a new club with a manager who didn't want me at my last team. It was a different pressure."

Off the pitch, coverage around a highly-publicised alleged affair affected the family. The couple have always denied claims that Beckham had an affair while in Spain.

Although the couple do not discuss the details of what happened in the documentary, Beckham says the attention was **difficult to deal with**.

Photographers followed the children to school and Victoria admits she "resented" her husband for the "absolute circus" of extra media

attention.

"It was the first time that me and Victoria had been put under that kind of pressure in our marriage," he added.

Beckham's decision to retire came sooner than he imagined.

He joined French Ligue 1 side Paris St-Germain in January 2013 but it was a step too far, with Beckham, now aged 38, left feeling like he "had been beaten up" after games.

"I was aching," he said. "I was hurting. I'd roll out of the bed in the morning because I was in so much pain."

Beckham **announced his retirement four months later** and said he "couldn't breathe or control his emotions" in his last professional game.

"I loved the game more than anyone has ever loved it," he smiled. "I know it's not true but I think I loved it more than anyone."



Beckham won a La Liga title in 2007 before switching to the United States with LA Galaxy



# Sports



Kwande

## Kwande reaffirms commitment of revive PFA

By  
**ANDRE D. BISYIT**

HON Suleiman Kwande has reaffirmed his commitment and determination to transform the Plateau State Football Association to a heights high if elected as the chairman of the association.

Kwande disclosed that in an interview with **THE NIGERIA STANDARD Newspaper** in Jos recently, noting that he will bring his wealth of experience acquired as the longest serving board member of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF).

Hon Kwande, who is a former member of the House of Representative, maintained that the association is in need of someone who has the relevant experience that will move it to the next level.

"The normalization committee set up by the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) in Plateau State to take charge of the election process has done a good work. As you know, the local government F.A elections have been done already, which gives room for the state election.

He stated that if elected he will ensure that grass root Football development will be accorded the topmost priority, adding that the state has many undiscovered talents, which, when discovered, will fend for themselves and will one day represent the state and the country at large.

"Football is a big business, it has gone beyond recreation, the state has produced a lot of players who are stars in Europe and made a lot of money for themselves. I will make sure I meet all those players who started here, on

the Plateau in order to benefit positively from them," he said.

"We will be transparent in our dealings, funds generated will be spent opening, in order for the public to know what those funds were used for, most especially during the Governor's Cup and any other competition.

' By the grace of God I will ensure that artificial turf is provided in six zones of the state to enable our young footballers to feel a sense of belonging".

"Football or sports in general has no religion, because it unites, especially in Nigeria. Like I mentioned earlier, I will bring to bear my wealth of experience to develop football in the state and also to include some association that I feel they are relevant as board members of the association, such Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), among others to enable as succeed," he ended.

## Uefa confirms UK, Republic of Ireland as hosts

THE United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland will host the 2028 European Championship, Uefa has confirmed. BBC SPORT said that, the joint bid ran unopposed after Turkey withdrew to focus on a bid with Italy for Euro 2032, which was also confirmed at a meeting in Switzerland.

Both bids ran unopposed but still needed official approval from Uefa.

The UK and Ireland focused on Euro 2028, with Uefa's approval, after they ended a plan to be Europe's preferred candidate for the 2030 World Cup.

It is understood that Cardiff's Principality Stadium will host the opening match of the 2028 tournament with the final at London's Wembley.

The Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Wales have never hosted a major football tournament.

Matches at Euro 2028 are set to be held at 10 different grounds, including Glasgow's Hampden Park and Dublin's



Former Wales captain Gareth Bale was present at the announcement in Nyon along with representatives from each of the host nations

Aviva Stadium. Belfast's Casement Park and Everton's Bramley-Moore Dock, the former unbuilt while the latter is still under construction, were also included in the bid.

England were one of the 11 countries to host Euro 2020 along with Scotland, as well as being sole hosts of the 1966 World Cup and Euro '96. England also hosted the record-breaking Women's European Championship in 2022.

While Italy had only bid for the 2032 tournament, Turkey had initially bid to host both Euro 2028 and 2032.

Turkey withdrew from the running to host Euro 2028 last week after their bid with Italy for 2032 was approved by European football's governing body.

They have 20 potential host stadiums, of which 10 will be chosen, five per country, by October 2026.

Rinsola Babajide has expressed her joy after getting her first call-up to Nigeria's Super Falcons.

Sporting Tribune said that, Babajide, who plays for Tenerife in the Spanish women's league, was included in the Falcons squad for their Paris 2024 Olympic Games second-round qualifiers against Ethiopia.

Reacting to her maiden invitation, the 25-year-old said she is delighted with the love shown to her by Nigerians.

"The love I've been feeling has been very overwhelming, thank you so much. Grateful & blessed for this opportunity #Honoured," she wrote on her X.

The Falcons will be guests to Ethiopia for the first leg billed for Wednesday, 25 October, 2023.

On Tuesday, 31 October, the Falcons will entertain the Ethiopians.

Among the players invited for the doubleheader clash are Chiamaka Nnadozie, Asisat Oshoala, Rasheedat Ajibade, Halimatu Ayinde and Michelle Alozie.

Also invited are Toni and Nicole Payne, Ifeoma Onumonu, Gift Monday, Christy Ucheibe, Tosin Demehin, Osinachi Ohale and Uchenna Kanu.

Nigeria's Tobi Amusan has emerged winner of the Diamond League trophy for an astonishing third consecutive

## I'm grateful, blessed for my Super Falcons call-up

— Babajide

time. On Sunday night at Oregon in the U.S., Amusan with a time of 12.33 seconds emerged winner of the fiercely-contested 100 metres hurdles event...

There's no doubt that the Premier League is one of the most competitive football leagues in the world, filled with extraordinary talent, tactical brilliance, and captivating storylines. However, few things rival the exhilaration of a title race that comes down to the wire....

Minister of Sports

Development, Sen. John Owan-Eneh has expressed displeasure over the non-inclusion of Nigerian referees amongst match officials listed for the 2023 AFCON slated for Cote D'Ivoire....

Nationwide Division One League One (NLO) side SGFC Athletics Sports Club will take part in what seems to be one of the biggest scouting tourneys in the country, SPOCS Scouting Championship...



Babajide

## Mikel endorses Osimhen as Chelsea's ideal striker

FORMER Super Eagles star, Mikel Obi, has suggested that Nigerian forward Victor Osimhen would be the perfect striker for his former club, Chelsea FC, Soccer.net.ng reports.

During a podcast on "The Obi One Podcast," the former Stoke City midfielder predicted that the 24-year-old goal-scorer could thrive in the English Premier League, scoring plenty of goals.

Osimhen has been linked with a move away from Napoli following a controversial video posted

on the club's TikTok account, which led to a strained relationship.

Chelsea, the 2016-17 Premier League champions, have emerged as one of the leading suitors for Osimhen, as they hope he can follow in the footsteps of his idol, Didier Drogba.

Mikel, now 36 years old, expressed his hope that Osimhen joins Chelsea, despite reported interest from Manchester United.

"I think when I look back at him a few years ago, but now, watching him last season and watching him this season, I would say definitely.

"He would come into the Premier League and slot right

in. He will get you goals, he will run behind defenders, he will stretch the team, and I think that's what probably a lot of the teams now in the Premier League are looking for; a striker who wants to run behind the defenders because then it helps the team," Mikel said.

Watch the video here: While the transfer situation remains uncertain, with no comments from Osimhen's camp or Napoli, Chelsea and Manchester United continue to be linked with the talented Nigerian striker.

Meanwhile, Napoli might need to consider selling him to avoid losing him on a free transfer or for a reduced fee.



Mikel Obi left Chelsea in 2017 after spending 11 years at Stamford Bridge



Sports

# Saka ruled out of England squad for October games

ARSENAL forward Bukayo Saka has been ruled out of England's games against Australia and Italy because of injury.

BBC SPORT said that, Saka missed his side's 1-0 Premier League win over champions Manchester City on Sunday with a hamstring injury.

The FA confirmed he has withdrawn after being assessed by England's medical team and would not be replaced in the squad, which now has 25 players.

England face Australia on 13 October, before taking on Italy in a European Championship qualifier four days later.

"No, he will not make it," said Gunners boss Arteta after Sunday's game. "He has not trained for a single session."

While he would not disclose the likely length of Saka's spell on the sidelines, Arteta added: "He is not available to play football at the moment."

Saka's absence on Sunday ended a run of 87 consecutive Premier League games in which Arteta had played the 22-year-old winger.

He has been struggling with his hamstring in recent weeks, limping off during



Saka

Arsenal's 2-1 Champions League loss at Lens on Tuesday, and being withdrawn in last weekend's victory at Bournemouth.

England manager Gareth Southgate said last Thursday he would take no risks with Saka, despite England being able to qualify for next summer's European Championship during this

international break.

"We've got that responsibility of qualifying for the country, but I've been a player. I've never ever taken a risk on a player's physical wellbeing, and nor would I," said Southgate.

"They [Premier League clubs] have trust in us that we make decisions that are right for the long term whenever we can."

BRITAIN'S Dan Evans suffered a defeat by world number two Carlos Alcaraz in a closely fought third-round tie at the Shanghai Masters.

BBC SPORT said that, Evans was up a break in each set but lost 7-6 (7-1) 6-4 to the Spaniard in nearly two and a half hours.

He saved six break points - from 13 in the first set - during a fifth game that lasted nearly 20 minutes before losing the opener on a tie-break.

Evans was then broken when serving to stay in the match in the second set.

"It was a really tough match," said Alcaraz.

"It was one of the toughest matches I have played outside of the Grand Slams.

"Every time I play Daniel it is a tricky match and I have to play my best to beat him. Both of us played a high quality of tennis and I am really happy to get through."

Alcaraz will play Grigor Dimitrov, who beat Karen Khachanov 7-6 (8-6) 6-4, in the last 16.

At the Korea Open in Seoul, Britain's Katie Boulter was beaten 6-4 6-4

# Evans beaten by Alcaraz in third round



Evans

in the first round by Kaja Juvan of Slovenia.

Meanwhile, World number two Iga Swiatek claimed her fifth title of the year with victory over Liudmila Samsonova in the China Open final.

The Pole added to her titles in Doha, Stuttgart, Roland Garros and Warsaw with a 6-2 6-2 victory in Beijing.

Swiatek, 22, did not face a break point in either set as Russia's world number 22 Samsonova struggled to

cope. She quickly wrapped up victory in just 69 minutes for her 16th career title.

Swiatek, who ended US Open champion Coco Gauff's 16-match winning streak in the semi-finals, was handed the first break of the match in the sixth game when Samsonova produced a double fault.

She then went on to wrap up the opening set without committing a single unforced error.

Swiatek's superb serve helped her go 4-1 up in the second set before sealing the success as Samsonova made another error at the net.

Despite the defeat, Samsonova's week, during which she beat fifth seed Elena Rybakina, 12th seed Petra Kvitova and 13th seed Jelena Ostapenko, means she will return to the world's top 20.

# Gauff, Swiatek to miss Billie Jean King Cup finals

US Open champion Coco Gauff and French Open winner Iga Swiatek will miss next month's Billie Jean King Cup finals.

BBC SPORT said that, the finals begin in Spain two days after the WTA Finals finish in Mexico.

World number four Jessica Pegula, who like Gauff is playing singles and doubles at the WTA Finals, is also missing from the United States team.

But Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan and the Czech duo of Marketa Vondrousova and Karolina Muchova are planning to play both events.

Cancun was awarded the WTA Finals in early

September - four months after Seville was announced as the host city for the Billie Jean King Cup finals.

Saudi Arabia and the Czech Republic had also been in the running to stage the WTA Finals, which feature the top eight singles players and doubles teams of the year.

The event will conclude in Cancun on Sunday, 5 November, with the 12-team Billie Jean King Cup finals beginning in Seville on Tuesday, 7 November.

Swiatek also missed last year's Billie Jean King Cup finals in Glasgow, as the 2022 WTA Finals were

scheduled to finish in Texas just one day earlier.

"I'm disappointed that tennis' governing bodies did not come to an agreement on something as basic as the calendar of

# Kiptum shatters world marathon record in Chicago

KENYAN Kelvin Kiptum shattered the men's marathon world record in Chicago as he beat compatriot Eliud Kipchoge's previous mark by more than 30 seconds.

The 23-year-old finished in a time of two hours 35 seconds.

"I feel so happy. A world record was not in my mind today," he said after beating Kipchoge's time of 2:01.09, set in Berlin in September

2022. Dutch runner Sifan Hassan set the second-fastest women's time in marathon history as she won the female event.

Her time of 2:13:44 is behind only the record of 2:11.53 set by Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa in Berlin last month.

Kiptum broke the tape three minutes 27 seconds ahead of countryman Benson Kipruto, with Belgian Bashir Abdi in

Caroline Garcia, Madison Keys and Belinda Bencic - who will be the number one player for the defending champions Switzerland - are among the others who will be competing in Seville.



Kiptum

third.

It was his third victory in as many starts over 26.2 miles. He triumphed on his debut last December at Valencia and then won the London Marathon in a course record in April.

He waved and blew kisses at spectators before raising his arms when crossing the finish line.

His extraordinary run shaved more than three minutes off the previous Chicago Marathon record set by

Kenyan Dennis Kimetto in 2013 - and brings closer the possibility of the two-hour mark being broken.

"I saw the time in front of me. I felt good inside of me, maybe a little adrenaline. I said let me try - maybe I can run under 2:00," he said. "I knew one day I would be a world-record holder."

In the women's race, Hassan finished one minute 53 seconds ahead of Kenya's Ruth Chepngetich, with Ethiopian Alemu Megertu in third.



Coco Gauff is number three in the women's rankings and Swiatek is number two





**Quest**



**writer**

By **RONÉL RENSBURG**

**FRAGMENT**

*"Authentic transformational leaders are inwardly and outwardly concerned about the good that can be achieved for the group, organisation, or society for which they feel responsible. The pseudo-transformational leaders may publicly give the same impression and be idealised by their followers for it, but privately be concerned about the good they can achieve for themselves. Intellectual stimulation The intellectual stimulation of transformational leadership incorporates an open architected dynamic into processes of situation evaluation, vision formulation and patterns of implementation."*

By **RONÉL RENSBURG**

# Archbishop Tutu as moral sage

**M**AINTAINS that leadership is a willingness to change everything except basic values and goals, a continual dissatisfaction with things as they are", as well as a drive to change things for the better. One key social skill that appears to underlie leader performance is social perceptiveness. Indeed, a strong case is made that leadership reflects a function that needs to be carried out regardless of time or place. It also has institutional roots throughout the globe.

So leadership, in some form, appears to be universal throughout the developed and less developed countries. Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a leader in the truest sense of the word. Firm and steadfast in his views and way of life, his ideas now are as unchangeable as his ideas during the apartheid regime. He remains one of a few world leaders who retained their views regardless of the changing surrounding circumstances.

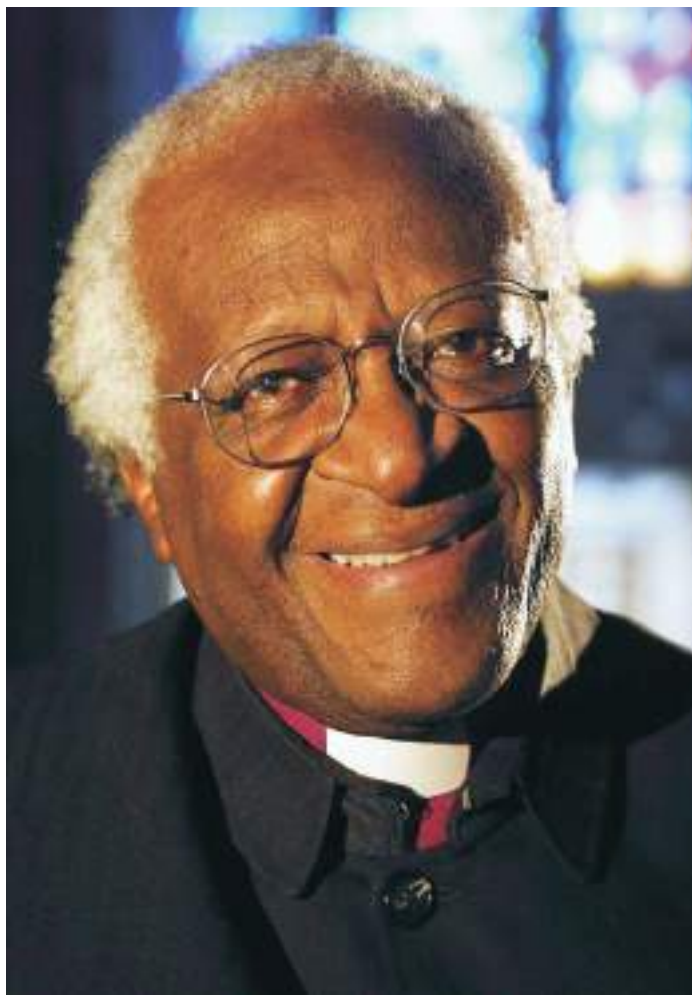
He was a maverick spirit who became the voice of black South Africa under apartheid, a man of immense moral authority. Under his vigorous leadership, the church in South Africa became immersed in the political struggle. He constantly told the government of the time that its racist approach defied the will of God and for that reason could not succeed.

But Archbishop Tutu has also not been uncritical of the ANC government. A couple of years ago he complained that some politicians were jumping on the "gravy train". In a recent interview he remarked (Shapiro 2002) "We have to keep reminding people why we have struggled against apartheid. Now we've got to give credit for the fact that we have a remarkable stability in South Africa, but we need to get rid of the crime, the unemployment, and ensure that people will say, 'Yes, there is a qualitative difference between repression and democracy."

Let's make sure we become a democracy where debate and dissidence are things that we welcome'... "Before 1990 Archbishop Tutu's vigorous social perceptiveness and advocacy of social justice made him a figure of controversy. Today he is seen more as an elder statesman with a major role to play in reconciliation, and as a leading moral voice across the globe. If one scans the

literature on leadership, it becomes clear that the Archbishop displays a synthesis of transformational, charismatic and pragmatic leadership, as well as a touch of zealotry. This remark warrants a closer look into these types of leadership. TRANSFORMATIONAL AND CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP Scholars have long debated exactly what makes exceptional, outstanding leadership possible. What allowed Julius Caesar, George Washington, and Joan of Arc to exercise such profound influence on their contemporaries? In recent years, the quest to understand outstanding leadership has focused on the characteristics of charismatic and transformational leaders. An explanation for this might be the fact that charismatic and transformational leaders provide the world with a motivating sense of identity by presenting and articulating a vision examination of notable historic leaders, scholars of leadership have examined the merits of using the concept of charisma, and the closely related broader concept of transformational leadership, and concluded that charismatic and transformational leadership can account for many incidents of exceptional leadership. Leaders provide followers with meaning by constructing and communicating a vision, or image, that articulates followers' values while allowing them to express their identity through a shared collective vision. This appeal to values and identity, not only motivates people to work towards an envisioned future, but also serves to build feelings of

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU Describing transformational and charismatic leadership Although virtually all models of outstanding leadership stress the importance of vision, different scholars make different assumptions about other kinds of actions likely to play a part in exceptional leadership. In his description of charismatic leaders, House (1977) emphasises the importance of passion and self-sacrifice, displaying confidence in followers, and role modelling, among other dimensions. Conger and Kanungo hold that charismatic leaders assess the external environment to find weaknesses in the status quo,



**Tutu**

attracting followers by presenting an appealing vision that seems radically different from the current status quo. Although there are similarities between charismatic and transformational leadership, the integrative style of transformational leaders stands in contrast to the distinctive vision characteristic of charismatic leaders. Another distinction between transformational and charismatic leadership is found in leader-subordinate relationships and their effects on motivation. Transformational leaders motivate followers through personal development and intellectual stimulation. Motivation for followers of a charismatic leader is derived from a strong affective relationship with the leader - spiritual or hero-worship, and a leader's ability to instil self-efficacy. The components of transformational and charismatic leadership According to Bass transformational leadership is a multidimensional phenomenon and it involves more than just vision. Transformat-

ional leadership entails idealised influence (charisma), inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation, and individualised consideration. The transformational and charismatic leader, like the Archbishop Tutu, is one who persuades through negotiation, participation and empowerment. The transformational leader is concerned with aligning the personal values of followers to the objectives of an organisation, cause or society at large. Idealised influence If the leadership is transformational, its charisma or idealised influence is envisioning, confident, and sets high standards for emulation. Recent literature underscores the spiritual dimensions of such influence as well as the moral dimensions of the influence process itself. In addition to what has already been said, point out the need of authentic (as opposed to pseudo-) transformational leaders to promote ethical policies, procedures and processes. They need to be committed to a clearly stated, continually enforced code

of ethical conduct which helps establish acceptable standards. Inspirational motivation The inspirational motivation of transformational leadership provides followers with challenges and meaning for engaging in shared goals and undertakings. The inspirational appeals of the authentic transformational leader tend to focus on the best in people - on harmony, charity and good works, while the inspirational appeals of the pseudo-transformational leader tend to focus on the worst in people - on demonic plots, conspiracies, unreal dangers, excuses, and insecurities. Kanungo and Mendonca have linked this to an empowerment process. For them, empowerment is more than broadening the scope of participation by followers. It is motivational and enabling, highlighting a new realisation and transformation of the person. Authentic transformational leaders are inwardly and outwardly concerned about the good that can be achieved for the group, organisation, or society for which they feel responsible. The pseudo-transformational leaders may publicly give the same impression and be idealised by their followers for it, but privately be concerned about the good they can achieve for themselves. Intellectual stimulation The intellectual stimulation of transformational leadership incorporates an open architected dynamic into processes of situation evaluation, vision formulation and patterns of implementation. Such openness has a transcendent and spiritual dimension and helps followers to question assumptions and to generate more creative solutions to problems. It is especially suited to the normative side of ethics, where human probing of the ground of being is both fathomless and endless. To the point, this dynamic breaks the bonds of leadership cultures that ignore fundamental questions such as altruism.

Individualised consideration The individualised component of transformational leadership underscores the necessity of altruism if leadership is to be anything more than authoritarian control.

**To be concluded next week**