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From DUMAH RANDONG,

PLSG leverages technology to tackle security

PLATEAU State Government is to leverage on cutting-edge technology to tackle the age-long security issue in the state.

The government said it would use geo-strata data and remote sensing technology to adequately tackle the security problem that has bedeviled the state.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang disclosed this when the Geo-information Society of Nigeria, GEOSON, led by Dr Sola Laka paid him a visit at the Old Government House, Rayfield in Jos recently.

Governor Mutfwang represented by his deputy, Mrs Josephine Piyo stated

that his administration was committed to the geographic management system in view of the huge benefits. He noted that technology has made things easier which hitherto were difficult to achieve.

He said in just two months, 550 land titles

have been issued which is being experienced for the first time in a few months.

The governor used the occasion and called on the Commissioner of Land and Survey to intensify efforts in that direction so as to generate more revenue for the state.

He further stressed that

his administration will continue to support the geographic management system in the state.

While applauding GEOSON for their role in earth sciences, the governor thanked them for deeming it fit to bestow an award on him in recognition of his policies

aimed at promoting data sciences.

Earlier, Dr Sola Laka had said the society which was founded in 2001, is an umbrella body of all earth scientists dedicated to promoting and advancing geospatial technology in Nigeria.

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ASUU, Maritime, electricity workers, banks join labour strike

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has directed its members to join the nationwide strike declared by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC).

Organised labour, on Monday, declared a

nationwide industrial action effective Wednesday over the brutalisation of Comrade Joe Ajaero, President of the NLC, in Owerri, Imo State.

The ASUU President, Emmanuel Osodeke, directed in a letter to ASUU zonal coordinators and branch chairpersons across the country to immediately

mobilise members for the strike.

"As an affiliate of NLC, all members of our union are hereby directed to join this action of NLC to protect the interest of Nigerian workers and the leadership of the union. Zonal coordinators and branch chairpersons should immediately mobilise our

members to participate in the action," Osodeke wrote in the letter.

On its part, the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) directed workers to shut all port formations across the country.

In a statement by Head of Media, John Ikemefuna, on behalf of the President-General, Prince Adewale

Adeyanju, the union said: "The Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) will midnight, Tuesday 14, 2023, commence a nationwide strike.

"The strike is on the instruction of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) after its National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held on Monday, November

13, 2023, directing all affiliates of the Congress to strictly comply.

"The NLC and Trade Union Congress (TUC) took this decision after their joint meeting in Abuja, which was prompted by a series of infractions and encroachments of the rights of workers, and the

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NLC, TUC strike action not in national interest - FG

THE Federal Government has said that the strike action embarked upon by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) is not in the national interest but a move to blackmail the government.

In a release signed by the Special Adviser to the President on Information & Strategy, Mr Bayo Onanuga, the government condemned the action of NLC/TUC to call out workers to commence a strike action from midnight of Wednesday, despite a restraining order issued last week by Justice Benedict Backwash Kanyip of the National Industrial Court.

The government said the strike action is "illegal, immoral, unjustifiable and irresponsible. What the strike notice issued Monday

night after official hours suggests is it's designed for a sinister and hidden agenda to cause undue hardship and civil disturbance in our country.

"This decision by the NLC and TUC other than being an ego tripping is clearly unwarranted. It is a move to blackmail the government by the leadership of the NLC," the government said in the release.

"We are still at a loss as to the reason the NLC and TUC decided to punish a whole country of over 200 million people over a personal matter involving the NLC President, Mr. Joe Ajaero, whose error of judgment led to the assault on him in Owerri while he was planning to incite the workers in Imo State into a needless strike.

"While the Federal

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ASUU, Maritime, electricity workers and banks have joined the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC) who embarked on a nationwide industrial action.

News

Plateau tops in human rights violation awareness

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

STATISTICS have shown that Plateau State is second to none among states across the country in terms of reporting human rights violations, because of the continuous awareness and advocacy programmes carried out by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)'s State Office over the years.

The Plateau State Coordinator of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Mrs. Veronica Abe, disclosed this recently while in an interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

She said, "Rating the level of human rights violations in Plateau State, I will say it is coming down and I will also say, it is on the increase. Coming down in the sense that people now know that when you violate somebody's right, the society and the authorities are watching you and can come after you."

"Going high, I will say, we now have a lot of violations being reported because of the awareness we have been able to create. So, people now know that they can reach out to a particular institution and you know, we are set up by the government and honestly, our services are free."

"So, it has encouraged a lot of people to come out and report these violations and Plateau State is leading in that awareness

ASSU, Maritime, electricity workers, banks join labour strike

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distressing incidents involving the abduction and assault on the NLC President, Comrade Joe Ajaero and other Unions' officials.

"There's also the continued refusal of the government to implement agreements, non-payment of backlog of salaries, pensions, discriminatory payment of salaries and non-compliance to national minimum wage."

"As an affiliate of the NLC, the MWUN is geared to commence the nationwide strike as directed by the NLC."

Meanwhile, the National Union of Electricity Employees, National Union of Banks Insurance & Financial Institutions Employees, and Union of Food Beverage & Tobacco Employees have directed all members and affiliates of the different Unions to join the Strike.



Madubuko

reporting. Our advocacy has helped a great deal, because it has exposed a lot of violations. Before now, a lot of people were kind of silent and did not want to speak out on the violations.

"But now that they know, through the films and awareness creation, they

PLSG leverages technology to tackle security

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He commended Governor Mutfwang whose policies are geared towards the promotion of data science.

He disclosed that they have decided to honour Governor Mutfwang and former Governor Jonah David Jang during whose tenure the Plateau Geographic Information System, PLAGIS was established which covers a wide range of sectors including security at their conference commenced Monday.



Mutfwang

are able to see other people's stories. People are now beginning to be aware of human rights issues as they see themselves in the same situation and have the right to voice out", Abe enthused.

The State Coordinator therefore, commended the State Government and other partners in the fight against human rights violations and hoped that more and greater engagement would further encourage more people to know their rights when violated and the society would be better off.

She, however, disclosed that the NHRC has over the years, engaged students in both secondary schools and the universities on human rights violations issues and had recorded tremendous successes within the period under review.

NLC, TUC strike action not in national interest - FG

Continued from page 1

Government does not condone any form of violence and assault on any citizen of Nigeria regardless of social and economic status, it is on record that the Inspector General of Police has ordered an investigation into what happened to Mr. Ajaero, while the Commissioner of Police in Imo State, under whose watch the incident happened, has been transferred out of the State.

"Calling out workers on a national strike over a personal issue of a labour leader despite a clear court order against any industrial action amounts to an abuse of privilege. Power at any level should never be used

THE investment environment in Nigeria is not attractive enough, a panel of experts said on Monday.

The experts spoke during a session themed "Corrosive and Constructive Capital Inflow in Africa: Regulatory Framework and Governance Gaps" at the ongoing Media and Development Conference organised by the Centre for Journalism, Innovation and Development (CJID) in Abuja on Monday.

The experts explained that instability and uncertainty among other factors have made the nation's economy too risky for investments.

Speaking on Monday, Lola Adekanye, African program director of the Centre for International Private Enterprise, these issues are affecting the nation's ability to attract the needed investment, adding that the primary one among them is the environment for investment and growth.

You will always hear that investors like stability, there is a need to be trustworthy in the business sector and what that translates to is this, if I put my money in any business, I want to be sure that my return on investment is guaranteed. I want to be sure because I don't want to put N20,000 into a business and earn less than N15,000 from it. Especially when there is investment competition for that capital for the same investment in many other regions.

"So the environment for investment in Nigeria is not attractive enough. Because investors now worry about different kinds of risks and political risk is one," she said.

"For instance, we talked about the investment in the Abuja-Kaduna rail, and then there was the insecurity attack. I am not sure what

to settle personal scores. Rather it should be used to promote collective progress and advance national interest.

"Our national economy and social activities should not suffer because of the personal interest of any labour leader. This flagrant disobedience to a court order and lack of respect for the judiciary should not be what the organised Labour should champion.

"The labour movement has always been a champion of the rule of law and respect for the judiciary. It is a sad irony that the current labour leaders have shown disdain and utter disregard for court order," the statement read in part.

Nigeria's environment not attractive for investment

- Experts



Adekanye

insurance we have to recover the loss that we experienced or still incurring from that rail project that is not working optimally right now. And so, investors, before they invest, look at the track record of other investments that have been in the country before and when they see that the return on investment is not as guaranteed, it's reducing and there are too many unstable indicators, they won't be attracted to invest.

"And unfortunately, capital goes where there is stability and there are other places where there is trust and stability and where the return of investment is guaranteed. So basically, it's still a very risky market in Nigeria," she added.

She explained that there is a need for the government to promote stability in the economy through effective fiscal policies, and to boost opportunities for private sector growth.

She, however, condemned the misuse of the country-borrowed funds, which are spent on recurrent expenditure rather than capital expenditure. She explained that spending funds on capital expenditure can be turned into economic value over time.

Government is borrowing to service recurring expenditure, government is borrowing to give out palliatives that do not demonstrate enough trust that the return on investment will be guaranteed. And so these are things that the government has to work on," she noted.

"It's not an easy process. It's a difficult, methodical and strategic process that the government has to follow, but it is an important, very important

one to do," she added. Also speaking, the Executive Director of the Centre for Fiscal Transparency and Integrity Watch, Umar Yakubu, explained that the country currently has an infrastructure deficit which can be met through investments.

He noted that the country is lagging in terms of due diligence when it comes to the use of borrowed funds.

"Our level of due diligence is very low. We sign contracts without properly understanding what we're supposed to do. Even if we do understand them, we do not sometimes sign them for national interest and national security purposes," he said.

"That is why you see that you will fall into a lot of problems when the monies have been collected, and when it comes to paying you will not see the value for money."

"We have to also strengthen our internal systems, when you borrow money, you know that the future generations are going to pay so you have to ensure that the money is properly utilised."

Meanwhile, she explained, there needs to be more transparency in the management of investment funds.

"Like I said earlier Nigeria is indebted to \$250 billion. If you ask for the components of those loans, you will see how we borrow them."

"But were the citizens engaged, were the media invited, were people invited to see and probably scrutinise how we use the money we borrowed?"

"You find out that they were not there. I think we just need to add due diligence, transparency and accountability to go with follow, but it is an effectiveness," he said



Business & Economy

Verdict on power sector privatisation after years

IN 2013, Nigeria decided to privatise the sector. But 10 years later, the expected yields from the privatisation of the NESI have been hampered. With such constraints, although the total national installed generation capacity stands at 13,000MW, Nigeria barely manages to get a third of that to where power is needed. The rest is stranded.

Alluding to the fact that the sector is yet to meet its desired results, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu recently, at the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) Market Participants and Stakeholders Roundtable (NMPSR) in Abuja, disclosed that 10 years after the power sector was privatised its objectives have not been met, stressing that over 90 million still Nigerians lack access to electricity.

Tinubu, who was represented by his special adviser on power and infrastructure, Malam Sadiq Wanka, also lamented that the country's national grid only serves about 15% of the country's demand, and called for intensified efforts to address commercial issues and improve the investment attractiveness.

Like the president, an Abuja resident, Ms. Murtala Hairat, who spoke with this reporter, expressed dissatisfaction over the sector's performance in the last 10 years.

She said: "I'm not satisfied with the power supply in Nigeria in the last 10 years. Nigerians have faced several challenges in electricity supply over the last 10 years. Some of the common challenges include inadequate generation capacity, transmission and distribution losses, poor infrastructure, lack of maintenance, high cost of electricity, and frequent power outages.

"These challenges have resulted in an unreliable power supply and it has hindered the economic growth and development in the country. The high cost of electricity in Nigeria is one of the major challenges faced by Nigerians in the last 10 years.

"It refers to the relatively expensive prices that consumers have to pay for electricity. There are several factors contributing to the high cost, including the cost of power generation, inadequate infrastructure, transmission and distribution losses, and inefficiencies in the power sector.

"These factors result in increased expenses for electricity generation, which are then passed on to consumers through higher tariffs. As a result, many Nigerians struggle to afford the cost of electricity, limiting their access to reliable power supply.

As Nigeria celebrates 10 years post-power sector privatisation, some Nigerians have scored the sector's performance low; TOPE SUNDAY takes a look at the scenario.



Also, another resident, Alamin Olalekan, said: "I am not satisfied with the power supply in the last ten years. Nigeria has a bad power supply and there is no change even after it was privatized. There are some communities in Nigeria that are having poor power supply and nothing has been done about it in the last 10 years.

"The power supply in many other areas is not stable. Some areas barely have 10 hours of light out of 24 hours a day and it is bad. Light is essential and it is needed in many aspects of our lives and also in carrying out our daily activities. Another challenge is that electric tariffs are too high for people to pay.

"One of the few things that can be done to improve the electric supply chain in Nigeria is to educate the public about energy conservation and also involve them in decision-making processes that can foster a sense of ownership and accountability in the power sector."

In his opinion, MuhammadTayyib Sheidu lamented the high cost of the electricity tariffs, saying that living in a rural area makes access to electricity harder.

Sheidu said: "As a Nigerian, I have to say that I have experienced a lot of challenges due to the high cost of the electricity tariffs, and the fact one is living in a rural area makes it even harder.

"As a Nigerian, I have to say that I have experienced a lot of challenges due to the high cost of

the electricity tariffs, and the fact one is living in a rural area makes it even harder. Also, there are illegal connections that also trip off the electricity and this is dangerous.

"I believe that this will change if the government ventures into other sources of energy like solar and wind to give a wider variety for the people. Nigerians should be educated on the dos and don'ts and people must get penalised for illegal connections".

On his assessment of the power sector in the last 10 years, another Nigerian, Khalifa Umar, told this medium that, "One of the prevailing issues has been the recurrence of power outages, disruption of daily life and economic activities.

"Inconsistent service delivery has left many Nigerians frustrated, hindering the realization of the full potential of a reliable power grid. The high tariffs are necessary for the sector's sustenance and this has posed a challenge for consumers, particularly in a country with diverse economic backgrounds. Therefore, balancing affordability and sustainability becomes a delicate task."

A furniture maker, Chukwuemeka Eze, who admitted that there is little improvement in the sector, but said the feat is not enough for the manufacturing industry.

"To be sincere there has been a little improvement in the power supply in the last ten years but not enough to depend on especially for

us in the production (manufacturing) industry because we still rely heavily on generators to power our equipment and it's not pocket-friendly.

"What they should do is simple, the president has the power to hire and fire. So, if those entrusted with power can't fix the problem, he should fire them. Also, enough of this entitlement of allowing individuals to build independent power stations period.

"Also, the challenges of the sector are numerous starting from the poor or epileptic power supply to the high cost of the tariff. I said they are not dependable," he said.

Another Nigerian, Mr. Odo Emmanuel, who said the sector in the last 10 years is full of ups and downs, added that only 40% of the population has access to electricity, with many rural areas still lacking access.

He said: "I would imagine that asking the average Nigerian about their satisfaction with the power sector would yield mixed results. While some may be happy with the progress that has been made, others may still be frustrated by the lack of reliability and high costs. It would be interesting to hear the specific experiences people have had with the electricity supply chain and to get their ideas on how it could be improved.

"There are several challenges that Nigerians have faced with regards to electricity supply over the past ten years. Some of the most

prominent ones include Limited access to electricity: Only about 40% of the population has access to electricity, with many rural areas still lacking access.

"Even those with access to electricity often experience frequent power outages and blackouts. Electricity is expensive, and the costs can be prohibitively high for many households."

“These challenges have resulted in an unreliable power supply and it has hindered the economic growth and development in the country. The high cost of electricity in Nigeria is one of the major challenges faced by Nigerians in the last 10 years.”



Business & Economy

AfDB pledges \$618m to boost Nigeria's creative industry

THE African Development Bank has said that arrangements are in the pipeline to disburse \$618m for the implementation of Nigeria's investment in digital and creative enterprise programme.

AfDB's country Director-General for Nigeria, Lamin Barrow made the disclosure on Sunday in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria in Marrakesh, Morocco.

According to him, the Federal government was in the process of recruiting a fund manager for the project.

Last month, the Federal Government announced the launch of a \$617.7m investment through the i-DICE programme.

The i-DICE is a Federal Government programme geared towards promoting investment in information and communications technology and creative industries, as part of efforts to build better, inclusive, and sustainable jobs. Barrow said of the \$618m fund, \$45m would come from Nigeria through the Bank of Industry.

The AfDB is expected to contribute \$170m while Agence Francaise de Development will contribute \$116m and the Islamic Development Bank will invest \$70m.

Barrow said the implementation of the project was staggered because of Nigeria's government



Barrow

transition.

"We were caught up by the transition of government and you have to allow the new government to settle in.

"The steering committee, chaired by the vice-president with membership from the ministries of finance, trade and investments, communication, science and technology, information and culture, met and received a briefing," he said.

Barrow said talks were already at an advanced stage, including advanced meetings on the first disbursement.

"Last week, the French minister that visited Nigeria signed the agreement for the co-financing as DICE is being

co-financed by the French Development Agency and the Islamic Development Bank. All the processes are now virtually completed," the AfDB country director-general said.

FG eyes \$23bn investment opportunities in energy transition

THE Minister of Power, Adebayo Adedun, says the Federal Government has identified about \$23 billion in investment opportunities in Nigeria for projects that are directly related to the country's Energy Transition Plan.

In his remarks at the 2nd German-Nigerian Symposium on Green Hydrogen, Adedun said the opportunities would not only provide electric power

RESIDENTS of Lagos, Abuja, Kano, Katsina, Jigawa and Adamawa and in other parts of the country are expressing concerns over their inability to withdraw huge cash in their banks' ATM galleries, raising fears of scarcity as experienced during the naira swap.

The development has also affected business transactions in local markets, especially in the northern part of Nigeria where buyers and sellers prefer to deal in cash instead of bank transfers.

Some traders in the South West and northern part of Nigeria have continued to lament over inability to withdraw huge money from the ATM galleries at their localities.

It was learnt that merchants who trooped to markets from the towns to buy commodities are becoming stranded as middlemen scramble to get cash for them.

POS operators also confirmed shortage of cash.

"... I am not an economist but I have a strong feeling the federal government had mopped up cash from circulation," an operator said.

Banks limit withdrawal from ATM

"It was tough getting cash to transact businesses" another said.

Recently, the Central Bank of Nigeria had explained that the seeming cash scarcity in some locations is due largely to high volume withdrawals from the CBN branches by Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) and panic withdrawals by customers from the Automated Teller Machines, ATMs).

The CBN, through its Director, Corporate Communications, Isa Abdulmumin, added, "While we note the concerns of Nigerians on the availability of cash for financial transactions, we wish to assure the public that there is sufficient stock of currency notes for economic activities in the country. The branches of the CBN across the country are also working to ensure the seamless circulation of cash in their respective states of operation."

The CBN had announced in March that in compliance with the order of the Supreme Court, banknotes remained

legal tender alongside the redesigned banknotes until December 31.

Last week, the apex bank reassured that both old and new notes remained legal tender and urged Nigerians to continue transacting using them.

"For the avoidance of doubt, while reiterating that there are sufficient banknotes across the country for all normal economic activity, we wish to state unambiguously that every banknote issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) remains legal tender and should not be rejected by anyone, as stipulated in Section 20(5) of the CBN Act, 2007," Abdulmumin had said in the statement.

He had added that branches of the CBN across the country had been directed to continue to issue different denominations of old and redesigned banknotes in adequate quantities to deposit money banks for onward circulation to bank customers.

Nigeria's inflation to hit 27.8% in October

— FDC

NIGERIA'S headline inflation rate is projected to rise for the 10th straight month to 27.8 percent in October 2023 from 26.72 percent in September, according to analysts at Financial Derivatives Company Limited (FDC), led by economist Bismarck Rewane.

This came before the release of the country's inflation report for October which is expected to be released on November 15, 2023 by the National Bureau of Statistics.

"Our Lagos market survey and time series model is projecting that headline inflation would spike by 1.08 percent to 27.8 percent for the month of October," FDC said in its latest economic bulletin recently.

It said if their estimate is accurate, this will be the 10th consecutive monthly increase this year, making it the highest level of inflation in 18 years (a record level)," it said.

It added that the food basket is expected to increase by 1.21 percent to 31.85 percent and that the principal commodities pushing the food index are flour, semovita, sugar, and noodles.

"In the last decade, the trend is for food price deceleration in October through December (Q4),

which is typically the harvest season."

FDC noted that this year, the country have witnessed an aberrational movement in food prices due to the cross elasticity of demand impact of imported foods on locally produced commodities like yams, garri, beans, and cassava.

"An example of this phenomenon is the relationship between the price of wheat flour and yams. The price of flour has spiked by 46.88% to N47,000 per 50kg bag. At this time in 2022, the price of flour was N32,000. The knock-on effect on yam is evident in its price, which has increased by 16.7% to N3,500 per tuber," it said.

"In the meantime, we expect both core, food, and headline inflation to continue their rising trend even though at a slower pace in November/December. This is because the pace of Naira depreciation has slowed with a trading range of N1,150 – N1,200/\$," it added.

The company also said that the Central Bank of Nigeria has recently allowed the stop rate on OMO bills to rise by 349 bps to 17.98 percent per annum.

"This is expected to increase the level of national savings (marginal propensity to save) and thus help taper the rate of inflation in the medium term."

Naira fails to gain 46.69% rise in dollar

THE number of dollars supplied at the Autonomous Foreign Exchange Market (NAFEM), Nigeria's official forex market, rose by 46.69 percent but could not shore up the value of the naira.

The daily foreign exchange (FX) market turnover increased by 46.69 percent to \$123.25 million on Monday from \$84.02 million recorded on Friday, according to the data obtained from the FMDQ.

Consequently, the naira depreciated by 1.96 percent as the data indicated that the dollar was quoted at N795.41 on Monday as against N780.14 quoted on Friday at NAFEM.

The willing buyers and willing sellers quoted the dollar at a higher spot rate of N1,099 and a lower rate of N701/\$1.

The foreign exchange market (FX) resumed on Monday with the naira depreciating against the dollar on the parallel market,

popularly called the black market, following renewed demand pressure after appreciating for two trading days.

During the intraday trading on Monday, the dollar was sold for N1,130, representing 1.80 percent loss compared with N1,110/\$1 sold on Friday on the black market.

Naira strengthened on Thursday and Friday from N1,140 on Wednesday to N1,110 on Friday on the parallel market.



Adedun

hydrogen, which, though not as clean as green hydrogen, would be useful in Nigeria's journey towards cleaner energy sources.

"And sadly Nigeria is still battling to put in place and embrace efficient gas

commercialisation and utilisation policy. For instance, NEITI's recent report disclosed a total unremitted revenue of over \$8.2bn. These revenues arose from liabilities of government agencies and oil/gas companies.

"A breakdown of the unremitted payments in our report showed outstanding gas royalty of \$559.8m and another unremitted sum of \$828.8m from unpaid gas flare penalty which indicated that more gas was flared during the period than utilised posing serious dangers to the global zero emissions agenda.

"NEITI is working closely with the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission on its ongoing gas commercialisation policy to ensure transparent and effective implementation to reverse the trend of gas flare,"

Orji stated.

The Ambassador of Germany to Nigeria, Annett Günther, said Germany and Nigeria were both committed to driving the production and use of hydrogen.

She also referred to the German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz' recent visit to Nigeria, in which he highlighted that the energy partnership between both nations was not only about traditional fossil fuels but also about hydrogen, the gas of the future.

On his part, the Country Director, GIZ Nigeria and ECOWAS, Markus Wagner, said, "It is crucial to recognise that green hydrogen has the potential to revolutionise our energy landscape. It offers a path to reducing carbon emissions, diversifying energy sources, and boosting economic growth.

"Nigeria and Germany share a long and fruitful history of cooperation in the energy sector and GIZ has been an active partner in this journey, working alongside Nigerian institutions and partners to drive positive change."



Tinubu's investment drive: A push for economic revitalisation

Economic experts have severally extrapolated that strong economy can engender respect among the comity of nations in several ways. Specifically, they argue that a strong economy can elevate a country's global influence, granting it a greater voice in international affairs and decision-making processes. GIDADO IBRAHIM writes.

ECONOMIC strength often translates into political clout, enabling a nation to shape global agendas and advocate for its interests more effectively. They've also posited that economic strength provide a nation with diplomatic leverage, enabling it to engage in international relations more effectively. Economic assistance, trade agreements and investment opportunities can be used to build relationships, resolve conflicts and promote cooperation.

Additionally, a strong economy can engender respect among the comity of nations by enhancing global influence, fostering economic interdependence, promoting technological advancement, projecting cultural soft power and providing diplomatic leverage. These factors contribute to a nation's standing in the international community and its ability to shape the global agenda.

For Nigeria, a 1962 international study predicted that in 15 years, Nigeria, India and Brazil would join the ranks of the developed world. While India and Brazil have made significant strides towards this goal, Nigeria has not.

One of the key reasons for Nigeria's lack of economic progress is the failure to get its economic dynamics right. The country's economy has been heavily reliant on oil exports, which has made it vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices. Additionally, Nigeria has a large informal economy, which has made it difficult to collect taxes and implement effective economic policies.

Weary of this sad state of the Nigerian economy and determined to turn the tide, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has embarked on a series of investment drives, both domestically and internationally, since assuming office on May 29, in a concerted effort to revitalize the country's economy and attract foreign direct investment. These initiatives, which align with his administration's Renewed Hope Agenda, aim to diversify the economy, create jobs and foster sustainable growth.

President Tinubu began to demonstrate his



Tinubu

commitment to attracting FDI to Nigeria by creating a conducive business-friendly environment. A significant milestone in Tinubu's investment drive was his participation in the Saudi-Africa Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in November 2023. During the summit, he addressed a gathering of leaders from both continents, emphasizing Nigeria's readiness to embrace business opportunities and assuring potential investors of the safety and returns on their investments.

Tinubu's message resonated with the Saudi investment community, prompting a positive response from Saudi Trade and Investment Minister, Kahlid El-Falih. El-Falih, announced plans for a large delegation of Saudi CEOs to visit Nigeria in the near future, indicating a strong interest in exploring investment opportunities.

Tinubu's efforts has since started delivering quick wins. For instance, in September, Nigeria secured nearly \$14 billion of investment pledges from Indian investors. Specifically, India's Jindal Steel and Power (JNSP.NS) committed to pumping \$3 billion into Nigeria's steel sector and Indorama Corp plans to invest an additional \$8 billion to expand its petrochemical facility in

Nigeria. Also, Skipperseil Ltd's founding Chairman, Jitender Sachdeva, and India's Bharti Enterprises each pledged \$1.6 billion over four years to build power generation plants and \$700 million in Nigeria, respectively.

Equally, Nigeria approved a \$1 billion partnership agreement with the Indian government to help the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria attain 40% self-sufficiency in local manufacturing and production of defence equipment in three years.

In addition to international outreach, Tinubu has also been actively promoting investment within Nigeria. He has held meetings with business leaders, industry representatives and state governors to discuss potential investment projects and address any concerns or obstacles.

One notable initiative is the establishment of the Nigeria-Saudi Business Council, which aims to facilitate collaboration and investment between Nigerian and Saudi businesses. The council is expected to play a crucial role in identifying and promoting investment opportunities in various sectors of the economy.

Tinubu has identified several key sectors that hold significant potential for investment, including energy, agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing and tourism. These sectors are considered essential for driving economic growth and creating employment opportunities.

In the energy sector, Nigeria's vast oil and gas reserves, as well as its potential for renewable energy development, present attractive investment opportunities. Agriculture, another key sector, offers opportunities for investment in production, processing, and logistics, aiming to boost domestic food production and reduce reliance on imports.

Infrastructure development is also a priority, as Nigeria's aging infrastructure has hampered economic growth. Investments in roads, railways, ports and power generation are crucial for improving connectivity, facilitating trade and supporting economic activities.

Manufacturing and tourism are also seen as promising sectors for investment. Nigeria's large and growing population provides a strong consumer base for manufactured goods, while its diverse natural beauty and cultural heritage offer potential for tourism development.

For industrialization to get to its peak in Nigeria, it is high time Nigerian foreign partners on industries and manufacturing started showing concern about reviving Bachita Sugar Company, the largest sugar company in Africa; Nigerian Paper Mills, Jabba, the largest paper mill in Africa; Jos Steel Rolling; Kastina Steel Rolling, Kano Steel Rolling; Ekot Aluminum Industry; Nigerian Textile industries and our agricultural processing industries.

With the provision of these opportunities by the Renewed

Hope Agenda, African Development Bank (AfDB) and NEXIM Bank should step up their intervention initiatives in ensuring President Tinubu and his deputy, Vice President Kashim Shettima, deliver on their campaign promises.

Despite the promising investment opportunities, Nigeria faces challenges that need to be addressed to fully attract foreign direct investment. These include corruption, bureaucratic hurdles, security concerns and a reliance on oil exports, which makes the economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices.

The Tinubu administration has been working to address these challenges through various initiatives, including anti-corruption measures, reforms to streamline business processes and efforts to improve security. The government is also emphasising the diversification of the economy to reduce reliance on oil exports.

As I conclude, let me submit that President Tinubu's investment drive represents a significant effort to revitalise Nigeria's economy and attract foreign direct investment. By addressing existing challenges and promoting opportunities in key sectors, the administration aims to create a more conducive environment for businesses and foster sustainable economic growth.

The success of these initiatives will depend on continued commitment to reforms, collaboration with stakeholders, and effective communication of Nigeria's investment potential to the global community.

Finally, let me also implore our brothers and sisters in the organised labour to take heart in the face of the hardship that they, as well as all Nigerians, are currently undergoing. The setbacks are temporal challenges begotten from stringent measure taken by the Tinubu administration to change the dwindling economic fortunes of the country.

Instead of expending their energy in industrial actions and protests that would not change anything, the labour unions should use their constitutional mandate to demand for essential rights, such as staging rallies to push for effective legislation that would ensure effective prosecution of corrupt persons involved in fuel subsidy scam, arms deal and other looters of public funds.

Politics

PSC commends police for resisting hijack of elections

THE Police Service Commission (PSC) recently has expressed its commendation for the police officers who were deployed to oversee the elections in Kogi, Imo, and Bayelsa states.

Staff monitors from the PSC reported that the officers displayed courage and effectively contained intermittent attempts to hijack the elections by miscreants.

The monitors, who were deployed to the nine senatorial districts across the three states, noted that the police officers stationed at the polling units were courteous, approachable, and professional. Despite incidents of attacks on voting units, the police managed to make several arrests, particularly in Kogi State, where there were notable cases of miscreants attempting to disrupt the electoral process.

Additionally, the police successfully contained pockets of attacks in Brass and other riverine areas of Bayelsa State. While there were reports of vote buying in the three states, the PSC confirmed that these activities were not carried out in collaboration with police officers on election duty.

During the monitoring process, the PSC observed that in the Imo West Local Government Area, police officers conducted visible patrols in collaboration with the military along major roads.

Furthermore, a police helicopter was reported to have hovered over the voting space throughout the election period in the Imo North and East districts.

In Bayelsa, police officers arrived early at most voting units, dressed appropriately, and demonstrated a high level of professionalism. On average, two policemen were observed in most voting units, although in a few others, only one police personnel was present.

The PSC acknowledged the early signals sent by the police in Kogi State, where miscreants were swiftly arrested for their attacks on polling units. The officers on election duty received commendations from officers of sister agencies for their collaboration and efforts to maintain peace and order.

Dr. Solomon Arase, Chairman of the Commission and retired Inspector General of Police, personally monitored the



Arase

exercise in Kogi State. He commended the three Deputy Inspectors General of Police who supervised police operations in the states: Frank Mba, Sani Habu, and Daniel Isokari-Pedro. Dr. Arase emphasized the importance of the police remaining vigilant and prepared to prevent any potential breakdown of law and order following the announcement of the election results.

Furthermore, Dr. Arase directed the police management to promptly investigate any instances of misconduct by police officers during the elections and submit recommendations to the Commission for immediate disciplinary action. He emphasized that every act of misdemeanor must have commensurate consequences.

Dr. Arase assured the public that the Commission would continue to monitor

police conduct during elections to ensure optimal performance and accountability. The PSC staff monitors operated from the nine senatorial districts, while the National Coordinating team worked in partnership with civil society groups from the Situation Room in Abuja.

The PSC's commendation serves as recognition for the police officers' dedication and professionalism in ensuring the integrity of the electoral process in Kogi, Imo, and Bayelsa states

Embrace inclusive governance, group tells Governor-elect

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A group under the auspices of United Progressive Political Parties in Kogi State, has appealed to Kogi governor-elect, Alhaji

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE National Association of Government General Medical & Dental Practitioners (NAGGMDP), Kogi State chapter, has congratulated the Kogi State Governor-elect, Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo and his deputy, Hon Joel Oyibo on their success at the just concluded Gubernatorial Election.

The congratulatory message was jointly signed by the Chairman of the association, Dr. Ugoh Stanley Nkemakolam and its Secretary, Dr. Okundaye Benson, and made available to journalists in Lokoja.

The association described the victory of the APC candidate, Ododo and his deputy as an attestation of the yearnings of the people of Kogi State.

The doctors praised Governor Yahaya Bello for his doggedness and for ensuring a free, fair and credible elections in the state,

"There's no doubt that the incoming governor has all that it takes to

Kogi doctors felicitate with Ododo On victory



Ododo

move the state to the next level.

"NAGGMDP is optimistic that the incoming administration will address the welfare challenges faced by doctors in the state which include the upward review of the 2014 CONMESS.

"Others are: Non implementation of Hazard allowances, rural allowance and the shortage of manpower in the Kogi State Hospital Management Board

which has made life very difficult for our members in the face of the fuel subsidy removal," the association said.

The chairman also used the opportunity to pray for the outgoing governor - His Excellency, Alhaji Adoza Yahaya Bello for his developmental strides in the last few years.

The group further commended the governor for conducting the most peaceful gubernatorial election so far in the history of the state.

INEC declares APC'S Ododo winner of Kogi Election

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has declared the governorship

candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Alh. Usman Ahmed Ododo, as winner of last Saturday's governorship election, held in Kogi State.



Yahaya

Ahmed Usman Ododo, to embrace and all inclusive governance and be magnanimous in victory.

Idris Bala Abdulgafar, who spoke on behalf of the group during a press conference in Lokoja

According to the INEC's returning officer, Prof. Johnson Urame, he said that the candidate of the APC got 446,237 votes.

The governorship candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Alh. Muritala Yakubu Ajaka, who came second in the exercise, polled a total vote of 259,052 while the candidate of People's Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Dino Melaye, came third with the total number 46,362 votes.

Prof. Johnson said "Ahmed Usman Ododo of the All Progressives Congress having satisfied the mandate of the law, is declared the winner of Kogi state governorship election and returned elected".

recently, also called on all the stakeholders that participated in the quest to rule the state to exercise restraint for the peace of Kogites.

The group, which reminded the people that without peace, there would be no development, said it was not ignorant of the fact that some people were aggrieved during the exercise but sued for peace.

"All political party candidates should also come together to build a Kogi of our dream where ethnicity, religion and sectionalism has no place.

"Our appeal to all the political parties, especially the APC, is to be magnanimous in victory by demonstrating the policy of all inclusive governance as exemplified by our distinguished President, His Excellency, Sen.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu. "Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo of APC should extend a hand of fellowship to all the political parties that struggled through the process of becoming the governor of our state to present their agenda for the development of Kogi State," the group further advised.

It also urged Ododo to build on uniting the state where sections of the three senatorial districts are treated fairly without any iota of sentiments, adding, "united we stand and divided we fail."

The group commended stakeholders in the election, such as election observers, NGOs, INEC and the media, for contributing towards ensuring that the state "is the the most peaceful election ever witnessed in Kogi State since its democratic governance in 1991.

Politics

Yiaga Africa seeks creation of offences commission

A not-for-profit democracy deepening group, Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement, Africa, Yiaga, has called on the National Assembly to accelerate the process of electoral reform, especially the establishment of the Electoral Offences Commission to promptly prosecute electoral offenders.

The Executive Director of Yiaga Africa, Mr Samson Itodo, made the call in the group's final report on the Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states' governorship polls in Abuja.

Mr Itodo said the process should include fundamentally reforming the electoral management body, the Independent National Electoral Commission and attitude of politicians to elections.

He said that Yiaga Africa also called on INEC to urgently review and conduct a comprehensive audit of the Imo State governorship election results to inspire confidence in the process and its outcome.

He also urged the commission to thoroughly investigate allegations of malpractices and misapplication of election laws and guidelines and remediate all the flaws including prosecuting its staff members found wanting.

"Increasingly, more voters are tactically disenfranchised for conduct that is not within their control. INEC should review its policy to ensure that eligible voters across all polling units are given an equal opportunity to vote.

"This includes policy reviews that ensure that voters in polling units where elections are suspended or cancelled for electoral malpractice or logistical challenges are given an opportunity to vote," he said.

Mr Itodo said that Yiaga Africa deployed observers to monitor the Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi governorship elections and also deployed the Process and Results Verification for Transparency methodology to observe the polls.

He noted that though Yiaga Africa observed a marked improvement in the management of election logistics across the three states, it however noticed some irregularities.

He added that the elections in Kogi and Imo states reaffirmed the lack of commitment to democratic principles and credible elections on the part of electoral stakeholders.

According to him, the zero-sum attitude to electoral politics undermines electoral integrity and citizens' right to elect leaders.

He said, "These off-cycle elections were to test the commitment of key democratic institutions such as INEC, security agencies and the executive to restore public confidence in the electoral process.

"Yiaga Africa is concerned about the continuous decline in the quality of our elections and the penchant to lower the integrity standards of our elections irrespective of reforms introduced by the INEC and progress made in reforming our



Itodo

election legal framework.

"The November 11 elections were another missed opportunity to rebuild trust and confidence in the electoral process. The elections question the commitment of democratic institutions such as INEC, political parties and other state institutions to electoral integrity and credible elections."

Mr Itodo however commended INEC for its prompt response to the report of cases of pre-filled results sheets (EC8A) in Kogi State and expressed hopes that it would fulfil its commitment to ensuring the culprits faced the full wrath of the law.

He further said that Yiaga Africa also observed a reduction in cases of election day-related violence and commended the efforts of the police and other security agencies.

He expressed hope that reports of election offences, compromise and unprofessional conduct of some cops would be duly investigated and culprits properly punished.

He noted that Yiaga Africa's observation data suggested that elections did not hold in some designated polling units and this questioned the transparency of the process, adding that it violated the rights of the voters in the affected polling units.

According to him, as a result of missing data from the PRVT sample coupled with a high

number of critical incidents recorded in Imo State, Yiaga Africa was not in a position to verify the credibility and outcome of the election as earlier promised.

Mr Itodo stated, "However INEC official results for the Kogi governorship election were consistent with Yiaga Africa's WTV estimate as it falls within the WTV estimated range."

The executive director said that had the official results been changed at the ward, LGA, or state collation centres, they would not have fallen within the Yiaga Africa WTV estimated ranges.

He added, "Kogi Result Verification based on reports from 278 of 286 (97.2%) sampled polling units, Yiaga Africa's statistical analysis shows that the All Progressives Congress should receive between 47.0 per cent and 59.0 per cent of the vote.

"The Social Democratic Party should receive between 31 per cent and 42.4 per cent of the vote and the Peoples Democratic Party should receive between 4.8 per cent and 7.4 per cent while no other political party should receive more than 1.2 per cent of the vote."

Purchase of operational vehicles: Diket defends NASS

THE National Assembly (NASS) had recently procured and distributed Toyota Landcruiser Jeeps worth about 57.6 billion



Plang

naira to the 320 members of the National Assembly, a purchase which has continued to generate tension and controversy to Nigerians, who have wondered why a country that can't produce 5000 mw is spending such a bogus amount on luxury cars.

But a member of the Senate, representing Plateau Central in the National Assembly, Senator Diket Plang in an Interview with THE NIGERIA STANDARD in his office debunked the speculation saying that the vehicles were given to the members on loan which would be deducted from their monthly salaries.

Senator Plang who displayed his alert of October salary with the deduction of almost #500 hundred thousand for the car said, "reports about the cars (vehicles) being procured for us were exaggerated." According to him, "The vehicles are work tools and not status symbols. Members are diligent and patriotic elected representatives and not entitled."

On insecurity in the country, the legislator said insecurity in Nigeria is a big challenge in which nobody is safe in any environment due to high rate of armed robbery and banditry. He listed poverty and unemployment among causes of the insecurity being experienced.

PDP condemns claim of fear as empty rhetoric

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE House of Representatives has said the time is ripe for the federal government to consider sustainable investment in the renewable energy sector and technologies.

It is in recognition of the importance of renewable energy and technology that the leadership of the 10th Assembly established a committee to oversee its affairs.

Chairman of the House Committee on Renewable Energy, Hon. Ofam Victor Ogene, disclosed this recently while briefing journalists in his office.

He noted that there is a growing conversation across the globe about sustainable development in every sphere of life, or sectors of corporate or governance structures to emphasise the need for Nigeria to get more investments in the sector.

According to the chairman, this implies that a new shift from what was - which was the fixation on



Ogene

Nigeria's oil wealth and the aging technology powered by obviously environmentally damaging fossil fuels.

Hon Ogene also noted

that concerted efforts must be made to utilize the natural mineral deposits and resources God had endowed Nigeria with.

INEC fixes fresh election in suspended polling units

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has fixed fresh election for 59 polling units involving 115,139 registered voters for Saturday November 18.

In a statement signed by INEC's National Commissioner and Member Information and Voter Education Committee, Mohammed Kudu Haruna, recently explained that the commission has received an update from the Kogi State office regarding the suspension of election in some locations in the state where result sheets were completed before the commencement of voting.

The statement read, "The most critical incident occurred in nine out of 10 Wards in

Ogori/Magongo Local Government Area (LGA).

We received reports of similar and other incidents in Adavi (5 Polling Units in Okunchi/Ozuri/Onieka Ward), Ajaokuta (5 Polling Units in Adogo Ward), Okehi (1 Polling Unit in Eika/Ohizenyi Ward) and Okene (5 Polling Units in Obehiru Uvete Ward). Results from the affected polling units have been accounted for in Form EC40G for the four LGAS".

"However, in the case of Ogori/Magongo LGA, only the result of Oshobane Ward II with eight Polling Units and 2,264 registered voters has been collated. Election in the other nine Wards (Eni, Okibo, Okesi, Ileteju, Aiyeromi, Ugugu, Obinoyin, Obatgben and Oturu) involving 59 Polling Units and 15,136 registered voters remain suspended. In line with Section 24(3) of the

Electoral Act 2022 and Clause 59 of INEC Regulations and Guidelines on the Conduct of Elections 2022, fresh election will be held on Saturday 18th November 2023 in the affected Polling Units'".

"The decision to hold fresh elections is subject to the Returning Officer's determination of the application of the Margin of Lead Principle. However, this decision is without prejudice to our avowed commitment to follow the audit trail of personnel and materials to ascertain those who may have been complicit in undermining the process and apply appropriate sanctions where necessary".

INEC, however concluded by reiterating its assurances to voters in Kogi State that their votes will continue to count and their wishes respected.



Yakubu

IMAGES

2023 GOSA CONVENTION, AWARD DINNER AND REUNION

Gindiri Old Students Association (GOSA) mini convention, Award Night and Reunion Service took place at Crispan Hotel and Ulster Church Gindiri respectively with the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, former Executive Secretary, TETFund, Prof. Elias Suleiman Bogoro and other GOSA's in attendance



GOSA National President, Engr. Sunday Hyat mni (left) with the Chairman, 2023 GOSA Convention, Dinner/Awards Night, His Highness, Engr. Isiyaku Danlami Yusuf, Sarkin Wusasa Zaria



Plateau State Governor, Barr Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang delivering his speech at the GOSA Reunion Service at Ulsher Church, Gindiri



Representative of Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, Arc Samuel Nanchang Jatau and other members of the Gindiri Old Students Association in prayer mood



Cross section of GOSA and GICOSA at the Reunion Service



Former National President, Prof. Suleiman Bogoro (right) presenting award to former Head of Service, Barr. Hulda Fwangchi, middle is the Sum Pyem, HRH Charles Mato Dakat



Governor Mutfwang in a handshake with the COCIN President, Rev. Dr. Amos Musa Mozho



HoS, Barr. Rauta Dakok, CMAC JUTH, Dr. Josiah Njem in a group photograph with other award recipients



Plateau State Governor, Barr. Mutfwang and other GOSA and GICOSA members singing during the Service

Politics

A troubled country in need of political leadership

In 2015, President Muhammadu Buhari rode to power on the coattail of his popularity with the people, ascetic lifestyle, and his so-called zero tolerance for corruption. He used the power of incumbency to win his re-election bid. Due to his failed political leadership of Nigeria during his first term in office, millions of Nigerians were surprised at his winning the 2019 presidential slugfest, CHIEDU UCHE OKOYE writes.

THE incontrovertible fact is that our past successive political leaders since 1999 did not get into the saddle of power owing to the people's choice. And those political leaders, who are our third eleven politicians, are destitute of positive morality-code, leadership qualities, political ideologies, and political vision. Rather, they're driven by egoism, narcissism, vainglorious pursuits, and propensity for material acquisitions.

So not unexpectedly, Nigeria is mired in the mud of national underdevelopment irrespective of the fact that she is immensely blessed with human and material resources, arable large land mass, many waters, and equable weather conditions. High rate of unemployment in the country, our country's infrastructural rot and deficit, millions of impoverished Nigerians, our dysfunctional educational system, and Nigeria's comatose health sector are indices of Nigeria's underdevelopment.

Here, in Nigeria, most federal roads in the southeast area of Nigeria are pockmarked with craters. The bad state of the roads, which hinders the conveyance of goods and people from one state to another, stalls the economic growth of the area. And in many states of Nigeria, we have government-owned schools and hospitals whose buildings are tumbledown with roofs blown off and walls crumbling.

Again, our health sector is in a bad state with government-owned hospitals suffering dearth of pieces of medical equipment. And a great number of health personnel who are dissatisfied with their welfare condition have left the shores of Nigeria for greener pastures in Europe, America, and Saudi Arabia. Those who still work in government-owned health institutions do down tools to press home their demand for the betterment of their welfare conditions.

More so, although our leaders are not unaware that education is the bedrock of national development, they have been treating educational matters in Nigeria in a cavalier manner. So the quality of education obtainable in Nigerian universities has nose-dived to an abysmally low-level. Are most products of our tertiary institutions not destitute of knowledge and wanting in character?

So it is incumbent on



Tinubu

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to offer us goal-oriented and purpose-driven political leadership so as to rescue

Nigeria from the morass of economic strangulation, technological backwardness, infrastructural deficit, and

national disunity. The affirmation of President Bola Tinubu's presidential election victory by the Supreme court,

although that Supreme court judgement left much to be desired, should spur President Tinubu to put his acts together and start tackling our country's monumental and seemingly intractable problems.

It is obvious to us that the ship of the Nigerian state is floundering with the economy being in a tailspin, the country gripped by insecurity of life and property, and disunity reigning among the people(s) of Nigeria. So President Tinubu should galvanize efforts to steady the ship of state and navigate it to the path of sustainable economic growth, technological development, and national unity.

The tense period of politicking, electioneering, and electoral litigation is over. Now is the time for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to settle down for the leadership of Nigeria. He should lead us right so that our country can realize her potential and achieve her manifest destiny.

Violence, others casts doubt on integrity of polls

In Kogi State, the gubernatorial election recorded mass turnout of voters in most polling units in Lokoja, the state Capital. Several polling units started accreditation of voters at 8:30 am in most parts of the state capital; most voters were already in the queue before accreditation time, writes IWOK INIOBONG.

THERE were, however, reports of violence and voter intimidation in parts of Okene and Ogori/Magongo Local Government Areas.

Dino Melaye, Kogi State People's Democratic Party (PDP) governorship candidate, raised the alarm that all polling units in Ogori/Magongo Local Government Areas of the state had their result sheets tampered with or prefilled in the early hours when the election commenced.

Melaye added that there are widespread demonstrations in the units because voters refuse to be recognised and demand that the area's voters be given access to the plain result sheets.

In a brief video the former senator made public on social media Saturday morning, he called on the populace to oppose any wrongdoing undermining their aspirations as Kogi people.

"The result sheets have been filled and tampered with already, and people have refused to accredit, people have refused to vote, and they are insisting that the plain result sheets must be returned to agents following the electoral law," Melaye said.

There were several other cases of voter intimidation and vote-buying in some parts of Kogi State by the PDP and Social Democratic Party (SDP) officials.

In Imo State, there were gun shots to scare voters away around 11 am during voting in the Ikeduru Local Government Area, the home town of the PDP candidate, Sam Anyanwu.

Nigeria has a history of violence during elections, which was also noticed in the 2023 polls, despite promises by the electoral commission that the process would be different from previous elections.

In fact, some described the 2023 general election as the worst in the country's electoral history.

Experts say the situation has been fueled by impunity and a lack of desire by the government and INEC to punish election offenders.

They said if the trend is not checked, the Nigerian dream of good governance and

accountability may just be a mirage.

Many Nigerians have called for concerted efforts among stakeholders to check the trend.

He said, "Today's elections reinforced the kleptomania nature of the Nigerian political elite. The electoral process is highly monetized and commercialized, which is reflected in today's elections.

"Desperation to capture state power by the political actors for primitive wealth accumulation would continue to make

violence a strategy in electoral victory.

"The electoral institution cum security agencies would need to brace up and be ready to ensure sanctity in our electoral process and system.

"Political violence is still and would still be a great challenge to the smooth conduct of elections in Nigeria because the elite are yet to have consensus to make the country great".

Many stakeholders have called for a holistic overhaul of the electoral process to deliver free and fair elections.

“

Desperation to capture state power by the political actors for primitive wealth accumulation would continue to make violence a strategy in electoral victory. The electoral institution cum security agencies would need to brace up and be ready to ensure sanctity in our electoral process and system. Political violence is still and would still be a great challenge to the smooth conduct of elections in Nigeria because the elite are yet to have consensus to make the country great. Many stakeholders have called for a holistic overhaul of the electoral process to deliver free and fair elections.

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NEWS

Cultural diversity, our source of strength - Mutfwang

PLATEAU State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has praised Plateau as a shining example of a state that celebrates its cultural diversity and fosters unity and peace in Nigeria.

A statement by the Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Executive Governor, Gyang Bere disclosed that

Governor Mutfwang made this remark on Sunday during the 2023 Cultural/General Harvest celebration of the St. Mathew's Anglican Church, Diocese of Abuja, Maitama, Abuja.

He expressed gratitude to God Almighty for his journey so far, saying he never imagined at the beginning of this year that he would become the Executive Governor of Plateau State.

Governor Mutfwang acknowledged God's role in his life and said that his ascension to Plateau State Government House was not by his own merit but by God's divine grace.

"I thank God for his mercies, who brought us from nothing to where we are today. We are here simply because of the grace of God, we are here simply because of the mercy of the Lord and it is not because we are righteous. We know that God has brought us for a purpose and I would like to ask for your prayers so that we can live for Christ even in the leadership space in Nigeria."



Mutfwang

He appealed for God's guidance to help him uphold the Christian values of love, fairness, justice, honesty and integrity in public service for the benefit of the people.

Governor Mutfwang described the task of public service as challenging and expressed confidence that the vision for which God has called him to serve at this time would be accomplished. He added that God, who knows the way through the wilderness, would surely sustain him and the peace-loving people of Plateau State.

He prayed for the peace and unity of Nigeria and Plateau, saying the state is peacefully hosting various ethnic groups from the South West, South South, South East and the

entire Northern states with diverse cultural backgrounds.

The Governor said his dream is to make Plateau State a land of harmony, where everyone can live and prosper in their businesses regardless of their culture, faith and ethnicity.

He appreciated St. Mathew Anglican Church for the celebration of the diversity of cultures and said that demonstrates the commitment that Nigeria will work.

The Bishop of Ndokwa Diocese, Rt. Rev. Festus Uzorka Nwafili, who delivered the sermon on the topic "Harvest of Divine Exaltation", based on Proverbs 3:9-10, urged believers to always give thanks to God.

From
ABBAS GUNGURA Bauchi

IN its determination to provide good governance to good people of Bauchi State, Bauchi State Government has collaborated with WaterAid Nigeria to provide female friendly public and community toilets that are hygienic to the citizens in the state.

Mrs Wando Akossu, the state team lead WaterAid Nigeria, stated this during her presentation of overview of impact Accelerator Project Workshop for stakeholders at the weekend in Bauchi.

The NIGERIA STANDARD reports that the stakeholders have conducted a toilet design workshop as part of their efforts to review existing toilets designs by various Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

According to WaterAid Nigeria, Bauchi State Government and other stakeholders are willing to work assiduously on the provision of female friendly public and community toilets that cater for menstrual hygiene management and other hygiene requirements.

"We need an inclusive, well designed neighborhood outdoor and public space to improve people's health and quality of Life," she said.

Akosu explained that the objective of the workshop was to identify gaps and improve on the new user's center toilet designs which is tailored towards improving females, persons with disabilities, females and children comfort while using the toilet.

She added that the project

Bauchi, WaterAid collaborates to provide community toilets

was hinged on a user-centered design of public toilets with an objective of influencing the state government "To provide toilet facilities that women and girls can use with dignity and without concerns using evidence from research," she said.

Akosu explained that during the project implementation, accessibility and safety audit was conducted in 15 toilets in the motor parks and markets in the state.

"Some of the findings revealed that there were no separate toilet compartments for women, common entrance for men and women,

"No provision of separate compartments for menstrual hygiene and sanitary waste management, no access ramps for persons with disabilities to use Independently," she explained.

WaterAid Consultant, Mr. Ojelabi Mayokum in his contribution explained that when designing a toilet, it should include accessibility and safety audit, climate resilience, financial considerations and service providers inputs.

He added that in the design of female-friendly toilets, it must be accessible, safe and private, affordable, cater for menstrual hygiene and meet the needs of care-givers.

The stakeholders include WaterAid Nigeria implementation partners, Women Development Association for Self-Sustenance (WODASS)

Others include the Bauchi State Environmental Protection Agency (BASEPA), Bauchi State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA) among others.



Bala

'Immortalise late Governor Balarabe Musa'

From **JOHN FWAH Kaduna**

Various speakers at the Third Memorial Lecture for late Balarabe Musa, former Governor of Kaduna State,

have called on the government to immortalise the late governor who represented genuine political aspiration and integrity.

Among the dignitaries include the National Chairman of the People's Redemption Party (PRP).

Presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi who was represented by the party's campaign spokesman, Dr Yunusa Tanko at the 3rd Memorial Lecture for Balarabe said, "We request the Federal Government to rename the Kaduna International Airport as Balarabe Musa International Airport".

He also suggested that Kaduna State should name the Silver Jubilee Lugard roundabout with an effigy of the late governor mounted on the roundabout, as our struggle point for the poor, to be called Dandalin Malam Balarabe Musa".

In his eulogy, titled: 'Alhaji Balarabe Musa, At Times Like This', the Director General of the Michael Imodu National Institute of Labour Studies (MINILS), Issa Aremu, said that Balarabe Musa was the first democratically elected governor of Kaduna State who implemented decent work agenda favored by International Labour Organization (ILO).

Aremu explained that "I bring warm greetings of remembrance from the two Ministers of Employment and Labour, namely His Excellency Simon Lalong and Mrs Nkiruka Onyejeocha. Greetings of solidarity also from the management and staff of Micheal Imodu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS) in Ilorin."

He pointed out that "They all fought military dictatorships. They were progressives who fought for equitable distribution of national wealth, and shunned corruption and

greed! They stood firmly for the Talakawa despite harassment and persecution including impeachment from office in the case of Alhaji Balarabe Musa."

While calling for a posthumous honour for Balarabe Musa, Aremu explained that Balarabe was the first democratically elected Governor of Kaduna State who implemented decent work agenda favored by International Labour Organization (ILO).

"He together with late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, then governor of Kano State, were the first to declare May Day in 1981. They were also the first to implement minimum wage. I am happy that Governor Uba Sani is emulating Baba in terms of being friendly with Labour."

"We are marking the 40th anniversary of MINILS this year. MINILS was commissioned in 1983 by late President Shehu Shagari. As part of the anniversary activities, we are conferring posthumous Fellowships of National Institute for La our studies (FNILS) on Alhaji Balarabe Musa, Alhaji Abubakar Rimi and former President Shehu Shagari in December for their commitment to decent work for Nigerian workers."

"Alhaji Balarabe was a good friend and comrade of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu! Indeed during his campaign, Tinubu was here in Kaduna to see the family of Baba. What would have been the stand of Baba at times like this? Baba would have been excited today that his friend is the 5th democratically elected President in this dispensation. If Baba were alive, he would have called on all of us to support Tinubu's Renewed Hope 8 point Agenda and deepen democracy!"

COCIN new deputy general secretary emerges

By **JIDAUNA DARING**

THE leadership of the Church of Christ in nations (COCIN) has elected, Rev. Dinfa Mamshal as new Deputy General Secretary (DGS) at the end of its 104 General Church Council (GCC) meeting held at the COCIN Headquarters Church, Jos, last Friday.

This was contained in a communique signed by COCIN President, Rev. Dr. Amos Musa

Mohzo and COCIN General Secretary Rev. Associate Prof. Benjamin Poko and made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

Our correspondent reports that the communique was read by the COCIN President Rev. Dr. Mohzo shortly after the peaceful conduct of the DGS election.

Rev. Dr. Mohzo appreciated God for his providence and sustenance through the

turbulent storms and challenges experienced by the Church, and also appreciated God for the successful take off of the Karl Kumm University, Vom.

The communique equally appreciated the host community, Vwang, for their generous donation of a 22 KVA generator as a show of their support to the university. It expresses gratitude to God for the level of progress of work attained on the new COCIN Guest House within the last 6 months.

It commended the church at her different levels for their collective and constant commitment in pursuing the vision and mission of the church and urged them to remain steadfast and resolute in such regard. The communique applauded the sacrifices and commitment of their missionaries within and outside Nigeria.

It then called on her members to remain peace agents in line with the theme of the Church for the year 2023 "Seeking the Peace of the Land."

The communique congratulates Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR on his emergence as President of Nigeria and Barr Caleb M. Mutfwang as the Executive Governor of Plateau State. It also prayed for them as they both pilot the affairs of the nation and Plateau State respectively.

It also acknowledges the efforts of traditional rulers for their commitment and wisdom particularly in maintaining peace and security in their communities. It also expresses

hope that their partnership with the church will continue to yield fruitfulness and harmony.

The communique called on her members to take advantage of the Theological Education by extension to properly equip themselves with sound understanding of the scriptures in these perilous times. It mandates her pastors and members to immediately engage in discipleship training using the COCIN discipleship manual.

It also condemned the negative use of social media by her members. It therefore called on their members to use it for the advancement of God's Kingdom, good morals and genuine economic benefits.

The communique appeals to government at all levels to address the unprecedented inflation and security challenges threatening the unity and stability of the nation. It then called on her members to remain vigilant and proactive regarding the security of their communities and churches at all time.

Furthermore it decries the increasing cases of substance abuse by some youth in their communities, and called on her members to lead crusade of sensitization and major fight against sell and consumption of illicit drugs and substances. It equally condemned in strong terms the persistent attacks on the church and communities by the terrorists and increasing cases of kidnapping in the country.

Our correspondent reports that over 310 delegates attended this year's end of the year GCC



Mamshal

News

Plateau: Troops capture suspected killer of slain Ardo

By PALANG KASMI

THE tactical team of the Special Task Force, Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), has apprehended the suspected main mastermind behind the murder of slain Ardo of Panyam, Alhaji Adamu Idris Gabdo.

The suspect, Mr. Philip Gokas popularly called "Jaykimo" was apprehended in Lagos state, following weeks of painstaking manhunt to bring the perpetrators of the act to justice, said Media Officer, Operation Safe Haven, (OPSH) Major Ishaku Takwa, as he spoke to newsmen about the arrest, at Maxwell Khobe Cantonment, 3 Division Headquarters, Rukuba Barracks, Jos.

It will be recalled that in October 2023, Troops in Plateau State had disclosed that the remains of a Fulani leader in the Panyam district, Mangu Local Government Area of the state, Adamu Gabdo had been found, after the Ardo went missing in September 2023.

Recall also that there were reports that the Ardo was killed. However, a few days after his disappearance, the Police said the Ardo who left Bauchi State on a visit to friends and relatives in Plateau State, was only reported missing and not killed.

Recall subsequently also that after a special operation, a statement signed by media officer of the military task force media, Captain Oya James said that following a Special Forces Tracking Operations conducted by troops of Operation Safe Haven based on credible intelligence from well-meaning locals, the troops conducted the operations in the early hours of 5th October 2023 and were able to identify and recover the remains of the body of the missing Ardo around Boi along Pankshin – Bauchi Road in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State, and handed his body over to the family for proper burial, with a promise to apprehend his killers.

In his remarks, while parading the apprehended prime suspect in the Ardo killing to newsmen, recently, the Military spokesperson, Takwa said the success was accomplished by the OPSH Tactical Team after weeks of relentless pursuit and manhunt leading to tracking him in the Ogba Area of Lagos where he was unwinding.

Takwa said: "The main mastermind behind the murder of the slain Alhaji Adamu Idris Gabdo, the Ardo of Panyam in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State, has been apprehended by troops of OPSH Tactical Team. The arrest of Mr Philip Gokas also known as Jaykimo in Lagos State was following weeks of painstaking manhunt to bring the criminal to Justice"

"The relentless pursuit by OPSH led to his tracking and



Lagbaja

subsequent arrest in the Ogba area of Lagos State, where he was found enjoying himself and drinking beer at a football viewing centre".

The Military spokesperson disclosed that Mr. Gokas has fully confessed to the crime and has provided crucial information that will aid in the arrest of additional individuals involved in this heinous act in the coming days".

He however warned that the development should serve as a clear warning to criminals to desist from crime and realise that they cannot elude justice, as security agencies retain the capacity and resilience to utilise all elements of national power to hold them accountable as directed by the country's Chief of Defence Staff, Gen CG Musa.

Takwa assured that the Military will continue to work tirelessly to prevent any escalation of violence and expressed OPSH's appreciation to the public for their support and cooperation throughout the investigation.

He added that the recovery of

the body of the late Ardo of Panyam and the subsequent arrest of Mr Philip Gokas would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance and information provided by the community.

He further reiterated that the criminal act was perpetrated by a few bad eggs in the society and that does not represent the intent of the good people of Panyam who have lived for years peacefully with their Fulani brothers.

While answering questions from newsmen, Gokas expressed regrets for his actions.

"I didn't choose to commit this crime, but I was just unfortunate to be among those who have already planned for it", he lamented.

He narrated how the ugly incident occurred, attributing it to an action of reprisal due the anger he felt as a result of previous attacks on his village by suspected herdsmen, which he alleged had destroyed their houses and properties.

He explained further that because of fear, and how he received calls from many people advising him to leave the town, he went to Lagos.

"The next day, I got a call and was asked if I am among those that were at the scene yesterday I said yes. They called and said I was among the 8 names given to soldiers therefore I should leave. I left to Jos."

"After that some of the people I know also called and said my line had been tracked so I should vacate Jos immediately".

"Because of fear, and how people were calling me to say my name has gone everywhere, I said there is no way I can dodge security. So, I called some of my people and left for Lagos and someone promised he will look for a job for me".

Another boat mishap claims over 20 people in Taraba

From Victor Gai, Jalingo

A boat accident in Ibi Local Government Area in Taraba State has killed at least 20 passengers, a few weeks after a similar one killed over 50 passengers in Karim Lamido LGA of the State.

The Chairman Taraba State Water Transportation, Alhaji Jidda Suleiman, was reported to have told reporters that the incident happened in between Chinkai of Benue and the Anyeci area of Wukari local government area of Taraba State.

"The boat was conveying fishermen, comprising people from Ibi, and Wukari local government areas of Taraba. I was informed that the fishermen converged and boarded the boat to Kwara State in search for greener pasture, and along the way, they had an accident and over twenty people have died. Twelve people out of the dead bodies are from Ibi while, some from Gareji, in Gindin Doruwa, Wukari LGA of Taraba.

"It has been a tradition of our fishermen from Taraba that, once it is December, some will travel to Cameroon, some to Chad and other places like that to fish till August of the following year.

"Its unfortunate that the usual traditional turned to be sorrowful this time. I wish to appeal to both the State and Federal Government to assist us with life jackets, which is the only solution to averting similar incidence," Jidda narrated..

Meanwhile, Governor Agbu Kefas has described the latest boat mishap at Ibi as a terrible tragedy, coming shortly after one of its kind at Karim Lamido. He condoled with the good people of Ibi and prayed for the repose of the souls of the departed.

In a statement by Special Adviser Media and Digital Communications, Emmanuel Bello, investigation was under way to unravel the cause of the incident.

He promised to phase out the old boats and also provide safety gadgets for passengers.

"The government was already on top of the situation as various investigations were underway to unravel the immediate and remote causes of the boat accidents in the state.

"Governor Kefas said old boats would soon be phased out, and the use of life jackets made compulsory among other life-saving measures," the statement read.



Walking a tight rope

RECENT happenings in Nigeria points to the fact that the country is walking on a slippery and tight rope. All of the economic indices that are supposed to tell our story on the go are all bleak. The Dollar to Naira exchange rate is scary and there seems to be no respite in sight. Each day you wake up, you are greeted by stories that kill your morals and make you wonder why God created you a Nigerian. Basic issues as simple as feeding are way beyond the reach of the common person not to talk of the acquisition of luxury items which used to be the lot of most Nigerians before now.

On a daily basis the price of foodstuff change. If you visit the market in the morning and go back to the same market and, indeed, the same store in the evening you are most likely to buy that same item you bought in the morning at a much higher price. When you ask why the sudden jerk up in price you would be told that the stuff you are buying is new and cost differently. Incidentally, the common people do not support themselves. They take advantage of the slightest opportunity to squeeze money out of their fellows



We need to look at ourselves again and change our ways. We need leaders who would lead from the front not those who would serve themselves, their tribe, region and those who share the same faith with them. Indeed, we need a followership that would support their leaders and urge them to do what is right. This is the only way we can strive to change our ways and begin to build a better country.



without thinking twice. They make a meal out of every little issue and make it look as though they are even doing you a favour by selling at that price. Education seems to be the exclusive right of the well to do. The children of the poor do not have same opportunities like those of the children of the well to do. They cannot access good schools outside the country and even the ones in the country charge exorbitant fees that scare even the so called middle class whose purchasing powers have been frittered by the unfriendly economic policies of government. And, to make matters worse, institutions owned by government are not funded but are instead asked to contribute 40% of whatever they generate to the coffers of the government. Capitalism not the welfare of the citizenry is what matters to our policy makers. Government does not provide funding yet it expects these institutions to contribute to its IGR.

I think it is trite knowledge that you reap only where you sow yet the opposite is the case here. If you want a process to develop and work, it is only reasonable that you provide the basis on which it will thrive and grow. Funds should and must be made available if a system is expected to flourish. How much has government invested in these institutions that it is expecting returns? Now, conditions in our country does not even allow the individual realise his potentials. Insecurity in all parts of the country reduces the creativity of the individual to near zero. And, government seems to be impotent in the face of these. Individuals have been able to create fiefdoms in the country and run these as their personal estates. The case of the North East and part of the North Western part of the country suffices here. Boko Haram and other criminals reign supreme and government is impotent in

the face of these. Recall General Abacha of blessed memory once said that if an insurgency last more than 24 hours, the government is involved. Are we to take it therefore, that the sponsors of these unnecessary distractions is the government or its agents? Look at our roads. Government borrows huge sums in the name of developing our infrastructure yet we spend days travelling short distances thereby wasting precious hours which would have been put into productive ventures. Do we really have reasons why our infrastructure should be so poor when our engineers in other climes have been described as the best and top notched?

The same can be said of our health system. We export the best health personnel to the rest of the world yet we have the least developed health institutions in the world. We have a penchant for cutting corners when it comes to dealing with our country. We are the most corrupt when we are asked to manage our affairs by dipping our hands into the common till. We think that it is by amassing stupendous wealth that we create security for ourselves. We fail to appreciate that if we create the right conditions for everyone, it would be much better for all of us. There are so many examples of people who stole so much but died as paupers.

We need to look at ourselves again and change our ways. We need leaders who would lead from the front not those who would serve themselves, their tribe, region and those who share the same faith with them. Indeed, we need a followership that would support their leaders and urge them to do what is right. This is the only way we can strive to change our ways and begin to build a better country.

News

PEPSA holds workshop on design, quality control

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

AS part of its efforts to improve the skills of staff in carrying out major functions towards building a result oriented personnel that would respond and address to sanitation issues in the state, the Plateau Environmental Protection and Sanitation Agency (PEPSA), has organised a two- day workshop on design, technical and quality control for sanitation services to its staff.

This came in a press statement signed by the PEPSA Information Officer, Godwin Moses, and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital recently, shortly after rounding up the two-day workshop held at Water Way Resort, Bukuru Low-Cost junction, Jos-South LGA.

Addressing participants, the Acting General Manager of PEPSA, Mrs. Anthonia M. Shalwul, said, "Plateau State Environmental Protection and Sanitation Agency (PEPSA) is implementing Urban Sanitation in the Sustainable Urban Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (SURWASH) Project Areas in Plateau State.

"The designs and technical standard for quality control in sanitation service chain training, is the second module in the series of training delivered based on the agency's Performance Improvement Action Plan (PIAP).

"The objectives of



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SURWASH include access to water and sanitation service across both rural communities, municipalities and urban centers in the state. The project would be leveraged to provide maximum sanitation service in line with citywide inclusiveness in the urban centers in the state", she highlighted.

While delivering the training module, the Consultant, Engr. Wan Chai, stressed on the need to carry out pre- design analysis and inclusion of stakeholders and also on technical requirements for the design, risks of contamination of ground water from on-site sanitation, septic tank design procedure and checklist for concrete quality.

He said, "Other technical requirements are capital cost, ongoing cost, life-

cycle costs, desludging, design and budget for a robust construction using high quality materials and fittings as well as footrest and drop hole design to guard the blind and other persons with disabilities.

"Sanitary accommodations should as well be designed and constructed separately for male and female in public spaces in such a way that it can be conveniently used without threat to health and safety", the consultant outlined.

Chai, however, disclosed that the Plateau State Environmental and Sanitation Agency (PEPSA) was working towards achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in the state, hence the need to have the needed technical requirements that could enhance the attainment of this target.

By DORCAS PANKYES

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has emphasized the critical role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in combating financial crimes.

The effective application of ICT enables real-time surveillance, regulatory compliance, and secure data processing, contributing to the prevention and investigation of financial crimes and the mitigation of risks associated with virtual assets in the financial markets.

Speaking at the 11th Anniversary Lecture Series of RealNews Magazine in Lagos, Dr. Aminu Maida, the Executive Vice Chairman (EVC) of the NCC, highlighted the importance of robust ICT systems in addressing illicit financial flows in the country.

Dr. Maida, who was honored with induction into the RealNews Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions, described financial crimes as criminal activities involving the misuse, abuse, or manipulation of financial systems for personal gain. These crimes encompass offenses such as insider abuse, money laundering, terrorism financing, embezzlement, and fraud.

Dr. Maida emphasized that financial crimes not only have a significant economic and social impact, but can also be linked to violent crimes resulting in loss of lives. These crimes pose a threat to the integrity, trustworthiness, stability, security, safety, and future of entities such as

NCC highlights ICT's role in combating financial crimes



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countries, enterprises, or individuals.

Furthermore, Dr. Maida highlighted that the scope of financial crimes has expanded due to the increasing adoption of digital technologies, the emergence of new technologies, and the transnational nature of the crimes.

As ICT systems become more complex, cybercriminal activities also become more sophisticated. Criminal actors exploit the inherent and emerging flaws in ICT systems, necessitating the need for tracking illicit movement of funds in and out of the country.

The NCC chairman emphasized that Nigeria's telecoms sector has experienced significant growth, generating massive amounts of data daily. Driven by advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI), these technologies offer opportunities to identify suspicious digital patterns indicative of crime.

Through partnerships with financial institutions, data can be filtered to detect these patterns and prevent financial crimes in real-time, enabling a proactive approach to crime prevention.

To combat financial crimes, the NCC is deploying innovative solutions such as blockchain, instant payments, artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics, regulatory technology solutions, and automated procedures. These technological tools make it significantly easier to deal with financial crimes while

building a long-term strategy for combating them.

In addition to ensuring increased access to telecommunications services, the NCC has established the Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) to handle security incidents that can affect the operations of organizations and individuals.

The NCC has also incorporated biometric authentication in the use of telecom services and financial transactions, with strict enforcement of compliance by licensees. Furthermore, the commission has enabled digital forensics capabilities.

Dr. Maida stressed the need for public education and understanding of internet safety to limit the risks associated with the spread of criminality via technology. He also emphasized the importance of increased collaboration and international cooperation to effectively tackle financial crimes.

Dr. Maida called for continued investment in ICT solutions and a multidisciplinary, multi-stakeholder strategy involving technology specialists, legal professionals, and legislators to keep up with emerging criminal methods.

The NCC's recognition of the critical role of ICT in combating financial crimes, reflects the commission's commitment to leveraging technology for enhanced security, regulatory compliance, and crime prevention in Nigeria.

Police boss assures of security during monarch's burial

By DORCAS PANKYES

Dr. Solomon Arase, retired Inspector General of Police and Chairman of the Police Service Commission, has recently received a high-powered delegation from the Kalabari Kingdom in Rivers State.

The delegation, led by Prince Tonye Princewill, son of the late King Prof. TJJ Princwill, visited Dr. Arase to inform him of the passing of the revered monarch and discuss arrangements for his burial.

Accompanied by prominent individuals such as Pastor Tonye Patrick Cole, Oponabo Inko-Tariah, Chief Dr. David Briggs, and His Royal Highness, Dr. Diamond Enoch Tobrin-West, the delegation expressed their desire for Dr. Arase's presence at the

burial and requested his assistance in ensuring adequate security during the ceremony.

In response, Dr. Arase acknowledged the distinguished life led by the late king and praised his selfless service to the people of the Niger Delta. He commended the late king for his positive impact on numerous lives and expressed his commitment to providing the necessary security measures for the burial.

Dr. Arase assured the delegation that he would do the needful to ensure the ceremonies surrounding the late king's burial would be conducted with adequate security arrangements in place.

The late King Prof. TJJ Princwill, was a highly respected figure in the



Arase

Kalabari Kingdom and beyond. His passing has left a void in the hearts of many. His contributions to the development and welfare of the Niger Delta region will be remembered. As the preparations for

the burial continue, the Kalabari Kingdom and its people are grateful for the support and commitment of Dr. Solomon Arase in ensuring a safe and dignified farewell for their late King.

Foreign Commentary

Reconnecting to The Global Radar

By Eric Teniola

FOR a nation to achieve concrete foreign policy objectives, two key actors are required, an active President and an active foreign Minister. Of course a buoyant economy will also be required. We had all these in the past. Suddenly, we got lost on the global radar. All these, could be traced to our internal problems or maybe our poor economy. We have to think now whether to become part of the world and make our presence felt or we withdraw from the world and let the world move on without us. Sadly in the past few years, we have not been lucky in terms of leadership.

We have had outstanding foreign Ministers in the past that helped us achieve concrete foreign objectives and they made us proud. With the likes of Dr. Jaja Wachukwu (1961-1965), Nuhu Bamali (1965-1966), Dr. Okoi Arikpo (1967-1975), Major General Joe Nanven Garba (1975-1978), Major General Henry Adefowope (1978-1979), Professor Ishaya Adu (1979-1983), Chief Emeka Anyaoku (1983), Professor Ibrahim Gambari (1984-1985), Professor Bolaji Akinyemi (1985-1987), Major General Ike Nwachukwu (1987-1989), Babagana Kingibe (1993-1995), Professor Joy Ogwu (2006-2007), Sule Lamido (1999-2003), Ignatius Olisemeka (1998-1999), Ambassador Olugbenga Asiru alias Asa (2011-2013) and others, we could be proud of our foreign policy objectives.

We also took part in global peace efforts. From 1960 till 2000, Nigeria took part in United Nations Operations in the Congo (ONUG), 1960-1964, United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG), 1989-1990, United Nations Angola Verification Mission II (UNAVEM II) 1991-1995, United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III) 1995-1997, United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA), 1997, United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), 1991- and United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II) 1993-1995.

Others are the United Nations Operations in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), 1992-1994, United Nations Assistance Mission of Rwanda (UNAMIR), 1993-1996, United Nations Aouzou Strip Observer Group (UNASOG), 1994, United Nations India-Pakistan Observer Mission (UNIPOM), 1965-1966, United Nations Security Force in West New Guinea (UNSF), 1962-1963, United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTA), 1992-1993, United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), 1994-, United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFR), 1992-1995, United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), 1995-1996 and the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force in Macedonia (UNPREDEP), 1995.

The lists included the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), 1995-, United Nations Transitional Administration of Eastern Slovenia, Baraja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), 1996-1998, United Nations Mission of Observers in



Tinubu

Prevlaka (UNMOP), 1996-, United Nations Civilian Police Support Group, 1998-1991, United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), 1991-, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), 1978 and the United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Sierra Leone, 1999.

There was a desk office in the then CABINET office, Lagos manned by Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar from Kaduna state, Permanent Secretary, CABINET office, Dr. Niya Adedeji from Ilesha, Osun state, Ambassador Timothy Ayodele Olu Otonla also from Ilesha, Mr. Bisi Ogunniyi from Iree in Osun state and others, established purposely by Generals Murtala Muhammed and Olusegun Obasanjo, for the sole purpose of assisting African states in their liberation struggles.

With the approval of the then Supreme Military Council then, Brigadier Ibrahim Ahmed Bako (N/548) (5 March 1943-31 December, 1983), from Kaduna state trained freedom fighters in Libya and Somalia. In 1972, Nigeria and Benin Republic embarked on a N7m cement project. The Nigerian Government provided a N2 million 35 years interest free loan with 30% equity. Both countries also have a joint sugar project. The Nigerian government has 45% equity shares in the project while Benin Republic holds 49% with expatriate companies' enjoying 5% of the shares. Both projects are based in the Benin Republic.

The Nigeria government also invested in uranium mining in Niger and petrochemical concerns in Senegal.

In September 1972, Nigeria signed an agreement with Guinea to invest \$350,000 (5% of the shares) in the Mifergui Nimba and

Simandou Company of Guinea, which is charged with the exploitation and sales of the country's iron ore resources. Under the agreement, Nigeria was guaranteed one million tons of quality ore yearly for its steel production at Ajaokuta.

Nigeria provided electricity to Niger from Kainji Dam. She also granted Dahomey (Benin) \$2 million to pay for imports from country. Nigeria entered into agreement with other African states to construct a 6,530 kilometre trans-Africa highway running from and Kenyan port of Mombassa to the Nigerian port city of Lagos and passing through Uganda, Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo), Central African Republic and Cameroon.

In 1972, Nigeria granted an interest free N1 million loan to Dahomey to rehabilitate the Idiroko- Porto Novo road. By the time the road was opened in 1973, the Federal Government had spent a total of N2.7 million on it. The Federal Government also undertook the construction of the 92-kilometre Sokoto-Ilele and Birnin Konni (both in Niger Republic) roads at the cost of N2.2 million.

On February 24, 1975, at the ministerial meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa in Nairobi, Nigeria announced that it would make crude petroleum available to any African country that required it, at concessionary rates. The leader of the Nigerian government delegation, Mr. Victor Adeyeye Adegroye from Akure in Ondo state who made the announcement spelt out two conditions for this: such countries must have their own refineries; and the crude oil sold to them must not be re-exported to third world



Shatima

countries.

Nigeria also played an active role in the funding of African Development Bank (ADB). The Renowned economist, Dr. Pius Nwabuo Charles Okigbo (February 6, 1924 – September 13, 2000) from Ojoto in Idemili South local government of Anambra state, was the head of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) team that carried out the feasibility study on it in 1961. On November 4, 1964, the Nigerian Prime Minister, Alhaji Tafawa Balewa (December 1912 – 15 January 1966) presided over its inaugural board of governors' meeting in Lagos. Nigeria's major on-going multilateral assistance involved the bank. It has the highest block of shares in the bank. This comes to 159,751 shares, about 15.6% of the total shares and some 10.5% of the weighted voting power.

Nigeria contributes 32.5% annually to the ECOWAS budget (multilateral assistance). In June 1980, it settled the outstanding rent of the Community's secretariat amounting to N80million.

In 1970-1971, Nigeria increased its contributions to the OAU budget to N150,000, 47% over the 1968-1969 contributions, making it the third largest contributor to the organisation's annual budget. In 1978, the Federal Government gave Mozambique N5million to cope with problems associated with the closure of its borders with Southern Rhodesia now Zimbabwe. Nigeria played a major role in the establishment of River Niger Basin Commission and the Chad Basin Commission. Both of which have potentials as investment. In 1979, Nigerian contributed N30,000,000 million to the Lake Chad Basin Development Fund.

Nigeria's military assistance to other countries has generally taken the form of contributions to troops and equipment to peacekeeping missions in countries having internal conflicts. The country was yet to become independent when it became involved in the UN Congo mission. Its generally effective and widely acclaimed participation in that peacekeeping mission laid a foundation for later involvements in several other peacekeeping missions since then, including those in Lebanon and the former Yugoslavia. Apart from the Congo mission, Nigeria has been the player in the Liberian peacekeeping operations. Nigerian troops served in Sierra Leone as part of the peace agreement to end that country's civil war. They also served in Tanzania to restore order following army mutiny of January 20, 1964. Military officers of a number of African countries undergo training in some Nigerian military schools and colleges.

Shortly after Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (December 1912 – 15 January 1966) the then Prime Minister proposed that a fact finding mission be sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo where open rebellion had broken out, the UN on November 5, 1960, set up the Congo Conciliation Commission made up of 15 Afro-Asian states. Nigeria's foreign Minister, Mr. Jaja Nwachukwu was elected chairman of the commission. Before independence, Nigeria had put the Kano airport at the disposal of the UN for the transport of troops and materials to the Congo. Two platoons of the fifth Battalion of the Royal Nigerian Army were detailed to work with UN troops during their stopover in Kano.

Foreign News

George Weah and Joseph Boakai vie for top job

LIBERIANS are voting in a presidential run-off election after the two leading candidates were separated by just over 7,000 votes in the first round a month ago.

They are choosing between incumbent and one-time football star George Weah and former Vice-President Joseph Boakai.

The president narrowly won the first round but failed to get more than 50% of the vote, triggering the run-off.

Voting in October was fraught with allegations of fraud and violence.

The election commission said that nine of its temporary staff had been arrested over alleged ballot-tampering.

The UN reported clashes between supporters of rival opposition parties.

This is the fourth presidential election since the end more than 20 years ago of Liberia's civil wars in which 250,000 people died.

The BBC's Moses Garzeawu in the capital, Monrovia, says the turnout for the run-off election is expected to be high as Liberians are "hungry to vote".

Mr Weah, 57, who got 43.8% of the vote in the first round, and Mr Boakai, 78, who got



Weah 43.4%, have both been trying to build political alliances with the 18 other candidates who ran in the first round.

None of them received more than 3% of the vote.

Mr Boakai, who served as the vice-president to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female head of state, has secured the endorsement of three of the four best performing candidates, according to the Reuters news agency.

In his campaigning, he has focused on investing in agriculture and infrastructure.

Mr Weah has been talking about improving education and dealing with unemployment.

This is the second time the

Boakai two men have faced each other in a presidential election run-off vote.

In 2017, Mr Weah triumphed over Mr Boakai, gaining 61% of the vote in the second round.

That time, his international stardom helped his popularity among the youth and voters were also attracted by his promises to clamp down on corruption, analysts say.

Polls opened at 08:00 local time (08:00 GMT) and will close at 18:00 local time (18:00 GMT), when vote counting will get under way.

The victor will be sworn into office in January next year.

George Weah wants extra time despite Liberia woes

THE unexpected return of former United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron to British politics during Israel's war in Gaza and pro-Palestinian protests in Britain has sparked questions over the implications for the UK's policies towards the Middle East.

Cameron, now foreign secretary, has previously called the Gaza Strip "a prison camp" and advocated for a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, but he has also been a staunch backer of Israel. On October 9, as Israel announced a "total" blockade on Gaza and pummeled the enclave in retaliation for a surprise attack two days earlier by the armed Palestinian group

What does David Cameron's return to UK politics mean for the Middle East?

Hamas, the 57-year-old made his pronouncement in favour of Israel.

"I stand in complete solidarity with Israel at this most challenging time and fully back the Prime Minister and UK Government in their unequivocal and steadfast support," he said on X, including the blue and white Israeli flag in his post.

Hundreds of thousands of protesters have marched in London in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza over the weekend as a small number of far-right groups staged counterprotests.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sacked Home Secretary Suella Braverman on

Monday after she drew anger for accusing police of being too lenient with pro-Palestinian protesters and making comments described as "inflammatory".

He replaced Braverman with Foreign Secretary James Cleverly before announcing Cameron as Cleverly's surprise replacement.

Ben Whitham, professor of international relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London (SOAS), said that while Cameron was expected to strike "a more conciliatory tone", he would not be favourable to Palestinians in the conflict.

US Supreme Court announces new code of ethics for justices

THE Supreme Court of the United States has announced its first formal code of ethics governing the conduct of its nine justices, following months of outside pressure over revelations of undisclosed luxury trips and gifts from wealthy benefactors.

The policy, agreed to by all justices and put in place on

Monday, does not appear to impose any enforcement mechanism and leaves compliance entirely up to each justice, critics noted.

The nine members of the nation's highest court are the only federal judges not explicitly subject to ethical oversight, and pressure has been mounting from Democrats in the Senate for them to adopt a code of conduct.

The nine-page code contains

sections codifying that justices should not let outside relationships influence their official conduct or judgement, spelling out restrictions on their participation in fundraising and reiterating limits on the accepting of gifts. It also states that justices should not "to any substantial degree" use judicial resources or staff for non-official activities.

A commentary released with the code elaborating on some of its provisions said that justices who are weighing a speaking engagement should "consider whether doing so would create an appearance of impropriety in the minds of reasonable members of the public".

The justices said they have long adhered to ethics standards and suggested that criticism of the court over ethics was the product of misunderstanding, rather than any missteps by the justices.

"To dispel this misunderstanding, we are issuing this code, which largely represents a codification of principles that we have long regarded as governing our conduct," the justices wrote in an unsigned statement that accompanied the code.

The ethics issue has vexed the court for several months, over a series of stories questioning the practices of the justices. Many of those stories focused on Justice Clarence Thomas and his failure to disclose travel, other hospitality and additional financial ties with wealthy conservative donors including Harlan Crow and the Koch brothers. But Justices Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor also have been under scrutiny.

Liberal critics of the court were not satisfied with the new code of ethics, with one group saying it "reads a lot more like a friendly suggestion than a binding, enforceable guideline".

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, one of the loudest voices complaining about the court's ethical shortcomings, was among several leading Democrats who mixed praise for the court with a call to do

Israeli minister supports 'voluntary migration' of Palestinians in Gaza

ISRAEL'S far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich says he supports the "voluntary migration" of Palestinians in Gaza, calling it the "right humanitarian solution" for the besieged enclave and for the region.

Smotrich's comments come after US lawmakers Danny Danon, the former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, and Ram Ben-Barak, former deputy director of the intelligence agency Mossad, published a comment piece in The Wall Street Journal on Monday suggesting moving some of Gaza's population to nations that will accept them.

"I welcome the initiative of members of Knesset Ram Ben-Barak and Danny Danon on the voluntary immigration of Gaza Arabs to the countries of the world. This is the right humanitarian solution for the residents of Gaza and the entire region," Smotrich wrote in a Facebook post on Tuesday.

"A cell with a small area like

the Gaza Strip, without natural resources and independent sources of livelihood, has no chance to exist independently, economically and politically, in such a high density for a long time.

"The reception of refugees by the countries of the world that really want their best interests, with the support and generous financial assistance of the international community, and within the state of Israel is the only solution that will bring to the end of the suffering and pain of Jews and Arabs alike."

"The State of Israel will no longer be able to put up with the existence of an independent entity in Gaza," he added.

In response to his comments, Mustafa Barghouti, general secretary of the Palestinian National Initiative, said in a post on X that the minister "revealed the real policy and intentions of the Israeli government".

"Netanyahu himself said in

the beginning of the Israeli war on Gaza that all Gazans must evict their homes. Ethnic

cleansing is a war crime and it is done by bombarding an unprotected civilian population."

US President Biden sued for 'complicity' in Israel's 'genocide' in Gaza

THE president of the United States and two of his cabinet members are being sued for failing to prevent and aiding and abetting "genocide" in Gaza.

A federal complaint (PDF), filed on Monday against President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, accuses them of "failure to prevent and complicity in the Israeli government's unfolding genocide".

New York civil liberties group the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) filed the suit on behalf of Palestinian human rights organisations, Palestinians in Gaza and US citizens with relatives in the besieged enclave that has faced more than a month of relentless bombardment by Israel, which receives funding and weapons



Biden from the US government.

More than 11,200 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched attacks on October 7. This followed a Hamas attack in Israel, in which about 1,200 people were killed.

"Numerous Israeli government leaders have expressed clear genocidal intentions and deployed dehumanizing characterizations of Palestinians, including 'human animals'," the CCR wrote in the introduction to its complaint.

It said those "statements of intent", when combined with the "mass killing" of Palestinians, reveal "evidence of an unfolding crime of genocide".

Numerous legal scholars, rights groups and humanitarians have also called Israel's actions in Gaza genocide.

"Immediately after the launch of Israel's unprecedented bombing campaign on Gaza, President Biden offered

'unwavering' support for Israel, which he and administration officials have consistently repeated and backed up with military, financial, and political support, even as mass civilian casualties escalated alongside Israeli genocidal rhetoric," the CCR said.

The complaint noted that the US is Israel's closest ally and strongest supporter, as well as its biggest provider of military assistance - with Israel being the largest cumulative recipient of US foreign assistance since World War II. Because of this, it said, the US could have a "deterrent effect on Israeli officials now pursuing genocidal acts against the Palestinian people".

Instead, the group said, Biden, Blinken, and Austin "have helped advance the gravest of crimes" by continuing to provide Israel with unconditional military and diplomatic support while undermining efforts by the



Left to right, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with his Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich

Feature

Fifty years: The Story of *The Nigeria Standard*

A providential state visit from the South had exposed the political underbelly of the North. But it was more than that. It was also the beginning of a story that has hardly changed in the general run of the Nigerian odyssey. It is the story of the struggle for identity and how it found a voice to express itself. WULIME GOYIT writes.

THE Nigeria Standard came from the impulse of one man. But by the time it took its form, it had become the standard bearer of the vision around which the aspirations of the people were molded. Conceived in a moment of exasperation, it rolled off the press in haste, just a few months after former Governor JD Gomwalk had seen off the then Mid-West State Governor, Col. Samuel Ogbemudia who had visited him. A snobbish treatment of the visit by the northern-owned newspaper, **New Nigerian** was the spark that ignited the flurry of activities leading to the establishment of the paper.

Coming when it did, against the odds that it faced, the birth of **The Nigeria Standard** spoke of the urgency of the issues for which it came; for the presence and place of the country's minority groups under the federal system; and for the unification of the hotchpotch of Nigeria's ethnic nationalities for the greater good.

The newspaper set out its mission as follows:

"Today, we join the growing family of the nation's news media. And we dedicate ourselves to the service of helping to build a strong and virile press that will enhance the enlightenment of our people, promote better understanding and ethnic harmony among the various groups that make up this great country and contribute to the economic advancement of and political stability of our country.

"in carrying out our sacred duty of moulding public opinion, we shall not allow selfish motives or sectional interest to becloud our sense of national duty. We are born at a momentous period in the history of our country, a time when the Federal and state governments have embarked on gigantic programmes aimed at building a solid foundation for economic take-off and political stability.

"We owe it a duty not only to support the effort of the governments in this regard, but also to create a favorable atmosphere in which the people will continue to cooperate with government in their task of nation-building. We can only do this if truth, objectivity and fair play form the cardinal principles of reports and comments.

"For the benefit of the government and the governed, we will always offer constructive criticisms and maintain a virile editorial policy within the limits of the law. We will advise, implore, exhort, explain and criticize whenever necessary, without fear or favor.

"And as a vehicle of information, we will also undertake to interpret correctly government policies and measures to the people and relay the people's reactions and views on such measures back to the government for its guidance. As one of the national couriers of news and views, our principal political objective is to play up all the factors that contribute towards the promotion of unity and trample on those that tend to kindle narrow nationalism, parochialism, and selfish tribal interests which are not only the symbols of disunity, but are capable of frustrating a nation's hope for a more progressive endeavor.

"Our task to the nation is difficult. But our ability to perform it satisfactorily will depend entirely on the amount of co-operation which we receive from you. We therefore appeal to all of you not only to co-operate with us but to patronize us in order to make **The Nigeria Standard** a success."

The newspaper was on the newsstands for the first time on July 8, 1972, decreed into life by Governor Gomwalk via Edict No. 6 of 1972, containing that editorial that set the tone for the pursuit of its grand ambitions.

Simple but assertive, confident but not condescending, the newspaper proclaimed its mission with the force of its convictions, and followed same with equal intensity. From the press of **The Nigerian Observer** newspaper in Benin, Mid-West State,



production of **The Nigeria Standard** newspaper moved to Jos two years later, in 1974. It was said to be a dreary start as a former editor of the paper, Dan Agbese describes it in the book, **JD Gomwalk: A man of vision**. Dan Agbese says, "we did not just work, we plodded. Everything was set up for maximum mental and physical punishment. It fell to the Government Printer to produce the newspaper. But it was done manually. This meant that every word was hand composed with the compositors picking individual letters from trays containing various typefaces...the agony was unbearable. We had no respite, we had the Printing Press to contend with too. It was a small letter press with its technology anchored in the 18th Century."

With the production machine only suited for the preceding generation of newspapering, with limited circulation of the paper and lacking in timeliness, it was indeed morning yet on creation day. Still, over time, **The Nigeria Standard** has provided the voice it set out to provide for sections of the society whose voices are hardly heard in the noisy clamour for resources and recognition.

Coming on stream when it did, **The Nigeria Standard** became the 6th oldest newspaper in the country and the second oldest in the North after the **New Nigerian**. But it is renowned for higher duties for the country than for its long life in the print media world. As it evolved into the behemoth that it became on the media space, it branched out into other publications designed to meet peculiar needs. **The Sunday Standard, The Nigeria Standard on Saturday, Yancin Dan Adam** and **The Rock** magazine, all came at different times in the heyday of the newspaper.

Buoyed by its popularity and wide circulation, the newspaper attained heights that tend to belie its fortunes in later years. It is on record that even foreign governments, including the governments of the United States of America and the Soviet Union at some time invited an editor of the paper, Gideon Barde for visits to their countries. History also records that sometime during the Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo military regime, **The Nigeria Standard** was among the accredited media outfits on the entourage of the then Head of

State when he visited The Gambia and Liberia.

But **The Nigeria Standard's** years of relative stability and progress, like other media of the 1980s and 1990s, would be troubled by the increasing arrogance and unrestrained ambition of a military class that had apparently lost sight of its primary mission. **The Nigeria Standard**, however, never abdicated its watch-dog calling, becoming more assertive in its demand for responsive and responsible leadership. In its reports and editorials, there was no let-up in the intensity of its critique of the military government, for which, reports said, it was at one time described as tending towards being a "Communist Manifesto".

The most recognizable face of the newspaper's radical bent was a former editor, Jonathan Ishaku whose running battles with the military junta got him fired twice in 1986/87 by the then Military Administrator of Plateau State, Col. Lawrence Onoja! And then there was the incident surrounding the famous Standard 7. These were the seven senior editors/members of the Editorial Board of the paper who had resigned their appointments following the annulment of the results of the June 12, 1993, presidential election in which Chief Moshood Abiola of the Social Democratic Party was expected to win.

The editors/Editorial Board members were Emma Gogwim, Gideon Mitu, Cyril Ogah, Harris Dawurang, Wilson Yale and Usman Abu. They had written the now legendary "This is Our Stand" editorial which demanded that the electoral process should be concluded and the winner declared. Asked by Government to retract that editorial, they stood up to the authorities and would rather quit their jobs! The seventh among them, Danjuma Abah, was of the Sub-Desk but decided to join the defiant party in solidarity!

As the military era stretched the polity to its limits, putting the media on their toes, there were concomitant economic drawbacks with serious implications for media practice. As a consequence, the fortunes of the media, among other sectors across the country began to dwindle. The glory days of **The Nigeria Standard** had begun to recede. From a local newspaper to a respectable

national daily, the paper's downward slide was aided by aging machines, shortage of consumables and a gradual thinning of the very good hands that took it to the very top.

When the Corporation moved its physical presence to No. 5, JD Gomwalk Road in 1975, its massive, ten-story building represented the pinnacle of its achievements, a fitting tribute to its grandiose goals. Christened Joseph Gomwalk House, after the founder of the organization, it was simply a statement on the Corporation's gigantic ambitions and the boldness of its vision. Sharing **The Nigeria Standard** precincts with other key areas of innovativeness such as the Commercial Printing department, which produced the popular Cactus Exercise Books, the idea was also for more income streams for the Corporation. And while these revenue generating organs of the Corporation turned the wheels of its operations, **The Nigeria Standard** voice was heard in all its distinctiveness.

However, from limited circulation to a drop in the frequency of production, from being out of print to shortage of circulation vans, from the once-respectable national paper to a provincial mouthpiece, it has no doubt been a steep decline for **The Nigeria Standard**. As it is, the iconic JD Gomwalk House is just a shell of its old self, left in abeyance for years, serving no economic purpose. And then there are printing machines that have simply served out their time at **The Nigeria Standard**. Mostly outdated and virtually beyond salvation, they remain mere relics of the past. What is more, a depleting staff population, in no mood for the drudgery that is the profession, is no good news for the future of the paper. Now, are the best days of **The Nigeria Standard** behind it?

Somewhere in the production area of the newspaper outfit is the Goss Printing Press, which has churned out several thousand copies of the newspaper since the 1970s when it was installed. This German-made machine it was that printed the vivacious reports, seminal articles and prodigious writings that all together constitute the highpoint of **The Nigeria Standard** story.

But the legendary Goss now grinds slowly to an impending end. Weakened by age, it idles away as another one, the City-Line Web-Off Set, takes its place. In the midst of the despondency of the moment, this new one embodies the possibilities of the future. With the potential to re-launch the paper onto the path of greatness once again, it awaits the tonic that its own season requires.

Built in India and shipped into the country in 2014, the new press is several notches higher in its technology than anything **The Nigeria Standard** has ever seen. However, its advanced technology is not an end in itself. Like it was in the past, the philosophy that underpinned the establishment of the newspaper must be in the center of the plans for its rebirth.

There is no gainsaying that recruitment of staff in all departments of the corporation, training of technical personnel for the transfer of knowledge on the new machine and re-orientation of editorial staff are among the essentials for a turn-around that is being sought. But all this can only be realized in a work environment that enhances optimal performance.

Fifty years after its founding, **The Nigeria Standard** finds itself in the age of the internet and the New Media. Bolstered by an unwavering spirit, it has survived the vagaries of the media environment, outliving many of its kind to be the brand that it is today. For the future, for its relevance and continued survival, its new approaches must fully exploit the vast resources that the information superhighway provides. This is a key requirement of the newspaper as it seeks to reinvent itself in the new age.

EVERYONE'S WORLD

With PALANG KASMI

Women's health

Things that may slow your flow

By VALINDA RIGGINS

PERIODS vary from person to person and even month to month! Still it's reassuring to know whether your period experience falls in the "normal" zone.

An average period is about 2 to 3 tablespoons of blood. Periods are considered regular if they happen every 24 to 38 days. Does a drip and a drop even count as a period?

It's considered unusual or abnormal if your period is different from what's typical for you. Signs of a light period are: Bleeding less than you normally do or less than the average 2 to 3 tablespoons, flow is light enough for a panty liner, or fewer pads and tampons than usual, "spotting" (only a little blood in your underwear or when you wipe) instead of a real flow, light bleeding at a time that you aren't expecting your period. What's behind that disappearing period?

Whether your period has suddenly faded or you've always had a low flow, there are lots of factors that can contribute to light periods. Here are 14 causes to look out for.

Periods and pregnancy: An odd couple. You might be pregnant if you experience these symptoms: Extreme tiredness, tender, swollen breasts, upset stomach with or without throwing up (morning sickness), cravings or distaste for certain foods, mood swings, constipation, frequent urination, headache heartburn, weight gain or loss, it can be pretty confusing if you have those pregnancy signs and a little bit of bleeding. If you're pregnant, the bleeding isn't actually a period. It may be implantation bleeding. When a fertilized egg implants in the uterine wall, slight bleeding and cramping can occur.

If you suspect pregnancy and your regular period is a no-show, take a home pregnancy test. If it's negative but you still have weird symptoms and no flow, test again or follow up with your doctor. Don't expect regular periods during breastfeeding.

While a woman breastfeeds, her body produces a hormone called prolactin. Prolactin suppresses ovulation and periods for several months or up to a year after childbirth. When periods do return,



they may be irregular and shorter or lighter than you are used to, as long as you're still breastfeeding.

Don't count on breastfeeding for birth control though! You can still ovulate and get pregnant, but it's even harder to predict the timing. Weight changes and extreme dieting screw up periods too. Losing weight to the point of a very low body fat percentage will stop ovulation and periods. This is particularly a problem with women living with anorexia nervosa. Research has also shown that binge eating is associated with changes in period flow.

Let's you think only very thin women with eating disorders have to worry about lighter or absent periods, it seems dieting can mess up periods for people of every size.

A 2016 study found that dieting behaviors are associated with menstrual disruption, regardless of body mass index and eating disorder diagnosis.

Consider skipping the diet and finding a nutrition professional who practices Health at Every Size (HAES).

If you think your light periods are due to not eating enough, let a doctor evaluate your overall health

and contact a mental health professional to discuss eating disorders. Like sands through the hourglass, so are the periods of our lives. Periods typically get lighter as a woman ages. They may be heavier in teen years and get lighter in your 20s and 30s. In their 40s, most women enter perimenopause and have shorter or lighter periods. During perimenopause, ovaries produce less estrogen and progesterone, and ovulation is less frequent. Lack of ovulation is a common underlying factor for light or absent periods.

Other signs of perimenopause include irregular periods, hot flashes vaginal dryness, sleep problems, mood changes, bone loss, forgetfulness, Birth control is also period control. Birth control pills prevent ovulation with a daily dose of estrogen and progestin. No ovulation means no period. During the week of placebo pills (containing no hormones) a woman experiences breakthrough bleeding while the uterine lining sheds.

Because hormonal methods of birth control (the pill, the patch, the ring) don't let the uterine lining build up as much, periods are lighter. These are some other side effects of

hormonal birth control: Nausea, weight gain, sore breasts, mood changes, spotting between periods.

Lighter periods are nothing to worry about when you're on the pill, unless you suspect you're pregnant.

Stress is bad news. Living with stress impacts all aspects of mental and physical health. Is it any surprise it also impacts the menstrual cycle? A 2018 study of stress and menstrual problems in health science students found a correlation between how stressed the women felt and their experience of abnormal bleeding and irregular periods.

Stress may also cause functional hypothalamic amenorrhea (FHA), affecting about 17.4 million women worldwide. FHA disrupts interaction between the hypothalamus, pituitary gland, and ovaries.

Suppression of several hormones in this system leads to low estrogen levels and prevents thickening of the uterine lining. FHA may produce no bothersome symptoms beyond stopping periods, but the hormone disruption can cause long term problems.

Try these techniques to reduce stress: Get regular exercise, drink less caffeine, make social connections. Set boundaries and make fewer commitments, start a mindfulness practice. Exercise, but not too much. When women spend more energy exercising than they take in through diet, reproductive, bone, and cardiovascular health can suffer.

This phenomenon has been recognized in participants of sports that emphasize smaller body size, lean body composition, and endurance (think ballet, long distance running, gymnastics, and swimming). Not just elite athletes are at risk, though. Any woman who significantly increases her energy expenditure can notice menstrual changes such as lighter periods.

Here are other signs you might be overexercising: Feeling more tired than usual, depression, anxiety, or irritability, sore muscles, overuse injuries, vulnerability to contagions, weight loss. If symptoms don't improve after a few weeks of rest, see a doctor.

PCOS is a pain in the PCO-ass.

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) affects 5 to 10 percent of women of reproductive age. Because it's associated with reproductive hormonal imbalance, periods with PCOS can be all over the place: light, heavy, long, short, irregular, or absent.

PCOS is named for the bumpy cysts covering the ovaries. Those cysts contain eggs that weren't released due to hormonal imbalance. High levels of androgens (reproductive hormones that are usually higher in males) prevent ovulation. If you have a history of unpredictable periods along with these other symptoms, ask your doctor about PCOS: Excess hair on the face and other body parts, acne on the face, chest, or back scalp hair loss or thinning, weight gain darkening of skin around the neck, groin, arm pits, and under breasts, skin tags, symptoms of PCOS can be treated with hormonal birth control, insulin-sensitizing drugs, and anti-androgens.

Other medical culprits for light periods. These other conditions can also cause period irregularities: Primary ovarian insufficiency. When a woman's ovaries stop, functioning before the age of 40. Thyroid dysfunction.

Producing too much or too little of the hormones that regulates metabolism. Uncontrolled diabetes. Dysfunction of the body's ability to use glucose in the blood. Cushing's syndrome. An illness caused by overproduction of cortisol. Congenital adrenal hyperplasia. A rare genetic condition affecting the adrenal glands. Uterine scarring. Caused by intrauterine procedures, surgery, or inflammation.

Who's at higher risk for weird periods? Anyone can experience menstrual changes due to these and other causes. These factors make it more likely to happen, Pregnancy and breastfeeding, weight changes and disordered eating, high stress, approaching, menopause age (usually early 50s), people with conditions that cause hormone abnormalities, like PCOS.

When to call the doctor: It's a good idea to see the doctor any time you experience unusual vaginal bleeding, including: bleeding after sex, spotting or bleeding when it's not time for your period, a period that is heavier or longer than normal bleeding after menopause. If more serious concerns are ruled out, the doctor may prescribe hormonal birth control to regulate your periods. What you need to know, period.

A light period is usually not a sign of a very serious condition, but it never hurts to know what's causing changes in your cycle. If you experience any unusual (for you) vaginal bleeding, make note of other symptoms to share with a healthcare provider.

Many causes are temporary, treatable, or manageable. It also helps to know what to expect from periods when you're expecting, when you're breastfeeding, and when you're aging into a magnificent menopausal club of wise women.



THE NIGERIA STANDARD

With PALANG KASMI

Health

Reasons your breasts hurt

By
AMANDA GARDNER

ACHING breasts are often nothing to worry about. Everything from your period to your workouts to the medications you are on could be causing your pain. Here's what you should know—and when to talk to a healthcare provider.

If your breasts hurt, your mind may immediately jump to the "C" word, cancer. But the chances are slim that breast pain is breast cancer.

"Breast pain alone is rarely, rarely associated with cancer," Monique Swain, MD, an obstetrician and gynecologist in the breast division at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, said.

There are two types of breast pain: Cyclical pain is associated with your period and most often affects both breasts, although it may affect only one.

Noncyclical pain is due to any other reason and doesn't follow a monthly pattern—it may always be present. It can affect one or both breasts, all of the breasts, or part of it, and is often felt in a specific location.

However, it's also important to talk to a healthcare provider to rule out possible serious reasons for breast pain.

You should also contact a healthcare provider if you have other symptoms, including a lump unrelated to your period, discharge from your nipple, or signs of infection like redness, swelling, and warmth.

There is also period-caused Breast Pain. "Hormonal breast pain can happen to any woman that is menstruating," Dr. Swain said. "It doesn't matter if they're 14 or 44; as long as they're still menstruating, they have the risk of having cyclic breast pain."

According to Johns Hopkins Health, cyclical breast pain, or period-related breast soreness, is the most common reason for breast pain. The pain may be barely noticeable or so severe that bras and tighter clothing become bothersome.

For some individuals, it's enough to know that the pain will go away, usually in a week to 10 days. Other individuals may seek relief through over-the-counter or prescription pain medications.

A study published in the journal *BMJ Clinical Evidence* reviewed numerous interventions for breast pain, including the prescription medications danazol, tamoxifen, and goserelin injections. However, all of these medications may cause significant side effects. The study also explained that topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) should be the first line of medical treatment. This is due to a better benefit versus risk ratio than the other medications available to treat cyclical breast pain.

Tweaking your diet may also limit menstrual breast pain: Eating more flaxseed might help, as can sticking to a low-fat diet that's rich in complex carbs, Dr. Swain said. Breast pain during pregnancy: The first trimester of pregnancy brings a swirl of hormones that can cause mood changes, food cravings, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and breast pain.

Breast tissue grows, milk ducts fill, and nipples become sensitive, Jennifer Wu, MD, an obstetrician and gynecologist at Women's Health of Manhattan in New York City, said. The pain is due to "acute hormonal changes," Dr. Wu said, including human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG). "You're going from zero HCG hormone all the way up."

Also, breast pain may vary and change throughout pregnancy. For example, during the second trimester, there may be less or no breast pain. However, breast pain may return in the third trimester.



You're nursing, your baby's mouth at your breast is natural but can also cause discomfort and pain. For example, you may feel pain when the baby first latches onto your nipple or if their mouth isn't positioned correctly.

Many individuals who choose to nurse experience challenges. One of these challenges is pain, especially nipple pain. Your breasts might also hurt when you're nursing if you have blocked milk ducts. If you do, "the milk ducts are very swollen," Dr. Wu said. "They may get clogged and backed up." You may also have pain if you develop mastitis. Mastitis is an infection in the breast and one of the most common complications in nursing females, per ACOG.

ACOG explained other common symptoms of mastitis include a swollen and painful area of the breast along with a fever, chills, and aching. Contact a healthcare provider if the pain in your breast, while you're nursing, lasts more than a couple of days, or sooner if you're concerned.

Most hospitals and healthcare groups also offer lactation services to help you get your baby latched appropriately and evaluate the causes of breast and nipple pain.

Medications that affect your hormones may be one culprit of breast pain. For example, according to the Office on Women's Health, one of the side effects of birth control is breast tenderness.

But other types of medications can cause breast pain as a side effect too. Medline Plus lists many of these medications, including but not limited to: Diuretics (also known as water pills)

Chlorpromazine (used to treat mental illness, among other indications) A heart medication called digitalis The bottom line—talk to a healthcare provider if you think medication may be causing your breast pain. There

could be a substitute treatment for you to try instead. Breast Cyst and Breast Pain:

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, breast cysts are most common in females between the ages of 35 and 50.8 "A cyst is a plugged or obstructed breast gland with fluid accumulation behind the obstruction," Therese Bevers, MD, medical director of the Cancer Prevention Center at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, said.

Cysts are generally harmless, but they can be painful. "If [the fluid] is distending the walls of that duct, stretching the tissue, it can become sensitive and very painful," Dr. Bevers said. Treatment depends on your age, how big the breast cysts are, and if they hurt or not. You may decide to do nothing, or a healthcare provider may drain the fluid to ease the pain.

You Had Surgery: Any trauma to the breast can cause pain, including surgery, a biopsy, an elbow to the chest, or a seatbelt injury. These are all forms of noncyclical pain. You'd probably know why you hurt immediately if you sustained an injury. But, hopefully, it's not so severe that the pain sticks around. After the fact, sometimes, as long as two years later, an injury can cause fat necrosis, which appears as a thickening or lumpiness in the breast. According to a systematic review published in 2019 in the journal *Lipids in Health and Disease*, fat necrosis of the breast can be caused either by previous trauma or an unknown cause. Fat necrosis of the breast can also cause pain.

By the time fat necrosis develops, you may not remember the original injury. Fat necrosis isn't dangerous and doesn't need to be treated. However, according to the study, it can appear similar to breast cancer. Reach out to a healthcare provider

for further advice if you notice a lump or changes to your breasts.

You Have Shingles: Shingles is a later-in-life manifestation of the same virus that causes chickenpox. Anyone who had chickenpox when they were younger can develop shingles. According to Harvard Health Publishing, your breasts may hurt if the rash caused by the infection develops on the breast.

"I'll find a rash on the side of the breast, and sometimes the patient didn't even know it was there," Dr. Swain said. The rash can be painful, with itchy blisters that burst. You might also have a fever, headache, and sensitivity to light.¹¹

The CDC explained shingles usually last from two to four weeks, and there's no cure (there is a shingles vaccine).

However, antiviral medications can help you get better faster. Your healthcare provider may also prescribe painkillers to help with the pain.

You Strained a Muscle: A strain to your chest muscles after a challenging workout might feel like breast pain even though the injury is elsewhere.

According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, over-the-counter pain relievers may be enough to ease muscular pain. A healthcare provider may recommend something stronger if the pain is more severe. Muscle problems are just one type of "extramammary" pain or pain that originates outside of the breast tissue but is felt in the breast. Other causes of extramammary pain include stomach and gallbladder disease. Of course, don't overlook any chest pain (including in your breasts) that could signify a heart attack. Heart attack symptoms may include: Chest pain

Feeling lightheaded or weak, pain in your neck, jaw, or back, pain in

your arms or shoulders, shortness of breath. Other symptoms, more likely in females, include tiredness, nausea, and vomiting. Call 911 right away if you think you're having a heart attack.

You Have Big Breasts: Large breasts can cause enough strain that they stretch breast ligaments and tissues. This can cause pain in your breasts and possibly in your back, neck, and shoulders. "Women with larger breasts can have breast pain, but typically those women will come in with other concerns too, like back pain and shoulder pain," Dr. Swain said. Finding the right, supportive bra may help alleviate this type of pain. You can also try over-the-counter painkillers. For intense pain, a healthcare provider may prescribe you medication to help. In extreme cases, some females opt for breast reduction surgery.

You're Wearing the Wrong Bra: An ill-fitting bra can cause pain even if you don't have big breasts. "The majority of the time, women are wearing bras that are too big," Dr. Swain said, and a too-big bra isn't going to support you very well. A too-small bra isn't much better since it might feel restrictive and uncomfortable. If underwire makes your breast pain worse, pick one with more cushioning at the base of the breast, Dr. Swain said. Dr. Swain also recommended getting fitted at a department or specialty store where you can buy a well-made bra. "Specific brands are more supportive than others," Dr. Swain said.

You're Nearing Menopause: Females approaching menopause might experience a painful widening and thickening of the milk duct called duct ectasia. While it is most common in individuals nearing menopause, it can also happen at other ages. Duct ectasia can cause fluid buildup from the duct being blocked. "It can cause pain in the nipple and areola," Dr. Swain said. Per the ACS, other symptoms, while less common, can include a sticky and thick discharge from the nipple, a nipple that is turned inward, or a lump. And some females have no symptoms of duct ectasia. If you have any of these symptoms, it is important to talk to your healthcare provider to rule out other, more serious causes.

The condition usually takes care of itself over time (warm compresses can help in the meantime) and doesn't change your risk of breast cancer. However, if the pain doesn't go away, a healthcare provider may recommend removing the duct with surgery.

You could have inflammatory breast cancer: This is one of the few times breast cancer may involve pain. Inflammatory breast cancer is a rare and aggressive form of the disease that accounts for about 1% to 5% of all breast cancers. In people with inflammatory breast cancer, the cancer cells obstruct the lymph vessels in the skin of the breast, causing redness, swelling, and inflammation over about a third or more of the breast. The skin may also look pitted due to the buildup of lymph fluid. Sometimes you might feel a lump, but usually, not. The ACS notes that inflammatory breast cancer is more common in younger females, Black females, and females who have clinical obesity—and it's usually treated with surgery, chemo, and/or radiation. In addition, targeted therapies are sometimes used. Many of these symptoms could also be from an infection or injury. Try not to panic, but do get checked out by a healthcare provider.

Editorial

Harmonize the electoral process

NIGERIA'S electoral process over the years, has suffered some setbacks due to irregularities recorded during elections and other unwholesome acts which provoke aggrieved parties to seek for redress in court. The implication is off-cycle elections that have to be conducted after the long tussle among parties in court.

UNFORTUNATELY, it has become the norm in Nigeria. Off-cycle elections are primarily determined by their deviation from the general election cycle. Apart from being a drain on resources, (Nigeria spends billions to conduct off-cycle elections and tax payers money goes to cater for off-cycle election), it is a pointer to corruption in our electoral process, giving the nation a bad name in the comity of nations.

NIGERIA returned to democracy in 1999 and has held general elections every four years since. But, for differing reasons, courts have overturned or changed some election results, which has affected the elected official's specified tenure.

CURRENTLY, all off-cycle elections in Nigeria, especially when tied to contests managed by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), are governorship contests. Section 180 (2) of the Nigerian Constitution specifies that a governor vacates the office four years from the date they first take the oath of office.

IN most cases, especially when an already serving governor wins at a tribunal or court, the term continues since they would have been sworn in during the originally determined date.

HOWEVER, this changes if the court's decision leads to a new governor taking office, especially if this person belongs to a party different from the incumbent governor. As a result, this leads to a new swearing-in date to ensure that the term does not exceed or fall short of the four-year term specified in the constitution.

THE off-cycle electoral process is becoming too often that many Nigerians showed concern during the recent elections in Bayelsa, Kogi and Imo states.

IT was on this premise that former President Goodluck Jonathan had called on the National Assembly to amend the 1999 Constitution to put an end to the off-season exercise. Using the election as a unique opportunity, he pleaded that Nigeria needs to block this off-season election. He described the exercise as "odd" and "not a global best practice." Let the country elect its officials at the same time like America that elects everybody at the same time and gives room for no other elections.

ACCORDING to Goodluck, if Nigeria continues on this path, based on our laws by the judicial officers, there will be a time the Nigerian presidential election will be off season.

AS worrisome as it is, we therefore call for the amendment of the electoral laws and the constitution so as to put an end to the off-cycle elections in Nigeria. By harmonizing the electoral processes, it will enable Nigeria to practice an American type of democracy. A grace of 6 months for court cases that may arise by aggrieved parties, to wrap up all court cases, after which, all victors are sworn-in on the same date, just as the Americans do.

WE add our voice to that of Goodluck Jonathan, and advise the government to fully embrace the American style, which does not give room for off-cycle elections thereby harmonizing the whole political processes in Nigeria.

THE rate of abortion among female students is becoming much and worrisome in the sense that most of the students don't know the risk and side effects involved in abortion and what it often results in the future.

Abortion is said to be the termination of unwanted pregnancy. Students use pills and other substances during abortion which often results to future health risk and it causes weakening of cervix, damage to the womb. In other words, it increases a woman's risk of future pre-term deliveries.

Most students don't think of their future rather they think of present situation which a girl gets pregnant for like 3 to 4 times in school and what she could think of is abortion not knowing the possible complications and damages it will cause her.

An unsafe abortion can endanger a woman's reproductive health and can lead to serious life threatening complications such as severe hemorrhage, bleeding, inflammatory disease, secondary infertility and even death.

The reason why some ladies don't



Effect of abortion on female student

give birth after getting married is because they have done several abortions and they don't know the evacuation process.

Before you involve yourself in any elective process of abortion its important to know the potential impacts it could have on your body and future.

It's advisable that after any abortion the girl should go for pregnancy evacuation in order to wash away the tissues that stick in the womb in so as to avoid damage of the womb.

Gwanma Beckly Nehemiah, IT Student, Federal Polytechnic Bauchi State.

How to end Open defecation

OPEN defecation is the Human act of excreting in the open as opposed to a latrine. Individuals may pick fields, hedges, woodlands, trench, roads, waterways or other open space for defecation. They do so either on the ground that they don't have a Latrine or because of customary practices. The training is normal where sterilisation framework and administrations are not accessible. Regardless of whether latrine are accessible, conduct change endeavours may be expected to advance the Utilization of latrines. 'Open Defecation Free'(ODF) ISA term used to depict networks that have moved to Utilizing Latrines rather than open defecation. This can occur, for Instance, after local area driven complete disinfection programs have been executed.

Open defecation can destroy the climate and mess up wellbeing .Undeniable degrees of open defecation are connected to high child mortality, poor nourishment, destitution, and

huge incongruities among rich and poor .Finishing open defecation is a marker being utilized to quantify progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal Number 6.Outrageous needness and absence of sterilisation are genuinely connected. Accordingly, wiping out open defecation is believed to be a significant piece of the work. Nigeria is among the countries with the most noteworthy number of individuals rehearsing open crap, assessed at more than 46 million individuals. The training has negatively affected the people, particularly kids, in the regions of wellbeing and instruction and had added to the country's inability to meet the MDGs targets. The disinfection circumstances in the nation incited the National Committee on Water Resources in 2014 to focus on the advancement of a guide towards taking our open crap in the nation, In accordance

with the United Nations worldwide mission for finishing open dedication, most communities in Nigeria lack toilet. Government and other organizations should provide toilets in commercial and public places like markets, schools car parks and other places that is crowded.

If each of Nigeria 774 local government areas can be provided with 100 toilets the rate of open defecation will reduce. The toilet should be shared among the most populated communities within the local government areas like markets, parks, schools, etc. These measures can help in eradicating open defecation in Nigeria. Business men can invest into toilets and make some profit from it. Government should educate the people on the dangers of open defecation and the importance of toilets .With these measures, Nigeria can end open defecation without much ado.

Namu Sanusi

Standard Cartoon



Opinion

Breaking chains of misinformation: Uniting for Nigeria's health

IN the labyrinth of modern information, a dangerous distortion threatens the very core of Nigeria's public health – misinformation surrounding child vaccination programs. As we navigate an intricate web of falsehoods, the stakes have never been higher. Lives hang in the balance, trust teeters on the edge, and the future of Nigeria's health security is at a crossroads. Imagine a Nigeria where every child is shielded from preventable diseases, where communities are resilient against the onslaught of misinformation. This vision can only be realized by unravelling the deceptive threads of falsehood and weaving a tapestry of truth, unity, and unwavering commitment.

Misinformation, a formidable foe, knows no bounds. It infiltrates the corridors of education and seeps into the beliefs of the devout. The result? A deeply divided society, sceptical of essential immunization programs. This scepticism threatens not only individual children but the entire nation's health security.

As the great Nelson Mandela astutely noted, education is a potent weapon for societal transformation. It is incumbent upon the government to initiate widespread awareness campaigns. These campaigns should be rooted in scientific evidence, debunking myths and instilling confidence in the populace. Educational

initiatives can pave the way for informed decision-making, dismantling the baseless fears that fuel vaccine misinformation.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, underscores the gravity of vaccine misinformation. It poses a significant threat to global health, endangering decades of progress made in eradicating preventable diseases. Nigeria is not alone in this struggle; it is part of a global battle where misinformation threatens lives and undermines public health efforts.

To stem the tide of misinformation, the government must enforce strict penalties for those spreading false information. Fines, punishments, and sanctions are not punitive measures but necessary deterrents. Such actions send a clear message: misinformation will not be tolerated, and its purveyors will be held accountable. In the wise words of Thomas Jefferson, the care of human life and happiness must be the primary object of good government.

Statistics paint a grim picture. Recent surveys conducted by the Nigerian Health Ministry reveal a concerning reality: vaccination rates have plummeted by 20% in the past two years. This decline, directly linked to misinformation, endangers the health and well-being of Nigerian children. The

BY ADEDIGBA DAVID

numbers underscore the urgency of the situation, demanding immediate and decisive action.

In the fight against misinformation, unity is paramount. Religious leaders, community influencers, and educators must stand shoulder to shoulder, dispelling myths and nurturing trust within their communities. The words of Desmond Tutu echo this sentiment: small acts of good, when combined, can overwhelm the world. Every effort matters in rebuilding trust and ensuring the dissemination of accurate information.

In this endeavour, institutions such as the National Orientation Agency, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Women Affairs, and the mass media play pivotal roles. These entities must collaborate synergistically, pooling their resources and expertise to create impactful awareness campaigns. Their collective strength can amplify the message, reaching every corner of society.

Data-driven approaches are indispensable in understanding the dynamics of misinformation. By analysing patterns, identifying misinformation hotspots, and gauging public sentiment, authorities can tailor their interventions effectively. Data empowers strategic decision-making, ensuring that efforts are

targeted and impactful.

Rebuilding trust is a nuanced process that requires sincerity and transparency. Open communication channels between healthcare providers, government agencies, and the public can foster understanding. Town hall meetings, interactive workshops, and informational sessions can bridge the gap, addressing concerns and dispelling doubts.

Civil society organizations, with their grassroots reach and advocacy capabilities, are invaluable allies. Their involvement can amplify the government's efforts, creating a groundswell of informed citizens committed to dispelling misinformation. Collaboration between the government and civil society can lead to sustainable change, nurturing a society resilient against the onslaught of falsehoods.

Cultural beliefs often intertwine with misinformation, complicating the scenario. Sensitivity to diverse cultural norms is vital; interventions must be culturally nuanced, respecting traditions while dispelling myths. Community-specific approaches can foster acceptance, paving the way for accurate information dissemination.

Promoting media literacy is another critical facet of the solution. Educating the public on how to discern credible sources from misinformation is empowering. Workshops, online courses, and

awareness campaigns can equip individuals with the tools to navigate the vast sea of information, encouraging critical thinking and discernment.

Given the global nature of misinformation, international collaboration is indispensable. Nigeria can learn from successful strategies employed by other nations facing similar challenges. Collaborative research, knowledge exchange, and sharing best practices can enrich the nation's approach, fortifying its efforts against misinformation.

As the Yoruba proverb goes, "Ti a ba n lo'run, a maa n lo'pe" (When we unite, we achieve progress). In conclusion, the battle against vaccine misinformation demands a multifaceted approach. Through education, strict enforcement, community engagement, data-driven strategies, and international collaboration, Nigeria can dismantle the web of falsehoods threatening its public health. It requires unwavering commitment, unity, and a belief in the power of accurate information to transform societies. As Margaret Mead aptly stated, a small group of committed citizens can indeed change the world. Let us be those committed citizens, working tirelessly to safeguard the health and well-being of Nigeria's children and, by extension, the nation's future.

Adedigba writes from Abeokuta, Ogun State

NYSC has become the weakest link in the federation!

By OHIMA AGANS-OLIHA

WE must strengthen our public institutions. We must ensure our institutions perform as constituted. Those are the constant wise counsels of our many statesmen over the recent years, weeks and days. They intend to impact the country with widely accepted normative behaviour.

The National Youth Service Corp – NYSC, was established three years after the civil war by then General Yakubu Gowon's military administration, to nurture and reduce the ravenous misunderstandings in the country's already fractured inter-ethnic relationships. Its main goal is to model the country towards an evolutionary state where every citizen is viewed as a member of a united nation. To attain such noble aims, every graduate from an institution of higher learning (post-secondary education) under the age of thirty-one must compulsorily serve in any area of the country.

While the NYSC has been burdened with controversies such as the loss of Corpers serving in risky and violent parts of the country (Corpers can decline to serve in any dangerous condition), a recently erupted controversy over the actual NYSC service of the recently appointed Minister of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Ms Hannatu Musawa, represents a clear test of integrity for the new government, and the NYSC.

It's not a simple matter of

incoherently mumbling what a "service" actually means and entails, but it is rather that of employment.

In this case, the NYSC has already confirmed that the minister is still a serving Corper (while gainfully employed, which contravenes national laws), however, the NYSC appears frozen and unable to enforce its statutory duty. What does the law say exactly on this matter? The NYSC Act empowers employers to request for, and job-seekers (which the minister is, in this case) to also present a NYSC discharge certificate. As a current serving Corper member, it is also an indisputable fact that the minister does not possess a completed discharge certificate. So it appears both the Federal government as the employer of the minister and the minister, are violating the law (which incurs a penalty). For clarification purposes, service in the NYSC is a precondition for employment anywhere in Nigeria, and serving your nation in a wage-compensating position is categorised as employment. The employer, in this case, is the Federal government.

Will the NYSC continue to act as a bystander on this matter?

Recall that a well-performing member of the President Muhammadu Buhari administration, and former minister of Finance Kemi Adeosun honourably resigned after an internal investigation concluded that her NYSC certificate was in dispute. Being asked to serve your nation is an honour, and honourable intents deserve

honourable actions. When a dispute arises, one must be honest and clear in intentions, because the bystanders are also observing. Another side controversy involves many Senior Advocates of Nigeria – SAN, proclaiming that a law has not been breached. How so? Then how exactly does the Constitution see the NYSC? And, are Politicians actually exempted from the youth service? Following section 315, sub-section 5a of the constitution states that the NYSC Act cannot be invalidated, which means the NYSC Act must be given adequate treatment and respect irrespective of any situation.

The constitution affords equal treatment to all Nigerians and respects qualifications and background, training or statuses, irrespective of differences. So a fishmonger, or a meat butcher, or even a Pepper-seller can even become the President of Nigeria, or a State governor for that matter. And if the sole assumption here is that the highest form of education those individuals attained is perhaps Secondary school, then NYSC exemption applies to them (also for serving security officers). So even a politician must still comply with the NYSC statute as applicable to the situation. Every circumstance is based on facts and evidence; for without facts and evidence, law has no basis. The fact still remains that the minister of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy is a lawyer (a post-secondary school qualification), and judging by public

facts, such qualification was attained by the thirtieth birthday. Hence, a completed NYSC service is obligated.

At a time when citizens are being urged to assist the country in reforming, the overall disquiet by the media on this matter so far is particularly alarming. Public institutions can only be strengthened when we demonstrate good civic examples which exemplify acceptable models for the public to follow. Such can only be accomplished when the NYSC leadership performs the constitutionally-imposed duties. Continuing to illegally amass billions in your bank accounts, only serves to influence the public to emulate such unlawful deeds when the opportunity arises! And there's an unquestionably high proportion of certainty that everyone agrees with the notion that Nigeria cannot reform if we continue to accept delinquent behaviour by public officials.

The derelict and delinquent reaction of the NYSC on this issue so far demonstrates its capacity as a weak institution!

So, will the Presidency withdraw or defer the minister's portfolio appointment and employment, and will the NYSC decisively punish open violators of its Act and establish good practical examples for the country? It's a matter of good public policy and an exemplary controversial beginning for the Tinubu administration.

Agans-Oliha, writes via agans.oliha@gmail.com

Change of Name

<p>AMAECHE</p> <p>I, formerly known as AGBATA CHIDIMMA ADA now wish to be known and addressed as AMAECHE BLESSNG CHIDIMMA. All former documents remain valid. Union Bank, concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SALE</p> <p>I, formerly known as MOHAMMED SALLU SALE, now wish to be known and addressed as SALE MOHAMMED SALLAU. All former documents remain valid. My correct date of birth is 1/1/1971, not 2/2/1970 and 1/1/1972. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>THEOPHILUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as GUFOM ABISHA A'ARON, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. THEOPHILUS ABISHA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SAMSON</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMSON ADEBAYO DARAMOLA, now wish to be known and addressed as SAMSON ADEBAYO MAFWIL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>NENFORT</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAM AUGUSTINA MANCHA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NENFORT AUGUSTINA ADAMU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>JUMAAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as JUMAAT ABDULAZEEZ, now wish to be known and addressed as JUMAAT ABDULAZEEZ AKANJI. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>AMOS</p> <p>I, formerly known as AMOS KELVIN ANTHONY, now wish to be known and addressed as AMOS VULRET ANTHONY. All former documents remain valid. Authority of Operation Rainbow and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AHMAD</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISAH UMAR AHMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as AHMAD SANI ISA. My correct date of birth is 01/01/2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>SAFWAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAFWAN RABIU YUSUF, now wish to be known and addressed as SAFWAN RABIU. My correct date of birth is August 8, 2002 not, August 8, 2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DASTIT</p> <p>I, formerly known as VWETNIYANG BENARD HARUNA, now wish to be known and addressed as DASTIT BENARD HARUNA. My correct date of birth is 8/9/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SELBYEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as BUTKO SELBYEN, now wish to be known and addressed as SELBYEN CHIRPYEN VENTUR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>NIYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NAPKUR NANKPAN, now wish to be known and addressed as NIYA NANKPAN GOODNESS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>HABU</p> <p>I, formerly known as HABU, GRACE JOHN, HABU, GRACE, JOHN GRACE and GRACE OBICHE HABU, now wish to be known and addressed as HABU, GRACE JOHN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NAIMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NAIMA MOHAMMED ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NAIMA MOHAMMED GYAMBAR. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, all concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>NASIBA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS. NASIBA MOHAMMED TURAKI, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NASIBA LAWRENCE DAVOU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>GAMBO</p> <p>I, formerly known as GAMBO SALAMATU MARKUS, now wish to be known and addressed as GAMBO SALAMATU ILIYA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MALONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as MALONG BARTHOLOMEW BAZAK, now wish to be known and addressed as MALONG BARTHOLOMEW DATONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>KUSHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as KUSHI BEATRICE SAMINU, now wish to be known and addressed as KUSHI BEATRICE LUKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>CHIMADURU</p> <p>I, formerly known as EZEJUAH MAUREEN OGOCHUKWU, now wish to be known and addressed as CHIMADURU MAUREEN OGOCHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YAHUZA</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAHAYA MAGAJI, now wish to be known and addressed as YAHUZA MAGAJI. All former documents remain valid. and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SALMAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as AJUJI ABUSHINDAI, now wish to be known and addressed as SALMAT ABU SHINDAI. All former documents remain valid. and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABDULKARIM</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULKARIM ILIYASU ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULKARIM IDRIS ZUBAIRU. All former documents remain valid. and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IDRIS</p> <p>I, formerly known as IDRIS DANJUMA, now wish to be known and addressed as IDRIS JIBRIN. Correct date of birth is January 1st, 2004, not January 1st, 1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GODFREY</p> <p>I, formerly known as DORKAT OBADIAH BAPWUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as GODFREY DORKAT PANDUWA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DEBORAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as DEBORAH OYETOLANI AKINDOYE, now wish to be known and addressed as DEBORAH OYETOLANI OGAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YUSUF</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS. TOK FELICIA BULUS, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. YUSUF FELICIA KIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MELA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MELA EZRA MELA, now wish to be known and addressed as MELA ISHAYA MELA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAMEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as NUNGNAAN SIMEON, now wish to be known and addressed as DAMEN SIMON KYEMOEN. My correct date of birth is 20/1/1990 not 20/1/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LANGNIM</p> <p>I, formerly known as PONFA PONTIP AYUBA, now wish to be known and addressed as LANGNIM TIMLOH JINAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>WUYEP</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAKTIM AMOS WUYEP, now wish to be known and addressed as WUYEP YAKTIM GASHIBAKI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DACHOLLOM</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMSON DACHOLLOM, now wish to be known and addressed as DACHOLLOM SAMSON SUNDAY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EDORAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as AGBEAGBU, OLUCHI EDORAH, now wish to be known and addressed as EDORAH OLUEBUBE OKERE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DUNG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DUNG HELEN, now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG HANNATU MATHEW. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BULUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as BULUS KWATPAN, now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS KWATPAN TAILUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>FOMLONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as MATARUWA MUDUUTYIR, now wish to be known and addressed as FOMLONG MAGDALIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JAMES</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANJUMA EZRA PUNGCHAK, now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES SHINGLENG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>BENJAMIN</p> <p>I, formerly known as LUKA ESTHER TENGWONG, now wish to be known and addressed as BENJAMIN ESTHER LUKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KOPSHERRAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as KORBE DAVID WAKME, now wish to be known and addressed as KOPSHERRAH KORBE WAKME. My correct date of birth is 8/12/1995 not 4/12/1984 and 8/12/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NGOMAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN NGOMAM, now wish to be known and addressed as NGOMAM EMMANUEL. My correct date of birth is 24/22/2000 not 25/12/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NAOMI</p> <p>I, formerly known as NAOMI STEPHEN KINDAMA, now wish to be known and addressed as NAOMI ABACHOTSATUTU DANLAMI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GWOM</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHUN PETER GWOM, now wish to be known and addressed as GWOM PETER HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BOYI</p> <p>I, formerly known as PATIENCE GYANG, now wish to be known and addressed as BOYI PATIENCE GYANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>CHIGBO</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHIGBO LINUS COSMAS NWABUNIKE, now wish to be known and addressed as CHIGBO LINUS NWABUNIKE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOSEPH</p> <p>I, formerly known as OMODANISI FUNKE ELIZABETH, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. JOSEPH FUNKE ELIZABETH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAZIH</p> <p>I, formerly known as QUEEN YAKUBU GYANG, now wish to be known and addressed as DAZIH MERCY STEPHEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YUSUF</p> <p>I, formerly known as BYANGMANG JEROME YUSUF, now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF JEROME YOHANNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SPACE FOR SALE</p>	<p>SPACE FOR SALE</p>

Public Notice

CUTTING EDGE MINISTERS NETWORK

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE

1. Akila Yusuf - Chairman
2. Sako Yusuf - Secretary
3. Igbem Eugene Chibuzor
4. Guya Irene Abraham
5. Matthew Yemi Joseph

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To train ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ on top notch church growth methods for end time.
2. To train church workers, workers, pastors and ministers of the gospel on effective ways to lead
3. To train the trainers on leadership skills and methods of passing these skills down to others
4. To mentor and provide hand holding programs for young ministers of the gospel
5. To provide a platform for new pastors, gospel ministers and workers to learn and glean and share knowledge.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama Abuja within 28 of this publication.

Signed: Barr. Egunoluwa Babatunde-Adejokun Suite 30, Chigod Plaza, Rayfield, Jos 08068880408

News

Wike to partner UAE to unlock Abuja's tourism

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Barr Nyesom Wike, Monday, sought partnership with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in developing the tourism potential of the nation's capital.

Wike, who disclosed this when he played host to the Ambassador of UAE to Nigeria, His Excellency Salem Saeed Al-Shamsi, disclosed that Abuja has

notable tourism potentials that could be developed. His words: "We believe in the relationship that Mr President is facilitating between Nigeria and United Arab Emirates already started (UAE). And it is important to processes that will make consolidate on it, and we like to partner with UAE United Arab Emirates. We have a lot in common."

The United Arab Emirate especially Dubai city has become a tourist centre of the world, and that we also crave for, so that Abuja should also be a tourist centre."

Earlier, the envoy stated that he had always loved to partner with Nigerians on activities that would benefit both countries.

News

63-year-old social worker declared missing

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO

A 63-year-old Social Worker in Lagos state, Mrs. Ayodele Idowu Lawal has been declared missing.

Our correspondent learnt that Lawal lives in Igando area of Lagos state.

It was learnt that Lawal went to Church on Sunday but has not returned home.

The whereabouts of the 63-year-old Social Worker has not been known as at the time of filing this report.

Our correspondent gathered that her phone was tracked to FESTAC Town and has been switched off since then.

Lawal is a member of Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASoW) Lagos State Chapter.

A member of the association in a short message sent to our correspondent on Monday evening called on well meaning Nigerians to help in searching for her. The message read thus:

"Dearest colleagues, the information reaching us now is that one of our members, Mrs. Lawal is



Ayolade

Lamilisa, while speaking missing. She went to with our correspondent, Church yesterday and has called on security agencies not come back. Her phone in the state to join in the was tracked to FESTAC search for her. Town and has been "I am using this medium to switched off. Kindly appeal to the security agencies to help in escalate to other platforms searching for her. We have please". NASoW Chairperson in the been informed that she is state, Ms. Olubunmi missing".

THE Nigeria Army says troops of the I Division have neutralised three bandits and recovered weapons in Kaduna.

The Acting Deputy Director, Army Public Relations I Division Nigerian Army, Lt-Col Musa Yahaya, confirmed the incident in a statement in Kaduna.

"Acting on credible intelligence, troops of the I Division Nigerian Army and operation Whirl Punch carried out a clearance operation around the general area of Maro - Chibiya forest in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State on November 12.

"During the operation, troops engaged the armed bandits with superior fire power, neutralising one of the bandits and forcing others to flee with gun shot wounds into the surrounding forest," the Army said.

The Army also said that

Soldiers kill three bandits in Kaduna

troops captured one AK 47 rifle, one locally fabricated AK 47 rifle, quantity four of 7.62mm (Special) ammunition, and one mobile phone.

troops captured one AK 47 rifle, one locally fabricated AK 47 rifle, quantity four of 7.62mm (Special) ammunition, and one mobile phone. Yahaya also said that, on November 10, troops of the division and Operation Whirl Punch, while on clearance operation at Kawara and Filin Jalo villages in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State, made contact with bandits at Kawara forest.

"In the firefight that ensued, troops neutralised one bandit and recovered one AK 47 rifle loaded with quantity 30 of 7.62mm (Special) ammunition, one motorcycle, and one Tecno phone while others escaped with gunshot wounds," he said.

He added that troops of the division conducted

clearance operations at Mai-Kulu-Gwanda, Rafin Gora, Funtua Badadi, and Kabawa villages, all in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

"During the operation, troops neutralised one bandit and captured one Boafeng radio and a motorcycle," he said.

Yahaya said that the General Officer Commanding (GOC) I Division Nigerian Army and Force Commander Operation Whirl PUNCH, Maj-Gen. Valentine Okoro has commended the troops for their gallantry.

Okoro charged the troops to sustain the tempo until all bandits, terrorists, and criminal elements in the Division's Area of Responsibility were completely annihilated.

Nigerian Army speak on fake online recruitment portal

THE Nigerian Army (NA) has expressed dismay over the alarming rate of the spread of fake online recruitment information, particularly

regarding the Nigerian Army Direct Short Service (DSS) Recruitment Portal for the year 2023.

A statement by the Director of Army Public Relations, Brig Gen. Onyema Nwachukwu warned members of the public against falling prey to fraudsters.

He said, "The Nigerian Army wishes to state that the false online publication is a deliberate fraudulent effort by some unscrupulous persons to mislead the public.

"Considering the damage this fake online publications could do to the psyche of would-be candidates and the general public, it is crucial to clarify that the fake online Direct Short Service Portal 2023, is a scam and should be clearly avoided.

The NA has already set measures in motion to apprehend those behind the fraudulent portal.

"Accordingly, members of the

public are enjoined to report any suspicious recruitment portal or activities to the NA.

"The NA will continue to remain committed to ensuring a transparent and credible recruitment process through the NA's established official channels of communication.

"These channels include, the official Nigerian Army website and social media platforms <https://army.mil.ng> twitter @HQNigerianArmyFacebook HQ Nigerian Army and other reputable media outlets.

"It is important to rely on these official sources for accurate and up-to-date information, rather than fall victim of fake recruitment online advertisements.

"Fake recruitment advertisements will inevitably mislead potential candidates and expose them to the vagaries of fraudulent activities of scammers.

"Potential candidates are particularly urged to take this refusal cum advisory seriously."

30m Nigerians other Africans could be free from poverty -Moghalu

KINGSLEY Moghalu, Chairman, Board of Directors and Advisory Board, Africa Private Sector Summit (APSS), has said that 30 million Nigerians and other Africans could be lifted out of poverty by 2035 through the collaborative effort of the Private Sector Bills of Rights (PSBoR), Regional Economic Communities (REC), and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Aside from lifting 30 million people out of poverty, Moghalu added that a target of increasing the continent's GDP by \$450 billion by the same time in 2035 and boosting intra-African trade by 52 percent is very achievable if the continent's regional economic blocs captured inside the AfCFTA could fully inculcate the tenets of the PSBoR.

The chairman, who acted as a former Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) deputy governor, said this on Tuesday during his inaugural address at the AfCFTA Joint Private Sector Session of the 2023 Afreximbank Intra-African Trade Fair taking place in Cairo, Egypt.

Moghalu, speaking on the topic "The Africa we want: The Private Sector Bill of Rights as a companion instrument to Regional Economic Communities and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement," said that "when fully implemented, the AfCFTA will boost intra-African trade by 52 percent,

lift 30 million people out of poverty, and increase the continent's GDP by USD 450 billion by 2035."

He admitted that intra-African growth in trade on the continent, APSS wasn't the function of the government and its agencies alone but was heavily reliant on the private sector's involvement.

He said, "While governments have signed and ratified the AfCFTA, it is

"The Private Sector Bill of enterprises that trade across Africa, far more than governments. This means that the African private sector must be strengthened to leverage the provisions and protocols of the AfCFTA to expand and intra-African trade and create prosperity."

Private sector involvement could be progressive when organisations such as the African Private Sector Summit (APSS) and the PSBoR are fully functional.

Moghalu said, "A pan-African, private sector-led AfCFTA, such as liberalise organisation, the mission of trade in services the APSS is to promote trade and investment across Africa through an enabling business environment. We work through an ecosystem approach in which we collaborate with other entities such as the Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PACCI), the African Business Council (ABC), and the Africa Education Trust (AETF) to leverage the private sector's ability to drive trade and investment

"I believe that the Private Sector Bill of Rights, when adopted by African countries and alongside the RECs and AfCFTA, addresses a fundamental conundrum that has confronted post-colonial Africa for decades: why have market-oriented economies created broad-based wealth in Europe, North America, and increasingly in Asia, but poverty remains high in the vast majority of African countries? Breaking this jinx is the goal of the AfCFTA and the African Union's vision 2063: The Africa we want," Moghalu said.

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Kogi election: 3 suspects arrested are police officers - IGP

THE Inspector General of Police, Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, has confirmed that three suspects arrested by soldiers during the just concluded governorship election in Kogi State are police officers.

DAILY POST recalls that soldiers on election duty in Okene, on Saturday, intercepted black-coloured security vehicles and arrested occupants of the cars.

The soldiers made other arrests during the election. Most of the miscreants were suspected to be political thugs.

However, the IGP, in a statement issued on Tuesday by the Force Public Relations Officer, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, confirmed that three of the suspects are policemen.

The police boss, while thanking officers who participated in the Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa State off-circle election, vowed to sanction



Egbetokun

erring officers.

The statement reads partly, "In Kogi State, it has been confirmed that three officers who were arrested by soldiers and handed over to the Police were indeed police personnel but were found to be escorting

a VIP contrary to directives.

"Others who were arrested by election officers escorting VIPs during the polls will also be sanctioned as such actions are against established protocols, and the officers involved will face disciplinary measures as a consequence."



JOS EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Local Government Secretariat Angware

INVITATION TO TENDER

Jos East Local Government Council wishes to invite competent and reputable contractors with good track record of performance to submit tender for the execution of the under listed projects.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Lot 1. Rehabilitation of Sabon Fobur to Jankassa Road 3.5km. Lot2. Grading and literating of road from Angware General Hospital to Shere Jankassa.

Lot 3. Rural Electrification of Shere Jankassa to Dinya Community.

3.0 TENDER REQUIREMENT/QUALIFICATIONS

Documents to be submitted include:

- Evidence of registration with Jos east LGC
- Evidence of registration with corporate affairs commission (CAC)
- Evidence of registration of staff with pension Commission of Nigeria
- Evidence of Tax clearance certificate for the last three years.
- Evidence of registration of both company and key personnel with relevant professional bodies.
- Provision of VAT certificate
- Three years audited account of the company.
- Evidence of financial capability/reference letter from a reputable bank
- Evidence of appropriate documentation fees.

4.0 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

The Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted to the office of the Transition Committee Chairman Jos East Local Government Council with evidence of payment of a non-refundable tender fee of Fifty Thousand Naira (N50,000.00) only to be submitted on or before 24th of November, 2023.

5.0 OPENING OF BID DOCUMENT

The Pre-qualification document shall be opened by 1:00pm at Angware LGC Chamber on the closing date of 24th November, 2023.

All contractors are invited to attend the opening exercise.

Please note that Jos East is neither Committed nor obligated to short list any contractor or to Award contract to any of the contractors, Jos East has the right to reject any bid.

Signed:

**John K.K. Ali Secretary, Tender Board,
For: TIC Chairman Jos East LGC**

News

FG to secure jobs for Nigerians in foreign coys

THE President Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration is rolling out and implementing a new policy on expatriate quota that will largely ensure that Nigerians have better employment opportunities in the country, a source very close to the presidency has disclosed.

According to the source, companies to focus on to consummate the better employment deal, are wholly foreign, joint ventures, or indigenous companies, which engage the services of expatriates.

These companies, as gathered, straddle such sectors as construction, oil and gas, telecoms, manufacturing, and hospitality, among others.

In this pursuit, Nigerian professionals are expected to be absorbed into the companies to take jobs for which they are qualified in line with terms and conditions of the expatriate quota-enabled employment opportunities.

The policy, which details will be made known to the public in about a fortnight from now, will be implemented by the Ministry of Interior, in concert with the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS).

There is, according to



Tinubu

credible information, a robust chest, specific details of the private partnership component forthcoming policy, he said that will ensure the seamless projection was that Nigeria, in execution of the policy.

The process leading to the have been well positioned to take-off of the policy and the consistently attract into her processes thereafter, as learnt, revenue kitty about \$1.5 billion would not cost the Federal annually from the expatriates Government a kobo.

Also an official of the ministry This revenue inflow is apart said the policy was specifically from the Personal Income Tax targeted at the over 150,000 prescribed by the Personal expatriates working in the Income Tax Act (PITA) cap P8 country at the moment, adding LFN, 2007, as amended, which that "as the number grows over forms the legal basis for time, they will be taxation of employment accommodated in the revenue- income, including those earned generation net." by expatriates working in Nigeria.

'Tinubu administration will prioritise digital technology, clean energy'

Vice President Kashim Shettima said the federal government under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu would continue to prioritise Nigeria's huge potentials in digital technology, the outsourcing industry and the clean energy sector to incentivize investments.

The Vice President said this Monday when he received Denmark's Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Mr Dan Jorgensen, at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

Shedding light on Nigeria's

climate objectives under the present administration, the Vice President noted that investments in digital technology, clean energy and other sectors had become a priority as a result of the dwindling fortunes of the oil economy.

"We are facing challenges but where there is a will, there is a way. The President is a man imbued with passion, intellect and capacity to lead the nation on the path of prosperity and progress. He really wants to bring a new lease of life to the Nigerian nation because if

Nigeria works, Africa works. "Oil will still be relevant because of its other derivatives for the next decades but as the primary driver of the economy, the role of oil will diminish in the coming years. This is why it is a priority for us to think out of the box to find alternatives.

"This is why we are looking for investments in digital technology, clean energy and other sectors. We have a lot of opportunities for partnership and collaboration," he said.

The Vice President identified the strength of Nigeria's population as a huge resource for the transformation of Africa, stressing that the continent's transformation could be fast-tracked by green and sustainable energy.

Soliciting the support of the Danish Government and the Global Centre on Adaptation for Africa and Nigeria's Climate Action, the Vice President said once there is sustainable energy, the people of the continent would key into Africa's development aspirations.

"I will solicit your understanding and support to save Africa," he added, stating that the support of the Centre is necessary to accelerate climate action and fast-track adaptation to solutions, focusing on the most vulnerable people in Africa," he said.

The Vice President commended Denmark for its leading role in global climate action, while soliciting the support of the government of that country.

"With our shared humanity, we are facing real existential threats but we are very proud of Denmark because of its climate consciousness. You are doing well. There is room for us to have a mutually beneficial partnership," he stated.

He also raised the alarm over the influx of strange faces already generating tension, particularly around Keffi LGA.



Sule

X-raying street hawkers' hardship



By **JENNIFER YARIMA**

IT is no longer news that the current economic hardship has prompted many people to embark on menial jobs that could fetch them little income for daily survival. One of such tedious engagements is street

hawking that cuts across young children, women and of course some men, who are visibly seen around the neighborhood.

It is most pathetic with young children particularly girls and women, some with babies strapped on their backs trek long distances hawking their goods. Such persons are usually seen at motor parks, at traffic, bus stops etc. Most times, it's just reasonable to buy simple goods from the poor people at high prices. By doing this, you are only blessing them in your own little way and saving them from obvious uncertainties.

If it were possible, our bargaining power should have been less because these category of people are not looking for money to buy mansions or cars, but to feed their children back home or pay school fees. We sometimes become stingy and arrogant

when buying from such vulnerable people.

Sadly, there are moments you pitifully see such a seller resigning to fate and asking one to take the goods at the price a buyer wanted simply because she hadn't made sales for the day but just to have at least something for supper. Though this hawker had made a huge loss; she goes further to buy a plastic bag for her buyer to pack items just bought.

It's disheartening to be unkind to these sellers who are sometimes ordered to hurry park up their commodities in despair. This attitude extended them might seem quite normal to you but its inhumane.

My heart goes out to many Nigeria children mostly girls who are not usually in the comfort of their homes when night falls. They hawk on streets to earn a living and are



seen desperately trying to sell their goods. For them, the street is home at all times. The question however is, who are the customers of such hawkers?

Research shows that roadside mechanics, motor parks touts and security men of companies are the major customers of female street hawkers. Some of these men take undue advantage of the desperation of the girls to sell off their items by harassing them sexually. They are well aware that without selling their goods to them, they would find it difficult to face either their parents or guardians.

Shamelessly, some of these men irresponsibly give excuses that their mode of dressing is provocative. Unfortunately for these girls, when any of them gets pregnant, their guardians send them home to their poor parents without compensation of any kind.

In Nigeria, the number of children hawking on the street is alarming. According to the International Labour Law Organization, the number of working children under the age

of 14 in Nigeria is estimated at 15million. Several factors are attributed to be responsible but the major one is poverty.

Parents who give their children out as house helps do so because of the worsening economic conditions. The same goes for parents who send their kids to the street to hawk goods or food items. This exposes them to sexual abuse, drugs and substance abuse and prostitution.

The Child Right Act has been part of the laws of the country for years to address some of these anomalies yet children are still seen on the streets hawking. May states have not domesticated the law while implementation is a challenge in states where it has been domesticated.

Education is key to the development of a child. There is need for government at various levels to make adequate provision for every child to go to school. It is the responsibility of government to also protect children from being abused by their parents and guardians.

"Research shows that roadside mechanics, motor parks touts and security men of companies are the major customers of female street hawkers. Some of these men take undue advantage of the desperation of the girls to sell off their items by harassing them sexually. They are well aware that without selling their goods to them, they would find it difficult to face either their parents or guardians. Shamelessly, some of these men irresponsibly give excuses that their mode of dressing is provocative. Unfortunately for these girls, when any of them gets pregnant, their guardians send them home to their poor parents without compensation of any kind."

Between affluence and the multidimensional poverty in Nigeria



By **DUMAH RANDONG**

WHOSE interest are they representing? Is it their interest or that of the people whom they represent? That is the question I would like to pose as a precursor to this discussion. This is coming on the heels of a demand by the 10th National Assembly to appropriate to itself a whopping sum of 70 billion naira for the turnaround maintenance of members' offices and other sundry issues.

The amount, according to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Senator Yemi Adaramodu, is to support their working conditions. The funds according to him are for the purchase of furniture and to carry out repairs in the lawmakers' offices. The spokesman of the Senate went

further to say that no member of the National Assembly would receive any money from the 70 billion budgeted to support their working conditions.

The Senate, he said was not ready to join issues with those it called misguided and mischief makers that alleged that the 70 billion naira was a gift from the Executive arm of government. The passage of the Supplementary Appropriation Act according to the Senate, was part of their constitutional duty. One other mind-bugging issue is the purchase of 40 billion naira Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) for the National Assembly.

It was reported that some hours after the two chambers of the National Assembly planned to spend 40 billion naira on Sports Utility Vehicles, new facts also emerged that 107, 2023 models of Toyota Land Cruiser for the senators and 2023 Toyota Prado for members of the House of Representatives.

The planned purchase, it was further reported, would be different from the official vehicles expected to be procured for the four presiding officers of the National Assembly, the Senate President, Godwill Akpabio, Speaker of the House of

Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, and the Deputy Senate President, Jibrin Barau and Deputy Speaker, Benjamin Kalu.

This decision did not go down well with some members of the National Assembly who have distanced themselves from the plan and called on the leadership of both chambers to settle for locally-assembled vehicles to reduce and recycle the funds in Nigeria.

Now, if you juxtapose this humongous amount to be used in the purchase of these SUVs with the current situation in the country, it gives one an impression that nothing has changed from what it used to be. And this also suggest that we are in for another trouble having gone through the same trust deficit in the last eight years of the APC government.

Considering the increasing high cost of living as a result of

the hike in Premium Motor Spirit (Petrol) due to the removal of the subsidy by the Federal Government.

It is on believable that we have a set of people who call themselves our representatives, but they appropriate 70bn to themselves to buy cars and renovate offices at a time that Nigeria was groaning. The country can not be turned into a movie show.

Amidst multidimensional poverty and the much-talked about reduction in the cost of governance by those at the helm of affairs who we know are deceiving the masses in the name of good governance. The soaring cost of living occasioned by the removal of the subsidy has further thrown the country into another hardship that many Nigerians can barely afford a meal not to talk of the three square meals in a day as the approved world

standard.

In any case, those we have chosen as our leaders have soon forgotten that leadership is all about trust and this has to be guarded in order not to risk losing the confidence of the people. The question to ask is, do the people we call our leaders have conscience? Look at how they keep deceiving the masses that we need to cut down the cost of governance which has become like a sermon in the lips of these so-called political elites.

Then you also look at how the masses are struggling daily to secure a meal to help them survive to the next day to see what becomes of tomorrow. Worse still, the excruciating pains brought as a result of the petroleum subsidy removal have further thrown them into another state of hopelessness.

"Amidst multidimensional poverty and the much-talked about reduction in the cost of governance by those at the helm of affairs who we know are deceiving the masses in the name of good governance. The soaring cost of living occasioned by the removal of the subsidy has further thrown the country into another hardship that many Nigerians can barely afford a meal not to talk of the three square meals in a day as the approved world standard".

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT was recently a merry celebration by the women Fellowship of the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) when observed their annual week. The leadership of COCIN in its wisdom thought it wise to set aside a week long activities for the entire women to come together once in a year to celebrate God's faithfulness in their lives. It was also a day, for the women to reflect and appreciated God for His mercies over their lives.

In our society today, it is very obvious that women are still contributing significantly to nation building and the COCIN women are not left out.

In fact, the COCIN women fellowship role in the church when it comes to evangelism, donations to support any given church project remains giant strides that have never gone unnoticed.

No wonder, "the theme for this year's CWF week, The Woman as Peace Builder" (Mathew 5:9) was very apt, looking at the important role women play at home, office, church and the society at large. It is also true that women through ages in the Bible have made significant impact and contributions to the society. This same women have also upheld godly virtues giving wise counsel, served as judges and of course have been used mightily by God to achieve His purpose while on earth.

It may interest one know that the book of Genesis 2:18-22 describes the unique role of women as "Helper between". This however does not place the woman to be inferior to the man, but a co-worker or enabler. The holy Bible has made it clear that the woman is not just any helper, but one that complements. In this regard, God is very intentional in bringing woman to occupy an important space in his creation.

Also in her goodwill message, GCC CWF coordinator, Mrs. Godiya T. Kitgakka thanked God for making it possible for CWF to celebrate their week and appreciated the church leadership for giving them the week and tirelessly supporting them in all their programmes from beginning to the end.

Mrs. Kitgakka said that this year's theme was meant to energize COCIN women to live in peace and also build peace, until they have peace in their lives, homes, fellowship, church and the entire society.

It was against this background that the wife of the Plateau State Governor, Barrister Mrs. Helen M. Mutfwang said that the role of

women in moulding lives and advancing peace in the society, cannot be overemphasized.

The First Lady stated at the church service to culminate the women week of the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), at the COCIN Headquarters church Jos, recently.

Barrister Mrs. Mutfwang while rejoicing with the entire COCIN Women Fellowship Day also commended the leadership of the church for setting aside a week for each group to engage in in-depth teachings which also reflection its activities annually.

She said, this year's theme. "The woman As Peace Builder was very timely, especially now that the nation was in great need of peace.

Barrister Mrs. Mutfwang pointed out that the work of God and spiritual activities by Christians is a continuous duty as long as they have breath.

She specifically thanked the church for making this year's women's week a reality and the leadership of the women's fellowship for making the week a huge success.

"I am confident that the lessons learnt will strengthen our families, the body of Christ and our communities."

The First Lady also used the medium to specifically thank the women and everyone for the support given to her husband before, during and after the governorship elections adding that, "I covet your prayers to enable him meet the demands of the office and provide the qualitative leadership needed to turn around the fortunes of the state."

She maintained that the event was the first time, being witnessed in her capacity as the First Lady of the state. She also solicited for the prayers of the church so as to enable her succeed in role and duties of supporting her husband.

Barrister Mrs. Mutfwang equally used the opportunity to emphasize the need for unity in the church. She added that it is God's will for the church to be united, stressing that there is no better time for unity in the church and the entire body of Christ than now.

The First Lady told the congregation that her doors would remain open so as to work together to advance the body of Christ and work assiduously for the peace and prosperity of the land.

In his goodwill message during this year's CWF celebration, COCIN President Rev. Dr. Amos M. Mohzo said that the church appreciates the women for their

resilience and doggedness, considering the present harsh realities being experienced across the country. He added that notable among these is their role in building the girls hostel at the Karl Kumm University single handedly.

Rev. Dr. Mohzo charged the women to draw closer to God by studying the Holy Bible and seeking the peace of the land through their actions, words and



Events People & Place

COCIN women seeking peace of the land



their behavior so that at the end, they would have a godly and developed society.

He appreciated the states First Lady for having time to worship with COCIN women. He applauded all COCIN women across different countries for



their full participation during the week-long activities.

Mohzo challenged both husbands and wives to always live in love and unity. He emphasized the need for parents to ensure good moral upbringing of their wards or children.

Guest preacher during the service, Dr. Mrs. Justina K. Damap who took her reading from Mathew 5:9 while encouraging women to be peace

makers both at home and community. He said that blessed are the peace makers for they will be called children of God.

In a vote of thanks, women leader, Mrs. Blessing Dawal appreciated the entire congregations for the supports and cooperation accorded them during the week-long activities and urged them to sustain such tempo

IMAGES

NUJ CORRESPONDENTS' CHAPEL WITH OPSH HOLDS WALK4PEACE AWARENESS

The Nigeria Union of Journalists, Correspondents' Chapel Plateau State in collaboration with Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) on Saturday held A Peace Walk/ Awareness Campaign Against Drug Abuse and other Social Vices, starting from the NUJ Press Centre, Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos Central Mosque, Gada Biyu back to NUJ, Jos



Correspondents' Chapel Chairman, Polycarp Auta, flanked by NUJ Chairman, Ayuku Pwaspo, represented by her Vice, Pam Musa addressing participants



Immediate past NUJ Chairman, Paul Jatau with other journalists participating fully during the Peace Walk/Awareness Campaign Against Drug Abuse and other Social Vices



Representative of the Plateau Peace Building Agency, Kenneth Dakop in a group photograph with Journalists that participated during the Walk 4 Peace



NUJ Vice Chairman, Pam Musa (right) flanked by Assignment Committee Chairman, Douglas Francis, members of the Correspondents' Chapel, Andrew Adijah and others



Cross section of Journalists during the takeoff of the Awareness Campaign



Chairman of the NUJ Correspondents' Chapel, Polycarp Auta (left) with the representative of the OPSH Commander, Maj. Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, Capt. James Oya, Spokesman of Operation Safe Haven



Cross section of cameramen rushing to get vintage shots



Representatives of OPSH, Maj. Gen. A. Abubakar, DG, PPBA, Kenneth Dakop, in a photograph with the Chairman, NUJ Correspondents' Chapel, Polycarp Auta and journalists that participated

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Odd World

Baby's expanding head won't stop growing

A mum whose daughter's head keeps growing to an abnormal size due to a rare condition has hit back at the cruel trolls who call her names. Adalgisa Soares Alves fell pregnant with her first child, Graziely, and immediately knew something wasn't quite right as she struggled with intense stomach pain. Medics told her little Graziely had hydrocephalus, a build-up of fluid on the brain causing pressure and subsequent damage to the skull, with them estimating she would only live for three months in

Brazil. Now, the mum-of-three, 48, is sharing her daughter's daily battle with the condition, which saw her being dubbed a "giant baby" at birth. She said: "I don't think it's cruel because 'baby' is an affectionate word, but when they call out her 'big head' I feel sad, because then that is just being cruel. "But the important thing is that me, and all our family and friends, love Graziely the way she is." Adalgisa says nothing could have been done before or immediately after the tot was born and now, she's unable to walk,

and has recently lost her eyesight. She said: "Every day I take care of her, bathe her and feed her with all my love. "I'm dedicated to Graziely and it makes me happy to see her well cared for, from me and all of our family. "Nephews, cousins, aunties and many more family members love to come and see her and care for her. "I don't work, I just take care of her — I'm happy to take care of her and it is rewarding when I see her smile.

Source: The Mirror



Widowhood plights: Societal heart change is necessary

A widow according to the English Learner's Dictionary is a woman whose spouse has died and has not married again. There are many circumstances which leads a woman to losing her spouse in life. While in some cases, widowhood comes to be after a husband's life comes to an abrupt end, many women have become widows as a result of their husbands' sacrifice in service to our fatherland particularly during conflicts and or crises situations.

Nigeria is presently home to about 15 million of the world's 258 million widows. Investigations also reveals that while about one percent of men are widowers, about nine percent of women are widows in this same pathetic country of ours. As pathetic as the situation in this nation is today, things have continued to deteriorate with no hope of a better tomorrow.

Findings further indicates that about ten years after widowhood, only about seven percent of widows and twenty-nine percent of widowers were able to form a new union. Thus, many widows are scared of getting married again due to obvious uncertainties. The general notion is that not all men are ready to take care of the children of widows who remarry. Other widows are skeptical considering the fact that genuine love no longer exist. Unfortunately, there are many difficulties that widows have continued to face in our contemporary society of today. Aside the increasing cases of abuse and discrimination, most women after the death of their husband literary witness the world crashing on them. Thus, it is very dehumanising that widowhood in developing nations of the world is by no means a child's play. But we as a society are also aware of the reality that widows on daily bases are also confronted with miserable and deprivable hurdles, traumatic and agonising experiences including barbaric cultural and traditional restrictions which are cruel to human existence.

Most widows in our society today lack social security, near and or completely absence of effective and efficient family support mechanism as well as psychological and physical abuses. Therefore, widowhood in Nigeria unarguably comes with lots of challenges in the likes of maltreatment, discrimination, stigmatization, tradition, modernity and neo-patriarchy even as some hurdles have never been mitigated by the authorities concerned due to high level of seriousness and wickedness.

It is on record that in some societies, in the aftermath of her spouse's death, a woman is forced to sit on the floor for traumatising hours facing unimaginable interrogations. In other places, the woman is forced to drink water used to bath her deceased husband to prove her innocence while other women's hairs are shaved and are quarantined to stay indoors for months mourning for the deceased husband.

Therefore, it is an unending ritual that in the aftermath of the death of their husbands, these widows are the ones who must shave their hairs, wear black dresses for a long time, and drink water used for washing the body of their deceased husbands as well as stay away from decisions concerning the future of such widows. In some societies, these women are forced to stay aloft for between three to twelve months depending on the ethnic

group one is talking about.

It has also become a taboo in most Nigerian societies for women to inherit their late husbands, properties. In most cases, the relations of these deceased husbands' are the ones who decide the fate of the women.

For several years, I have heard unending ordeals of how women who have lost their husbands are made to go through hell by their late husbands' relations. For instance, another statistics have indicated that Nigeria has over eight million disadvantaged widows with over 21 million children. Unfortunately, these statistics have continued to increase largely due to the prevalence of crisis, terminal ailments, crimes, religion and politics.

All these traumatic experiences has tempted one to ask whether our God really cares for the widow. A few days ago, I was privileged to attend COCIN widows' week in our church where this same topic was extensively dealt with. I was made to understand that our God is a kind of God who keeps an eye on the widow.

In fact, the Man of God who admonished us did not mince words urging us all to comprehend the absolute fact that we are religiously obliged to take care of our widows and if the present excruciating situations we have found ourselves is any food for thought then; we must also think about the plight of the widows in our society. This is because, widows are always left in fragile circumstances and situations in the aftermath of the sudden and unexpected departure of their respective husbands to the great beyond.

True to his words, widows should not be considered as useless and or worthless in our society but significantly helped to overcome their each and very predicaments in life. For the sake of our military personnel who have laid their lives for our sake, for the sake of our elder statesmen, for the sake of our heroes who created the path for this nation to be, our society must begin to help change the narratives of the plight of our widows in this country.

For the fact that these women did not choose to be widows at this particular point in time, we must come together to chart a way forward to enhance an enabling environment for our widows to flourish in the state and the country at large.

At this point in time, impactful reorientation programmes must be organized and held to help our society come to terms with the suffering of widows in this country. It will also not be out of place for our laws to be restructured so as to have more bite in dealing with the ugly situations confronting widowhood in this country.

Certainly, if our God's eyes are never far away from our widows, we as a people must also sensitize, rejuvenate ourselves and acknowledge with all sincerity of purpose that many widows have for too long suffered in Nigeria. It's equally high time that we do the needful towards encouraging widows live a better life that the regrettable experiences they are confronted with all this time long. Just as the Lord says in Exodus 22:22 "Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. If thou afflict them in any wise and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry. And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless."

A word, an African adage says is enough for the wise.

Feature

Cultural resources: Shaping the nation's identity

Cultural resources are the material and non-material, visible and invisible evidences of man's interaction with the environment. They hold cultural, historical, or artistic significance within a community. These resources can include artifacts, monuments, historic buildings, archaeological sites, traditional practices, languages, art, music, literature and more. They play a vital role in preserving a community's identity and heritage, and the often require protection and conservation efforts to ensure they are passed down to future generations. ANYANECHI CHUKWUDI CHRISTIAN writes.

ANOTHER significant festival in Nigeria is the Argungu Fishing and Cultural Festival held annually in Kebbi State. which reveals that the festival has developed to an internationally accepted yearly socio-cultural event and has drawn tourists from different parts of the globe. Other fishing festivals worthy of mention include the Nwuyo Annual Fishing Festival at Ibi and the Njuwa Fishing Festival, all in Taraba State (Ekechukwu 2005). Apart from the traditional festivals mentioned above, modern festivals of arts and culture are also organized at the national, state and local government levels in Nigeria. Unlike the traditional festivals, the modern festivals take place at officially designated and approved venues and on specified dates. An example of such modern festivals in Nigeria is the Mmonwu (masquerade) festival, instituted by the government of former Anambra State (Mbaeyi 2000). This was aimed at boosting tourism in the state. Historic monuments abound in Nigeria. According to Okpoko and Okpoko (2002:59), more than sixty-three of them have so far been declared by the National Commission for Museums and Monument (NCMM). These monuments include buildings of historical and architectural interest, ancient city walls, especially of Kano and Benin and boundary mounds as well as cemeteries. Prominent amongst them are historical building, house and compound at Keffin Madaki in Bauchi State, Ilojo Bar in Lagos State, the Statutes of 19th century Kings and paramount rulers of the Niger Delta like those of King Jaja of Opobo (1821 – 1897), Dappa Pepple of Bonny, (1886), Chief Oshikoya of Nembe (1876), etc. Other important monuments include Chief Ogiamen's house in Benin City, Obu house at Elu Ohafia, Abia State, Gidan Makama in Kano, the rock paintings in Birnin Kudi in Kano State, the Geji Rock paintings in Bauchi State, amongst others. In addition to the plethora of cultural heritage resources mentioned above, Nigeria is culturally heterogeneous and this engenders a dialogue between the people's cultural resources and tourism.

Agencies Responsible for Managing Cultural Resources in Nigeria

A number of public institutions are statutorily charged with the responsibility of managing Nigeria's rich, diverse and huge cultural resources. These organs help to galvanize archaeological, ethnographic and other activities of culture and nature in the country. Notable amongst these institutions is the National Commission for Museums and Monument (NCMM), which was established by Decree Number 77 of 1979 (Andah 1988:122).



Amongst its various functions include the establishment, maintenance and administration of national museums, antiquities and monuments and the responsibility of making recommendations to State Governments or individuals concerning the establishment and management of museums and the preservation of monuments and antiquities. The Commission also conducts researches in ethnography, archaeology and other related fields either alone or in alliance with university-based Institutes or Departments. Other institutionalized cultural resource management agencies in Nigeria are: Ministry of Culture and Tourism at the federal and state levels, the Nigerian Films Censorship Boards (NFCB), Nigeria Film Corporation (NFC), Centre for Black Arts and Civilization (CBAC), National Gallery of Arts (NGA), National Copyright Commission (NCC), Council for Arts and Culture at national and state levels and the Institute of African Studies in Nigerian Universities. It is germane to point out here that apart from the above-mentioned institutionalized cultural resource management agencies, there are also non-institutionalized bodies that manage some of Nigeria's cultural resources. Deserving mention in this regard are community shrines, priests, heads of households, lineage heads, heads and patrons of age grade societies and traditional festival managers. Others are leaders of drama, dance groups and other custodians of the people's cultural heritage, prominent amongst whom include praise-singers, chroniclers and knowledgeable community heads and elders. Extant available evidence shows that Nigeria has taken certain important measures especially

the enactment of relevant laws aimed at protecting and preserving her cultural resources. Also, globally, most, if not all, member countries of international cultural organizations and agencies, notably United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have put in place legislations and regulations in order to protect their cultural treasures. Example of such regulations is denial of access to certain endangered monuments and the provision of replicas of them in the immediate vicinity. This is for the purpose of avoiding pollution, vandalization and destruction of these endangered relics from the past. Which are geared towards sustainable management of cultural resources.

The Need for a define National Identity through Cultural Resources

A nation's identity is a multifaceted concept that encompasses its history, values, traditions, and cultural heritage. This national identity serves as a vital component in shaping a collective sense of belonging and unity among its citizens. In an increasingly globalized world, the need for a well-defined national identity becomes even more critical. This article explores the importance of crafting and preserving a distinct national identity through the utilization of cultural resources as it is the Backbone of National Identity.

Historical Roots

A nation's history is the foundation upon which its identity is built. Historical landmarks, monuments, and artifacts represent essential cultural resources that not only serve as reminders of a nation's past but also help in crafting a narrative of shared experiences. These resources give citizens a sense of continuity and a connection to their predecessors.

Traditions and Customs

Cultural traditions and customs provide an invaluable means of expressing a nation's identity. Through art, music, dance, and rituals, individuals connect with their cultural heritage and convey their identity to the world. These practices foster a sense of unity, enabling citizens to relate to one another through shared customs.

Language and Literature

Language is not just a tool of communication; it is a powerful repository of a nation's identity. Literature, both classical and contemporary, reflects the thoughts, ideas, and emotions of a people. It encapsulates their worldview and serves as a cultural resource for self-discovery and external representation.

Art and Architecture

Artistic expressions and architectural marvels are the visual embodiments of a nation's identity. From paintings to sculptures, from ancient temples to modern skyscrapers, these cultural resources narrate a story of a nation's aesthetic and creative preferences. They are a testament to the evolving identity of a nation over time.

Importance of a Defined National Identity Fostering Unity and Cohesion

A well-defined national identity fosters a sense of belonging and unity among diverse groups of citizens. It promotes social cohesion, minimizes divisions, and encourages individuals to work together towards common goals.

Preserving Cultural Heritage

National identity ensures the preservation of cultural heritage. It motivates governments, organizations, and individuals to protect and maintain historical sites, traditions, and languages,

safeguarding them for future generations.

Facilitating International Relations

A strong national identity allows a nation to interact with the global community from a position of strength. It promotes cultural diplomacy and enhances a country's soft power, as other nations are drawn to its unique cultural resources.

Promoting Cultural Tourism

A well-defined national identity can attract tourists who are eager to experience a nation's culture, history, and traditions. This can contribute significantly to a country's economy.

In an era of globalization, the need for a defined national identity through cultural resources cannot be overstated. These resources not only reflect a nation's history and traditions but also serve as a catalyst for unity and cohesion among its citizens. A strong national identity, deeply rooted in cultural heritage, not only preserves the past but also shapes the future, facilitating international relations, cultural exchange, and economic growth. As we continue to embrace the interconnectedness of the world, the preservation and promotion of cultural resources remain essential in defining and strengthening a nation's identity. This will therefore give us a sense of belonging and reason with a perception of togetherness and patriotism rather than negligence and constituting nuisance in the state. If this is taken seriously, policy making and implementation will become easy as these policies will reflect a part of who we are and the implementation procedures will be what we can relate with.

Concluded
ANYANECHI is a student of University of Jos, Nigeria.

News

Resign, your appointment is political-Ahmad

From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto

GOVERNOR Dr. Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto of Sokoto State has directed civil servants appointed as Local Government Secretaries to resign as their appointment is political.

He gave the directives during a meeting with Local Government Sole Administrators and their Secretaries across the State.

The Governor said the controversy surrounding the position of Local Government Secretaries was now over as the law categorised them among political office holders.

"It is now clear that you are occupying political offices, therefore, if you are a civil servant make sure you resign"

"We believe in the rule of law and will not accept any situation where by people will flout the law,"he added.

Gov Aliyu also directed the Local

Government Sole Administrators to ensure regular security meeting with the relevant stakeholders in order to check banditry and other crimes in the State.

He added, "Securing our community is not only the responsibility of governments but the responsibility of all of us."

The Governor also charged



Aliyu

the Sole Administrators to carry everyone along on security issues to achieve maximum success.

The Governor further charged them to be vigilant and report any suspicious character to relevant authorities for necessary action.

Dr Aliyu also stressed the

need for effective surveillance and intelligence gathering in the rural areas as a means of tackling insecurity in the State.

Gov. Aliyu futher assured the readiness of his administration to fight banditry and other criminal activities in the State.

He thanked the people of the State for their maximum support to his administration.

Police foil terrorists attack in Katsina

THE Katsina Police command has foiled a suspected kidnap attempt at Gogalo village in Jibia local government and rescued three kidnap victims.

The spokesperson the command, Aliyu Abubakar-Sadiq, Monday said the terrorists had attacked the village on Saturday night.

"On November 11, at about 10:46 p.m., information was received at the Jibia divisional police station that armed bandits wielding dangerous weapons such as the AK-47 rifle, shooting sporadically, attacked the village and kidnapped three persons.

"Upon receiving this report, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Jibia, promptly mobilised a search and rescue team to the scene.

"The team continued to comb the surrounding bushes until November 12, at about 6 a.m., the team succeeded in tracking down the suspected kidnapers, engaging them in a gun duel.

"All the kidnapped victims were successfully rescued unhurt. Efforts are on with a view to arresting the fleeing suspects as the investigation proceeds," Abubakar-Sadiq said.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Kaduna state, troops of the Nigerian Army's 1 Division killed three suspected terrorists, locally called bandits.

The spokesperson of the



Egbetokun

division, Musa Yahaya, said in a statement that the terrorists were killed during clearance operations around Maro - Chibiya forest in Kajuru local government area Sunday.

"During the operation, troops engaged the armed bandits with superior firepower, neutralising one of the bandits and forcing others to flee with gunshot wounds into surrounding forest," the army said.

The army also said that troops captured one AK 47 rifle, one locally fabricated AK 47 rifle, quantity four of 7.62mm (Special) ammunition, and one mobile phone.

Yahaya also said on 10 November, troops of the division and Operation Whirl

Punch while on clearance operation at Kawara and Filin Jalo villages in Igabi local government area of Kaduna state made contact with bandits at Kawara forest.

"In the firefight that ensued, troops neutralised one bandit and recovered one AK 47 rifle loaded with quantity 30 of 7.62mm (Special) ammunition, one motorcycle, and one techno phone while others escaped with gunshot wounds.

He said troops of the division conducted clearance operations at Mai-Kulu-Gwanda, Rafin Gora, Funtua Badadi, and Kabawa villages all in Birnin Gwari local government."

ASUU mobilises members for indefinite strike

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has urged its members across the country to prepare for an indefinite strike action over the failure of the present administration of President Bola Tinubu to honour the agreement it made with the union.

ASUU also condemned the implementation of the Federal Government directive mandating public universities to remit 40 per cent of their Internally Generated Funds (IGF) to the coffers of the government.

The union disclosed this in a communiqué by the union president, Emmanuel Osodeke, on Monday.

It also strongly condemns the recent fascist attack on the President of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) in Imo State.

"The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) held its National Executive Council (NEC) meeting at the Kaduna State University (KASU), Kaduna, Kaduna State, from Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th November, 2023 and deliberated on several issues affecting the Nigerian University System (NUS) and our dear country, Nigeria," the statement reads in part.

"NEC reviewed the state of the struggle for improved conditions of service, funding for revitalization, university autonomy and academic freedom, removal of federal universities from the illegally imposed Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information

System (IPPIS), the amendment of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Act to curb the unbridled proliferation of state universities, and other related matters.

"NEC observed that successive governments have failed to honour several Agreements reached with our union, especially the renegotiation of the 2009 FGN/ASUU Agreement. NEC noted that even the little gains of the 2022 strike, which led to budgetary provisions of funding for revitalization and the payment of Earned Academic Allowances (EAA), are yet to be activated due to the non-release of the allocated funds, NEC, once more, calls on the Federal Government to set in motion without further delay the process of concluding the renegotiation exercise in line with the fundamental principles of the Professor Nimi Briggs' Committee and release the funds allocated for the payment of EAA. Towards this end, NEC directs all branches of ASUU to immediately commence the conscious mobilization of its members.

"NEC reiterated its earlier position on the wrongful dissolution of Governing Councils of universities without recourse to the laws establishing them. NEC reiterated that, apart from its erosion of the extant laws on university autonomy, the recent dissolution of the Governing Councils of Federal

Universities has negatively impacted the governance of those institutions in terms of the career advancement of our members and such other matters which require the attention of the Councils. NEC, therefore, calls on the President Bola Tinubu-led Administration to reinstate the Governing Councils of Federal Universities without further delay.

"NEC reviewed the implications of the recent directive to Federal Universities to remit forty per cent (40%) of their Internally Generated Funds (IGF) to the coffers of Government. NEC condemns the directive in its entirety because it would further impoverish and emasculate the Nigeria University System. For the avoidance of doubt, universities are not revenue-generating agencies because the obligatory fees paid by students are to provide the necessary tools for them to be properly educated. NEC calls on the relevant institutions of the state to remove universities from this category of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) regarded as revenue-generating centres because of its implications for the affordability and accessibility of education in the country.

"NEC strongly condemns the fascist and vicious attack on the President of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) in Imo state. NEC shall resist any attempt to paint the legitimate

demands of the working people of Imo state and elsewhere in Nigeria in partisan colourations and demands that the perpetrators of this dastardly act should be fished out and punished in line with the provisions of the law."

Gunmen abduct suspended Benue female LG Chair

GUNMEN suspected to be herdsmen on Monday morning abducted the suspended Chairman of Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State, Mrs Amina Audu, and her driver.

Audu, according to an eyewitness, was passing

through Naka/Makurdi Road when gunmen ambushed them at Tyolaha Ahume along Naka/Makurdi Road.

A local who did not want his name mentioned told our correspondent that the armed men shot at the moving car which forced the car to a halt

and the gunmen instantly whisked them away.

"The incident happened this morning close to Tyolaha Ahume village along Naka/Makurdi Road when gunmen ambushed a moving car and shot at it until it stopped.

"Immediately, the gunmen swooped on a woman and the driver and ran into the bush," the local said.

Our correspondent who called one of her colleagues, the suspended chairman of Ado Local Government, James Oche, confirmed the abduction of the woman.

He said, "It is true. I learnt she was kidnapped alongside her driver and they (kidnappers) are yet to make contact with anyone."

Efforts to get the spokesperson for the state police command, SP Catherine Anene, were not successful as she did not take her calls.

She also did not respond to text messages sent to her as of the time of filing this report.

When contacted, the Security Adviser to the State Governor, Joseph Har, said "I don't have details, you can call the PPRO."



Alia

Sports



Palmer not the only player to prove a point

By **ALAN SHEARER**

CHELSEA'S game plan in their thrilling 4-4 draw with Manchester City was totally fearless, but Cole Palmer's penalty to earn them a point right at the end was especially brave.

I know Palmer has taken a few spot-kicks already this season but this one was on a different level, because of what was at stake against his former club, with basically the last kick of an absolutely classic Premier League game.

There was huge pressure on him, knowing it all came down to whether he scored or missed, and with millions watching around the world. Yet he still stepped up and delivered.

He is only 21 and had never taken a first-team penalty before he moved to Stamford Bridge in the summer but, if he was feeling at all nervous, you would never have known it from the way he stuck it away - Ederson had absolutely no chance.

It was a great story for Palmer personally, to put away an important penalty like that against the manager who decided to sell him, and he was not the only Chelsea player who played like they had a point to prove, for various reasons.

Raheem Sterling looked right on it as well, and kept running at his man for the whole game, wherever he was on the pitch. He was superb too.

For whatever reason, it appears Gareth Southgate does not believe Sterling is good enough to get in his England squad, but that performance was the perfect answer to anyone

who doubts him.

I felt like a draw was the fairest result on Sunday, because neither team deserved to lose a game as good as that.

It had a bit of everything - great goals, mistakes, plus brilliant skill and outstanding individual performance from players on both sides, as well as some terrible weather.

So many times we see teams sit back against City and almost wait to be beaten, but instead Chelsea went at them for the entire game.

From the off, their attitude was fantastic and it didn't change whatever happened, good or bad. While Mauricio Pochettino's side were behind three times, their heads never dropped and they got their reward in the end.

If you are going to go toe-to-toe with City like that then you have got to be at the top of your game - be totally committed and believe in what you are doing.

Chelsea were relentless, and it worked for them. It's been a very good week for them, firstly to get that dramatic win at Tottenham and then to follow that up by being as impressive as they were here.

Yes, they were very open in midfield at times and were punished for it, but they actually pressed City really well and forced them into mistakes.

A year ago, it was a little unexpected to see Arsenal five points clear of City when the Premier League paused for six weeks for the World Cup, with Newcastle in third place.

Yes, City dropped points at Stamford Bridge, but they are still top of the table heading into the international break, which is probably where most people

expected them to be.

The same goes for Liverpool and the Gunners, who are both a point behind them. I've always thought it will be those three battling it out at the top for the whole season, and I still don't see anyone different getting in there.

To be beaten by two stoppage-time goals at Molineux on Saturday was a cruel way for Tottenham to suffer their second defeat of the week, but I never expected them to challenge for the title anyway.

Even after losing to Chelsea and then Wolves, Spurs have still done much better than I expected. Their aim for this campaign has to be to finish fourth or fifth, which might be enough to secure Champions League football for next season, and I don't feel that changed despite their strong start.

Aston Villa are up there too, and are clearly a good side who

will be a match for most, particularly at home, but again I still don't see them as title contenders - although I don't think anyone will relish a trip to Villa Park.

The other team in the top six are Manchester United, who have picked more points in their past five games than any other top-flight team.

United have done that despite not playing particularly well, or being great to watch, and I don't really see either changing even when some of their injured players come back.

Getting results is the most important thing, and having that kind of winning mentality is an obvious positive, but performances matter too - and United are going to have to improve a lot if they want to get in and around the top four.

Newcastle need a lift too. Saturday's defeat at

Bournemouth was their first in the league since 2 September but it looked a game too far for them, and they weren't anywhere near their best.

Eddie Howe's side have got a lot of injuries and suspensions to contend with but they didn't deserve anything against the Cherries, who were the better team from start to finish.

Newcastle looked really flat and very tired, and they probably need the international break more than anyone in terms of resting some players and getting others back to fitness.

It was always going to be a big ask for them to cope with Champions League football and challenge for the top four again.

They are still giving it a good go, and have reached the Carabao Cup quarter-finals too, but at the moment it looks like fighting on three fronts has caught up with them.



Palmer sent his successful spot-kick high to Ederson's right. He has now scored four out of four penalties for Chelsea, against Burnley, Arsenal, Tottenham and now Manchester City

Sports

There is improvement in team-Mbwas

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

PLATEAU United Football Club of Jos has recorded its highest win in their Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) campaign, after beating Abia Warriors 3-1 at the Zaria Road Stadium in Jos on Sunday.

Plateau United who scored their goals in the first stanza, dominated the game with an impressive performance.

Commenting in a post match press briefing, Mbwas Mangut, Technical Adviser of Plateau United Football Club of Jos, highlighted that there is much improvement in the team.

"Well, there is improvement from what we've been doing. We scored three goals and missed a lot of chances. Like I said the other day, we have to be patient, we have been creating chances and not utilizing them, but today we're able to utilize them. We are still going to work more on our goal scoring ability in order to be perfect," he said.

While commenting on their away match draw against Akwa United, the tactician maintained that the team is in high spirit.

"The spirit of the team is high, in terms of motivation also and the connection between myself and the boys. We have a target and everyone is working towards it and we thank God that we have seen good result coming out of it", he opined.



Mangut

"We've missed a lot of chances also in the second half because we created a lot, but I think we're just lucky to utilize them in the first half", he ended.

On his part, Erasmus Onuh, Technical Adviser of Abia Warriors said that his boys played well but couldn't carry the day.

"We played well but lost.

We'll go back to rearrange ourselves for the next game. Both teams played a good game, but unfortunately the lucky side had taken the day", said.

"Our next game is also away to Rivers United, every team want to secure a point, so we are on course and we'll not relent on achieving our target", he concluded.

NPFL: Table-toppers edge Sporting Lagos 1-0

LOBE Stars of Makurdi edged Sporting Lagos FC 1-0 at the Lafia Township Stadium on Sunday to cling on to the top spot in the 2023/2024 Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL).

Sporting Tribune said that, this was courtesy of a goal from an unlikely source, Sunday Chukwu, in the 29th minute of the closely fought matchday eight encounter.

Victory for Lobe Stars took their points tally to 17, two clear of Remo Stars, who trounced Gombe United 4-0 in Ikenne.

Remo currently stays second, albeit with a game in hand.

Doma United coach praises

fans after thrashing Gombe United 3-0

Alimi Sikiru opened the scoring in the 27th minute, as the Sky-Blues put Gombe United to the sword, whose last trip to the South West also ended in a rout.

This was after they were thrashed 0-3 by 3SC of Ibadan on matchday six.

Meanwhile, a late goal by Mohammed Alao ensured that Kwara United denied ten-man 3SC what would have been their fourth road win in the NPFL, this season.

The Oluyole Warriors were first to score through captain Malomo Ayodeji in the 44th minute.

Unfortunately, he was sent

off within 60 seconds of the opener, against the Afonja Warriors, as the duel ended 1-1 at the Ilorin Sports Complex.

Nonetheless, Shooting Stars stayed fourth, on 14 points, same as Enugu Rangers who are third by virtue of superior goals difference.

They needed a goal in stoppage time, from Jonas Emmanuel to force a 2-2 draw against Sunshine Stars, in Akure.

Like all other games this season, the Fidelis Ilechukwu tutored Flying Antelopes are the only side to have scored in every match this season.

They were in front as early as the eighth minute, through veteran forward, Godwin Onaje.

All four goals, including an own goal by Ogu Jerry, at the New Jos Stadium were scored in the first half.

This was as Plateau United extended their good run of form by thrashing Abia Warriors 3-1, to climb to fifth on the table.

Four-time champions, Kano Pillars compounded the woes of stuttering Enyimba of Aba, with a 1-0 victory, courtesy of a 71-minute winner by Abba Adam.

The Sai-Masugida thus moved level on 12 points with Abia Warriors and Bendel Insurance on the log; while the defending champions are 17th with seven points, and two outstanding games.



Lobe Stars

AT LEAST 14 athletes slumped and resuscitated during the 2023 Lagos Women's Marathon on Lagos Island Sunday.

The marathon was held between the hours of 7 a.m. and midday.

Vanguard said that, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Emergency Management Authority, LASEMA, Dr. Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu, confirmed the incident.

The LASEMA Response Team, LRT, and paramedics from the agency's pre-hospital care unit attended to the 14 athletes who suffered various conditions during the annual women's 10km marathon, which range from dehydration, hypoglycemia, muscle pull, and tiredness due to physical exertions.

Other conditions experienced by athletes during the event, which started at Tafawa Balewa Square, Onikan (TBS) and terminated at Mobolaji Johnson Arena (MJA), Onikan, included a semi-loss of consciousness by two

14 athletes slumped during Marathon

—LASEMA boss

athletes.

All affected athletes were administered first aid treatment, while the two that suffered semi-loss of consciousness were resuscitated and transported to the General Hospital in Odan, Lagos Island, for further medical care.

While evaluating the success of the annual event, Oke-Osanyintolu reiterated the essence of collaboration for joint success in

emergency response, stressing the need to jealousy guard "the Golden Hour" in the business of saving lives.

He noted, "Despite the huge turnout of athletes and the recorded challenges, proper preparations and deployment of the LRT with its Pre-Hospital Care Unit in full attendance for any eventualities were solely responsible for the success of the event."



athletes

Abiye wins 2023 Lagos women's run

JOY Abiye of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has again emerged winner of the 2023 Lagos Women's Run held yesterday. Abiye, 33, from Ondo State, who won the 2021 edition of the 10km

road race at a record time of 33:41:4, returned a time of 39: 13:78 to win this edition and received a cash prize of N1.5 million.

The Guardian said that, the event, which saw over 8,000 women registered, flagged-off at exactly 7.00 a.m. at the Tafawa Balewa Square and ended at the Onikan Stadium, Lagos Island.

Deborah Pam of Plateau State came second with a time of 39: 22:73, while Patience Dalyop, also of Plateau State, came third with a time of 40:02:08.

Pam received N500,000 cash prize, while Dalyop got N300,000 for coming third.

At the veterans' category, Helen Mamman emerged winner and received N300,000 cash prize, while Paul Blessing, who came second got N200,000. Other participants were awarded consolation prizes by the sponsors and certificates of participation.

Abiye, who won the open run category, linked her victory to her continuous

training, preparation, hard work and dedication in spite of the effects of the economic hardship on citizens.

She expressed happiness and lauded the organisers for a successful race and a platform for her to showcase her talent and strength, while promising to come out victorious in the next edition.

Also speaking at the end of the race, Chairman, Lagos State Sports Commission, Sola Aiyepoku, said the Lagos women road race, from being a symbolic fitness call to women, has grown to become a competitive promotional platform that showcases the physical attributes and qualities of the female gender.

He encouraged and commended all the women who contributed in various ways to make the race a success, as well as those who have determined to be overcomers regardless of what life throws at them.

Also speaking, the coordinator of Lagos Women Run, Mrs. Temitayo Popoola, commended the winners of the two categories, as well as those that represented different organisations, sports groups, and individuals.

She said the yearly road race showcases the spirit of Lagos, while celebrating women's empowerment, strength, self-discovery and determination, as well as value and celebrate every woman's journey.

Popoola said the platform further empowers women to overcome challenges, conquer stereotypes, and break barriers. Popoola added that female athletes have shown the world that with dedication and determination they can achieve remarkable feats.



Abiye

Sports



Dart wins to give GB play-off victory

LATE replacement Harriet Dart beat Caijsa Hennemann to seal a 3-1 win for Great Britain against Sweden in their Billie Jean King Cup play-off.

BBC SPORT said that, Dart - picked instead of Jodie Burrage, whose debut was ruined by nerves on Saturday - thrived on the added pressure to win 7-5 6-2 in London.

Captain Anne Keothavong said she had "no hesitation" in calling up Dart, who "was able to rise to the challenge".

Earlier, Katie Boulter had put GB, the overwhelming favourites, 2-1 up.

The British number one was a 6-1 7-6 (7-5) winner against Kajsa Rinaldo Persson, who had stunned Burrage the previous day.

There were scenes of jubilation at the Copper Box Arena as Hennemann fired wide on Dart's match point to give Great Britain a victory which seals their place in the qualifying round for the 2024 Finals.

London-born Dart said it was "extra special" to win the tie on home soil.

Meanwhile, Sweden, who were vying for promotion from the European/African zone, will remain in the lower tier of the women's team event.

Having watched the first set of Boulter's win, Dart knew she could be the one to seal the deal for Great Britain after coming in for Burrage.

Burrage had let slip a 4-0 lead and lost 11 out of the next 12 games to Rinaldo Persson in the opening singles match of a tie that Great Britain - with much higher ranked players - had been expected to win comfortably.

"Jodie played yesterday and it's hard not to feel for her, but it happens. It's happened to all of us where the occasion gets the better of you," Keothavong told a news conference.

"For me, I feel like I'm a little bit spoiled because we've got choices on this team and I had no hesitation in calling up Harriet to play today knowing how she has been able to perform in this situation."

Dart claimed the first break to go 4-3 up, but the Copper Box fell silent as Hennemann broke back immediately, stopping the British number three from serving out for the opening set.

However, the 22-year-old

Swede could not find an answer when Dart replied with a break before holding serve to go a set up.

With a noisy crowd behind her, Dart was the first to draw blood in the second set and she sped through her service games until she got the double break at 4-2.

Dart, who has now played nine matches in the Billie Jean King Cup, showed her experience to secure the win with the first of her three match points.

Keothavong added that she would help Burrage to bounce back from her debut defeat.

"It's going to take time. I don't think you get over a performance like that quickly," Keothavong said.

"For me as captain to show that kind of empathy - I've been there, I can relate to that and help her on her journey if she's to be part of this team again."

Having watched from the sidelines when Rinaldo Persson beat Burrage the previous day, Boulter knew she would face a more difficult match than their difference in rankings suggested.

"She's definitely tricky. She has some weapons which, especially on these courts, they really seem to help her," Boulter told a news conference.

"She keeps fighting, she raised her level clearly above her ranking again today and she made it very difficult for me."

Despite missing two break points in Rinaldo Persson's first service game, Boulter broke at the second opportunity for a 3-1 lead.

Rinaldo Persson put the 27-year-old under pressure in the next game but Boulter saved two break points to keep momentum on her side, before going a double break up and serving out the set.

Having exchanged breaks at the start of the second set, the Swede broke at 4-3, but she missed four set points and dropped serve while attempting to level the match.

Forcing a tie-break, Boulter held her nerve to pounce at the right moment and the partisan crowd erupted as she secured the win that put Great Britain ahead for the first time in the tie.

"You're not going to save set points without a little bit of heart, a little bit of luck, a little bit of hard work and trusting the process of what I've put in these past, many countless years and today it pulled off," Boulter said.

"Another day it might not but I'm very glad today it did and it was for my country which makes it a little bit sweeter."

Fernandez clinches historic triumph for Canada

CANADA claimed their first Billie Jean King Cup title as Leylah Fernandez sealed a 2-0 win over Italy in Seville.

BBC SPORT said that, Fernandez, 21, beat Jasmine Paolini 6-2 6-3 to settle the final after teenager Marina Stakusic, ranked 258th, defeated top-50 player Martina Trevisan 7-5 6-3.



Fernandez

The 18-year-old Stakusic said it had been "the best week" of her life following her career-best win.

Victory earned Canada a record \$2.4m (£2.1m) in prize money, one year after the nation won its first Davis Cup.

Former US Open runner-up Fernandez has been in scintillating form in Spain this

McIlroy to claim fifth Race to Dubai title

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy will win a fifth Race to Dubai title at next week's season finale after Max Homa won the Nedbank Golf Challenge.

The European season ends with the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai.

The point standings after Homa's first DP World Tour win means that world number two McIlroy, 34, cannot be caught by second-placed Jon Rahm.

American Homa converted his overnight one-shot lead into a four-stroke win at the event dubbed Africa's major.

The 32-year-old Californian carded a six-under-par 66 to finish on 19 under in Sun City, South Africa, ahead of Ryder Cup rival Nicolai Hojgaard.

Hojgaard's Danish compatriot Thorbjorn Olesen, who launched an early charge but slumped in the final holes at the Gary Player Country Club, finished on 14 under.

American Justin Thomas finished fourth, seven shots behind Homa after Englishman Dan Bradbury missed a putt on the final hole and slipped to fifth.

Scotland's Colin Montgomerie finished the year atop the Tour's Order of Merit a record eight times, although

McIlroy is the first to reach five titles since the Race to Dubai format was introduced in 2009.

McIlroy is more than 2,000 points ahead of Rahm with just 2,000 available to the winner of next week's DP World Tour Championship.

Homa, playing in his first tournament since the Ryder Cup in Rome last month, had a one-shot advantage at the start of the final round at the casino resort.

The world number eight was caught by Olesen, who went on the charge with six birdies in an outward 31, before an

eagle on the ninth hole allowed Homa to retake the lead.

He then had a lucky break on the 14th when a wayward shot hit an official's buggy and landed back in play before birdies on the next two holes, including a 38-foot putt on the 16th, stretched Homa's lead to three.

"It was a crazy day because I got off to such a good start but Thorbjorn was playing unbelievably and kept pushing us along," said Homa.

A double bogey by Olesen on the 17th increased Homa's lead and ended the contest, with Hojgaard moving into second place.



McIlroy

Villegas wins to end nine-year PGA tour title

CAMILO Villegas ended his nine-year wait for a PGA Tour title by claiming victory at the Bermuda Championship.

BBC SPORT said that, the 41-year-old finished two shots clear of Sweden's Alex Noren to win at the Port Royal Golf Course on Sunday.

It was also the Colombian's first title since the death of his 22-month-old daughter Mia from cancer in 2020.

Villegas, who sealed a fifth PGA Tour trophy with a fine final round of 65, said he had his "little one up there watching, smiling".

"I felt the energy, it kept building up. Everybody here on the island was great and just rooting me on," added

Villegas.

"I believe in energy and I've got my little one up there watching it, smiling - she's where she needs to be after a



Camilo

long fight."

Ranked 318th in the world, Villegas hit six birdies on the way to a six-under par finish in the final round and top the leaderboard on 24 under.

"It's tough to put it into words right now but wow, what a ride man," he said.

"I love this game, this game has given me so many great things, but in the process it kicks your butt. Life has given me so many great things and in the process it kicks my butt too."

The victory gives Villegas entry to next year's Masters, PGA Championship and Players Championship, plus exempt status on the US tour until 2025.

the 2021 US Open final, had her serve broken to 15 when serving for the title at 5-2.

But she produced an immediate response to that setback, taking her first match point in the following game, and she has now won 16 of the 19 BJK Cup matches she has contested for the newly crowned world champions.

"It feels amazing. I am extremely proud that I was able to represent Canada on the biggest stage," said Fernandez, who threw her racquet in the air after hitting the final winner.

"To do it in front of Billie Jean means the world to me, to us, and hopefully we can keep going and celebrate tonight."

That title-winning victory came after Stakusic had stunned the 43rd-ranked Trevisan.

Stakusic, who has not played

a single WTA main-draw match in 2023, eventually completed victory despite failing to take her first four match points as Trevisan served at 2-5.

But Stakusic did not panic then - just as she refused to do so after losing four successive games when Trevisan battled back to lead from 4-1 down in the opening set.

"I'm so happy and honoured that I could play this week, this has been the best week of my life," Stakusic said.

Following Fernandez's title-clinching victory the Canada team, which also included Rebecca Marino and Eugenie Bouchard and was captained by Heidi El Tabakh, embraced on the court in celebration.

"I don't know what to say. I'm so proud of this team, these girls are incredible," El Tabakh said. "It's a dream



Quest



writer

JOSIAH MUTIHIR

FRAGMENT

"The fear of Retirement could be the beginning of wisdom. This wisdom can be put into action by many propositions. First, God is in control of this dark side of life of yours particularly being a child of God. Secondly, fall back on plans put on ground during the 'working period' There are other resources at your disposal if you have adequately invested in them; and include the family; friends, colleagues, co-workers. Building and sustaining your workplace or workplaces that provided you with the opportunity to be a worker may also be a huge asset. Destroying these in the course of your work would do the opposite. Investment in people, materials, assets may douse the apprehension of retirement. Having a positive mindset about retirement may be another wisdom to fall back to, as it is not the end to life or livelihood".

JOSIAH MUTIHIR

Retirement Phobia: Real or imaginary?

As one looks forward to retirement, the obvious feeling is that of agitation, apprehension, nervousness, anxiety and unease. A cursory look at those that have retired paints a confusing picture of the whole scenario. Some retired senior citizens look bright, agile, vibrant and happy; while on the other hand, some look worn-out, sad, depressed or in a state of trepidation. Some are in-between or neither here nor there. Looking at retired persons as a predictor of what it will look or feel like is therefore confusing; whether it is a thing to look forward to or a situation to avoid?

But it is clearly a thing of reality just as the book of Proverbs in the Scriptures talks about a time for everything. A time to be born and a time to die; a time to build and a time to tear down; a time to sow and a time to reap, and so on. Similarly, one expects a time to start work and a time to retire. But this appears to be a difficult scenario to come to terms with; or so I feel, or see in some climes.

Retirement is therefore a phenomenon to be afraid of because of the uncertainties. Why should one not be afraid of retirement? Just as one can see, the uncertainties appear to be too many. Just like marriage, whose certificate is dishd out before a couple embarks on the marital life, and the process of leaving, cleaving and becoming one body is learnt or actualised along the way; and so, is retirement. You do not have the experience before you actually retire. A retired life is actualized when you are retired from service.

Retirement has been defined as an action or fact of leaving one's job and ceasing to work. It is also said to be that part of a person's life when they choose to leave their work life behind permanently. It is expected that this is embarked upon when people are old, or sick enough to no longer contribute to their workplace. Different countries have different ages for retirement, and in the same country, the age at retirement is different for different professions or duties. One can also retire voluntarily when the person chooses to do so at any age of his or her choosing. There is also the compulsory retirement when an organization decides to retire a person for a reason or the person reaches the age of compulsory retirement. Organizations that need the continuing service of an officer,



being 'essential' or no one available to do the job, re-engage the person but on 'contract' appointment. It is pertinent to say here clearly that retirement appears to be only for the employed or in a structured type of job. I am not sure whether the people in private businesses ever retire.

Because of the seaming uncertainty surrounding retirement, some individuals are so perturbed that they make effort to actually push forward the date of birth and therefore the age at retirement. This is because the birthdate determines the retirement date. Some persons are actually caught in their own craftiness of doctoring birthdates. They do this several times and sometimes forget where they started from. Their retirement benefits have therefore been eaten into, and receive little or just a fraction of their entitlements at retirement. This is unfortunate to say the least.

The greatest fear of retirees is the loss of regular resources; where and how to get money or funds to afford the costs of living standards. This fear is worsened by the fact that savings from the

pension funds from the employers are either not paid early, paid in bits, partly paid or not paid at all. Funds which have been deducted from a person's earnings over the years for this purpose appear to have disappeared into thin air and not accessible to the person who had save the said money. Reasons are many. Deducted monies are not remitted to the Pension Boards, the remitted monies do not get to the pension board, government borrows from the pension board without paying back or the pension board simply 'sits' on the money.

The fear of retirement can be changed or modified by a change in the mind-set. Most workers have fixated their minds on a structured, regularised form of work. In addition, there has been the concept of the cycle of work and receipt of pay. You work for a month and receive salary or wages at the end of the month. Why and how should this cycle be broken? This is unthinkable and rather imagined. Remember that good health is an immeasurable resource if God blesses you with it.

The fear of Retirement could be the beginning of wisdom. This

wisdom can be put into action by many propositions. First, God is in control of this dark side of life of yours particularly being a child of God. Secondly, fall back on plans put on ground during the 'working period'. There are other resources at your disposal if you have adequately invested in them; and include the family; friends, colleagues, co-workers. Building and sustaining your workplace or workplaces that provided you with the opportunity to be a worker may also be a huge asset. Destroying these in the course of your work would do the opposite. Investment in people, materials, assets may douse the apprehension of retirement. Having a positive mindset about retirement may be another wisdom to fall back to, as it is not the end to life or livelihood.

Before my retirement benefits get stalled somewhere along the processing and payment chain, it would not be out of place to passionately appeal to relevant authorities to have a change of heart withholding the payments for whatever reason. Pension and gratuity are not a gift or a form of favour. They are a right! These are cumulative savings from the salaries of workers. When the

need for it arises, God expects it to be given to them. The writer has worked assiduously during the duration of service and therefore deserves his 'wages' in the form of pension and gratuity from his savings. This will go a long way in making retirement something to look forward to. The pension office staff should stop making life difficult to pensioners or retirees by making very unreasonable demands on these already apprehensive individuals, and further compounding their problems. They should remember that however long it takes, they will also be retirees if God carries. What is 'good for the goose is also good for the gander', they say!

All these are theoretical, the writer speaking from the side of a prospective retiree with no experience whatsoever. This article can therefore be taken as a preamble to retirement. The writer hopes to write another article in this regard about 12 months later, after I would have tested and tasted retirement for some time. The content then may be that of actualized hope and satisfaction. But as of now, it is a virtual thing. An imagination or a procrastination!