

Governor Mutfwang calls for continuous prayer

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Student regains freedom after 50 days in captivity

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Floods displace 650,000 Nigerian children in 7 years-UNICEF

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President Tinubu woos foreign investors at G-20 Summit

President Bola Tinubu, has told international investors that beyond Nigeria's natural resources, the people who are highly educated, skilled, and

industrious are the primary asset and advantage the country possess over other nations for investments.

The President spoke at a panel discussion titled,

"Fostering local value chains and investments in Africa - The role of the German private sector" at the G20 Compact with Africa Economic Conference, hosted by German Chancellor Olaf

Scholz.

The President noted that while promoting the rule of law is crucial for attracting foreign investments, Nigeria's energetic youth population and well-educated populace

represent the greatest incentive provided to investors toward the mutually-beneficial replication of China's economic resurgence.

"We are dogged in our pursuit of natural gas

development today, in tandem with hydrogen production for tomorrow. The world knows Nigeria as a leader in the energy sector. Our vast gas deposits and business-friendly environment make us an attractive investment destination. But we are going a step further now. We are creating fiscal

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President Tinubu met with German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, on the sidelines of the G20 Compact with Africa Economic Conference, in Berlin

AI, other technologies increasing fraud in Nigeria

-Fagbemi

The AGF also said the decentralised finance system in use in many countries in the region had enabled illicit financial flows which, according to him, had made tracing and identifying difficult for law enforcement agents.

Nigeria's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), has identified Artificial Intelligence and generative technologies as new means of fraud in the country, adding that such posed serious threat in the country and other West African countries.

Fagbemi who disclosed this at the inauguration of

Continued on page 2

Service Chiefs, IGP appear before Nigerian lawmakers

The House of Representatives has commenced the sectorial debate on the state of security as part of a sectorial review of key ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).

The Chief of Defence Staff, Christopher Musa; the Chief of Army Staff,

Taoreed Lagbaja; the Chief of Naval Staff, Emmanuel Ogalla, the Chief of Air Staff, Hassan Abubakar, and the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, on Tuesday, appeared before the lawmakers in the green chamber to brief them on the security situation in

the country.

The source had reported that the House, last week, turned back officers sent by the service chiefs to represent them at the sectorial report.

The House insisted that the service chiefs must appear in person to brief them on the security

situation in the country.

At the commencement of the debate today, Speaker Tajudeen Abbas reiterated that the House will allow only heads of agencies to appear before them. He added that the House will not tolerate "proxies".

Shortly after the security chiefs entered the

chamber, a member of the House, Ahmed Jaha (APC, Borno) raised a point of order that the interaction with the lawmakers must be behind closed doors.

He stated that security matter is too sensitive for deliberation in the open.

His motion for an executive

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Fagbemi

News

President Tinubu woos foreign investors at G-20 Summit

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responsibility and tax reforms as we reform our financial institutions to expediently accommodate foreign investments.

"We are eager and ready to partner with you. We have the youngest, largest, and most vibrant youth population in Africa. Equally, we have every ingredient required in the making of a modern economy: a well-educated population, a massive market, and the political will to bring it all together under my leadership.

"Africa has moved beyond the false past notions of business disincentivization and poor adherence to the rule of law. We now fully recognize the nexus between the inflow of investor money and the sanctity of contracts. We want to partner on the basis of who we are and what we do, rather than on the basis of long-held misconception."

President Tinubu appraised the summit of the country's intentional move toward developing labour-intensive sectors of the Nigerian economy for massive job creation as well as a new emphasis on technological progress and new opportunities in Nigeria's rapidly expanding information and

communications technology space.

The President assured potential investors that Nigeria has moved beyond restrictive policies, and today, capital can be moved in and out of the country freely, providing flexibility for investors.

"Nigeria has consolidated on its democracy with several consecutive handovers of power. There is stability and predictability in the socio-political development of our country, which provides a conducive atmosphere for business operations and investment. Your money is safe. Since I assumed office in May 2023, we have embarked on transformative changes, removing all obstacles hindering businesses. We are reforming the economy based on the principle and philosophy of good governance."

While persuading German automobile firms to establish manufacturing plants in Nigeria, he invited German businesses to take advantage of investment opportunities in multiple sectors following the successful visit of the German Chancellor to Nigeria in October.

Speaking earlier, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz noted the dynamic and evolving nature of economic relations between the developed and developing nations of the world as he positions Germany to enhance partnership with Nigeria and Africa on a mutually-beneficial basis.

"To be clear, this is not about traditional development aid with donor-recipient schemes. Instead, we now focus on investments that yield benefits for both parties. In Germany, as we strive for climate neutrality by 2045, we anticipate a substantial demand for green hydrogen, a considerable portion of which we plan to import, including from Africa.

"Many African countries possess larger potentials for renewable energy and competitive hydrogen production than we do. I am convinced that there are fantastic opportunities for expanding cooperation between German and African companies in this context.

"I highlighted this during my visit to Nigeria, where we already operate a hydrogen office and aspire to be a partner in the ambitious expansion of renewable energies," the

Government, has opened the online application for the recruitment of 37 Learning Community Managers across Nigeria under its 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) program.

The Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy (FMCIDE), kicked off the exercise late Monday night as it plans to hire a Community Manager for each of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), making a total of 37.

"We are hiring 37 Learning Community Managers, one for each of the 36 states and FCT, to join us as we support the journey of participants of our #3MTT Learning Community across Nigeria. Apply here <https://3mtt.bamboohr.com/careers/23>.

"These 37 Learning Community Managers, will help to coordinate the activities of Community members.

"#3MTT Learning Community is a cluster of learners with full access to structured content and a network of learners to support them", FMCIDE wrote on X.

The 3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT) programme, a critical part of the Renewed Hope agenda, is aimed at

FG begins online recruitment of 37 Community Managers



Tinubu

building Nigeria's technical talent backbone to power our digital economy and position the country as a net talent exporter.

The first phase of the programme, executed in collaboration with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), involves multiple stakeholders including fellows, training providers, partners and placement organisations.

According to the job specifications on the recruitment site, the 3MTT Community Managers will be responsible for: Leading, building, and maintaining 3MTT's community of technical

talent and its initiatives within the states (internally and externally) and scalable programs that attract a broad, diverse group of aspiring Nigerian Technologists and prepare them for the tech workforce as well as other opportunities in the digital economy in the states.

The Community Managers, will lead the community and own the brand of 3MTT in each state to animate existing and attract new community members and fellows to the program.

They will help to build and own state-specific and regional strategy, outreach and messaging for the community at large.

AI, other technologies increasing fraud in Nigeria—Fagbemi

Continued from page 1

the 27th meeting of the ministerial committee of the Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa in Abuja on Monday, called for an assessment to determine the current and long-term threats experienced by counties in the region.

He said, "Ladies and gentlemen, it is very clear that the threats we are facing will only continue to grow and evolve in unanticipated ways. In particular, the threat of artificial intelligence and generative technologies are already beginning to manifest new avenues for fraud.

"At the policy level, we

must make all efforts to ensure that we understand the range of threats that we face and those that will confront us in the future. This emphasises the need for continuous and ongoing ways of risk assessment and typologies work."

The AGF also said the decentralised finance system in use in many countries in the region had enabled illicit financial flows which, according to him, had made tracing and identifying difficult for law enforcement agents.

He said, "The increasing spread and dynamism in technology coupled with geo-political fragility are creating fertile ground for organised criminal groups and transnational terrorist organisations to conduct their illegal activities on a global scale.

"In particular, the explosion in decentralised finance has created opportunities for the kind of anonymous financial systems that facilitate illicit financial flows and hamper the ability of our law enforcement and regulatory agencies to trace and identify the proceeds of criminal

activity."

Fagbemi called for the development of institutional frameworks for the enforcement of financial crime regulations in the region.

He said, "Our collective commitment to put in place legislative policy and institutional frameworks is necessary to protect the integrity of our financial systems from threats of money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing."

Service Chiefs, IGP appear before Nigerian lawmakers

Continued from page 1

session was rejected by the Speaker, who argued that the "House belong to the people."

The ruling by the Speaker generated mild uproar in the House, however, the Speaker insisted that the session would be an open one.



Fagbemi

Tinubu seeks German investment in critical sectors

President Tinubu said that German investment was needed in critical growth-enabling industries in energy, transportation, and electric power generation, transmission and distribution.

President Bola Tinubu has called for German investment in critical sectors of the Nigerian economy such as power and rail transportation.

A statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Ajuri Ngelale, said Mr Tinubu made the call at a meeting with German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, on the sidelines of the G20 Compact with Africa Economic Conference, on Monday in Berlin.

The president said that German investment was needed in critical growth-enabling industries in energy, transportation, and electric power generation, transmission and distribution.

The President said the staggered and unsteady implementation of the Siemens-supported Presidential Power Initiative should take new urgency.

For me, I am very much committed to pursuing all aspects of the Siemens power project and the skill development opportunities that will emerge from that project for our talented youth who can participate in sustaining the industry," Mr Tinubu said.

He also said Siemens can play a role in Nigeria's rail network with the provision of ultra-modern trains and railways as it is doing in Egypt, where it is constructing 2,000 kilometres ultra-high speed rail network across 60 cities.

To this, the German Chancellor expressed readiness, but said there was a need to resolve administrative and financial hurdles brought about by governance problems in the sector.

I know that there is a lot of work that has been done. There is already a big production of electricity in Nigeria, but it is not getting to the population.

Of course, this has to do with the need for a provision of stations and infrastructure on the grid.

"Siemens has developed the plan and is ready to deepen implementation, but it is now up to your new government to take the follow-up action that you are now committed to taking.

On the railway plans, Siemens will be very happy to do this when more progress is made on the power project which has been started already," Scholz said.

Mr Tinubu drew the attention of the German leader to the need for the German business community to focus on

value-additive processing in Nigeria's solid minerals, agriculture, automobile and other job-creating areas.

"Everything the world requires in terms of business environment reforms is underway in Nigeria. Perhaps our foreign investors are still a bit paranoid that those old Nigerian issues are intractable.

But my track record speaks for itself. I have transformed an entity before now. I am here to do it again, and I will," the President said.

Mr Scholz agreed and said it was possible with a lot of investments, cheap, skilled labour, and adequate internal and shipping infrastructure for imports and exports to flow easily.

"These things are possible in Nigeria. You even have abundant natural resources. Step by step, it is achievable, Mr President," he said.

The two leaders agreed to deepen collaboration on the utilisation of advanced biometric systems and border control technology to check irregular migration.

They also agreed that investments in labour-intensive industries would go a long way towards resolving the root causes of irregular migration.

Mr Tinubu later exchanged views with German President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, before attending the Compact with Africa summit.(NAN)



Business & Economy

Advanced technologies for improved oil and gas industry

The Nigerian economy depends significantly on the oil and gas sector. Despite persistent challenges, recent technological advancements, including robotics, advanced instrumentation, drones, and rapid progress in artificial intelligence solutions, are bringing about a transformative era for the industry. ADEBOWALE ADENE writes.

THIS article explores the potential of these cutting-edge technologies to enhance subsurface production monitoring, enabling real-time measurement, and ensuring the secure transportation of produced volumes across an extensive network of pipelines and surface installations in a bid to contribute to the enhancement of Nigeria's economic prosperity through technological innovation.

Oil and gas production companies often encounter the unique challenge of accurately accounting for production volumes from individual reservoirs. This is essential for gaining a comprehensive understanding of production across assets, whether for reservoir performance evaluation, automated/autonomous control, or financial allocation/revenue recognition. The prevalent use of traditional methods, primarily relying on surface monitoring and single subsurface instrumentation, imposes limitations on production teams. These methods result in measurements of commingled production and the utilisation of mechanical control devices, which are not only costly but also necessitate production interruptions for activation. Moreover, these approaches offer limited granularity, accuracy, and real-time visibility into production activities. In such a context, the precise measurement and control of volumes become critical considerations, especially in an environment where delays can have substantial economic implications.

In revolutionising the oil and gas sector, advanced technologies, particularly automation and instrumentation, emerge as transformative solutions to the intricate challenges faced by production companies. Accurate accounting of production volumes from individual reservoirs is a pivotal necessity for comprehensive insights into reservoir performance, automated control, and financial allocation. The adoption of automation and instrumentation, extending to downhole installations, becomes a linchpin for enhanced operational efficiency. A use case can be seen in the provision of remote or even autonomous actuation of downhole valves to shut off watered-out zones. Real-time insights generated by AI-powered analytics bring about a seismic shift, optimising



production processes and minimising downtime. This not only addresses the limitations of traditional methods reliant on surface monitoring and single subsurface instrumentation but also transcends the hurdles of commingled production measurements and cumbersome mechanical control devices.

Furthermore, the widespread adoption of automation and instrumentation downhole sets the stage for a second wave of value capture through data leveraging. The data captured from these devices becomes a treasure trove when integrated into AI-driven analytics. Informed decision-making processes, optimised extraction strategies, and maximal resource recovery become not just aspirational but tangible outcomes. Precision instrumentation and robotics empower precise volume measurements, providing not only regulatory compliance but also a strategic advantage in maintaining control over production rates. The seamless integration of these groundbreaking technologies is not just about elevating operational efficiency; it is a strategic imperative for capturing maximum value from the rich data streams produced. The result is not just a technologically advanced oil and gas sector but a paradigm of resilience and economic impact for Nigeria.

This technological leap delivers not only enhanced granularity,

accuracy, and real-time visibility into production activities but also serves as a strategic imperative in a landscape where delays can bear significant economic ramifications. The result is a holistic solution that aligns with the overarching goal of elevating operational efficiency, curbing costs, and optimising resource utilisation. The outcome is a more agile, economically impactful, and resilient oil and gas sector in Nigeria.

As we delve into the practical applications of these technologies, a seamless segue emerges, shifting the focus from subsurface installations to the economic potential of surface applications. Drones, armed with AI algorithms, take centre stage in patrolling pipeline routes, providing heightened security measures and minimising the risk of unauthorised access, thus safeguarding vital infrastructure. Additionally, strategically placed sensors along pipelines facilitate real-time data collection, enabling the early detection of leaks or abnormalities to avert potential environmental disasters and protect economic resources. Autonomous robotic systems navigating pipelines further contribute to economic prosperity by reducing the need for intervention, enhancing safety, and optimising operational efficiency. The synergy between subsurface and surface applications becomes not just a technological advancement

but a holistic strategy for bolstering Nigeria's economic resilience and impact in the oil and gas sector.

As we delve into the practical applications of these technologies, a seamless segue emerges, shifting the focus from subsurface installations to the economic potential of surface applications. Drones, armed with AI algorithms, take centre stage in patrolling pipeline routes, providing heightened security measures and minimising the risk of unauthorised access, thus safeguarding vital infrastructure. This becomes particularly relevant in the context of the Nigerian government subcontracting multi-million-dollar projects to private security agencies, showcasing the potential synergy between technological advancements and outsourced security services.

In this landscape, the strategic utilisation of advanced technologies such as drones becomes not only a technological advancement but also a complementary strategy to enhance the services provided by private security agencies. These unmanned aerial vehicles equipped with AI algorithms significantly bolster surveillance capabilities, offering a proactive approach to securing pipeline routes.

Furthermore, the deployment of strategically placed sensors

along pipelines, facilitated by these technological innovations, enables real-time data collection. This data becomes instrumental in early leak detection, preventing potential environmental disasters and further fortifying the economic resources at stake. Autonomous robotic systems navigating pipelines add another layer of operational efficiency, reducing the need for intervention and enhancing safety. This collaborative strategy, bridging the technological advancements with the services provided by private security agencies, forms a holistic approach that goes beyond mere technological advancement. It becomes a comprehensive and synergistic strategy for bolstering Nigeria's economic resilience and impact in the oil and gas sector, effectively addressing both security concerns and operational efficiency.

This approach represents a melding of technology and strategic collaboration to create a more secure, efficient, and economically robust oil and gas sector in Nigeria. It embodies a comprehensive plan for improving the sector's overall performance and security.

Adene is a member of the Kellogg School of Management - Class of 2024



Business & Economy

Your money safe in Nigeria, Tinubu tells investors

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu, on Monday, told international investors from G20 nations that their monies are safe in Nigeria's business environment.

He reasoned that beyond Nigeria's natural resources, the people of Nigeria, whom he described as highly educated, highly skilled and naturally industrious, are the primary asset and advantage the country wields over other nations in the global race for new investments.

"Your money is safe...We are eager and ready to partner with you...We have the youngest, largest, and most vibrant youth population in Africa...equally, we have a well-educated population, a massive market, and the political will to bring it all together under my leadership," Tinubu said at a panel discussion titled *Fostering local value chains and investments in Africa - The role of the German private sector at the G20 Compact with Africa Economic Conference*, hosted by German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, in Berlin.

The Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Ajuri Ngelale, conveyed this in a statement he signed on Monday titled, 'President Tinubu to investors: Nigerians are the greatest asset and advantage we have over other nations.'

Tinubu said since he assumed office in May 2023, his administration has embarked on transformative changes, removing all obstacles hindering businesses.

He noted that while promoting the rule of law is crucial for attracting foreign investments, Nigeria's energetic youth population and well-educated populace represent the most significant incentive for investors toward the mutually beneficial replication of China's economic resurgence. "Equally, we have every ingredient required in making a modern economy: a well-educated population, a massive market, and the political will to bring it all together under my leadership," he said.

Tinubu argued that Africa has moved beyond the false past notions of business disincentivisation and poor adherence to the rule of law it was known for.

Instead, "We now fully recognize the nexus between the inflow of investor money and the sanctity of contracts.

"We want to partner on the basis of who we are and what we do, rather than on the basis of long-held misconception," the President stated.

He affirmed that the Federal Government is now dogged in its pursuit of natural gas development today, in tandem with hydrogen production for tomorrow. This also meant sweeping tax reforms, which he said are underway.

"The world knows Nigeria as a leader in the energy sector. Our vast gas deposits and business-friendly environment make us an attractive investment destination.

He also apprised the summit of the country's intentional move toward developing labour-intensive sectors of the Nigerian economy for massive job creation and a new emphasis on technological progress and new opportunities in Nigeria's rapidly expanding information and communications technology space.

The President assured potential investors that Nigeria has moved beyond restrictive



Tinubu

policies, and today, capital can be moved in and out of the country freely, providing flexibility for investors.

He argued, "Nigeria has consolidated its democracy with several consecutive handovers of power.

The Nigerian leaders also persuaded German automobile firms to establish manufacturing plants in Nigeria; he invited German businesses to take advantage of investment opportunities in multiple sectors following the successful visit of the German Chancellor to Nigeria in October.

Speaking earlier, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz noted the dynamic and evolving nature of economic relations between the developed and developing nations of the world as he positions Germany to enhance partnership with Nigeria and Africa on a mutually beneficial basis.

Olaf noted, "To be clear, this is not about traditional development aid with donor-recipient schemes. Instead, we now focus on investments that yield benefits for both parties.

The German leader reasoned that many African countries possess larger potentials for renewable energy and competitive hydrogen production than we do.

However, he is convinced that fantastic opportunities abound for expanding cooperation between German and African companies in this context.

"I highlighted this during my visit to Nigeria, where we already operate a hydrogen office and aspire to be a partner in the

Local rice production declines as price skyrockets

ACCORDING to a new report, rice consumption has been steadily increasing, exceeding local supply, resulting in a supply gap of about two million metric tonnes per year.

This has led to an over 37 per cent increase in the price of the commodity so far in 2023. This was revealed in 'AFEX Wet Season Crop Production Report for 2023.

The firm said, "Rice consumption in Nigeria has been steadily increasing, aligning with the consistent growth of the rice market, nearly matching the annual population growth projection of 2.6 per cent at two per cent. This has led to a supply gap of about 2 million metric tonnes annually."

ambitious expansion of renewable energies," the Chancellor stated.

Other panelists at the discussion were President Alassane Ouattara of Côte d'Ivoire; Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch of Morocco; President Macky Sall of Senegal; Sabine Dall'Omo, Chairperson of Afrika-Verein (German-African Business Association); and CEO of Sub-Saharan Africa, Siemens AG.

On Tuesday, the President will host notable German Business Chief Executives at a Nigeria-Germany Business Roundtable in Berlin, Germany.

Nigeria losses \$16tn to gas flare - Report

THE Energy Institute's 72nd edition of the 'Statistical Review of World Energy 2023' said the amount was lost from 2012 to 2022.

A breakdown of the statistics showed that upstream and downstream oil and gas firms operating in the country flared the highest amount of gas in 2012, estimated at 12.9 billion cubic metres of natural gas, 9.2 billion cubic metres in 2013, 8.3 billion in 2014, and 7.5 billion cubic metres in 2015.

The flare kept decreasing as the year rolled by, with 7.2 billion cubic metres flared in 2016. Flaring again, rose to 7.5 billion cubic metres in 2017, before plummeting to 7.3 billion cubic metres in 2018, and then rose to 7.8 billion cubic metres in 2019.

The menace dropped significantly to 7 billion cubic

metres in 2020, dropping further to 6.5 billion cubic metres in 2021, before resting at 5.3 billion cubic metres in 2022.

Summation of gas flared by the country in the 10 years under review gives us an estimated 86.5 billion cubic metres.

According to the Hebrew Energy; value for each 1 billion cubic metres of natural gas is worth about \$183m, giving an estimated \$16tn lost to the menace within the period under review.

The government through former president Muhammadu Buhari had in 2020 pledged support to the United Nations 2050 zero gas emission agenda. Buhari however, said Nigeria would put a final stop to gas emission latest by 2060.

during the wet season of that year." The firm also blamed the increase in prices on flooding and the ripple effect of the international market dynamics.

It, however, expects an increase in production of rice by approximately 4 per cent, and a further increase in the price of paddy rice by up to around 32 per cent.

The firm declared that the production of milled paddy rice has seen a remarkable increase of over 35 per cent in the country, reaching an estimated output of 5.4 million metric tonnes in 2022, up from 3.9 million metric tonnes in 2015. While rice is cultivated across all of Nigeria's agro-ecological zones, the Northwest region accounts for 72 per cent of the total rice production in the country.

Subsidy removal pushes monthly revenue to over N1trn - Minister



Edun

following the removal of petroleum subsidy and harmonisation of exchange rate, affirming that "all the sacrifices will not be in vain as government is bent on ensuring that the economy bounces back to normal as we continue to consolidate the recovery efforts on achieving inclusive economic growth and development.

"The Federal Government as always, will remain committed to the fiscal and monetary reforms that the administration has started, which are aimed at providing enabling business environment, diversifying the revenue base of the economy, creating fiscal space for

investment in critical infrastructure and ensure macroeconomic stability."

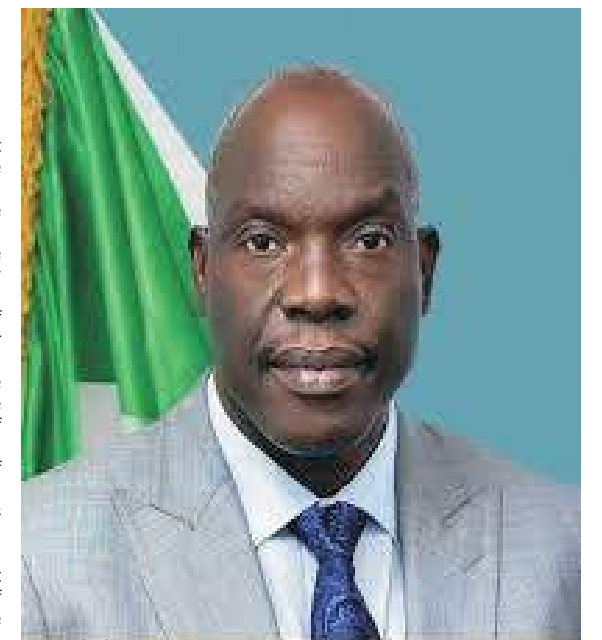
In his remarks, Monday Onyeme, deputy Governor of Delta State, said that FAAC members are committed and dedicated to their duty and have been doing a wonderful job in enhancing revenue accruals or inflows into the Federation Account, which has benefited the three tiers of government.

This, according to him is especially true in the case of the oil producing states of the federation where several wrong computations are being corrected and refunds made.

In line with the drive to end gas emission, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission in October, said FG had granted 42 firms gas flaring licenses in the 2022 Nigerian Gas Flare Commercialisation Programme auction process.

The Commission also said that 38 of the companies have been awarded 40 flare sites for standalone single flare site development, while four are awarded nine sites to be developed as clusters.

As a form of penalty for gas flaring, NOSDRA said oil companies were liable to fines totaling \$25.3m in July, an equivalent of N19.4bn going by the Central Bank of Nigeria's current official exchange rate of N768.77/\$.



Komolafe



Alarming rise of cyber fraud and inadequate defenses

Because of the rapid adoption of financial technology (FinTech), the Nigerian financial system is undergoing transformation. While FinTech has brought many benefits, it has also introduced new security risks. Cyberattacks on the Nigerian financial system have increased in recent years, with FinTech companies and traditional banks bearing the brunt of these nefarious operations. [Afolabi Abiodun](#) writes.

THE alarming rise of fraudulent activities:

Financial losses in Nigeria's banking sector have been enormous as a result of fraudulent operations. The value of fraud in 2021 was put at N193.5 billion (\$544 million), a significant increase from the N153.4 billion (\$431 million) lost in 2020. This upward trend continued in 2022 when losses due to fraud topped N273 billion (\$762 million). Even these troubling figures are expected to be exceeded by the end of 2023, with projections estimating potential losses of more than N300 billion (\$833 million).

Mobile money SIM swap fraud:

SIM switch fraud, a method used to hijack mobile money accounts, cost telecommunications consumers more than N20 billion (\$55 million), according to a 2022 report by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). This troubling trend highlights the vulnerability of mobile money platforms to unauthorized access, as well as the need for stronger security measures to protect consumer payments.

Phishing attacks targeting bank customers:

In Nigeria, phishing attacks, in which cybercriminals pose as legitimate institutions in order to trick unsuspecting individuals into disclosing sensitive information, have become more common. Nigerian banks were among the top targets for phishing attacks worldwide, according to a report published in 2023 by cybersecurity firm Check Point Research, with over 1.3 million phishing attempts detected in the first half of the year alone. This alarming data emphasizes the need for increased public awareness campaigns to educate customers about phishing scams and protect them from falling victim to these fraudulent schemes.

Data breaches at FinTech companies:

Unauthorized individuals gaining access to sensitive customer information through data breaches have also posed a significant threat to Nigeria's FinTech industry. A major data breach at a leading Nigerian FinTech company in 2021 compromised the personal and financial information of over 10 million customers. This incident highlighted the critical



importance of strong data protection practices and stringent regulatory oversight in order to protect customer privacy and prevent unauthorized access to sensitive information.

The Use of Social Engineering Tactics:

Cybercriminals are increasingly using social engineering techniques, such as impersonating bank officials or creating bogus websites, to trick unsuspecting people into disclosing sensitive information or engaging in unauthorized transactions. These strategies are especially effective in Nigeria, where cybercriminals take advantage of cultural norms and trust in authority figures to gain access to customer data and financial accounts.

The Nigerian financial system's vulnerability:

The Nigerian financial system is particularly vulnerable to cyberattacks due to a number of factors, including:

Limited cybersecurity awareness: Many FinTech firms and banks lack the cybersecurity awareness and expertise required to effectively protect their systems and customer data.

Outdated IT infrastructure: Many Nigerian financial institutions rely on outdated IT infrastructure, which is more vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Inadequate data protection practices: Inadequate data protection practices, as well as a lack of data encryption, expose customer information to unauthorized access.

Data governance and privacy protection are critical:

Data is the lifeblood of the FinTech industry, and customer data collection, storage, and use must be handled with extreme caution. Data breaches can be disastrous for FinTech companies, resulting in financial losses, reputational damage, and a loss of customer trust.

Data governance frameworks: Fintech firms must develop strong data governance frameworks that define clear data management policies and procedures. Data classification, access controls, data retention policies, and incident response procedures should all be addressed in these frameworks.

Privacy compliance: FinTech firms must follow all applicable data privacy regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation (NDPR). These regulations require FinTech firms to obtain explicit consent for data collection.

The changing threat landscape: Adapting to cybercriminals' ever-

changing tactics:

Cybercriminals are constantly developing new and sophisticated tactics to exploit vulnerabilities and gain access to sensitive information, so the cybersecurity landscape is constantly changing. Because of the vast amount of personal and financial data held by digital financial services in Nigeria, the FinTech industry is particularly vulnerable to these evolving threats.

Threats that are Emerging:

With the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), cybercriminals are able to automate their attacks and create more targeted and personalized phishing campaigns. Also, the growing use of mobile devices and the expanding Internet of Things (IoT) are spawning new attack vectors that FinTech firms must be aware of.

Adapting to Change:

FinTech firms must take a proactive approach to cybersecurity, constantly monitoring for new threats and adapting their security measures as needed. Staying current on the latest cybersecurity trends, conducting regular security assessments, and employing a team of skilled cybersecurity professionals are all part of this.

The need for a security culture:

Cybersecurity is a cultural issue as well as a technical one. Financial institutions in Nigeria must foster a security culture that emphasizes the importance of safeguarding sensitive information and preventing cyberattacks. This necessitates buy-ins from all levels of the organization, from the CEO to the frontline workers.

The regulatory gap: A breeding ground for Cybercrime

The alarming rise in fraud in Nigeria can be attributed in part to the lack of a comprehensive and robust regulatory framework for FinTechs. While the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has made strides in regulating the sector, cybercriminals continue to exploit significant gaps. Many FinTech companies are vulnerable to attacks due to a lack of clear guidelines on data protection, identity verification, and cybersecurity measures.

The Regulatory Landscape: A Path to Safer Shores

A more comprehensive and stringent regulatory framework is required to effectively address the security challenges faced by FinTechs and traditional banks. This framework should include the following key elements:

Data protection: Establish clear guidelines on data collection, storage, and usage to safeguard customer information.

The impact of technology on Cybersecurity: By automating tasks, providing real-time monitoring, and enabling advanced threat detection capabilities, technology can play a critical role in enhancing cybersecurity. Nigerian financial institutions should use technology to supplement their security measures and stay ahead of evolving cyber threats.

Automated tools for security can be used to automate routine tasks such as identity verification, fraud detection, and incident response. This allows security professionals to focus on more strategic initiatives while also lowering the risk of human error.

Nigeria can create a safer and more secure environment for both FinTech companies and traditional banks to operate in, fostering innovation and financial inclusion without jeopardizing the security of its citizens' financial assets by implementing these measures.

Politics

Reps set to strengthen security agencies

From
JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE House of Representatives has vowed to strengthen the security agencies in a bid to tackle security challenges bedeviling the country.

Speaker of the House, Hon Tajudeen Abbas, stated this at the opening of a two day post inauguration retreat for the members of House of Representatives Committee on Defence in Abuja.

He advocated the need for a comprehensive approach to national security, adding that there is need to strengthen the capacity of the Armed Forces and other security agencies. This, he further stated, was to effectively respond to the complex and ever-evolving security challenges of the country.

Hon Abbas said that the 10th House of Reps would continue to support the efforts of security agencies and actors through adequate funding, provision of modern equipment among others. Abbas added that such approach would consider the interconnected nature of the



Abbas

underlying issues that fuel and sustain insecurity. According to the Speaker, "As legislators, we have a critical role to ensure that the necessary legislative frameworks are in place to support the national security architecture."

He further said capacity

strengthening for legislative committees on security and defense was crucial to maintaining robust oversight and governance within the security sector. The Speaker called for all hands to be on deck on the insecurity problems facing the country.

'Ododo will bring positive changes'

From
AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Project Coordinator for Kogi State Adolescent Girls Initiative for Learning and Empowerment (AGILE), Dr. Abdulhakeem Bello, has predicted that the incoming administration of Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo will bring positive changes that will impact on the lives of citizens.

Dr. Abdulhakeem while reacting to the presentation of Certificate of Return to the Governor-Elect, Usman Ahmed Ododo, said that INEC has done the needful and expressed the hope that his administration will bring positive changes to the people of Kogi State.

He stated that the Kogi AGILE project has a goal to empower teenage girls in the state by providing education and skill acquisition opportunities.

He emphasized that the

AGILE project has played a crucial role in revitalizing the educational sector in its pilot states throughout the country.

Dr. Abdulhakeem said "I would like to congratulate Alhaji Usman Ododo, the Kogi State Governor-elect, and the Deputy Governor-elect, Comrade Joel Oyibo Salifu on their victory at the November 11 governorship election in the state".

According to the project coordinator, Ododo's victory is a testament to the people's trust in his leadership qualities and ability to touch the lives of the citizens.

He gave an assurance that his office would continue to add value to the state, particularly in the educational sector.

He further added, "I look forward to working with the new administration to continue the progress His Excellency, Alh. Yahaya Bello has made an effort to

empower adolescent girls in Kogi State.

He expressed confidence that under Alhaji Usman

Gov Bello reiterates commitment to preserving unity

GOVERNOR Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has reiterated his commitment to preserve the unity of the state, noting that he has made transparency his watchword in the distribution of the gains of democracy to the people.

He thanked God and President Bola Tinubu for the support which gave birth to the victory of the All Progressives Congress in the November 11 governorship election, stressing that the party and its candidate, Usman Ododo "won the election clean and clear."

Governor Bello spoke at a stakeholders meeting of the APC held at the Glasshouse of the Government House recently.

He noted that it was pertinent to review and evaluate the election, which APC won overwhelmingly, for people to learn from the mistakes and avoid the pitfalls of the past in future exercises.

"The journey was full of ups and downs in the last seven years. But we thank God for the resounding victory. With all the obstacles before, during and after the election, the APC came out stronger.

"The time for everybody to carry his cross has come. Everybody will bear his father's name because there is still a future," he said.

While maintaining that Kogi State must develop as one united state, he pointed out that under no illusion must any tribe think they could vote for themselves and become governor without the support of other tribes.

According to the governor, the November 11 governorship election has shown that unity is the watchword.

"In 2019, I won without ethnic agenda. I cautioned against tribal sentiments and asked that we desist from it before the election. I was optimistic that

THE Presidency, on Monday, blamed former President Olusegun Obasanjo for the current state of Nigeria's democracy.

The Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, who spoke to The PUNCH, noted that the democracy the country currently practises dates back to direct inputs by Obasanjo when he led the country's first as military Head of State from 1976 - 1979 and as civilian President from 1999 - 2007.

"Obasanjo ought to know that he brought this thing into Nigeria. He was the one who made us adopt it in 1979. He must have seen it as expensive and unsuitable when he governed us for eight years and even wanted an extension for another four years.

"So, the way he is sounding, it is like the man is getting wiser after leaving office," Onanuga said, reacting to Obasanjo's post-presidential stance.

The Presidency's response followed comments made by Obasanjo at the high-

Presidency fumes, tackles Obasanjo over democracy comment

level consultation on Rethinking Western Liberal Democracy in Africa held at Green Resort Legacy, Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta.

Obasanjo had criticised Western democracy, suggesting it had not delivered good governance and development in Africa.

He called for a reexamination and moderation of democracy to better suit African nations, citing the Western model's disregard for African history and complexities.

Obasanjo proposed an "Afro democracy" tailored to the continent's unique needs.

The ex-president said the snag with the liberal democracy was that it was not home-grown and did not take into account African history and multicultural complexities, among other peculiarities.

Picking holes in the Western liberal democracy, Obasanjo described it as a "government of a few people over all the people or population and these few people are representatives of only some of the people and not fully representatives of all the people. Invariably, the majority of the people are wittingly or unwittingly kept

out."

According to him, African countries have no business operating a system of government in which they have no hands in its "definition and design."

Obasanjo said, "The weakness and failure of liberal democracy as it is practised stem from its history, content and context and practice. Once you move from all the people to a representative of the people, you start to encounter troubles and problems.

"For those who define it as the rule of the majority, should the minority be ignored, neglected and excluded? In short, we have a system of government in which we have no hands to define and design and we continue with it even when we know that it is not working for us.

"Those who brought it to us are now questioning the rightness of their invention, its deliverability and its relevance today without reform. The essence of any system of government is the welfare and well-being of the people, all the people."

He argued that Nigerians must "interrogate the performance of democracy in the West where it originated from and with us the inheritors of what we are left with by our colonial powers."

But the Presidency blamed the former leader for a poorly copied model during his tenure as Head of State and, later, President.

It criticised Obasanjo for not advocating a better system despite his current views saying, "If he believes in what he is saying now, he ought to be an advocate of the need to go back to the parliamentary system."

Onanuga added, "We were practicing the parliamentary democracy the British left for us. Then, the military struck in 1966. And when we were going to return to democracy, instead of going back to what we were practicing before, parliamentary democracy, which was not expensive, it was this same Obasanjo who accepted the recommendation of the constitutional assembly at that time that recommended this American-style democracy."

The Presidency criticised Obasanjo's implementation of the presidential system, saying, "Obasanjo also knew that he copied this presidential system very wrongly. He copied the form and structure. But he didn't copy the spirit of it."

"Something that should have been under him in 1999 to 2007, he even made attempts to modify the constitution," Onanuga remarked.

Ododo's leadership, the AGILE project in the state would succeed in providing education and skill acquisition to adolescent girls.



Bello

the APC would win the November 11 Governorship election. I wanted it to be a sweet victory, the reason I cautioned against sentiments," he added.

Governor Bello, however, said people allowed emotions, personal and parochial interests to cloud their sense of reasoning, but noted that the level of good governance provided by the present administration in the areas of road construction, health care and infrastructure development was enough for the APC to win overwhelmingly.

Governor Bello described the Igala nation as good people, saying, "The Igala nation are not tribalistic or racist. They are good people but the majority are being misled by poor representation."

Governor Bello assured the people of Kogi West that payback time would soon come and called on leaders to educate their people and be selfless.

Time for Kogi State to consolidate on unity and security amongst other several achievements is now, the

governor said.

He thanked God for giving him the opportunity to serve and learn, adding that he was well equipped to continue to serve the state better even after leaving office.

In his remarks, the Deputy Governor of Kogi State, Edward Onoja, congratulated the APC family and the Governor Elect, saying that the victory wouldn't have been achieved without the support and hard work of Governor Yahaya Bello.

"Those who could not work for victory should break away from sentiments and work for a united Kogi State in the future," he said.

Senator Sunday Karimi, representing Kogi West in the National Assembly, thanked the people of Kogi West for standing strong, despite three Okun sons being in the contest.

The Kogi State APC Chairman, Abdullahi Bello, in his remarks appreciated the APC faithful for fighting very hard to victory, while assuring members that the party would do a review of the whole process to determine those who betrayed the APC.



Ododo

Politics

Fractured opposition, fragile democracy

The Supreme Court verdicts finally put to rest all the agitations around the outcomes of the 2023 presidential elections, and the All Progressive Congress, APC, pops champagne and celebrates over the presumed landmark judgement while the opposition grips the jurists by the jugular of being undertakers of democracy. DAVE BARO-THOMAS writes.

FROM whatever prism one looks at the judgment, presidential electoral jurisprudence became enriched rightly or wrongly because it dealt with some pesky issues, however contentious they were, stemming future agitations.

However, since the first republic, the country has not had the fortunes or misfortune of having the victory of a declared winner in the presidential race, upturned by the Supreme Court either because the jurists were complicit and connived with the presumed winners as alleged by some, or the oppositions have not lived up to the billings of proving their cases beyond all reasonable doubts.

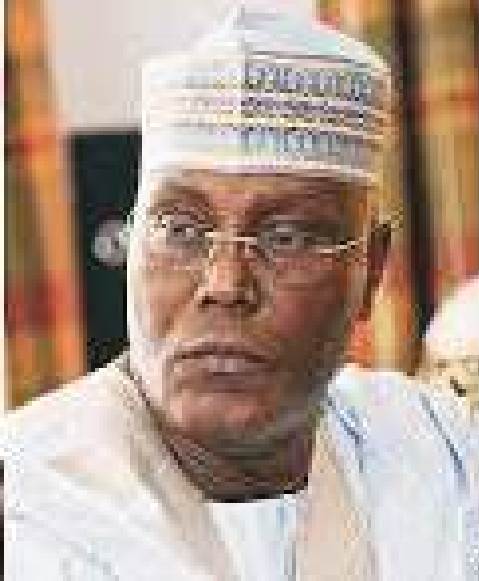
After all the drama in the courts, some few discerning minds contemplated if the opposition was strategic in their pursuit to uproot the incumbent right from the word go, and for career politicians and opposition with serial losses, it was expected the battle should have long started before the primaries with well-coordinated infiltration of the incumbent camps, extensive background checks on prospective candidates that will emerge, and plant mercenaries like what the ruling party did in the opposition camps, do further damages with hard facts during the campaigns running up to the polls and collate an irrefutable body of evidence in preparation for the Tribunal however what did we get, an opposition fixated on caricaturing the ruling party aspirant on health grounds and poor management of presumed certificate infractions. The entire process and outcomes question their readiness and bid to wrestle power from the incumbent.

Can democracy truly thrive with feeble, uncoordinated and tactless opposition? Unequivocally, the vibrancy of the opposition is the barometer or a true reflection of the health of any sound democracy and its absence, sponsors leadership failure, and society collapse hence, democracy without consistent, persistent, rugged and engagement of the opposition is the beginning of dictatorship and the emergence of a democratic monarch, especially in the African milieu.

The opposition during the first republic was very vibrant and kept the political space fully charged and sometimes spilling into unnecessary violence, but there was an opposition that bestrode the political landscape. At the height of its glory or infamy, the handlers of the Peoples' Democratic Party, PDP, boasted the party would rule the country for 60 years



Tinibu



Atiku



Obi

uninterrupted, and such assertion was based on the arrogance of success and driven by the sheer grip of i n c u m b e n c y b u t unfortunately encumbered with endless policy missteps and massive corruption spiralling into a loss of faith by the people.

Consequences for such gambling are usually not fetched because when incumbency crosses the Rubicon, any novice can wrestle power and coast to victory. These were simply the playbook strategy of the ruling party while still in opposition. A Buhari could never have become the president of Nigeria if he had stuck to his gun as the emperor of Congress for Progressive Change, CPC. Under that party flag, he wept after serial defeat until the opposition regrouped, reset and trounced the PDP mercilessly.

Pre-2015 elections, the PDP was fractured and infiltrated, wounded, and conspiracy was the name of the game as religious, ethnic and regional proclivities wrecked the party's boat – the masterstroke was the fusion of opposition parties driven by a common goal to boot out the incumbent by all means necessary, and the plotters of that trajectory, see all as fair. That was how to be an opposition!

It throws up some learning curves in the coffee book of President Tinubu and on the tortuous sojourn of how an opposition with extremely remote chances can embarrass the incumbent and dominate the political space. If the declaration of President Tinubu about becoming the president of Nigeria as a lifetime ambition was anything to go by, and his eventual success in his

pursuit, then the man must be commended as one of the most resourceful political strategists from the South West, if not for our time.

Since he stormed the political landscape in 1999, he patiently nursed that ambition like a patient vulture waiting for its time, never shifted grounds as opposition but built bridges across and, during some crucial moments, provided shelter for those regarded as outcasts, hence, among his contemporaries, he may be one of the few politicians who never jumped ship irrespective of the political atmosphere or dwindling fortunes – providing a body of knowledge of how to stay focused, maintain grit and be single-eyed to a vision.

The nation was ready for a change of government in the February 2023 presidential election – but the chief opposition had a blurred view of the bigger picture and egos imprisoned reasoning if not what business does an Iyorchia Ayu, the party chairman, had not sacrificed his office for the greater good of the party if stooping down to conquer was anything to go by.

The entire party went on an ego trip to prove what point precisely, losing sight of the prevailing mood that it was time for the incumbent to self-implode because it was in a big mess, a condition precedent for a total shipwreck.

The sitting president was against the candidacy of Asiwaju, the party chairman was not pretentious about it, and the Senate President drafted into the plot for purely ethnic manoeuvring. The CBN governor's naira redesigned policy was merely doing the bidding of his paymaster and, President Buhari destroyed the economy and was worse than where it was before the 2015 elections, so Nigerians were ready to answer the big question for a change but, the PDP, the face of opposition as it were,

came to the rings without its boxing gloves – leaving a newly no-structure Labour Party flagging a Peter Obi with little national relevance as the toast of Nigerians within a few months of the election – what a tragedy for our brand of opposition.

So, when Atiku Abubakar told the leadership of Inter Party Advisory Council, IPAC, yesterday that the opposition should regroup and form a synergy to unseat the incumbent, it came as a call in the right direction because if you cannot defeat a Tinubu outside Aso Rock who fought the tide of his party against him, you may not be able to unseat him as a sitting president with haphazard, egocentric, greed-driven and fractured opposition and after all, the man may court over to himself half of the strategic membership of the opposition before the expiration of four years because when Tinubu was through with Lagos, the opposition went extinct, he knows the game and plays it with uncanny mastery.

Read also: Supreme Court judgement has destroyed fabric of our democracy – LP

So, if the opposition goes into silent mode and hopes to resurface three and half years later to disturb our peace, sadly, democracy will remain fragile. As usual, the opposition is currently nursing the pains of defeat, so committing to giving the incumbent a run for their money by promising to shadow the ruling party activities for the next four years is a mere fallacy because if you have lived long enough in this country, you will understand that after the docility of followership, the porosity of the opposition is another bane of democratic development.

Nigerians want to see virile opposition, know what a shadow cabinet looks like, and

the key actors remaining persistent in the political space for the next three years reasonably interrogating all the policies and projects of the ruling party. The masses crave the opposition to sponsor investigative inquiries into the business of governance and expose any form of infractions, corruption and dislocation of our collective patrimony, and as a matter of duty, must provide credible alternatives to critical national issues with clear roadmaps and solutions – not fair-weather opposition that has been the norm and the nation has suffered untold c a l a m i t i e s . In the next six months, can the present opposition provide the kind of leadership Nigerians hope for? And, it is worth the mention, Your Excellency, the Waziri Adamawa, President Tinubu cannot kill the opposition, but, historically, the opposition self-sedate almost to a coma and hurriedly resurfaced a few months before the next election and hopes for a landslide.

Are the key players in the opposition ready to sacrifice their ambitions if it takes that to unseat the incumbents? Is the opposition willing to ignore personal aggrandizement and party gains to rescue democracy if they feel it is captured or imprisoned by the incumbents? Before APC in this fourth republic, what we have seen as the opposition was a bunch of jokers in a merry-go-round that promptly fused into the whims and caprices of the ruling party, and we hope a repeat is not looming.

It behoves the leadership of the opposition parties to truly approximate the ramifications of political opposition and spare us the charade of resurfacing every four years without pounding the pavement for the desired results.

IMAGES

NIS INDUCTION PASSING OUT PARADE

The Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) 2023 Induction Passing Out Parade, Plateau State Command's took place on Friday at the Parade Ground, Federal Secretariat, Jos



Comptroller, Nigerian Immigration Service, Plateau State Command, Cyril Alaje, PCC, PSC taking salute



NIS Inductees during a slow march at the POP



Cross section of parents and well-wishers at Passing Out Parade



Inductees of Nigerian Immigration Service during their POP watched by Inductors of the Command



Comptroller, Nigerian Immigration Service, Cyril Alaje, PCC, PSC (left) with ASI 2 K.G Zephaniah 2iC P.R.O NIS Plateau State Command



Mr. & MRS. Julius Shinkur, their daughter and other well-wishers in a photograph



Mr. & Mrs. Gimba in a photograph with celebrants and well wishers



Nigerian Immigration Service, one of the Inductors, Daniel Poyi in a photograph with the celebrant, Rita Tanko and relations

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Politics

How far can Labour Party go?

Here are concerns about the future of the Labour Party (LP), judging by its performance in the recent off season elections. Assistant Editor EMMANUEL BADEJO examines the fate of the acclaimed third force, which gained huge followership in the last general election.

THE general election has been won and lost. The year started with the presidential and National Assembly elections that were held on February 25, 2023. Then, the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and a former governor of Lagos State, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, won the election.

Runners-up were former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and former Governor of Anambra State Peter Obi of Labour Party (LP).

Elections to the House of Representatives and the Senate, were held on the same date while state elections were held on March 18. The elected politicians were inaugurated on 29 May 2023.

Almost all the cases taken to the tribunal had been decided. But, the elections will go down in history as the most keenly contested in the country as no less than four major candidates across party lines flexed muscles at the polls.

It was the first time since 2007 that the country had more than two major candidates in a presidential election and the first time since 1983 with four major candidates in a presidential race.

The outcome compared closely with the 1979 presidential election that saw Alhaji Shehu Shagari winning with 34 per cent, Obafemi Awolowo who came close to him with 29 per cent, Nnamdi Azikiwe 16 per cent, Aminu Kano 10.28 per cent and Waziri Ibrahim coming last with 10 per cent gave an almost similar picture.

But one thing has stood out in this year's presidential election; the emergence of a third force with the LP making a surprise inroads in less than ten months to challenge the status quo.

However, the LP failed to re-assert its footing in the various states, as it only ended up having one governor after the March elections that were held in 28 states. The party produced Governor Alex Otti of Abia State.

It is also surprising that the party's showing during 2023 presidential and the NASS elections did not reflect in the last off-season elections held in Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa States.

Even in places where it won during the presidential election, it failed woefully during the governorship election in March.

For instance, the party did well in Lagos, and for the first time since the commencement of the Fourth Republic, it defeated the ruling party, APC, and the leading opposition party, the PDP.

During the last general election, the tradition of a two-horse race for the presidency changed. The contest became a three-horse race among the three political parties – the APC, the LP and the PDP.

Indeed, Peter Obi's entrance into the race changed the game and created the new Third Force in Nigeria's political sphere after he successfully galvanised the support of millions of youths, especially in southern Nigeria after dumping PDP for the LP.

Obi, 61, lost the presidential election. However, he won 11 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The party made impressive outings in Lagos and other former strongholds of the two previously dominant parties.

Though the LP has for some time been one of the parties in the



Nigerian multi-party democracy, albeit as a fringe party initially called Party for Social Democrats (PSD), even though now and then it comes to the fore depending on the interest and whims of political actors, like the case of former Ondo state governor, Olusegun Mimiko, who rode on its back to power and governed on the platform between 2009 and 2017.

However, it assumed a new status when on May 30, 2022, former Anambra State governor and 2019 vice presidential candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) emerged as the party's presidential candidate for the 2023 general elections found the party as a fertile ground to sow on.

Relatively obscure in the political arena before now, LP gained unprecedented popularity with what has been described by many as the Peter Obi phenomenon.

The milestone of LP in the 2023 elections for the red and green chambers is no doubt credited to the fame and acceptance of the flag bearer by an overwhelming youth majority known as 'Obidients'.

In the build-up to the election, the party galvanised huge sections of the Nigerian public, particularly the youths and the working class, who seemed to have been disenchanted with the main political parties, just as it gained inroads with the support of the Christian community across the country.

Notwithstanding the traction it gained, the LP came third. Electorates in Lagos, FCT, Nassarawa, Plateau, and Cross Rivers voted massively for Peter Obi.

From the voting pattern, it was clear that most urban and forward-looking states and constituencies of the country rallied to the clarion call of the party for a New Nigeria, including Lagos, which is the country's centre of commerce, and Abuja, as the seat of the nation, both comprising of Nigerians of all tribes and shades.

In heterogeneous megacities where the party performed spectacularly well, it witnessed non-indigenes riding to power on the wave of the Obi-Datti movement.

The likes of Hajia Irete Kingibe

displacing high-ranking members of the National Assembly, Senator Philip Aduda in the Abuja Senate race, Thaddeus Atta beating Babajide Obanikoro in Lagos and a host of many others defeated structured political parties.

But how far can the party sustain the momentum with Peter Obi in the saddle or assuming the national leadership of the party?

Judging from Obi's antecedent of moving from one party to the other, can the old horse in the LP trust him with the leadership of the party? Days after the Supreme Court's judgment dismissing Obi's appeal, the former banker-turned-politician had hinted at contesting in 2027.

The former Anambra governor said Nigeria deserves dedicated and visionary leaders who will lead the country towards a brighter future. "Nigerians who supported our cause have done so out of patriotism and their sincere conviction that our nation requires and deserves dedicated and visionary leaders who will lead Nigeria toward a brighter future," Obi said.

"The energy and dedication of Nigerian youths and the Obedient movement have been simply amazing.

"I appreciate and salute them! I want to assure them that this is not the end of our journey, but in fact, the beginning. Nigeria heard you.

"The world has taken note and will not forget so easily. We shall endure and persist until we get to our destination because a new Nigeria is our destination. A destination, not an event.

"Going forward, we in the Labour Party and the Obedient movement are now effectively in opposition.

"We are glad that the nation has heard us loud and clear. We shall now expand the confines of our message of hope to the rest of the country.

"We shall meet the people in the places where they feel pain and answer their needs for hope.

"At marketplaces, motor parks, town halls, board rooms, and university and college campuses, we all carry and deliver the message of a new Nigeria. As stakeholders and

elected Labour Party officials, we shall remain loyal to our manifesto.

"We will continue to canvas for good governance and focus on issues that promote national interest, unity, and cohesion.

"We will continue to give primacy to our constitution, the rule of law, and the protection of ordered liberties.

"We will offer the checks and balances required in a functional democracy and vie robustly in forthcoming elections to elect those who share our vision of a new Nigeria.

"Given our present national circumstances, there is a compelling need for a strong political opposition.

"We shall, therefore, remain in opposition, especially because of the policies and the governance modalities that we in the Labour Party campaigned for, especially reducing the cost of governance, moving the nation from consumption to production, reducing inflation, ending insecurity, promoting the rule of law, guaranteeing the responsibility to protect, and stabilizing the Nigerian currency; are not the priorities of the present administration nor is it interested in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

Obi's statement sounds welcoming, but he seems to have forgotten that four years is a very long time in the ever-dynamic politics in Nigeria.

As it stands, there is a possibility for both the governor and some legislators either at the national or state level to defect to another party before the next election cycle.

But some analysts have said Obi's traction soared on ethnicity and religion, adding that a house built on those legs will not stand.

They wonder how the Obedient without grassroots supporters, representatives, and political structure sustain the momentum in the next four years.

Visible cracks are already showing within the hierarchy of the party.

Last month, the media was awash with news of National Assembly leaderships plans to procure 109 Toyota Land Cruisers for senators and 2023 Toyota Prado for 360 members of the House of Representatives.

Reacting, the party's National Chairman, Julius Abure, who condemned the N160m official vehicle being awarded to each of the 360 members of the House of Representatives, urged his party lawmakers to reject the gifts.

Abure said, "We are calling on Labour Party legislators in the 10th Assembly to kick against this unnecessary wastage of resources in line with the ideology of the party which is social justice and equal opportunity for all. Nigerians will hold them responsible if they fail to live above board or give proper account of the electoral investment reposed in them. The poor must be allowed to breathe again in this country.

However, in response to the party chairman's advice, some LP lawmakers expressed their intent to accept the official vehicles, emphasising their importance in carrying out legislative duties.

According to an LP lawmaker, the vehicles were necessary work tools for lawmakers.

The source said state-level politicians receive more benefits

than federal lawmakers, making the official vehicles essential.

"The SUVs are meant to aid our jobs as lawmakers, particularly as it relates to our oversight functions. Yes, he can say that the economy is struggling but having one official vehicle as federal lawmakers isn't frivolous; it's a necessity," he said.

Another LP legislator, who commended President Bola Tinubu for approving the official vehicles, noted that the SUVs would be used to benefit constituents and facilitate visits to constituents in challenging areas.

"National Assembly members should pray for the president and give him three 'Gbosas' for his magnanimity to the lawmakers.

"Nobody in the National Assembly is against the SUV, when the SUV comes, we will collect it and use it to bring more benefits to our constituencies; because in the real sense, it is for the constituents," the lawmaker said.

Also, there have been cases of internal plots and intra-party power struggles, one of the most exceptional cases being the alleged collapsing of the entire LP structure in the Southwest into the APC.

While other factions in the region and the national body went on to denounce and dissociate itself from the group, the party did not make any significant headway in the South West.

The Lamidi Apapa faction of the party has said that Obi should seek another political platform to pursue his presidential ambition ahead of the 2027 polls.

Abayomi Arabambi, the faction's spokesman, in an interview with a national newspaper, urged Obi to look for another political party to actualize his presidential ambition in 2027.

"My advice is for him (Obi) to go and start preparing for 2027. But it has to be in another party, not in LP. We are not going to allow this kind of rascality to continue in 2027. We will look for a fresh candidate as far as we are concerned.

"Obi is free to go back to APGA to run, not the Labour Party. We don't want to continue accommodating a character who believes no other person, other than himself, has anything upstairs. He is not a good manager of human resources. That was why he lost woefully."

Recently, the Rivers State chapter of the party defied an order from the national headquarters to adopt the PDP governorship candidate in the state. The same scenario is playing out in most states in the south without the knowledge of the leadership of the party at the national level – a situation observers believe will affect the party's chances in the March 18 polls.

While it is also not certain that Peter Obi, who has oscillated between APGA, PDP and now the LP would remain with his latest party till the 2027 general election, he is no doubt the new messiah of the downtrodden masses with the Labour Party's Papa, Mama and Picking agenda.

But if the word of the party's Vice Presidential candidate, Datti Baba Ahmed is anything to go by, then 2027 may meet the Labour Party under the firm grip of Peter Obi and Datti Baba Ahmed.

Besides, many believe that Obi is not a party man, especially within the LP where it's often alleged that he continues to show indifference to the internal crisis in the party.

NEWS

CSOs emphasise citizens' participation in budgetary processes

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

THE Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room in collaboration with Initiative For Grass-root Advancement in Nigeria (INGRA) have stressed the need for citizen's participation in budgetary processes at all levels of government.

The group also challenged Kogi State House of Assembly on taking deliberate steps in ensuring increased citizens' participation in budgetary processes.

This, according to the CSO, can be achieved through the organization of public hearing during its constitutionally provided function of annual consideration and approval of the Appropriation Bills from the executive arm.

The CSOs made the call in a communiqué issued at the end of the 1st Bi-Monthly meeting of the State Level Advocacy and Legislative Engagement Forum, which took place recently in Lokoja.

The communiqué, signed by Mr Hamza Aliyu, Executive Director of INGRA, said the meeting was organized with support from the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

The communiqué observed that the state budgeting process has always, majorly been a top-bottom approach, with little or no inputs from citizens. He further said that bills and motions by elected members of the House are mostly without inputs from their constituencies.

"Constituency meetings by elected members of the Kogi State House of Assembly are not consistent and effective in providing the constitutional platform for engagement with citizens.

It further observed that a review of the 2023 state budget showed that there was a heavy sided focus on recurrent expenditure, to the detriment of the needs of citizens

The communiqué held that there was a need for a shift in focus from recurrent to capital spending in the 2024 budgets.

"There is a need to reduce allocation of resources from administration sector to social sector to ensure better standard of living for citizens of Kogi State.

"Executive and the legislature must ensure increased resources to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Housing, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (M W A S D), Youth Commission, and Disability Board in the 2024 budget appropriation", the communiqué urged.

It also enjoined stakeholders to, with urgency, engage the relevant House Assembly committees with a view to addressing the optimal operationalization (implementation) of the



Hamza

Child Rights Law in the state.

Other laws demanding urgent operationalization, according to the communiqué, include: Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law, Youth Commission Law, Elderly Person and the Aged Law, as a result of certain limitations in these laws and their enforcement.

The communiqué also urged the Kogi State House of Assembly, to as a matter of

urgency, appropriate sufficient resources to the Ministry of Agriculture to address issues of food security in the 2024 budget.

It further urged the government to prioritize the capacity building of leaders and make it a core criterion before appointment at all levels - Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) for functionality and effectiveness.

From Musliudeen
Adebayo, Ibadan

A human rights advocacy group, Save the Poor and Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) has described the removal of the Chief Judge of Osun State, Justice Oyebola Adepele Ojo by Governor Ademola Adeleke as illegal and unconstitutional.

SPANCI described the removal of the CJ as unlawful, and an executive and legislative conspiracy that is not good for democracy, rule of law, separation of powers of the three arms of government.

Adeleke had for a few days announced the removal of Ojo as CJ of the state.

SPANCI while reacting, noted that the removal of the CJ is an act of executive and legislative recklessness, conspiracy, unlawfulness, illegality which is unconstitutional.

SPANCI President, Comrade Yemi Ezekiel Bello, in a statement made available to journalists recently said that the governor's decision is not good for our democracy and rule of law.

Bello, while speaking, maintained that the decision of the governor is tantamount to servitude of judiciary and judicial officers to the executive and legislative arms of government if not checked.

Bello, while speaking further, advised the governor not to play politics with everything.

Removal of Osun CJ unconstitutional, illegal- SPANCI



Adeleke

He then demanded the immediate reversal of the removal of the CJ.

"Osun CJ, Justice Oyebola's removal is unconstitutional, unlawful, illegal, executive and legislative conspiracy not good for democracy, rule of law, separation of powers of the three arms of government and citizens human rights defense. "We in Save the Poor and Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI), are against the unconstitutional removal of Justice Oyebola Adepele Ojo by His Excellency, Ademola Adeleke, the Executive Governor of Osun State.

"We state clearly that such an act is an act of executive and legislative recklessness, conspiracy, unlawfulness,

illegality and unconstitutionality which is not good for our democracy, rule of law and separation of powers of the three arms of government known as executive, legislative and judiciary.

This act if not checked is tantamount to servitude of judiciary and judicial officers to the executive and legislative arms of government and cage the independence of the judiciary which is not good for our democracy and rule of law.

"Our constitution clearly gave conditions for the removal by the president of the CJN and by governor of a state CJ and others in section 157 and 292 where it mentioned an ADDRESS by the SENATE which is supported by two-thirds of the Senate. And also in a state by governor by such an ADDRESS supported by a two third of the state House of Assembly on a condition which includes misconduct, breach of code of conduct, retirement age, inability to discharge the function of his office which must include infirmity of mind, body or any other cause.

"Now section 158 (1) of the constitution vests the power to discipline a judge or judicial officer in the National Judicial Council as the only judicial body that can write the ADDRESS mentioned in section 157 and 292 which must enjoy the support of the two-thirds majority of the Senate or State House of Assembly.

On this ground The president or any state governor can not without the recommendation of the National Judicial Council remove any CJN or CJ of the state. Moreover, there is an order of the court of competence stopping such removal.

"If this illegality is allowed to stay, then the executive and legislative arm of government can conspire against the citizens and their human rights without obeying the court to suit their personal interest. Our courts and her orders will be useless and our democracy will be doomed as our legal and judicial system become a slave to both the executive and legislative arm of government.

"We should not play politics with everything. This is worse than ex Oyo Governor, Rasheed Adewolu Ladoja scenario. "We hereby demand immediate reversal of such unlawful, illegal and unconstitutional removal in obedience to our constitution and protection of rule of law which is good for a pure democratic nation".

World Toilet Day: New hygienic toilets excite community

Willie Attah, Gombe

THE use of a cheap, affordable, easy to install and hygienic toilet system has been embraced with excitement by the people of Baking-dai Community in Kafin-Kuka ward of Katagum Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

This is coming just as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) calls for a more concerted effort towards eliminating open defecation in communities.

The call was made by Dr. Clement Adams, Officer-in-Charge/Chief of Field Office, UNICEF Nigeria, Bauchi Field Office, during a media dialogue on World Toilet Day 2023, held at Jamil Hotel, Azare, Katagum Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Katagum Local Government Area is the latest among the 105 certified Open Defecation Free (ODF) LGAs out of the 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria.

Some residents of Baking-dai Community, in an interactive session with newsmen and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) stakeholders in the Local Council, expressed happiness on how the new technology has brought relief to them from contacting diseases associated with dirty environment such as cholera, typhoid and the likes.

In an interview with journalists, Shamsudeen Suleiman, said his household has been using the new technology which he replaced with the old dirty and unhygienic pit latrine for the past five months.

According to him, it has proven to be financially cost effective, created a clean environment for us and improved our health and hygiene.

He said, "When the WASH people came to our community over five months ago, we were

really convinced and impressed with their explanation of how to improve the health and hygiene of our environment and that is what moved us to embrace it.

"We mobilized ourselves in different groups and started working towards achieving this clean and hygienic environment in our houses and public places such as Mosques, schools, markets among others by providing disinfectants, soaps and water for these places. I bought three of the Sato pans for my household and we all have been enjoying it", he stated.

One of the installers of the new Sato toilet pans, Malam Ado Bala, told our correspondent that the local WASH committee of the area and that of the LGA played a significant role in the success story of installing the Sato pans in many of the houses.

He said, "It is affordable to virtually everyone in the community as it costs just about N3,500 and not more than N1,500 to install it in a particular toilet. I have installed no fewer than 50 in this community", he stated.

Some users of the new technology bared their minds to our correspondent. Halima Mohammed, 45 year old woman and Umar Mohammed, 18 year old expressed how user friendly and hygienic it has been for all ages including children and women who are susceptible to contracting vaginal infections from the old pit latrines.

However, during the media dialogue to mark the World Toilet Day 2023 celebration with the theme, "Accelerating Change, Taking Simple Actions to Bring About Change", the UNICEF Chief of Field Office, Bauchi, said poor toilet hygiene practices has remained the common causes of diseases in most communities.

He said 48 million Nigerians still practice open defecation



Mohammed

and called on stakeholders in the WASH sector to redouble efforts to ensure that open defecation is eliminated in Nigerian communities.

He said, World Toilet Day is celebrated every year to bring attention to the undeniable importance of safe and hygienic toilets in our daily lives, especially in terms of health, education and socioeconomic development.

According to him, "The access to safe and clean toilets prevents the spread of diseases. The access to safe toilets means children, especially girls, and women are protected from the risks of attacks and abuse if they have to go into bushes to defecate. Access to basic WASH services is integral to school enrolment, attendance, retention and completion".

In his address, the Bauchi State Commissioner for Water

Resources, Alhaji Nuhu Zaki, expressed the State Government's determination to work for the actualization of SDG 6.2 target of attainment of state wide ODF by 2025.

According to him, "5,934 communities were delivered ODF while two other LGAs were at different levels of becoming ODF, that is Bauchi and Zaki LGA's.

"These TBOS were handed and linked to micro-finance institutions where they accessed funds for improved latrine construction on a revolving basis and for business expansion by the TBOS.

"The issuance of revolving loans to households by MFIs FastTrack improved latrine uptake. Construction and usage of improved latrines is a dignity, pride, disease prevention, economy, prevention of water pollution to all. I therefore urge all to use improved latrine for fecal management", the commissioner said.

News

Gunmen kill pastor, abduct wife

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

UNKNOWN gunmen have killed Rev Mako Maraya, the Pastor of ECWA Ministry Damakasuwa DCC in Tsam Chiefdom of Kauru Local Government Area (LGA) in Kaduna State, and abducted his wife.

He was gruesomely killed in the early hours of Saturday, November 18, 2023, when they invaded the Rectory of the Church where Rev. Maraya was pastoring and gunned him down around 1am and made away with his wife.

The gunmen had demanded ransom of three million Naira to set the cleric free according to the National Publicity Secretary of the Chawai Development Association (CDA), Comrade Raphael Joshua, on behalf of the CDA National President, Abel Habila Adamu.

A statement issued by the association described the inhumane act as one among many calculated acts of religious war against their land and people.

"It is saddening to say that our land is besieged by



Maraya

religious jihadists and those saddled with the constitutional responsibility of securing our land, protecting the lives and property of our people are seen compromising the security situation of our land.

"Sadly enough, this attack was undoubtedly carried out at

the proximity of the Damakasuwa Police Divisional office where a police checkpoint is being situated, yet this attack went on unstoppped until the mission was fully accomplished, then the security men now surfaced at the scene.

NYSC boss tasks corpers on unity

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

NATIONAL Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in the country have been advised to utilise the opportunity of their three weeks orientation course to foster national

unity and integration among themselves irrespective of tribal or religious differences.

The Director General of the corps, Bri, Gen. Y, D, Ahmed gave the advice recently in a message to the 2023 Batch "c" stream one corps

members undergoing orientation in Kaduna.

A statement from the NYSC headquarters in Abuja quoted the NYSC boss as urging the corps to accept their deployment in the state in good faith, make friends during and after the orientation course and also respect the diverse cultures of the residents of the state.

Gen. Ahmed warned them against night traveling while also appealing to them to be security conscious at all times. Meanwhile, the President, Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL), Prof. Sola Akinrinade has raised concern over the decline in the quality of entrants into the Nigerian university system. He however, argued that contrary to popular belief that the decline in quality was as a result of lowered prescribed educational standard, he said the standard at the basic and senior secondary levels have increased. He said that the root of the problem lies in the implementation of these standards which have become suspect over the years.



Ahmed

Senate vows to make compulsory electronic transmission results

The Senate has vowed to make it compulsory for the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC), to transmit election results electronically. The Senate Committee on Electoral Matters said it is working towards this improvement. Chairman of the Committee, Senator Sharafadeen Alli, told

Channels TV on Tuesday that the current law does not mandate the electoral umpire to transmit results online. However, he assured that there will soon be a law which will come through the amendment of the existing law.

He said, "That is one of the things that we are going to do. Under the current law, it is not mandatory for INEC

to upload results, that is what the court has said.

"But as we are going forward, it is going to be mandatory.

"We are looking at the development of technology, improvement of technology because a lot of Nigerians were disappointed when the use of the IReV didn't work, but going forward, we will try to ensure INEC does something about that."



Restructuring health care delivery

Do the Eagles have a manager?

By PAUL JATAU

NIGERIA has a fanatical football followership. Football is like a religion. Most Nigerians support teams from far and near, especially teams in the English Premier League. They know all the players, they follow every game and are very vociferous when they watch their teams play. Sometimes when such supporters discuss their teams you marvel at the level of knowledge they churn out about these teams. But the same cannot be said of teams in the Nigerian league. Our organization is so terrible that we do not have a specific time when our league begins or ends.

South Africa that had scant interest in football until the late eighties has a better organized league. And, because they are adept at what they do in South Africa, players from Nigeria go there to ply their trade making the league at home look like child's play. Just like in every aspect of life, South Africa has overtaken Nigeria and we are struggling to catch up with a country that hitherto saw us as their big brother. Because we are so unorganized, we have not been able to provide players for our various national teams and that explains the regression that has been the lot of the national team.

Once upon a time Nigeria was feared when it came to playing the round leather game. Our league used to be graced by players from Ghana and other countries because of the level of discipline and organization that used to be present in our league then. Nigeria used to be the haven of professional football where so many players thronged to, to ply their trade.

From the early seventies, Nigeria showed so much promise and even engaged the services of some of the best coaches in the world. We remember the Otto Gloria period, when Nigeria was the cynosure of the world in African football. Through time, Nigeria's football gained momentum and the world came to appreciate the level of passion that existed in the country thus predicting that Nigeria has the potential of becoming a football power house.

Indeed, the Westerhof period brought Nigeria's football to its zenith when for the first time the Green Eagles went to the world cup (USA 94) and put their imprint on the game of football. That is apart from the Darman miracle in Saudi Arabia 89, when Nigeria

came from four goals down to turn things around. Indeed, the 1996 Atlanta Olympics further announced and established Nigeria's presence in world football where Nigeria beat Brazil and Argentina on the way to winning the gold medal.

Unfortunately, years after announcing its presence at various FIFA organized tournaments, things have continued to fall apart for Nigerian football. Just like other aspects of our national life, we have not been able to harness and sustain the talents that abound in our country. We have some of the best and most skillful players in the world yet nothing positive seems to be happening in our national teams. Football has become an avenue for the pilfering of our national wealth. Administrator who knows next to nothing about the game are allowed to destroy it because of pecuniary gains. They carry large contingents to FIFA organized tournaments just to make money. They pay scant regards to players welfare allowing these players to change

nationalities and play for other countries denying Nigeria of the services of these artists.

It is such attitude that has brought us to this sad path and we are on the way to missing out on two consecutive World Cup because of the employment of a low-grade coach. We were made to understand that Peisero was employed based on the recommendation of Jose Mourinho his country man. Peisero was not interviewed to determine his suitability alongside other candidates but because he came highly recommended. Even Gernot Rohr who was sacked by the NFF had better credentials than the present manager. We have lost to teams that we have never lost to in the past and are struggling to maintain our clean records.

It is laughable the excuse given by Peisero on the draws secure against Lesotho and Zimbabwe in the world cup qualifying games when he said, "It was a tough trip from Nigeria to this place. The flight, the bus. It's a lot of work, and the players didn't have enough rest, coupled with injuries, but that's not an excuse. We had more energy and could have won that match."

“Unfortunately, years after announcing its presence at various FIFA organized tournaments, things have continued to fall apart for Nigerian football. Just like other aspects of our national life, we have not been able to harness and sustain the talents that abound in our country. We have some of the best and most skillful players in the world yet nothing positive seems to be happening in our national teams. Football has become an avenue for the pilfering of our national wealth. Administrator who knows next to nothing about the game are allowed to destroy it because of pecuniary gains. They carry large contingents to FIFA organized tournaments just to make money. They pay scant regards to players welfare allowing these players to change nationalities and play for other countries denying Nigeria of the services of these artists”.

Fortunately, Iwobi did not share his manager's views when he said, "Travel is not an excuse, we're professional enough and we have a lot of quality in the side. The first half wasn't good enough, but the second half was better, so we have to look at that and analyse the game and see what went wrong and what we can do to improve. I'll just ask the Nigerian fans to stick by us," the former Everton man told Soccernet.ng. For Iwobi, it is a disappointment to not come away with all three points and wants to fight for Nigeria's spot at the next FIFA World Cup.

We therefore need to stop cutting corners and do that which is right. We cannot employ mediocre coach and expect to make any headway. Nigeria deserves a world class coach and nothing less. If we are to change this unfortunate stride, we must put the right pegs in the right holes. Our organization must be made to work. People who have no business in football management should not come near the Glass House in Abuja.

News

International Children's Day: Students to plant 1,000 trees

By WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

500 students of Government Day Junior Secondary School in Yana, Shira Local Government Area of Bauchi State are set to begin the planting and nurturing to maturity of two tree seedlings each.

The nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had in 2019 supported the school to include climate change in the academic curriculum of the school which saw the students establishing a school garden that already has different kinds of trees to curb desertification and preserve the environment.

UNICEF had also supported the initiative by constructing a solar powered borehole to enable the students to continuously water the garden.

Some of the students who spoke to journalists during an activity organized by UNICEF to mark the International Children's Day that is celebrated every 17th of November, Umar Magaji, a JSS3 student of the school said they have learnt a lot concerning preservation of the environment.

He said they were taken through theory and practical aspects of preserving the environment, especially planting and nurturing trees both in school, at home and within the community.

Apart from nurturing the tree garden in the school which has cashew, guava and other types of trees, Umar said he was able to



Inuwa

pass the knowledge to his brothers at home.

Maryam Yusuf, another student in JSS 2, spoke on benefits derived from planting trees within the environment and the need to continuously plant trees.

Earlier, two of the teachers, Auwal Maisalati and Baba Umar had told newsmen that UNICEF support towards inculcating climate change knowledge to children at an early age came to the school in 2019.

They said UNICEF had earlier trained them to prepare them on how to inculcate not only the knowledge but the attitude of preserving the environment.

"We had to mobilize our students to control a part of the community that was threatened by erosion when we noticed the danger.

"We are already set to give two seedlings to each of the 500 students in the school to plant this year and continue to nurture them", Baba Umar disclosed to newsmen.

To round up the activities, the Bauchi Field Office of UNICEF in conjunction with the Bauchi State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) organized a quiz competition on climate change for three secondary schools at Oricon Suites, Azare, Katagum LGA.

The schools that participated in the quiz competition were Government Day Junior Secondary School, Yana, Shira LGA; Government Junior Secondary School, Katagum LGA and Government Junior Secondary School, Anguwan Hadejia, Shira LGA.

From John FWAH KADUNA

THE maiden workshop on security, organized by the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Kaduna State Council, commenced on Thursday with the first batch of members.

It is expected that about 500 members across chapels of the state council stand to benefit from the training.

The NUJ Kaduna Chairman, Asmau Yawo Halilu, said the essence of training is the need to change the angles of our headlines and general news reportage especially on security issues. "Sometimes in our reportage, you find out some headlines are indirectly promoting, banditry activities, a few of us seem to report on the side of the bandits, though we know that we are trying to tell the government or the major stakeholders about the happenings in certain areas.

According to her, about 500 members are expected to benefit from the training. "And we are going to train all of the them. That's why we are in consultations with management of all media organizations, whether home based or correspondents, we're reaching out to them to ensure that they release these staff (journalists) for us, so that they get trained".

She however pointed out that the training is not due to the lack of

NUJ trains 500 journalists on security reporting - Chairman



Asmau

knowing how to write " but to improve on our skills of professional journalism, where we tell more on the military activities than the bandits' activities. They are doing well, alot of them lose their lives. While we go home to sleep with our eyes closed; they don't sleep, some of them don't even see their families. So, the essence is to change the angles of our stories" she stressed.

According to her, "The training on security will be in batches. This is the first with 45 members and another will hold next week with another set of 45 participants. By God's grace, there will be two more batches which will hopefully hold in January and March respectively."

Delivering a paper titled, "Insecurity and Responsible Journalism", during the maiden workshop at the NUJ Secretariat recently, the facilitator, Col. Abdulkadir Zubairu Ahmed (rtd), said, in casting headline, "there are two faces to a coin".

This is just as the security expert further explained that every news headline has the capacity to cause stability or instability in the country.

Retired Col. Ahmed also said: "If we see ourselves as part of the corporate entity of the country, we should be able to promote national security, unity and development irrespective of the media organisation we represent.

"You should be able to coin your story in a way that would not cause chaos or glorify the activities of criminal elements at the expense of the nation's unity, development and progress.

"Any time you are

writing a conflict story, it should be able to terminate the conflict and promote how to cushion the effect of the conflict on the victims that lost their lives.

"When we talk about national security, we are talking about what concerns the nation. We talk about norms and culture and how to achieve them for economic development and peaceful coexistence. There must be national resources to meet these norms and culture. If norms and culture are not achieved, that is where we have what is called insecurity, the whole country will be completely unsecured through some vices and illicit activities such as banditry, kidnapping, incessant killings, and so many things will come up to cause insecurity.

"In corporate journalism, you have to promote the country as your own corporate entity. The general public would want to hear about how to use Kaduna/Zaria road peacefully to conduct their businesses. Why not simply report that the military were able to clear the bandits on Kaduna/Zaria road, though lives were lost, the road is now safe for use. This is how to promote true journalism. This is corporate journalism".

He further said, "For example, if bandits block Kaduna/Zaria road and the military went there and brought it under control, and probably in the cause of action 10 soldiers were killed, and bandits were also killed. Will you go and report that though the Zaria road was cleared, but 50 soldiers were killed. And begin to add, what kind of soldiers do we have? That is not journalism. That is not corporate journalism."

Ahmed therefore urged journalists to use their pen to promote stability and bring about economic development of the nation.

NiMet Alerts On Approaching Dust Haze

By DORCAS PANKYES

THE Nigerian Meteorological Agency, (NiMet), has alerted the public on the possibility of approaching thick dust haze that can lead to deterioration of horizontal visibility within the next 24 hours.

According to a release from the agency recently, made available to newsmen in Abuja, "The Inter-Tropical Discontinuity, ITD (currently at about 9.60N Lat) is expected to retreat slightly Southwards in the next 24hrs. Winds over 10m and 925hPa (700m) are favourable for Dust-Haze propagations into the Northern parts of the country.

"Stations in the source region (Sahara Desert) from Chad (Faya-Largeau, Bol-Berim, Mongo, Abeche and Ndjamena) and

sources from Niger, that share border with Northern Nigeria (Diffa, Mainesoroa, Goure, Bila, Maradi, Zinder and Birni-n-Konni), have been reporting Dust-Haze in poor horizontal visibility between 300m and 5000m in the last 24hrs," the alert reads.

Explaining further, the statement revealed that due to strong winds, the dust in suspension is expected to propagate to some states in the northern part of the country.

This is expected to further deteriorate horizontal visibility over the Northern parts of the country, especially over Katsina, Kano, Nguru, Jigawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Potiskum and Maiduguri in the next 24 hours.

NiMet therefore advised members of the public to take necessary precautions due to dust particles presently in suspension

over the atmosphere.

People with Asthma and other respiratory issues should be cautious of the present weather situations.

Airline operators are advised to get updated

weather reports from NiMet for effective planning in their operations. It also added that NiMet will continue to monitor the weather and provide updates when necessary.



Matazu

Foreign Commentary

Biden facing internal dissent over Israel's Gaza campaign

The thousands of civilian casualties and desperate humanitarian conditions have alarmed Arab allies, but also stirred an extraordinary level of criticism from within his own administration. Barbara Plett Usher writes.

"I'm stunned by the intensity," said Aaron David Miller, who worked as an adviser on Arab-Israeli relations during a 25 year tenure at the US State Department.

"I've never seen anything quite like this."

Several internal memos have been sent to Secretary of State Antony Blinken through a channel, established after the Vietnam war, which allows employees to register disapproval of policy.

An open letter is also said to be circulating at the Agency for International Development (USAID). Another has been dispatched to the White House by political appointees and staff members representing dozens of government agencies. Another to members of Congress by staffers on Capitol Hill.

Much of this dissent is private, and the signatures are often anonymous out of concerns the protest might affect jobs, so the full scale of it is not clear. But according to leaks cited by multiple reports, hundreds of people have signed on to the wave of opposition.

An administration official has told the BBC that these concerns are very real and there are active discussions about them.

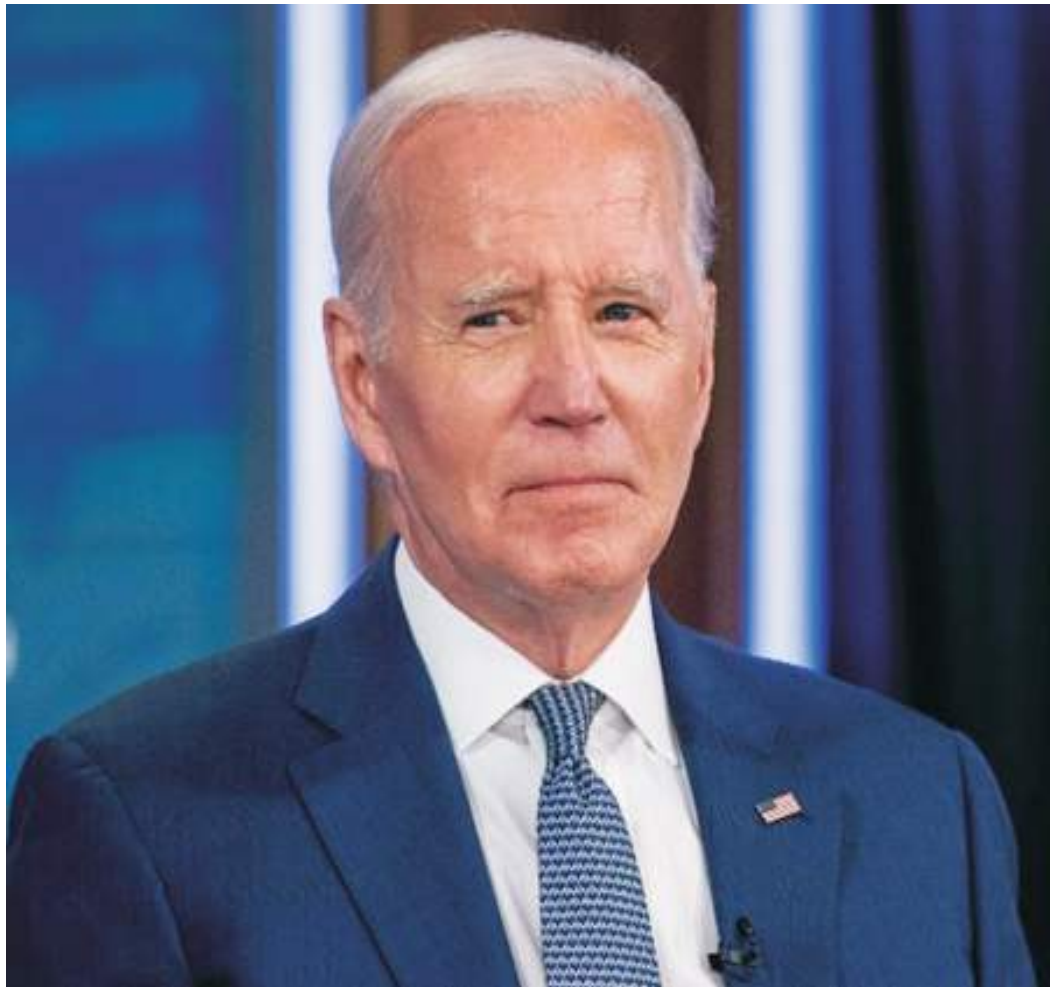
At a minimum, the letters are asking that President Biden demand an immediate ceasefire, and push Israel much harder to allow for more humanitarian aid to enter Gaza.

In some cases, the language is stronger, echoing the rhetoric of young political activists and apparently reflecting to some degree a generational divide that is more critical of Israel and sympathetic to Palestinians.

The letters condemn the atrocities carried out by Hamas during its surprise 7 October attack that killed around 1,200 people, mostly Israeli civilians.

More than 12,000 have been killed in Gaza by Israel since that attack, according to the latest figure from the territory's Hamas-run health ministry. Israel has said it is trying to minimise civilian casualties in the war in Gaza but has not been successful, blaming this on Hamas.

The high number of Palestinian deaths is a "font of the dismay" in the administration, according to



Biden

Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley, a former US diplomat who is now president of the Middle East Policy Council.

The administration's support for the Israeli military operation appears for many "far too much of a one-sided position for the US government", she said.

Ms Abercrombie-Winstanley signed dissent cables during her career and has been consulted by current employees about whether they should do so now. These memos feel like they have a "broader reach" than others, she said, drawing in people who are not necessarily working on the specific issue at hand.

Ms Abercrombie-Winstanley believes the chorus of dismay has contributed to significant shifts in US language and approach, since the days immediately after the Hamas attack when President Biden pledged unwavering support for Israel in an emotional address.

Propelled by the destruction in Gaza and growing anger in the Arab world, the administration's rhetoric on protecting civilians has become more insistent. "Far too many Palestinians have been killed" in Gaza, Mr Blinken said recently.

Media caption, Watch: Joe Biden has a reply for all your jokes about his age

He and other senior officials are now treating humanitarian assistance as not only a moral imperative, but a strategic one too.

This is something Mr Blinken highlights when meeting frustrated employees in listening sessions, according to State Department Spokesman Matthew Miller. He makes clear that "it is the United States of America, not any other country, that was able to secure an agreement to get humanitarian assistance into Gaza" and "to get humanitarian pauses".

The secretary of state is aware of the disquiet simmering in his building and has made a point of addressing it.

"We're listening," he wrote after returning from his recent trip to the Middle East, in an email obtained by the BBC. "What you share is informing our policy and our messages."

But it has not changed core policy approaches, nor appeared to have had significant influence on Israel's military campaign.

Media caption, Israel "not successful" at minimising casualties but Hamas to blame - Netanyahu

The Biden administration has become more open about airing its growing divergences with Israel. Mr Blinken has deliberately set out principles of Palestinian governance and statehood for the "day after" in Gaza, that Israel's right-wing government rejects.

The president is frequently on the phone to the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and senior officials keep up a steady drumbeat of visits to the region, pressing Israel to follow the laws of war.

But there's no suggestion the Biden administration is considering using its main leverage, putting conditions on its massive military assistance to Israel, which was ramped up even further after the Hamas attack.

And Biden signalled this week that the US had not given Israel a deadline for its military campaign to end.

It will end when Hamas "no longer maintains the capacity to murder, abuse and just do horrific things" to Israel, the president said.

The bottom line is that the US and Israel have the same goal, according to Mr Miller, the former adviser at the State Department. Both want to destroy Hamas's capacity as a military organisation so it can never mount a 7 October-

style attack again.

With that aim in mind, he said, a full ceasefire that ends hostilities in pursuit of peace does not make operational or political sense.

It only delays war, Mr Miller said, "because you're not going to get a negotiated ending to this... The tactics may differ, but the objective remains the same".

So what exactly would force President Biden to change course?

Most likely not his internal opposition. For all its ferment, the dissent in the administration is not yet a revolt. Only one State Department official has publicly resigned.

Mr Miller suggests it would more likely take an external event, such as the unconditional release of all the hostages held by Hamas, or a single Israeli operation that results in mass Palestinian casualties, although the bar has been set quite high.

There are also political risks for Mr Biden. His solidarity with Israel is shared by Republicans and centrist Democrats, but concerns within the younger and more left-wing elements of the Democratic Party are growing.

His former election campaign staffers have sent their own letter to the president calling for a ceasefire.

Gwen Schroeder, who worked on Mr Biden's digital team during the 2020 election, was one of the signatories.

She said Israel's "disproportionate response" in Gaza showed that Palestinian lives "mean less than those of our Israeli allies".

"I'm not ashamed of getting Biden elected," she said, but added: "I grapple with this every day, you know, is this the administration that I fought so hard for?"

It is too early to say how these sentiments might affect Mr Biden's bid for re-election next year, but it does underline the tightrope that he is walking.

He has been telling Israeli leaders that the way they fight this war will determine what is possible after it ends. How much he is able to influence that is important, because he will be linked with whatever the outcome.

Foreign News

Hamas 'approaching Gaza truce agreement' with Israel, Haniyeh

HAMAS officials are "approaching a truce agreement" with Israel after weeks of the war in the Gaza Strip, according to Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the Palestinian group that rules the besieged enclave.

The group delivered its response to Qatari mediators in the ongoing talks, Haniyeh said in a statement to Reuters news agency on Tuesday morning.

The statement gave no more details, but a Hamas official told Al Jazeera that negotiations were centred on how long the ceasefire would last, arrangements for delivery of aid into Gaza and the exchange of Israeli captives held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

Both sides will free women and children and details will be announced by Qatar, which is mediating in the negotiations, said Ezzat el-Reshiq.

The agreement will include a ceasefire, arrangements for aid trucks to supply all areas in Gaza, and transfer of the injured to other countries for treatment, according to el-Reshiq.

He said the talks between the warring sides have been going on for weeks, adding that the Israeli side was stalling the agreement.

The Hamas official said the deal was agreed upon by all the brigades in Gaza through phone calls, "as we are always united whether it is on the battlefield or in making political decisions".

Separately, in remarks quoted by Israel's Walla news website, Hamas senior official Yahya Sinwar said the agreement would prohibit the activity of Israeli aircraft in Gaza during the truce.

Can the US President pressure Israel to bring about a ceasefire in Gaza?

Talk of an imminent deal on captives has been circulating for days as Qatari mediators sought the agreement for Hamas and Israel to exchange captives for prisoners in return for a temporary ceasefire that would boost emergency aid shipments to Gaza civilians.

Last week, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling for "urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip" to allow for aid delivery and medical evacuations after four failed attempts to respond to the Israel-Hamas war.

The resolution, introduced by Malta on Wednesday, also called for "corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days" to safeguard civilians, particularly children, Ambassador Vanessa Frazier told the Council.

The UN chief, Antonio Guterres, said on Monday that the world was witnessing an "unparalleled and unprecedented" level of civilian death in Gaza compared with any other conflict since he became the



Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh talks after meeting with Lebanese Parliament Speaker

international organisation's secretary-general in 2017.

"What is clear is that we have had in a few weeks thousands of children killed, so this is what matters," Guterres said in New York while presenting a new UN environmental report.

At least 13,000 Palestinians – about 5,600 of them children and 3,500 women – have been killed in Gaza since Israel launched its air and ground assault on Gaza after the

October 7 attacks by Hamas targeting Israel, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza.

Hamas and allied groups took about 240 captives during their incursion into southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people, according to Israeli authorities.

'Unparalleled & unprecedented': UN Secretary General condemns civilian deaths.

Trump gag order appeal, faces sceptical reception in court

UNITED States appeals court judges have signalled scepticism towards Donald Trump's bid to overturn a gag order imposed on the former president in a federal criminal case in which he is accused of illegally trying to overturn his 2020 election defeat.

It forbids Trump from publicly maligning any prosecutors, potential witnesses or court employees involved in the case.

Trump lawyer D John Sauer argued on Monday that the order violates the US Constitution's First Amendment right to freedom of speech while judges on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia asked whether Trump's charged rhetoric would threaten the integrity of his upcoming trial.

"I don't hear you giving any weight at all to the interests in a fair trial," Judge Cornelia Pillard told Sauer.

Pillard is one of three judges who heard Trump's appeal of the

gag order imposed by US District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan, who is overseeing the case.

Chutkan ruled that public statements by Trump or his lawyers criticising prosecutors, court staff and potential witnesses could influence witnesses and lead to threats against people involved in the case.

But Chutkan permitted Trump to "criticize the Justice Department, President Biden and herself. She also allowed him to maintain that the prosecution itself was a partisan retaliation against him," The New York Times reported.

"The order is unprecedented, and it sets a terrible precedent on future restrictions on core political speech," Sauer said during the two-hour hearing.

Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic President Joe Biden in the 2024 election, has assailed officials involved in a range of criminal and civil cases

Chadian opposition leader urges reconciliation

CHADIAN opposition leader Succès Masra has met with Transitional President Mahamat Deby as part of the national reconciliation programme initiated by the military-led government.

They held talks on Monday at the presidency alongside an envoy of Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi, who facilitated an agreement between both parties last month in Kinshasa.

"It was the first meeting which will be followed by others to enable us respect the agreement," Mr Masra told the BBC, adding that more proposals will be submitted to "make the transition acceptable to everyone, to land softly with

elections where each and every one can present their societal projects to Chadians".

His meeting with the military leader came barely a day after he urged his supporters at a grand rally to embrace reconciliation with the transitional government, and not seek revenge over the violent repression of protests in October 2022.

"We are people who intend to bring the country to a better destination for all Chadians, and in order to achieve that we must distinguish between justice and revenge," Mr Masra said in an interview with the BBC.

The leader of the Transformers party also expressed his desire for Chad

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has made a surprise visit to Kyiv where he unveiled a new military aid package for Ukraine worth \$100m.

Austin, on his first trip to Kyiv since April 2022, met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as well as Defence Minister Rustem Umerov and Commander-in-Chief General Valerii Zaluzhnyi on Monday and promised the long-term support of the United States.

"The message that I bring you today, Mr President, is that the United States of America is with you. We will remain with you for the long haul," Austin told Zelenskyy.

Austin said Ukraine's effort to defeat Russian forces "matters to the rest of the world" and that US support would continue "for the long haul".

The new aid package includes anti-tank weapons, air-defence interceptors and an additional High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

Zelenskyy told Austin that his visit was "a very important signal" for Ukraine.

"We count on your support," the Ukrainian president said.

Since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the US has provided more than \$44bn – and allies an additional \$35bn

US defence chief visits Kyiv, announces aid package



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin shake hands

– in security support that ranges from millions of bullets to air defence systems, advanced European and US battle tanks and, finally, pledges for F-16 fighter jets.

But there are concerns that allied support is flagging amid the devastating Israel-Gaza

war and a perceived lack of progress in a Ukrainian counteroffensive that began in June.

Fighting has been bogged down in the east of the country around ruined towns such as Bakhmut and Avdiidka, although Ukraine has recently reported some success in the southern Kherson region, where it has established a foothold on the east bank of the Dnipro River, and in the Black Sea.

However, as the cold weather sets in, it will become more difficult for either side to make large gains due to ground conditions.

"I think they are prepared for combat in the winter," Austin told reporters after his meetings, adding that the expectation was that Russia would be "even more aggressive".

Last year, Moscow relentlessly attacked Ukraine's energy infrastructure and the power grid leaving millions of Ukrainians in the cold and dark at a time when temperatures are often below zero.

Fred Kagan, a senior resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, said it would be a mistake to think there is time to wait.

"If we stop providing aid to Ukraine, it's not that the stalemate continues. The aid is actually essential to preventing the Russians from beginning to manoeuvre again in ways that can allow them to defeat Ukraine," Kagan told the Associated Press news agency. "So the cost of cutting off aid is that Russia wins and Ukraine loses and NATO loses."

Austin's visit comes amid increasing division over aid for Ukraine in the US Congress.

Some lawmakers want to make support for Israel a priority even though US defence officials stress that Washington can support both allies simultaneously, while a small, but vocal, group of Republicans oppose sending more aid to Ukraine, saying that taxpayers' money should be spent at home.



Trump

he faces. He has called US Special Counsel Jack Smith, who brought the federal election-related charges, a "deranged lunatic" and a "thug".

Trump's remarks about prosecutors and witnesses have pit his right to freedom of speech against the need for a fair trial next year.

The gag order has been suspended during Trump's appeal. Trump has pleaded not guilty in the case as well as all three other criminal cases.

The judges asked Department of Justice lawyer Cecil VanDevender whether the order was written too broadly.

"We have to use a careful scalpel here," said Judge Patricia Millett, a Democratic judicial appointee like the other two on the panel.

VanDevender said the order still allows Trump to make broad arguments about the integrity of the case.

"He can say, 'This is a politically motivated prosecution brought by my political opponent,' 'The Department of Justice is corrupt,' and 'I will be vindicated at trial,' – all of that stuff," VanDevender said.

The judges did not indicate when they will rule.

Former US President Donald Trump appears in court for fraud trial.

Feature

Allowing political, economic issues ruin growth

Is Nigeria ready to erase poor Economy? The growth of the country should be the number one priority and major concern of our leaders. The legacy and the foundation laid down in our country is really bad. We are in a country where politics has become a something that is more cherished than the growth of the citizens. SALOME JIYA writes.

WE live on politics and one of my major concern is that why must we use political issues ruin our growth? I mean things should be done according to the agenda of what has been drafted down concerning the growth of the country.

Our leaders should learn "prudential simpatico". The cost of things in Nigeria is not encouraging at all. The citizens first before politics.

Slaying out the subject matter of the economy has cause a lot of damage and danger to the citizens. Income inequality is a significant problem, with a large portion of the population living in poverty while a small elite benefits from the country's vast natural resources.

The political situation in Nigeria has been a subject of significant concern and discussion for both its citizens and the international community. The effects of the political landscape in Nigeria are multi-faceted and have far-reaching consequences that touch upon various aspects of society, economy, and governance.

Nigeria has faced periods of political instability, including disputed elections and issues related to the federal system and state governance.

The political instability and corruption in Nigeria have hindered economic growth and development. Political instability can deter foreign investment and economic stability. It can lead to uncertainties in



Nigerians casting their votes.

policies and regulations, which can have a negative impact on businesses and job

opportunities. Corruption in politics can result in misallocation of resources, embezzlement, and economic inequality. Nigeria has struggled with high levels of corruption in its political and economic systems, which has hindered development and discouraged foreign investment.

The political situation in Nigeria has also caused social unrest and divisions. Ethnic and religious tensions are sometimes exacerbated by political manipulation, leading to conflicts and violence. This not only disrupts the social fabric but also affects the overall well-being of citizens.

The political landscape in Nigeria often faces issues related to poor governance, weak institutions, and lack of accountability. This results in inadequate service delivery, ineffective public administration, and a general sense of frustration among the population. Nigeria heavily relies on oil exports, making its economy vulnerable to fluctuations in oil prices, which can disrupt government revenues and economic stability.

Political instability can contribute to security challenges. It can create an environment conducive to the rise of extremist groups and criminal organizations. These groups take advantage of the political vacuum and use it to further their agendas, posing a threat to national security. The last presidential election that was held months ago has caused a lot of damages to us. Shops were burnt down to ashes at Lagos state and many were all injure during the election. All this mess happened all in the name of politics. In Section 37 of the 1999 Constitution provides that: "The privacy of citizens, their homes, correspondence, telephone conversations and telegraphic communications is hereby guaranteed and protected."

Our leads are not interested in the safety of the citizens and the legislature, the executives and the judiciaries are not not

helping matters instead they are making it worse. If you may ask me why? I Will tell you that the high rate of crimes and insecurity is becoming vast. While this three arm of government are doing nothing about it. We all have experienced lack of security in our country.

Nigeria has experienced ongoing security challenges, including Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast, inter-ethnic and communal violence, and kidnappings in different regions.

The political situation in Nigeria can hinder development efforts, such as infrastructure projects and poverty alleviation programs. Political instability can lead to delays and mismanagement of development projects, which in turn affects the well-being of the population. The country's infrastructure is inadequate, affecting transportation, power supply, and access to basic services, which hampers economic growth.

High unemployment rates, especially among the youth, contribute to social unrest and economic challenges.

In addressing these issues, there is a need for a comprehensive approach. This includes electoral reforms, strengthening institutions, enhancing transparency and accountability, and promoting political stability. It also requires the active participation of citizens in the political process, the role of civil society in holding leaders accountable, and international cooperation in supporting Nigeria's political development.

Efforts have been made to address these issues, but they remain significant concerns in Nigeria's political and economic landscape.

It is important for the government and society to work together to create a more stable and accountable political environment, which, in turn, can lead to positive outcomes in terms of economic growth, social harmony, and overall development.



FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, ABUJA PUBLIC AUCTION AND SALES OF UNSERVICEABLE VEHICLES AND SCRAP ITEMS

This is to inform the general public that there will be a public auction and sales of unserviceable vehicles and scrap items belonging to Federal Medical Centre, Abuja as follows:

Date: Thursday the 30th November, 2023

Venue: Federal Medical Centre, Jabi Airport, Road Abuja.

Time: 8am -12pm for inspection, auction begins at 12:30pm prompt.

For further details, please contact, the appointed auctioneer on the following numbers:

Sabe Ter and Co Certified Auctioneers

Suite A4, Halima Plaza, Balanga Street, Area 11, Abuja FCT.

08033668245, 08092959500

sabeterandcompany@gmail.com

LIST OF UNSERVICEABLE VEHICLES AND ITEMS FOR BOARDING AT FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, ABUJA

S/N	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	YEAR OF PURCHASE	CONDITION	QTY
1	Tunlad Pickup	FMC, Abuja	2012	Unserviceable	1
2	Water Tanker Fordland	FMC, Abuja	2012	Unserviceable	1
3	Zhong Tong	FMC, Abuja	2012	Unserviceable	1
4	Toyota Camry	FMC, Abuja	2012	Unserviceable	1
5	165KVA Generator	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
6	Suction Machine	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	6
7	Weighing Machine	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
8	Examination Couch	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	3
9	Ventilators	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	16
10	Trolleys	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	2
11	Mobile X-ray Machine	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
12	Bed Side Lockers	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	12
13	ENT Diagnostic Desk Station	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
14	Reserve Osmosis	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
15	Hospital Bed	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	5
16	Baby Trolley	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	3
17	Stool	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	2
18	Office Chair	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	9
19	Small Matrasses	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	12
20	DeskTop	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
21	Printer	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	9
22	Over Bed Tables	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	6
23	UPS	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
24	Notice Board	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
25	Drip Stand	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1
26	Kodak Dry View 5800 Laser Imager	FMC, Abuja		Scrap	1

Signed
Medical Director

EYE'S WORLD

With *Henrietta Gonzuk*

Relationships

How to appreciate your man on men's day

By **ESTHER MUCHENE**

JUST like women's day, International Men's Day celebrated every 19th November is a day set aside to celebrate men for the role they play in their families and society.

Every man who is impacting positively to the society and his family needs to be appreciated and celebrated. Therefore it is not out of place to do so practically with some kind gestures, no matter how little. It is the motive that matters.

This year is almost over and we have one or two holidays to celebrate before Christmas. Once November reaches the festivities begin, and an important holiday which we are looking forward to is International Men's Day.

Men's Day is one of those rare days when we get to appreciate all the special men in our lives whether it's our dads, grandfathers or nephews. This one is a special one because it's not like Father's Day where only the dads get recognition.

If you're still deciding what items would make a great gift, you can think out of the box and get him a gift he will really appreciate.

Get them a skincare package

These days, skin care isn't just something that only women do. Men are also seeing the importance of having good skin, and many of them are no longer shy to admit that they have a routine.

If you know the guy you want to surprise loves to take care of his skin, it would be a good idea to get him a set of skin care products.

Order a fresh meal

Nowadays many of us are big foodies. If this resonates with you and the men in your life, it would be perfectly okay with being gifted food every holiday because it just makes sense you know?



.Keep Reading
How do we rediscover intimacy?

Why is it so hard to understand men?

Interview mistakes you shouldn't make

The best way to deal with crazy people

In that case, consider surprising them with a nice meal. Choose something you know they specifically like and have it delivered to their home or workplace if you're not able to meet up with them.

Buy them a stylish jacket
Many of us know men who aren't big fans of shopping.

Some of them can have the same clothes for decades and only go shopping when something is worn out.

There is also the fact that men's clothes can be more on the expensive side, which pushes some to shop less. Getting them a nice jacket is a great gift because it will add something fresh to their collection.

Get them Bluetooth headphones

There are times when you just want to zone into your own world for a minute. You might want to listen to a podcast or some music as you do other tasks.

On those days, you need some wireless headphones. And maybe this is the gift you need to get your loved one if they don't own a pair already.

Buy a neck and back massager
Every man could use a massage every once in a while. Some guys do very tough jobs that could cause muscle tension and actually, they don't often go for massages at the spa to relax like us ladies.

What your loved one might really appreciate is this neck and back massager. They are so convenient and all they will need to do is switch it on to get an instant massage.

Get them customized wall art.
Another great idea is to order a customized drawing or painting that they might like. This could be

a painting that reminds them of the best trip they took years ago or even a photo that they cherish.

Art is definitely one of the most thoughtful gifts to get anyone so they might love this.



EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

NAWOJ trains 30 girls on re-usable pads

By **PALANG KASMI**

IN line with its mandate of being agents for social change in the society, the National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) organised a one day training on re-usable pads for girls.

The event which took place @ the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) press Center, Hill Station Junction Jos on Saturday, 18th November 2023 drew participants, over 30 girls from across the state.

The main target of the forum was to ensure the trainees serve as 'train the trainers', and step down the skills they learn to others in their communities.

In her welcome address, Plateau NAWOJ State Chairperson, Mrs. Nene Dung welcomed guests saying the aim of the training is to impact on the health and financial empowerment of the girls.

Lamenting the harsh economic situation in the country, she decried how expensive and inaccessible sanitary pads have become, making many girls not to afford it.

She said when she started menstruating, sanitary pads was sold at N60 but today the most affordable sanitary towel pack is sold at N550.

"How many girls can afford it monthly? Many young girls cannot afford it and have fallen into the hands of traffickers, or are abused and taken advantage of when they want to ask for money. Some girls don't even know how to have safe menstrual hygiene. Menstrual hygiene is key to reproductive health and girls need to keep themselves healthy to prevent contracting diseases".

"Therefore as NAWOJ, we want to be a voice to the voiceless, and impact in our society through encouraging safe menstrual hygiene. From this training you can become business entrepreneurs and make pads at subsidised rates and sell to others. You can equally teach others".

The Chairperson said In line with the adage charity begins at home, NAWOJ members selected one participant from their communities, so that after the training, they will in turn go back and train others.

She tasked the girls to be attentive and ready to pass on the training to others. "Please open your ears and listen to the training so that you can go back to your communities to train others", she told participants.

The state NUJ Chairman Mrs Ayuku Pwasp, describe the event as life-touching. She called on women groups and organisations to partner and synergize with each other to ensure they work towards championing social causes that will continue to change the lives of girls and members of the society.

National Treasurer, Nigeria

Girls Guide Association (NGGA) Trefoil guide, Mrs. Grace Ojubo said she was happy to witness how after her body earlier trained organisations on 16th October 2023, NAWOJ is the first trainee to pick up the challenge step down the training.

She disclosed that making reusable pads is a pet project of Girls Guide. "We realised that we better teach others on how to on how to make the reusable pads and I am glad that our training has now led to another training".

While assuring that the kind of materials used for the pads is durable and will not soak pants if used properly, Ojubo said " It is a pride for every woman to do her monthly period. And it is a sign that you are a woman so there is no need to be afraid".

"So as you step out, go out to empower others and also empower your pockets, she told the trainees".

Chairperson, Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Plateau State Chapter, Barr. Ngozi Achilefu, said the training has given the girls the net to go out there and fish.

She tasked them to know their rights including their health and hygiene, be intentional about what they are doing to gain from the forum, not for the benefit of themselves, but for the benefit of the society, further advising that aside girls as target trainees, for a greater impact, another training should be organised for women.

There was good will messages from Spokespersons of Youth Wing of National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), and Women for Women, who commended efforts of NAWOJ at promoting safe health practices among girls and women in the society.

They advised the girls to use the reusable pads in a very hygienic way, avoid using dirty water to wash it, and ensure safe health practices.

Participants share their experience

After learning from the trainers and putting pieces of different kinds of fabrics to produce the reusable pads, three girls, among the over 30 participants share their experience.

Miss Naneken Yarima, from Nassarawa Gbong Community in Jos North LGA of Plateau state said she feels very excited being a part of the training. "I have never heard where I can use and re-use sanitary pad's, it seems like a new innovation to me so I saw this as an opportunity to learn".

Yarima, who is also a student studying physics in the University of Jos said: "I intend to make use of it for myself and since we are living in a very hard economy, I intend to take the new skills I learn to my friends and people around me



so that they also gain the economic benefits".

For Miss Rejoice Dechi, another beneficiary who hails from Dadin Kowa, Jos South Local Government, the training is a great opportunity. "Not too many people know about this skill, and due to how expensive sanitary pads are, it is timely. I buy a pack of pad for N1,200 and use it twice. Now with this development, I will not have to spend so much on sanitary pads again". Dechi promises that as a member of the Girls Brigade Nigeria, she will step down her newly acquired skills to other girls in her organisation.



Editorial

NLC remonstrations: What meaningful gains?

ON the 13th November 2023, the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC decided to embark on another strike action over alleged assault meted its President, Joe Ajaero in Imo State, south eastern Nigeria as a result of an unabated political crisis engulfing the state. Before the commence of the strike, NLC also advanced other reasons for the strike to include failure by Federal Government to address issues affecting workers in the country including the minimum wage, insecurity, corruption, and poor governance.

REPORTS had earlier indicated that the two major unions; the NLC and the TUC had stated that the indefinite strike would not be called off until all these demands were met by the authorities concern. Astonishingly, the strike action was officially called-off even before the Nigerian workers could come to terms with the realities of the reasons which necessitated the action to be called-off. Consequently, this sudden call-off of the industrial action further tempted several workers to question the benefits derivable from the unending actions of the past without meaningful results recorded.

INTERESTINGLY, though these are not the best times for Nigerians including workers, the federal government has continued to reemphasise its intention to tackle this problem once and for all. In this regard, several Memorandum of Understanding have been signed only for the labour to claim that government has continued to renege over its implementation. The last time the NLC embarked on such a strike action without formal notice, it claims the unending strike was necessitated by bad economic policies that make workers' wages next to nothing. Thus, the October 3rd 2023 decision by the NLC to shut down economic activities was attributed to failed negotiations over the removal of subsidy on the Premium Motor Spirit which led to unprecedented hike in cost of living in the country.

JUSTIFYING this claims, Ajaero noted that over 133 million Nigerians are multi-dimensionally poor as disclosed by the National Bureau of Statistics which does not mean well for the socio-economic and political development of the nation. The statistics are further oblivious of the fact that inflation rate in July 2023 for instance stood at 3.45 percent which is about 1,06 percent higher compared to the rate recorded in June 2023.

DESPITE these excruciating statistical difficulties however, concerns have been raised in most recent times as to whether the NLC has really gotten anything tangible from these series of unending strike actions embarked upon. While the strike actions are becoming one too many, it is becoming more suspicious that the politicization of unionism has left much to be desired in most recent times.

A critical assessment of these unending strike actions has left many stakeholders with conclusions that the NLC has lost its bite as far as its anticipated obligations to Nigerian workers is concern. Consequently, we are of the opinion that it's high time that the NLC re-strategize its approach to labour matters to regain the confidence of its workers. Beyond this, labour friendly experts have suggest that continuous negotiations during industrial harmony would save the nation such painful experiences which have continued to torment this nation without meaningful headway.

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 in which a lady uses pills and other substances resulting in abortion which often leads to future health risk. It causes weakening of cervix, damage to the womb. in other words, which increases a woman's risk of future pre-term deliveries.

Most students don't think of their future rather the think of present situation by 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 damage it will cause to her body.

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



Effects of abortion on female students

The reason why some ladies don't 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 it's 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 to avoid damage of the womb.

John Evelyn Maisaido, IT Student from Federal Polytechnic Bauchi

When the will to fight insurgency fades

The recent resurgence of insecurity in the North and other parts of the country particularly the North West which witnessed a deadly attack on the Kaduna/Abuja bound train and the statement credited to the Kaduna State Governor Nasir el- Rufai, on the desire of North West Governors to hire Mercenaries to engage the bandits that are making life unsafe in the region if the Federal Government fails to end the reign of terror within their territories is genuine.

As a Nigerian living in the north, one can rightly understand the Governor's frustration in this regard. I also share the view with some people who belief that perhaps due to the fight against Boko Haram that has been raging on for close to 9 years in the north east and the activities of bandits and kidnapers in places such as; Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Sokoto, Kebbi, and Niger states, the Nigerian Army may by now be overstretched.

But the big question begging for answers is, who are these people carrying out the attacks, where are they operating from and where is the military intelligence and how are the funds for prosecuting the war on

insurgency been deplored and so on.

Reports have shown that these bandits operate from forest-to-forest belt within Kaduna and Niger axis and that they easily relocate from one end of the forest to another once there is an offensive against them. Those victims who survived the Kaduna train attack disclosed to newsmen that, the bandits were between the ages of 18 and 20 and had operated not far from a military base and that they came on motor cycles and buses without a single of them apprehended neither could anyone know how they vanished into thin air with some of the victims.

It is indeed a puzzle that if these are young rag tag boys operating within a said locations why is it difficult for the military to fully contain the situation by forming a ring around the entire forest and flush them out. It also baffles me that with the modern age of sophisticated weapons like the drone Technology, these people cannot be engaged. Then what happened to the recent national registration of SIM cards and data on all phone numbers. I would have

thought that by now such a novel idea would have aided the intelligence network in getting hold of the bandits.

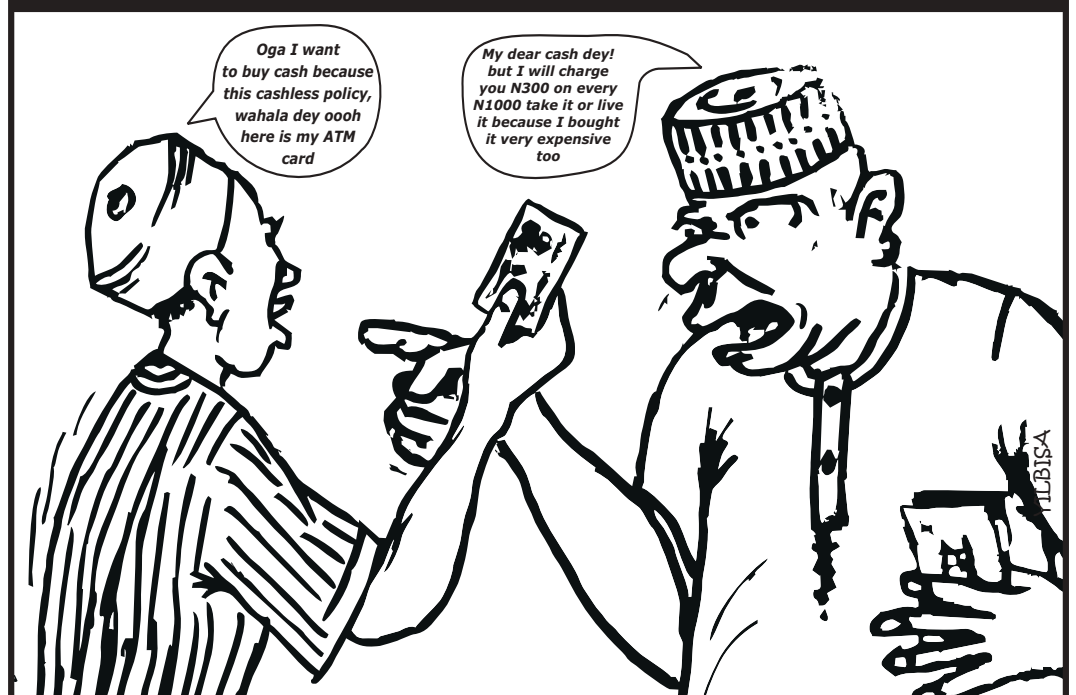
From the foregoing, it may not be out of place to also say that, the Nigerian Army of today are not as strong as we tend to over rate them. They may have been over pampered with luxury of life. The truth is that no one wants to die for anybody. The sacrifice for the fatherland is now different from that of the T.Y Danjumas, the Babangidas, the Murtalas the Adekunles and the Abachas of this world.

In a situation where those that are trained to protect the safety of lives and property of the vulnerable or armless citizens are shying away from such responsibilities what then is the hope of an ordinary Nigerian just travelling peacefully by road, train or through the airports or even at home?

Therefore, if the Federal Government is overwhelmed it therefore means it is time to declare a state of emergency in those trouble spots before terrorists take over Nigeria. God forbid.

Kefa Nuhu writes from Naraguta, Jos, Plateau State

Standard Cartoon



Opinion

FG's move to "secure" job opportunities for Nigerians...

SECTION 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) declares that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. It is this primary purpose that provides the basis for approbation of and association with government by the governed. Any government that fails to discharge this primary responsibility fails, as a matter of fact, in every other purpose. Rationalisation: There cannot be a meaningful journey to any meaningful destination in the consideration of government and its policy options if the most significant questions of security and welfare are egregiously discounted.

With the daring onslaughts of Boko Haram insurgents and their large-scale assassinations and acts of violence since 2009, particularly in the Northeast, until recently when some lull crept into their operations; and, bandits, kidnappers and militants alike in other parts of the country plying their evil trades, the gravitas of successive administrations from that intersection to deal with the issues has recorded serial markdowns. Citizens were compelled to consider state actors' response to security issues as inadequate – and this is understandable – against the backdrop of thousands of people that were either killed, maimed, or kidnapped. If one adds the destruction of critical public infrastructure facilities to the mélange of horror, the picturesque becomes ghoulish.

Recall how people were forcefully displaced and dispersed. Citizens' welfare took forced flights in the face of the burgeoning assault on both physical infrastructures and psychological wellbeing. Thesis has established that it is only in the

atmosphere of peace that welfare could get focused attention. Not only was the government distracted amid the rudderlessness, the minders of the nation's security architecture were not only rattled but remarkably disorganized. The socio-economic condition prevalent in the country became a commixture of anxiety and fear. The communitarian spirit was violated, and the basis of ethno-religious trust and harmony was vitiated. Citizens, especially those who had the means, migrated from either the rural to the urban areas or vice versa, depending on the locations and circumstances in which they were confronted with the existential threat of insurgents, bandits and/or kidnappers and the targeted bombings of people and infrastructures.

Those who could run out of the country did so in consequence. But now, even though the rate of emigration is high due to sundry other reasons, far away from insecurity caused by the insurgency, banditry and kidnapping in parts of the country, there is a conscious, deliberate and intentional effort being made by the federal government to overarchingly reverse the emigration trends. The President Bola Tinubu administration is considering a plethora of policy choices across the entire gamut of the economy to rekindle citizens' confidence and trust in government and political leadership.

One of the policy choices or options that have been bandied in the media in recent weeks targets the expatriate working community in Nigeria whose current population is said to be about 150,000. Their presence is felt in all sectors of the economy, but it is preponderant in such sectors as oil and gas, construction, telecommunication, manufacturing, and hospitality. The

SUFUYAN OJEIFO

phenomenon of expatriate employment is cosmopolitan. Foreigners are in Nigeria as expatriates working in companies in line with the terms and conditions of the expatriate quota granted the companies in which they work by the home government, just as Diasporic Nigerians are scattered globally working as foreigners except where they have obtained the citizenship of their host countries.

While there are a good number of benefits derivable from this expatriate employment, which many nations are enjoying, Nigeria has yet to fully explore the many potential benefits that the expatriate working community has to offer. As of now, the only source of revenue to Nigeria from the expatriate community is the Personal Income Tax prescribed by the Personal Income Tax Act (PITA) cap P8 LFN, 2007, as amended, which forms the legal basis for taxation of employment income. It is within this statutory framework that the expatriates working in Nigeria are captured for this particular revenue net. That law somewhat circumscribes the authorities. There are credible feelers about a new legal framework or executive order, which may crystallize to reinforce the policy implementation.

The Tinubu administration is set to activate, in good faith, this new policy that will designate the expatriate working community as a direct revenue source, largely distinguished from tax source. What this means is that apart from the Personal Income Tax that expatriates pay, they would be required to pay some fees, not taxes. The policy choice would enable a new revenue stream for the country and also help to ensure that Nigerians have better employment opportunities in the

country.

Although the details of the policy are still being closely guarded by the Ministry of Interior and the Nigeria Immigration Service which are working in concert with a private concern to drive the policy from initiation to execution on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis, there are feelers ratcheting positive public sentiments around the policy. The revenue generation potential is quite significant at a time of dwindling value of the naira and the pressure on government to deliver on set mandates. For instance, \$1.5 trillion, according to former President Muhammadu Buhari, would be needed to build and plug the nation's infrastructure gap or deficit, over a ten-year period, translating to \$150 billion per annum. Sundry revenue streams would be needed to build up the revenue base to fund the plugging of the huge infrastructure gap.

The policy implementation will focus on all sectors of the economy where expatriates work. Between the Ministry of Interior and the Nigeria Immigration Service on one hand and the private concern in the PPP arrangement that undergirds the policy initiation and execution on the other hand, there would be critical data sharing that would capture all expatriates more especially those who work in such sectors as construction, oil and gas, telecoms, manufacturing and hospitality.

Apart from the revenue that would be generated, which is the principal motive for the policy, there is the equally salutary aim of helping to secure better employment opportunities for Nigerian professionals in the companies, which are either wholly foreign, or joint ventures or indigenous companies that engage the services of expatriates.

The processes leading to the take-

off of the policy and the processes thereafter, according to sundry media reports in the last one week, would not cost the Federal Government a kobo; which means in essence that the private concern involved in the PPP arrangement would spend all the money and an arrangement would be employed to operate the revenue generation project for a number of years before it is handed over to government.

It is significant to reflect on the expatriate working population of about 150,000, which sources close to the Ministry of Interior hinted about and which was referenced in the media reports around the policy. An official of the Ministry had said that the number would grow and "as the number grows over time, every working expatriate will be accommodated in the revenue-generation net." He said that the projection was that Nigeria, in the next twenty years, would have been well positioned to consistently attract, from this single source, into her revenue kitty about \$1.5 billion annually.

Overall, the move by the federal government to secure Nigerian workers' slots in the companies is to discourage expatriates from doing jobs for which Nigerians are qualified and thus help to stem the tide of brain or talent drain to foreign countries. This is quite commendable. In fact, the policy, if weighed both on the score or balance of revenue generation and better employment opportunities for Nigerians, cannot escape essential validation. In the main, it opens government to necessary commendations for thinking out of the box.

Mr Ojeifo, journalist and mediapreneur, writes via ojwonderngr@yahoo.com.

Anxiety as harmattan season begins...

TOPE SUNDAY

EVERY last season of the year or the first in the succeeding year is known as the Harmattan season. But this season, despite its advantages, brings about anxiety; TOPE SUNDAY writes.

According to Wikipedia, a free online encyclopedia, the season of Harmattan, from the Twi word harmattan, originated from the dry and dusty harmattan trade winds that blow from the Sahara desert over West Africa.

Also, like a last child, harmattan season is the last season in a year and the first in the succeeding year. The season, which occurs between November and March, comes with noticeable dry and dusty weather with bursts of cold air in the mornings and nights and high temperatures during the afternoons.

According to weather and climate.com, the climate of Nigeria is tropical; however, there are wide climatic variations in different regions of the country. Near the coast temperatures rarely exceed 32 degrees Celsius (90 degrees Fahrenheit), but humidity is very high and nights are very hot. Inland there are two different seasons.

It stated that a wet season from April to October, with lower monthly temperatures and the wettest month being June. Also a dry season from November to March, with midday temperatures that rise above 38° Celsius (100° Fahrenheit) but relatively cool nights, dropping as low as 12° Celsius (54° Fahrenheit).

The site added that the average rainfall along the coast varies from about 180 cm (70 in) in the west to about 430 cm (170

inches) in certain parts of the east. Inland, it decreases to around 130 cm (50 inches) over most of central Nigeria and only 50 cm (20 inches) in the extreme north. A breakdown of the site's document shows that Nigeria has three seasons wet, dry, and harmattan seasons.

The effects

During the season, studies have shown that humidity drops to as low as 15%, which can result in spontaneous nosebleeds for some people. Other health effects on humans may include conditions of the skin (dryness of the skin), dried or chapped lips, eyes, and respiratory system, including aggravation of asthma.

Also, asthmatic patients, in particular, are prone to suffer during harmattan. Meteorologists are already predicting more intense harmattan haze, which includes conditions like dryness of the skin, dried or chapped lips, and eyes, and respiratory problems. This season is also adverse for people suffering from asthma because it can cause aggravation of asthma

Unease

Speaking with Blueprint Weekend, an Abuja-based business woman, Mrs. Faith Mama, said what she dreads about the season is cold, adding that with a cardigan, she would cope.

"My fear about the harmattan season is the cold. During the harmattan season, especially towards the end of November and December is usually very cold and you cannot stay at home because of the harmattan. So you can prevent this by putting on a cardigan and wearing socks. Most people do have cracked legs during harmattan that is why a lot of people wear

socks to prevent it," she said.

Also speaking, another resident, Mr. Ugochukwu Kenneth, said a lot of diseases are associated with the season and called on the government to help the masses with jackets that would save them from the cold.

He said: "Harmattan season carries a lot of problems, for example airborne disease. One can get the airborne disease during harmattan, cracked legs, and lips. All these things are not good for the body, at times, your body will shrink. We have to bear all these because it's nature.

"Government can help the masses, like abroad the government will give the masses a jacket and provide them something that keeps you indoors but in this part of the world there's nothing of such."

On her part, Mrs. Yusuf said: "During harmattan season, you can have cracked lips and you have to use oil for the body to avoid having white or wrinkled skin. Harmattan is dangerous to the body because the cracks in the leg can be very painful; you need to take care of it.

"However, we can prevent this by getting socks and cardigans and also shear butter to rub on the skin and also on the cracked legs when you finish bathing or when going to bed.

Mrs. Rabiya Ahmed, on her part, told this reporter, "Her major fear about the harmattan is that it sets in the dust and it causes cough and catarrh which are very communicable. The reason for much dust during harmattan is that there are no good roads and some people do not do interlocks in their compounds, waste

disposal is also another problem. If all these things are being taken care of, we will have a better environment and it will reduce the outbreak of catarrh and cough, especially among the children."

Speaking from another angle, a civil servant, Alaisi John, described the harmattan season as the best, saying that he enjoys himself better during the season because it allows him to sleep well at night.

"The harmattan season is the best for me and I always look forward to having it every year. It is the only season that I normally enjoy my sleep at night because everywhere will be so cold. Also, the sun during the season is mixed with the coolness of the weather," he said.

A teacher, Kazeem Atanda, told this medium that the only good thing about the season is that it reminds him of the end of the year, claiming that aside from that, it is not too friendly, saying that it is synonymous with disasters like bush burning and accidents.

"nytime harmattan starts, it reminds one that the year is gradually coming to an end. This makes me happy. But on the other hand, the season is not friendly to me, and some people. It is synonymous with disaster and accidents. Like we have had in the past, a lot of burning activities during the season had resulted in a wanton loss of property, and lives in most cases. Also, accidents occur during the period because of the cloudy early morning weather," he said.

According to reports, the season is also reputed for fire disasters occasioned by bush burning, which has wreaked havoc in some parts of the country.

Change of Name

<p>SOPHIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as SOPHIA OSAWA, now wish to be known and addressed as SOPHIA AKINYODE. All former documents remain valid. Union Bank, 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 JEROM YOHANNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>JAMES</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMES DANIEL DASHEN, now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES DANIEL DISHIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>NKECHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as NKECHI UGONWA EZE, now wish to be known and addressed as NKECHI UGONWA GRACE EZE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>TIJJANI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZAINAB AYUBA, now wish to be known and addressed as TIJJANI ZAINAB ABDULATEEF. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>KWACHE</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUHAMMED UMMI SALMA KWACHE, now wish to be known and addressed as KWACHE UMMI MUHAMMAD. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ZAINAB</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZAINAB ABDULLAHI JIMOH, now wish to be known and addressed as ZAINAB MASHHOOD OBAYOMI YAQUB. My correct date of birth is August 22, 1998. All former documents remain valid. Authority of Operation Rainbow and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YA'U</p> <p>I, formerly known as YA'U AUDU, now wish to be known and addressed as YA'U AUDU TEPLA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>GLADYS</p> <p>I, formerly known as GLADYS NNAJI, now wish to be known and addressed as GLADYS NJIMOGU. 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>KABIR</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUSTAPHA IBRAHIM and KABIRU MUSTAPHA, now wish to be known and addressed as KABIR MUSTAPHA IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHEN SARAH BEN, now wish to be known and addressed as CHEN SARAH MUSA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>GESOK</p> <p>I, formerly known as IBRAHIM HARUNA, now wish to be known and addressed as GESOK DAWAL HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>EZEKIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as TONGTUGUR SAT'AN EZEKIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as EZEKIEL FLORA HABILA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GIMBA</p> <p>I, formerly known as GIMBA KATVIL, now wish to be known and addressed as GIMBA KATVIL DABUM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>MUHAMMAD</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUHAMMED ISMAIL SAEED now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAEED. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>GANGTAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as NJIL PYALBYEN NANBOL, now wish to be known and addressed as GANGTAK PYALBYEN NANPON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DAAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARY CLEMENT, now wish to be known and addressed as DAAN MARYAMU WASIKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ESHER</p> <p>I, formerly known as ESTHER BITRUS SARMA, ESTHER B. SARMA, ESTHER LENGI BITRUS SARMA, ESTHER LENGI B. SARMA, ESTHER BITRUS, ESTHER BITRUS A SARMA, ESTHER JEROME, ESTHER JEROME UBADU OLU GABRIEL, ESTHER JEROME OLU, ESTHER OLU JEROME, JEROME ESTHER OLU GABRIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ESTHER BITRUS SARMA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>TALATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANJUMA JOCK, now wish to be known and addressed as TALATU DANJUMA JOCK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HALIMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ALHASSAM HALIMA, now wish to be known and addressed as HALIMA ALHASSAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>QUEEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SIRI ELIZABETH QUEEN, now wish to be known and addressed as QUEEN AYINGA SIRI. My correct date of birth is July 7, 1997 not July 7, 1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KUSHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as KUSHI BEATRICE LUKA, now wish to be known and addressed as KUSHI BEATRICE SAMINU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>VERONICA</p> <p>I, formerly known as TITI SHERIA SHARIYA SHIRYA, now wish to be known and addressed as VERONICA SHIRIYA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAFULUL MONDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY MAFULUL MASHAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>ESONWUNE</p> <p>I, formerly known as AHAMUEFULE ESONWUNE JONAS, now wish to be known and addressed as ESONWUNE AHAMUEFULE. 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 YUSUF FOM, now wish to be known and addressed as NAOMI YUSUF DAFORM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SHEPKUR</p> <p>I, formerly known as AFINIK VENMAK, now wish to be known and addressed as SHEPKUR AFINIKI MANJI. My correct date of birth is March 20, 1995 not April 24, 1973. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ISHAYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as GIDEON MATHEW MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as ISHAYA GOMAN SERI GIDEON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANFWANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANLADI PATIENCE MAFWIL, now wish to be known and addressed as NANFWANG PATIENCE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JIMOH</p> <p>I, formerly known as JIMOH MUNKAILA DADA, now wish to be known and addressed as JIMOH MUKAILA DADA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>ALHASSAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ALI KAMALU, now wish to be known and addressed as ALHASSAN KAMALU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PETER</p> <p>I, formerly known as PETER EMMANUEL OKPE, now wish to be known and addressed as PETER EMMANUEL OCHAI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HABIBU</p> <p>I, formerly known as HABIBU BELLO, now wish to be known and addressed as HABIBU BELLO SUBAIRU. All former documents remain valid. Access Bank and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as SUNDAY MATHEW, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY MATHEW ELLA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUHAMMED</p> <p>I, formerly known as MOHAMMED YUSUF NADABO, now wish to be known and addressed as NADABO YUSUF MUHAMMED. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SOHDIP</p> <p>I, formerly known as SOKDIP CHANGKUR GAPSHEK, now wish to be known and addressed as SOHDIP CHANGKUR GAPSHIK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>GURUMSWAR</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANJUMA CHETO, now wish to be known and addressed as GURUMSWAR CETO DAKIEM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KUSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as SUNDAY ABBA SAMILA, now wish to be known and addressed as KUSA, MONDAY SAMAILA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MALAU</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHRISTOPHER MAFOR MALLAM, now wish to be known and addressed as MALAU NAFOR CHRISTOPHER. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SHEDRACK</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMUEL SHEDRACK CHOLLOM, now wish to be known and addressed as SHEDRACK CHOLLOM SAMUEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABDULJALAL</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULDALA MURDANATU, now wish to be known and addressed as ADULJALAL MURJANATU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LUCHONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as LUCHONG HALAN, now wish to be known and addressed as LUCHONG FELIX. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MUSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUSA HAJARA YUSUF, now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA HAJARA JUMMAI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KUTSHAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as TOKSHAK RETSAT JOSEPH, now wish to be known and addressed as KUTSHAK RETSAT PANPE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>TAJUDEEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as TAJUDEEN AYINDE TAJUDEEN, now wish to be known and addressed as TAJUDEEN AYINDE WAHAB. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AARON</p> <p>I, formerly known as LUKA AARON NAJAP, now wish to be known and addressed as AARON LUKA FWANGSHIK. My correct date of birth is December 15, 1988 not January 15, 1974. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GURUMS</p> <p>I, formerly known as STEPHEN PERSIS, now wish to be known and addressed as GURUMS PERSINA ISHAKU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ANTU</p> <p>I formerly known as GABRIEL CHRISTIANA NDEKI, now wish to be known and addressed as ANTU CHRISTIANA AGBISA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>

Public Notice

SPORTS FOR CHRIST MISSION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, for registration under part 'F' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 2020

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Mr. Oje Michael Oluwafemi
2. Mrs. Oje Janet Anyalewa

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To use sports as a tool for enlarging the Kingdom of God and enhancing human health.
2. To promote peace and harmony among individuals and communities while evangelizing.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days of this publication.

SIGNED:

Oje Janet Anyalewa, Secretary

AMPAI

I formerly known as **AMPAI ANTHONY AWUL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMPAI ANTHONY**. My correct date of birth is 17/07/2004 not 17/10/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

WAKAKA

I formerly known as **FELICIA VINCENT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMSON FELICIA WAKAKA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

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News

Nigerian Army embarks on medical outreach in Kogi

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THE Nigerian Army has embarked on free medical and educational outreach for vulnerable citizens in communities in Okene Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The medical outreach was flagged off by the Commander, 12 Brigade Nigerian Army, Brig. -Gen. Harunah Dasuki, at College of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Okene.

The Army also distributed free educational materials such as notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, sharpeners, erasers and other stationeries to the students of the college.

The Commander said the medical and educational outreaches were part of activities under the ongoing "Exercise (EX) Still Waters III" to reach out to the less privilege citizens in the society.

He noted that the exercise was flagged off on October 30 by the Nigeria Army, to ensure that Yuletide period is secured for members of the community where they operate.

He stressed that the medical and educational outreaches by the Nigerian Army, were part of its Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) meant to reach out to their host communities.

Brig. -Gen. Dasuki commended the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt. -Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja, for making all the needed resources and logistics available to the Command to carry out the programmes in the state.

The Commander assured that the Nigeria Army would continue to intensify efforts to ensure a secured environment for the people, as well as economic activities to thrive.



Labaja

He appealed to the communities to provide adequate and timely information to enable them keep the areas safe.

The Chairman of Okene Local Government Area, Alh. Abdulrazaq Muhammad, who was represented by his Secretary, Mr. Yusuf Suleiman, appreciated the Army for the choice of Okene to reach out to their people.

Muhammed stressed that the gesture would go a long way to improve the health of their people as well as the academic status of the students.

Some beneficiaries, Mrs Jemilat Nuhu, Sabdat Nasiru and Sefiat Salihu, all appreciated the Army for addressing their health issues and giving them free drugs.

"We thank the Nigerian Army for coming to our aid. I was given malaria and typhoid drugs after the medical test", Nuhu said.

"Mosquito will no longer bite me and my baby because the Army has given us treated mosquito net," Salihu, a nursing mother said.

The services rendered

included: blood pressure, diabetes, malaria, typhoid, general consultations and administering oral polio vaccine for children, among others.

The Head Boy and Girl of the college, Muhammed Abdulaziz and Aisha Suleiman respectively, appreciated the Army for the gesture, assuring that they would use the materials appropriately.

Earlier, the Commander visited Margaret Garba Ohiani Orphanage Home, in Zango, Lokoja, where he donated food items and cash to the less privilege children.

Mrs Regina Ejembi, who received the items on behalf of the orphanage home, appreciated the Chief of Army Staff for the gesture, saying it would go along way to take care of the children at the orphanage home.

"We really appreciate you and we pray that God Almighty will continue to bless you and the Nigerian Army in Jesus name," Ejembi said.

Items donated were: Rice, detergents, sugar, noodles, spaghetti, maggi, among others, as well as cash donation.

From **JOHN FWAH, Kaduna**

Veteran journalist, 28 others ordained Elders



Isiguzo

Veteran journalist and retired FRCN Editor, now Managing Editor of Africa Prime News, an online newspaper, Joseph Edogbo, was among twenty-eight elected members of the Christian Evangelical Fellowship of Nigeria, CEFN, who were ordained as Elders of the Fellowship at the weekend.

They were drawn from the Abuja, Jos, Zaria, Kano, Sokoto, Lokoja and Nyanya Zones of the Mission.

At the ceremony, the General Overseer (G.O), of the, CEFN Inc, Rev. Dr. David Usman, advised the newly ordained Elders to work for the church in humility in the task of oversight and discipline of the congregation.

The G.O who was the Chief Officiating Minister, admonished the Elders to a m o n g o t h e r responsibilities, guide the people of God with the word in a manner that is pleasing to God.

He said they are entrusted with the duty of looking after the needs of the congregation and superintending its activities. He further charged them to direct public worship, to administer the ordinances, to exercise discipline, and to guard and promote at all times the interest of the community over which they were called to serve.

An Elder, Rev. Usman said must be above reproach, shun arrogance or quick

t e m p e r a m e n t , drunkenness, violence or greed.

He must be hospitable, a lover of good, exercise self control, uprightness and discipline among others. The G.O.warned that the honour of eldership could be withdrawn from anyone found wanting.

The G.O who also spoke on cordial working relationship between elders and pastors, said being responsible for the day-to-day administration of the church, the Elders are expected to be supportive of the pastor to ensure that he succeeds in the discharge of his own functions.

"The work of the Elders complements that of the pastor for the well-being of the Church. "We create unnecessary cases when we allow sentiments, superiority complex and ego to take the place of our

service to God".

While the congregation promised to honour, encourage and obey the Elders in all things consistent with the will of God, and zealously aid them in the discharge of their official duties, the Elders on the other hand, pledged their resolve to always seek divine help to faithfully perform the duties of the office.

They also promised to studiously endeavour to learn and to do the things that would make for the peace, purity and spiritual growth of the congregation over which they were called to serve.

Wives who accompanied their husbands to the ordination, were also tasked to assist their spouses in the discharge of their duties.

Other family members, friends and well wishers were at hand to celebrate with the ordained Elders.

Food Security: Stakeholders suggest boosting agricultural budget

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

Kogi State stakeholders in agriculture have called for more budgetary allocations to agric sector in order to boost food security and economic development of the state.

The call was made at its consultative meeting on the "Kogi

State 2024 Agriculture Budget held in Lokoja, on Tuesday.

The forum was organised by Kogi State Budget Committee Group and Small-scale Farmers Organisation In Nigeria (SWOFON) in collaboration with the Kogi State Ministry of Agriculture with support from ActionAid Nigeria.

The forum also sought for timely release of money meant for the agricultural sector and effective implementation of the budget by the state government.

Stakeholders further sought for citizens participation in budgetary processes.

In his welcome address, Mr. Matthias Okpanachi, Chairperson of the Kogi Budget Committee Group, said that the meeting is aimed at stimulating development in agriculture, presentation of 2023 agric budget analysis to stakeholders for comparison so as to know where we started and where we are going as well as what is expected of government to move agriculture to the next level of development.

The Kogi State Coordinator of Small-scale Farmers Organisation In Nigeria (SWOFON), Hajija Rukayat Ahmed while speaking during the meeting, called for elaborate participation of women in agriculture.

Hajija Ahmed also called for the release of money meant for women in the agricultural budget to enable them make more impacts in carrying out agric activities.

She maintained that women have greater role to play in ensuring food sufficiency and economic growth of the state just like their male counterparts, and as such, needed to be encouraged.

Bello Ogrima George, Managing Director of the Kogi Agricultural Development Project, in his contributions, said that stakeholders need to do more in the upliftment of agriculture to boost food production.

He said that Kogi is not effectively utilising resources at its disposal to develop agriculture and solicited government and citizens efforts to aid agriculture.

He commended women farmers in their efforts to join hands with the government to provide enough food for the people, stressing that women farmers are doing very well.

The Managing Director noted that agriculture is of greater value to any nation worldwide as it is capable of providing employment for the youths and boosting the nation's dwindling economy.

In attendance during the meeting were representatives of Kogi Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Small-scale Farmers Organisation In Nigeria, SWOFON, Ministries of Agriculture, Budget and Planning, Commerce and Cooperatives as well as Civil Society Organisations.

Empower women with Internet skills, VC tasks govt

The Vice Chancellor, Federal University Lokoja, Prof. Olayemi Akinwumi has called on government at all levels, employers of labour and international organizations to empower women in the civil service on computer and internet skills to combat internet fraud and other sharp practices in the country.

Akinwumi, a Professor of History, made the call on at the opening ceremony of a three day training workshop on EmpowerNet:Secure-Connect-Strive for Kogi Women in Civil Service organized by US Exchange Alumni, Kogi Chapter.

The university Don stated that the training workshop is coming at a very auspicious time given the dynamics of today's digital and competitive age.

He emphasized that computer literacy is not just a skill; but a gateway to economic independence, professional growth, and social empowerment.

Akinwumi noted that equipping women with the tools and knowledge to navigate the digital landscape, the barriers that have historically limited their

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

participation in the workforce will be dismantled.

"Computer competency can further help in transcending traditional gender boundaries or biases; enhance the women's individual capabilities, and enable them to contribute meaningfully in diverse fields" he added.

The university Don explained further that through programmes such as this, Nigeria will be participating in building a more equitable future where opportunities and successes are determined by merit rather than gender.

He said, "It is hoped that this training workshop will further your capacities and empower you to unlock your full potentials in your homes, workplaces and the world at large".

While emphasizing on employers of labour to improve the welfare of women in the civil service, the Vice Chancellor maintained that this should be done urgently in view of the harsh economic reality in Nigeria.

This, according to him, will help to address some critical needs in the family. He added that women are nation builders who should always be treated nicely looking at their numerous contributions to family, society and national development.

Earlier in his remarks, the Kogi Chapter Chairman, US Exchange Alumni Prof., Joseph Abel said the training is aimed at equipping participants with practical knowledge on the use of computer, information management, fraud prevention and email communication for female civil servants drawn from different ministries and agencies, including the Civil Defence.

The Lead Facilitator and Director of Federal University, Lokoja, ICT Centre, Mr. Peter Akin Tokunbo, explained that although, some of the women already have the knowledge of the use of computers, the training will help them to use the computer and the internet safely.

On his part, an Alumni of United States Exchange Alumni who doubles as a Visitor Leadership programme of the organization, stressed the need for all stakeholders to collectively work in protecting

women in Nigeria from internet fraudsters.

Her words: "Looking at the gap created already in the space of the use of internet, we discovered that large number of women don't actually know how to navigate the internet communication and that usually affects us generally during promotion as Civil Servants.

"We are moving towards computer based examinations. We discovered that a lot of our women are lagging behind. To ensure we enhance their productivity, the US Alumni Association, Kogi State branch, decided to bring this numbers of women so that we can amplify their voices, empower them with skills, knowledge and all they need to build their confidence and communicate better on the internet as well protect themselves from being taken unaware by fraudsters on the internet".

It was gathered that the US Exchange Alumni is one of several U.S. Government sponsored exchange programmes where participants across the world are committed to impacting and advancing their communities and the world at large.

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

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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Nimfak Joseph late of Plateau State died on the 2nd Sept. 2023 at Lamdwal Dadin Kowa, Langtang South LGA, Plateau state.	Joseph Nantip of Lamdwal Dadin Kowa Langtang South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Takat Sabo late of Plateau State died on the 5th July 2023 at Jos Plateau State.	Takat John Yildiyel of COCIN Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Rita Ajang late of Plateau State died on the 8th August 2022. At BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Philemon Yusuf of Kufang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Husband of the said deceased.
Sunday Ishaya Ajah late of Plateau State died on the 13th July, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Ishaya Grace & Benson Adigya Sunday of Angwan Cashew Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	Joyce Banwat late of Plateau State died on the 10th May, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Samuel Benjamin Banwat & Ronald Panman Banwat of All Watershed Pharmacy No. 4 Miango Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brothers of the said deceased.	Joseph Twas Kombot late of Plateau State died on the 1st January 2015 at Pushit, Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Katplang Joseph & Dading Plangshak Yusuf All of Dadin Kowa Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/brother of the said deceased.
Dakogol Eunice late of Plateau State died on the 25th October 2018 at General Hospital Shendam.	Chakura Joechelbed Adenyam & Dakogol Veronica Manshang of No. 60 Federal Lowcost Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/sister of the said deceased.	Insp. Philip Michael late of Plateau State died on the 5th March 2022 at Bokkos, LGA Plateau State.	Gashon Philip of LCC Minging Mushere Bokkos LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Badung Danjuma Lamba late of Plateau State died on the 19th September 2023 at Barkin Ladi LGA Plateau State.	Alamba Daniel Danjuma of Yelwa Gindin Akwati Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Sha Musa Gyang Late of Plateau State died on the 30th May 2006 at Jos Plateau State.	Sha Henry Tiri of No. 2 Dapam Fom Street Zaramaganda Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Lanem Sylvester Iorlumun late of Benue State died on the 7th March 2022 at Y. SSH Potiskum, Yobe State.	Domya Rose Lanem of Sacret Heart Chatholic Church Kabong Gada Biu Jos Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Solomon Chigozie Amakaeze late of Plateau State died on the 5th August 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Wisdom Obiorah Amakaeze of Behind Govt. House Shehe Rayfied Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Danladi Abwo late of Plateau State died on the 15th July 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Danladi Joshua Abwo & Abwo Danladi Abwo of Zaria Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased	Katkuk Apollos Istifanus late of Plateau State died on the 30th July 2022 at Abuja.	Zinnia Amayang Katkuk of No. 24 Fwawei Road Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Oloriegbe Omolara Jane late of Kogi State died on the 31st August 2023 at Jos Plateau State.	Oloriegbe Kolapo Osaanemo of 5A Mangu Road Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Palang Bedung late of Plateau State died on the 5th April, 2023 at Gindiri Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Rotkangmwa Polycarp Bedung of College of Education Gindiri Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Maitala Danjuma late of Plateau State died on the 25th June 2023 at Gada Biyu Jos North LGA, Plateau State.	Danlami Danjuma Angau & Halima Akusu Danjuma All of Angwan Chawai Kabong Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother/sister of the said deceased.	Alexander Bakrim Miyetshak late of Plateau State died on the 9th October, 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Ruth Saradauna Baba of Lamingo Junction Besite Plateau Private School Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Lucy Chinyere Okenwa late of Plateau State died on the 7th August, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Chikwendu Nnamude Okenwa & Stanley Chikodi Okenwa of 131 Tudun Wada Ring Road Jos, Plateau State lawful son/husband of the said deceased.	Gotom Golkopba late of Plateau State died on the 30th September, 2023. At Pankshin, LGA Plateau State.	Helen Richard of St. Theresa's Catholic Church Tukun Panshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased	Adamu Jalingo late of Plateau State died on the 11th February, 2020, at Dengi, Kanam LGA Plateau State.	Isa Aliyu NO.32 Magaji Gari Street Dengi Kanam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
SP. John Dakat (A.K.A) Dakat John late of Plateau State Bayen died on the 13th December, 2022 at Hope Hill Hospital, Jos Plateau State.	Dakat Esther John of St Protestant Church ASPC Mopol 8. Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased	Dr. Nancy Katu-Ogundimi late of Plateau State died on the 24th August, 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Dr. Adedayo Agundiku of Sabon Barki Junction Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Dashon Yerima Dickson (Also known as) Dashon Dickson, late of Plateau State. Died on the 23th May, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Dashon Panshak Dickson of Tuwanchik Hwolshe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Oragbakosi Ndu Alexandra late of Plateau State, died on the 4th August, 2023 at Hospital OLAH.	Orah Chukwauka Emmanuel Alex No.53A Bush Buji Street Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Yusuf Abubakar Hamisu late of Plateau State died on the 29th August, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Abubakar Abdullahi Hamisu & Abubakar Aliyu Hamisu. All of No.72/14 Yusuf Street Jos Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	Dr. Job Pristine Migap late of Plateau State died on the 30th July, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Migap Charity Job of Guratop Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Telfim Cirman late of Plateau State died on the 13th June, 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Manya Christina Cirman of COCIN Church Gold & Base Rayfield Jos South, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Chirbut Nannim Iliya late of Plateau State died on the 5th October, 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Mercy Nannim of Opp. COCIN LCC Laka Kotdong Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	James Jemkur Tonga late of Plateau State died on the 20th January, 2023 at Pankshin, LGA Plateau State.	James Ponjul Tonga & James Jude Tonga of Kwanpe Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
Amos Anguya late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th December 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Tony Amos Anguya and Linda Amos of Opp. Do5 Bukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased.	David Davou John late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th June, 2023 at Abuja FCT.	David Lot Weng of Trade Centre Kuru Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Aron Yabak Anthony late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th September, 2023 at Delta State.	Adamu Bamshak Anthony of Licklibam Mangu LGA Plateau State. The lawful brother of the said deceased.
Tanimu Dashe Shikmuut late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th August, 2023 at Mangu Plateau State.	shikmuut Abraham Andi of No. 7 Angwan sarki Mangu, Mangu LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Amos Samuel Magson late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th April, 2022 at Gudi Nasarawa State.	Suzana Samuel College of Agric. Garkawa Mikang LGA, Plateau State. The lawful Anty of the said deceased.	Abdul Musa Danasabe late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th April, 2020 at JUTH Plateau State.	Halimatu Sadiya Abdullahi of Katakoko Behin Seminary Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful widow of the said deceased.
Joseph Kwapde Nuhu late of Plateau State. Died on the 15th December, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Vwamse Nathaniel Nuhu of COCIN Central Bokkos, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS		Dakum Joseph late of Plateau State. Died on the 30th November, 2022 at Shendam, LGA, Plateau State	Evelyn Bitrus Sura and Stephen Joseph of Jossy Royal Busa Buji Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.

Still on the importance of menstrual hygiene



By JENNIFER YARIMA

THE female folk are uniquely made by our Creator with very vital issues for consideration towards their total well being. Their makeup is complex in nature which if mismanaged can lead to agonizing situation. The subject matter focused on is crucial in the life of a woman even though it's surrounded with lots of complexities.

The onset of menstruation is one of the most important physiological changes occurring in girls during adolescent years. Menstruation heralds the beginning of maturity in girls. It becomes a part and parcel of their lives until menopause, which is a time in a woman's life when menstrual cycle ends.

For the purpose of clarity, menstrual cycle is the monthly series of changes

a woman's body said, when she first went through it, she cried out for the possibility of her heart and had to stay indoors wondering how to control the flow and who she would ran to for help as her pants and clothes got stained at intervals. Who then is to blame? These girls should be educated and prepared at home before the commencement of their menstrual circles. How to package them selves during the period is of essence, this would entail practical demonstration of how certain things need to be done to avoid stains, manage pains and how to stay clean. Because of parental neglect, some girls use rags from torn pieces of clothes to control the blood flow which is quite unhealthy. Others don't even care to buy pants and brassieres for their young girls when they witness their physiological and physical growth. Some push the blame no mothers, what about the fathers? Every careful husband that has a wife in his house has the knowledge that she menstruates and he contributes towards supporting her to stay safe by either providing money to buy pads or appreciates God's creative act in her life as she goes through the processes on monthly

undergoes in preparation through it, she cried out for the possibility of her heart and had to stay indoors wondering how to control the flow and who she would ran to for help as her pants and clothes got stained at intervals. Who then is to blame? These girls should be educated and prepared at home before the commencement of their menstrual circles. How to package them selves during the period is of essence, this would entail practical demonstration of how certain things need to be done to avoid stains, manage pains and how to stay clean. Because of parental neglect, some girls use rags from torn pieces of clothes to control the blood flow which is quite unhealthy. Others don't even care to buy pants and brassieres for their young girls when they witness their physiological and physical growth. Some push the blame no mothers, what about the fathers? Every careful husband that has a wife in his house has the knowledge that she menstruates and he contributes towards supporting her to stay safe by either providing money to buy pads or appreciates God's creative act in her life as she goes through the processes on monthly

Menstruation is what most families especially parents and guardians don't pay attention to. Most heads of households shy away from adequately furnishing young girls around them with basic knowledge about this essential part of their lives.

Many girls struggle to manage to comprehend how to control the flow of blood at first experience because no one possibly prepares them for it. The ugly experiences some of these girls go through make them feel bitter within themselves as to why they must pass through these unpleasant experiences. A lady once

Sanitary pads should be available in the homes and schools for girls to freely use, this will help them change at intervals. Personal cleanliness matters a lot at this moment to avoid infection. Changing pads and bathing have to be after four to six hours or depending on the flow of the individual. Washing of hands as regular as possible is very significant and proper disposal of the used pads must be carefully handled to avoid flies feasting on it.

It's very disturbing that some school authorities lament the way and manner young girls come to school asking the school authority for sanitary pads when parents are suppose to make supply steady for their children. This has no doubt made most school authorities to appeal for support from relevant organizations.

A lady shared her experience that because of the non availability of sanitary pads as a result of its high cost, she had resolved to be using pad in the day time and rug at night to save cost. Because of the necessity of this commodity in addressing essential need of girls, washable pads can be introduced as

alternative to meet up with socio-cultural restrictions the menstrual hygiene. The stigmatization girls lacking knowledge and remaining ignorant of period needs to be discouraged because what they are passing through is a natural phenomenon which no one has control of. In some families, it's as bad as not to allow the female children cook in the house or touch consumables because such things are considered contaminated. Such attitudes demoralize young girls and make the boys to look down on the girls for no fault of theirs. Proper awareness is required across board among female and male stakeholders to remedy the situation so that the girls can stay focus, positive and maximize their God given potentials after all being a girl child is not a curse but a blessing. Menstrual hygiene is practiced during menstruation, which can prevent women from the infection in reproduction and urinary tract. Menstruation is still be introduced as



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By HOSEA NYAMLONG

WIKIPEDIA, defines burial, as an interment or inhumation, is a method of final disposition whereby a dead body is placed into the ground, sometimes with objects.

This is usually accomplished by excavating a pit or trench, placing the deceased and objects in it, and covering it over.

Burial is often seen as indication of respect for the dead. It is being used to prevent the odor of decay, to give family members closure and prevent them from witnessing the decomposition of their

Burial ceremony, becoming an expensive event

loved ones, and in many of the deceased as a mark of respect and honour as a necessary step for the deceased to enter the afterlife or to give back to the cycle of life.

Sometimes the location of the burial may be determined by taking into account, concerns surrounding health and sanitation, religious concerns, and cultural practices.

While some cultures keep the dead close to the living, others "banish" them by locating burial grounds at a distance from inhabited areas. Some religions consecrate special grounds to bury the dead, and some families build private family cemeteries.

Death still remains an inevitable end to all living things on this planet. Most of the religions have clearly stated in their Holy books that there is time for everything. A time to be born and a time to die.

For human beings, whoever dies, deserves to be buried by the relatives

Many families have sold out their property, including land, houses, cars, shares in stock market or borrowing huge sum of money from bank etc, to ensure that a befitting burial is done. The irony still remains that most families of the

deceased, left behind, orphans, widows to their fate. Funny enough, most of the deceased have never received any financial assistance, support, or enjoy the good things of life, while alive from any of their relatives. Again, some have languished in abject poverty without any means of livelihood, no access to good medical attention that would aid in their survival and longevity of good health. That even reminds me of the burial of Obi Cubana's late mother which took the centre stage of all the ceremonies and events in the country last year, because of the display of the flamboyant way of life that grabbed the attention of citizens, making it the talk of the town in all the social platforms and other handles.

It was estimated that about 400 cows were slaughtered for the burial ceremony, not including spraying of money, cash donations, drinks, food, scholarships, loans and gifts etc

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Obi Iyiegbu, popularly called Obi Cubana was not well known in the country, until the burial of his late mother, Uche Iyiegbu who died in November 2020 and was buried in July 16, 2021 in Anambra State, which made it the expensive burial ceremony in the country at that material time. To this end, Nigerians need to reestrategise and have a rethink about the implications of having an expensive burial ceremony without putting in mind those who are left behind.

Government, traditional rulers, stakeholders, community leaders, public enlighten agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, religious groups, community associations, should embark on a crucial campaign to sensitize citizens on the negative implications of burial ceremonies in the name of giving a befitting burial to their love ones. No any burial ceremony has been rated the best or worst.

Government, traditional rulers, stakeholders, community leaders, public enlighten agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, religious groups, community associations, should embark on a crucial campaign to sensitize citizens on the negative implications of burial ceremonies in the name of giving a befitting burial to their love ones. No any burial ceremony has been rated the best or worst.

By JIDAUNA DARING

IN a quest to ensure that citizens of Plateau State have access to safe drinking water and practice good sanitation, many international donors have come to the state intervene in the water sector and sanitation in some Local Government Areas (LGAs).

These important interventions particularly in the water sector of the state have no doubt addressed cases of acute shortage of safe drinking water in benefited communities by providing them with hand pumping and solar boreholes.

It may interest one to know that some of these donors that have come and intervened in providing Plateau people with good sources of drinking water since "water they say is life", include; Water Aid, EU and UNICEF among others. Therefore, the importance of these interventions cannot be under measured, considering the humanitarian services rendered by the donors to Plateau people in the water sector and sanitation both in urban and rural communities.

Infact, some of these donors that have come and intervened in these laudable life touching projects are no more in the state again, they have closed up their projects base on the interventions period of years. These donors, before backing out from the state, had to officially hand over these facilities to either the ministry or agency that were going to be responsible for the project in the benefiting communities.

However, the maintenance of the facilities after the donors have left should be handled by both government and benefitting communities in order to avoid any case of malfunctioning of projects facilities as far as the importance of water as essential commodity is concern for human existence and other usage.

It is also a known fact that the worst hit period for the scarcity of water both in urban and rural communities is no other time than the dry season. It is a time that the people on daily bases are seen with many empty gericans moving from one place to another in search of the commodity both in the night and day time, just for people to either bath or use for other purposes houses.

Worthy of note in this regard is the presence of intervention by the World Bank on a programme called, Sustainable Urban Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene (SURWASH) in 7 states of the federation. The states include, Katsina, Plateau, Ekiti, Gombe, Kaduna, Delta and Imo.

It was against this background that the Plateau State Ministry for Water Resources and Energy organized a one day stakeholder's workshop for the validation of the policy, institution and regulation plan (DLI2). The event took place at Jonggrand Hotel Jos, recently.

In his remark, Permanent Secretary Ministry for Water Resources and Energy, Pharm Abel Habila Gwatau, Mni, expressed optimism with the workshop and thanked the participants for coming together to brainstorm on issues that would serve them better as a state, particularly in the area of water and sanitation.

Pharm. Gwatau said that the workshop gave room for stakeholders to discuss how the programme can be fully implemented in the state. He

added that the workshop was going to be strictly on PIT validation.

Presenting the general overview of SURWASH programme, Plateau state programme coordinator, Engr. Jonathan Malann said that the overall objectives of the programme was to strengthen institutions and policies for increase access and improving urban and rural water and sanitation services in 7 states.

Engr. Malann explained that the

water supply, Plateau Environmental Protection and Sanitation Agency (PEPSA) state urban sanitation, Plateau State Water sector regulatory commission WASH regulatory function, and LGA WASH Departments in Plateau state.

The SURWASH coordinator also pointed out that the total programme fund, US Dollars 700 million made up of US Dollars 640 million programme for results (P4R) to support state

PLSG engages stakeholders on water sanitation



Pharm. Gwatau

results area one under the programme is to strengthen sector policies and institutions for improve services while results area two is to improved access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene services.

He added that, the programme would increase access to basic water supply services through the construction and rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure. He pointed out that household level improved sanitation and hygiene services will also be provided through support of the clean Nigeria. Use the toilet campaign.

Engr. Malann maintained that improved WASH facilities will be constructed and rehabilitated within institutions such as schools, markets and Motor Parks among others. He noted that relevant states and LGA's, level sector institutions will be strengthened within participating states.

According to Malann, the programme seeks to ensure that the roles and responsibilities for service provision, TA, monitoring and evaluation, and regulation are clearly established and that these institutions improved their capacity to better execute their responsibilities.

He further explained that the estimated numbers of beneficiaries under the programme for Plateau state include; 1,000,000 people provided with basic drinking water services, 400,000 people provided with access to improved sanitation services, all communities in the state ODF + verified and 300 schools and HCFs with improved WASH services.

Engr. Malann also disclosed that the institutions that are responsible for providing various services during the programme in the state include; Plateau Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency, (PRUWASSA) for rural WASH and Plateau Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (PLAMWASSA).

He added that those for town WASH include; Jos water services corporation (JWSC) for urban

government budgets for 6 years (2022 to 2027) and US Dolar 60 million for Investment Programme Financing (IPF) for FPIU and 7 states SPIU.

Engr. Malann added that the SURWASH interventions was supposed to be implemented across the 17 LGAs of the state, but due to limited funds. The tier one project is going to be implemented in 4 LGAs which include, Jos South, Langtang North, Bokkos and Wase, this was as a results of open defecation and lack of access to water.

He emphasized the need for stakeholders to continue advocating for people to build toilets, stressing that they would fight open defecation. He also reiterated the need for adequate releases of funds to the WASH departments for effective services delivery for both water and sanitation.

Engr. Malann while under scoring the importance of the programme equally stressed the need for the review of the existing policies and situation assessment among others.

The coordinator thanked Governor Caleb M. Mutfwang of Plateau state for the approved given them to organize the workshop. He also appreciated the state legislatures for the support always to them.

Presenting overview of policies, institutional and regulations (PIR) plan, Barrister Mrs. Lilian Bewarang said that institutional and governance reform are key to sustainable service delivery. Adding that major interventions in the sector have largely focused on addressing technical issues and physical infrastructure aspects. Despite this, progress has stified due to institutional and governance bottlenecks.

Barrister Mrs. Bewarang maintained that the critical role of the state governors as the main beneficiary and drivers of reform had not been adequately considered in previous projects, therefore, resulted in delays in effectiveness, political interference, and slow



Engr. Malann



Barr. Mrs. Bewarang



Cross section of participants implementation progress.

She said that to trigger disbursement under Disbursement-Linked Indicator 2 (DLT2) of SURWASH, states must first prepare and approve a "PIR Plan" (years 1 and 2).

Barr. Bewarang pointed out that progress against the relevant DLTs would be assessed annually and at the Mid-Term Review, adding that failure to achieve progress may result in a state losing its status as a participating state in the programme.

Some of the participants who spoke with our correspondent described that the workshop's benefits was a huge one as far as the issues discussed were concern

and promised to step -down what they have learnt to their various organizations.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that there were goodwill messages from commissioner for Environment, climate change and mineral Development Plateau State, Hon. Peter Gwom, Representating Chairman House Committee on Water Resources and Energy, Hon. Joseph Namim through his secretary and various presentations were made on different components among others.

Participants were drawn from LGC, ministries departments and agencies.

IMAGES

GOV MUTFWANG IS WORKING

Plateau State Government is working on the Jos township roads by filling up the potholes as captured by the The Nigeria Standard newspapers Photo-Editor



Renovated Fidelis Tapgun road to CBN roundabout



Filin Ball in Nassarawa road to Dilimi needs the State Government's attention



NUJ Press Centre, Hill Station roundabout



CBN roundabout renovated



First Bank, UBA, Union Bank and Revenue House roads



This road from Bauchi Rd junction to Bayan Banki washed out completely



Work in progress at some roads visited



Massalacin Yan Taya road to Dilimi

Photos: DANLADI DUK

Odd World

Plastic surgery: Woman that can't renew driver's licence

A woman has revealed she is unable to renew her driving licence due to her extreme plastic surgery transformation and now looks unrecognisable.

Denise Rocha has spent a staggering £250,000 on tweaking her appearance, and although she is happy with her transformation, it's hindered other aspects of her life. The 39-year-old beauty looks so different now that she was "questioned by staff" when trying to get a new driving licence, as she was asked to verify herself with a different form of identification. Sharing an old photo of herself, it's clear she has bigger lips, a different face shape and a different nose.

Her two licence photos show how much she has changed before and after

"They didn't believe it was me. I understand their work and I know they really need to check it out, but it was a really funny situation and I didn't expect it," the Brazilian lawyer explained.

Known online as the "world's hottest lawyer," the São Paulo native further explained that she never thought her procedures would make her "go through this" and admitted she knows she's changed, but being asked if it was really her was "unthinkable" for her. Luckily she managed to persuade the staff at the transit department (DETRAN) in São Paulo and get her new licence.

As well as her career as a lawyer, Denise also shares sexy snaps as an OnlyFans model to help bring in extra income and despite some people who think she can't be 'brainy and sexy' at the same time. Many of her friends and family have supported her move to OnlyFans - especially after seeing the money she makes.

She has gone under the knife several times and has spoken about her body tweaks openly. She admitted she's had

multiple surgical and non-surgical procedures over the years, including Botox, skin peeling, three boob jobs, rhinoplasty, liposuction and "intimate surgery".

Denise also hit out at those who think she can't be clever and good looking and has insisted she won't let people's "limiting beliefs" impact her work or her life. "There is still a thought for some people that a lawyer cannot be beautiful and smart," she added, "these limiting beliefs on the part of some people, therefore, do not influence the creation of my content."

Her looks have also hindered her dating life, as she previously admitted she's sapiosexual, which means she is attracted to intelligent people and finds brains to be one of the most important traits in a partner. Because of her looks, she revealed that men assume she's not smart.

However she finds it difficult to connect with men on an intellectual level as they're unable to keep up with her highbrow conversations. She previously told The Mirror she can't stand it when men can only talk about one subject, as she sees it as a sign that they're not interested in "acquiring different knowledge", which is a turn-off for her.

"There is no perfect man, but the concept of the term sapiosexual - for me - involves a set of factors. As an example, I like to be next to a man I can talk to about a variety of subjects, and who doesn't get stuck talking about just one subject.

"For example, if you are in a certain profession [but] you can only talk about it, [and] general subjects are not positioned, [it means] that you are not interested in acquiring different knowledge. This set of factors, for me, adds to a man," she explained.

Source: Mirror



Nigerian Youths have bleak future

Some months days ago, Nigerian youths came out in their number to celebrate this year's 2023 International Youth Day. The day is aimed at celebrating and putting trust in our youth and raise awareness about the challenges and issues faced by young people around the world as well as help promote their potentials. It is an epoch making event well cherished by the youth particularly those who are well focused and are prepared for contemporary challenges ahead.

In tandem with the theme for this year which is 'Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World, this gesture is also intended to advance positive impactful advance development amongst vulnerable youth across the globe. Under the euphoria of this august celebrations, our youths are expected to continue to lucratively present themselves as the pillars of a better tomorrow.

Affirming the commitment of his administration to creating meaningful opportunities, President Bola Tinubu noted that an enabling environment would be created through several lucrative platforms including job creation, skills development to digital innovation, financial technology and youth participation in governance. This according to President Tinubu will enable our teeming youths unleash their potentials towards enhancing greater productively, national development and holistic integration on the polity.

While acknowledging the growing interest of interest and impact of many young Nigerians in technology related field, the world over, the president also vowed to fulfil his campaign promise of generating one million jobs in the digital economy for their upliftment and national economic development more broadly.

As it is however, the statistics of the joblessness of Nigerian youth is becoming unpalatable in all ramification. For instance, unemployment rate for 2022 was 13.44 percent, a 0.21 decline from 2021. According to the unemployment rate released by the National Bureau for Statistics in 2022 fifty three percent of 151 million Nigerian youths are over 80 million unemployed. This negative development has added to the many avoidable challenges facing the nation. Many of our youths have derailed and are overwhelmed by social vices for no fault of theirs but lack of mentorship on the need to help themselves become patriotic citizens.

This aside, many of the youth of this country have indulged themselves in violence and thurgery has raised serious concern amongst stakeholders and citizenry. Sad enough, most political thugs are paid by the political class to maim and create havoc on innocent citizens with impunity. Certainly, many scholars has opined that political thuggery which is overwhelming the policy is something that is ruining the lives of thousands of youths particularly those who grew up with the belief that nothing matters in the nation.

The growing number of out of school children have of recent become a source of worry and great concern to many in this country. As of September 2023, the number of out of school children according to UNESCO is estimated at approximately 20 million. Therefore, according to the Universal Basic Education Commission, Nigeria needs an additional 20,000 schools and 907,769 classrooms to be able to absorb the growing number of out of school children in the country. This is however in the midst of controversies over the state of out of school children in Nigeria. Though the official number of out of school children in Nigeria as of September 2023 could not be independently verified, the raising number of such vulnerable children is putting the entire nation on the edge.

This equally means that without concrete measures to tackle this menace, Nigeria in the coming years would be unable to overcome rising cases of acts of criminality in the country. In more definite terms, more needs to be done to salvage the nation from nose-diving into a state of comatose. In this case, the need to do the needful is more than ever necessary.

We believe that our youths in the country have also continued to wallow in abject poverty and retrogression due to lack of proper planning by successive governments since time immemorial. Thus, these unfriendly policies employed have retrogressively affected the anticipated growth and progress of our youth in the country.

Consequently, it's high time the leadership and stakeholders navigate their strategic approach to ensuring the liberation of our teeming youth for their progress in the nation. Considering the present harsh economic reality, the incumbent administration must take more concrete measures towards encouraging our fragile youth in the country to become pragmatically self-reliant.

On the other hand, the youth of this country must come to the understanding of the obvious that nothing in this world is gotten on the platter of gold. Therefore, they must continue to work hard in their expected obligations to justify the confidence reposed on them.

Above all, we as a people must continue to educate and sensitise our younger ones to shun violent conduct which has serious implications on the polity and may retard our collective interest of national development and integration.

Feature

Heritage changes: A critical analysis of National Museum

In 1982, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) established 18 April as the International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS), followed by UNESCO adoption during its 22nd General Conference. Each year, ICOMOS proposes a theme for activities to be organised by its members and partners - and anyone who wants to join in marking the Day. This day is dedicated to promoting the importance of cultural heritage and raising awareness about the need to preserve historical sites and monuments across the globe. It is a day to celebrate the unique and diverse cultural heritage across the world and to encourage people to appreciate and safeguard their heritage for future generations. FATILE JONATHAN writes.

THE year's IDMS features the following theme: HERITAGE CHANGES. In keeping with the spirit of open, innovative, constructive inter-generational dialogue, and the strategic focus of ICOMOS Triennial Scientific Plan 2021-2024, as well as the 2020 ICOMOS resolution on Approaches to Cultural Heritage, the IDMS 2023 features the following theme: HERITAGE CHANGES. The IDMS - 18 April 2023 provides a timely opportunity to showcase strategies demonstrating the full potential of heritage research and practices which deliver climate-resilient pathways, while advocating for inclusive transitions to low-carbon futures. ICOMOS Committees, members and all those wishing to celebrate the IDMS are warmly invited to showcase the myriad ways in which traditional knowledge is/ can be employed to address climate change in transformative ways.

The theme of HERITAGE CHANGES offers the opportunity to respond to questions regarding learning about traditional ways of knowing and knowledge systems in relation to climate action, and how to use a cultural heritage focus to support equitable protection of vulnerable communities through climate action, while responding to the UN Decade of Action. The question: How can traditional knowledge inform innovative and transformative climate action? The answers to this question entails: considering the integration of traditional, historic building conservation, adaptive reuse, and/or energy efficiency of heritage buildings and landscapes; featuring innovative infrastructure development to showcase the ways in which traditional knowledge, practices and cultural heritage can be part of solutions; and capturing traditional philosophy and rationale in dealing with the environment (both land and water) and the climate as manifested in built vernacular heritage and cultural landscapes.

Over the years, Nigerian museums, monuments and sites or heritage sites joined their counterparts all over the world to celebrate the International Day for Monuments and Sites, also called heritage day. This year celebration was not undermined as the National Museum; Esie joined the global world to mark the event with the theme "Heritage Changes". The National Museum Esie houses the largest stone images (monuments) in sub-Saharan Africa contains over 1000 carvings of men and women presided over by a king (Oba Ere) is situated in Esie, a town in Irepo Dun Local Government Area of Kwara State. For National Museum Esie, IDMS is meant to celebrate the cultural heritage and draw the attention of the people to the relevance of conservation and restoration of monuments and sites in the society.

The international Day for Monuments and Sites in National Museum Esie is often celebrated with features such as cultural display, paper presentation, lectures and symposia. During the paper presentation by one of the staff, a Chief Museum Education Officer, Mr Fatile Jonathan, going by the year theme, "Heritage Changes" observed that the only thing that is constant is "change". He re-iterated that the world itself is not static. This explains the singular reason why heritage keep changing. This write up attempt to discuss what is Heritage especially Monuments and Sites, factors that bring about heritage changes and management of heritage and sites.

The world heritage convention defines heritage as both cultural and natural phenomena which are priceless and irreplaceable possession, not only of each nation but of mankind as a



From Left: The Presenter (Mr. Fatile, J) and the Curator (Mr. Ibrahim, O.Y)



The Audience at the paper presentation

whole. It is also described as a broad concept of both cultural and natural expression of the past manifesting in the present which is closely related to different cultural and natural diversities. Equally, some cultural resource professionals described heritage as tangible evidence of man's existence or endowment by nature which are passed from one generation to another. Monuments as defined by UNESCO is Architectural work, works of monumental sculptures and painting element and structure of archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwelling and combination of features which are of outstanding universal value from the point of history and science (UNESCO 2016). Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defined site as an area of ground on which a town, building, a monument is constructed or a place where a particular event or activities is occurring or has occurred. Also site can be seen as a heritage having a value that has been registered by the government agency as being a national importance to be cultural heritage of the people. It should be noted that monument may be a single natural or cultural object while a site may cover a wide landmass with numerous monuments situated within it. A good example of cultural site in Nigeria is Osun Oshogbo Groove, Osun State.

Heritage has been classified into three categories. These are cultural, natural and mixed heritages. Cultural heritage is defined as the legacy of physical artifact and intangible attribute of the past generation, manifesting in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes the tangible and intangible heritage. Tangible cultural heritage are those that can be touched and feel. While the intangible are those aspect that cannot be touched but can be felt. The tangible culture is divided into movable (it can be moved from one

place to another) and immovable (it cannot be moved from one place to another) Movable include, artifacts, archiva material while the immovable are monuments, group of buildings, buildings, cave dwellings, landscapes zoological land and botanical gardens, archeological sites, architectural work, and historical centre. The intangible on the other hand include music, dance, indigenous knowledge system, folklore, festival, language etc. Natural heritages refer to sum total element of bio diversities including the flora and fauna and ecosystem together with associated geological structure and formation. It can also be referred to as animate and inanimate resources that have manifested through the interaction of man and his environment in order for the continuous existence of man. Natural heritage is also divided into tangible and intangible. While the tangible is splitted into movable which include plants and animals and the immovable which are geological formation, national parks, Landscape of natural beauty. Whereas the intangible natural heritages are aesthetics that contribute to biological diversity. Mixed heritage simply put, is the combination of both cultural and natural objects/heritage to form a culture. Example is the Osun Oshogbo Grove where there are sculptures, shrine and the River goddess put together.

Good as the heritages are, they tend to undergo changes due to two major factors. These are natural and unnatural factors. A change by implication is to make something different, to become different, to pass from one state or form into another, it is transition from one state to another. Natural change of Monuments and Sites (heritage) is caused by the nature due to climatic condition and environmental factors which include incorrect level of relative humidity, temperature and light. Insect, rodents,

microorganism, dust, pollutants, storm, wind, rain and fire. The unnatural change of heritage are those caused by man or simply put "man-made" this occurs as a result of mishandling, neglect, bad/poor storage, ignorance, theft, bad excavation, vandalism, graffiti fanaticism, wrong support, poor packaging etc. The interaction or intervention of man or nature on a heritage may result into heritage changes which may manifest physically or chemically on the heritage that would result to deterioration.

Deterioration is the depreciation in value of an object. It is the part or total negative change to an object or material cause by an agent known as the "AGGRESSOR". Aggressors are the causative agents that feed on the objects/materials and thereby cause destruction to the objects. Aggressors bring about a breakdown of structure resulting in physical and chemical change on the material (Heritage). Physical deterioration implies a change in the physical structure of an object. It is a change in the object that does not involve a change in chemical composition. It is often cause by variation or improper level of temperature and relative humidity or interaction with some mechanical force. While chemical deterioration is a change in an object that involve an alteration of chemical composition. It is a change at the atomic and molecular level. Chemical change usually occurs because of reaction with another chemical substance (pollution, water, pest, waste) or radiation (light and heat) examples include: corrosion of metal and stone caused by air pollution, oxidation of metal (rusting) fading of dyes and pigments etc.

The importance of heritage cannot be overemphasized as it helps us to examine our history and tradition and enable us develop awareness about ourselves. It help us to understand and explain why we are the way we are. Heritage is a key stone of our culture that play an important role in our society, politics, business and world view. This account for why each city and place remains its distinct cultural characteristics and historical background make its specific identity and uniqueness of each community. In the country side or within the local parlance, monuments and sites are concrete evidence of historical antecedence of the people. It equally serves as the group totem that bind and rekindle the people's tradition. In some communities, circumstances around the community monumental heritage serves as their praises or are used to eulogize them.

The National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) act cap - 242 of the law of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1990 saddle the commission with the statutory responsibilities/functions to protect and safeguard cultural artifacts monuments and site across the thirty-six (36) state of the federation including Abuja, the federal capital territory. This provision tends to safeguard monuments and sites in Nigeria and NCMM is the leading agency in Cultural Resources Management (CRM).

Conservation to prolong the life span of these heritages is very crucial and as a result, CRM has adopted various conservation methods. Conservation implies anything we do to extend the life expectancy of object of antiquity either by working on its environment or on the object. It implies keeping in safety the existing state of an object or heritage. We have indirect and direct conservation. Indirect conservation is known as preventive conservation which seeks to prevent the agents of deterioration to reach and attack the

objects or monuments. In this type of conservation, the environment of the monuments is worked on by the CRM to prevent decay/destruction. The direct conservation refers to as the curative or remedial conservation. This is an action taken to combat the effect of decaying or deterioration on the objects/materials (heritages). In the past as well as in the present, especially in communities where there is scarcity of modern chemicals (pesticides and herbicides) and the available ones are too expensive. The local craftsmen do make use of natural substances like yellow ochre, palm-wine, smoke etc which serve as repellent to the aggressors. For example if palm-wine is poured on an object and exposed to air, ethanol is converted to vinegar and this will prevent microorganism and fungal attack. It should be noted that the general concept of conservation is about various steps taken to safeguarding monumental structure and sites. These steps include regular inspections, cyclical and routine maintenance/repairs either in the form of consolidation, reinforcement, restoration and reconstruction aimed at preservation of its originality as well as its cultural integrity.

From the foregoing discussion, it is evident that heritage undergo changes as a result of its exposure to natural and unnatural factors which call for human intervention in the form of conservation and preservation aimed at its sustainability and well being. However, it should be noted that preventive conservation is more desirable than curative conservation. In the light of the above, both government and the custodians of these heritages or sites should embark on decisive measures.

These measures should include:-

- Adequate funding of CRM in order to meet up with their social mandate.

- There should be greater public sensitization on the importance of monuments and sites. Thus, both print and audio-visual mass-media should be involved in the public sensitization of the existence and importance of this heritages. Government agencies should aligns with NCMM and other CRM agencies on the construction of physical project like road, railway, airport, governmental offices, market, stadium etc. so that the destruction of our monuments and heritage sites would be avoided.

- At any monument or site, the buffer zone should be created, its bush should be cleared and there should be sign post.

- Regular and routine inspection should be taken by the CRM on monuments and sites

- Any deliberate or accidental trespass should be sanctioned.

- Antiquities Protection Officers should be attached to every monument declared as heritage. Those that are yet to be declared, NCMM should work with the communities or owners to protect it from both temporary and permanent trespass e.g. farming, hunting and construction of any edifice.

- Those already trespassed or destroyed, all necessary steps should be taken for its restoration and appropriate sanction be accorded to serve as deterrent to others.

- Annual bush burning should be proscribed.

Monuments and Sites are very crucial to our histo-cultural knowledge as well as socio-economic and tourism development. All hands must be on desk, as our great heritages remain the concrete evidence of our culture and the contribution of our ancestors to world cultural tradition.

Mr. FATILE JONATHAN is National Museum, Esie.

News

Governor Mutfwang calls for continuous prayer

By DUMAH RANDONG

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang wants christians to continue to pray and have faith in the ability of God to intervene in every situation.

Mutfwang gave the admonition during the Harvest and Thanksgiving service of the Church of Christ in Nations, COCIN, Headquarters, Church, Jos, recently.

Our correspondent reports that the church was full to capacity as it was a great day for celebration and giving gratitude to God Almighty for members of the COCIN Headquarters Church.. Members were seen dancing to the altar in thanksgiving with proceeds of God's blessings in their life all through the year.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang, who was represented at the thanksgiving service by the state Deputy Governor, Josephine Piyo,



Mutfwang

said God deserves their thanksgiving and there is every reason to thank God at all times.

The Governor encouraged the congregational not to be deterred from prayer and thanksgiving despite the challenges of the present time.

In a sermon by COCIN General Secretary, Associate Professor, Benjamin Pokol, "Title Let Us Not Become Weary of Doing Good," he said doing good is the path that

glorifies God,. Advising further, he said believers must give thanksgiving that benefits others rather than self.

The thanksgiving service also had in attendance, the Secretary to the Government of the State, Samuel Jatau, Head of Civil Service, Rauta Dakok, some members of the State Executive Council, Former Governor and Military Governor of the state, Jonah Jang and Admiral Bitrus Atukum among many dignitaries.

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

Gochin goes home

THE body of Nana Huldah Kopkama Gochin, the wife of a one time Editor of THE NIGERIA STANDARD newspaper and former Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Plateau State Water Board, Nde Yusuf Kopkama Gochin, has been laid to rest in Ampang District of Kanke Local Government Area.

She was also the immediate elder sister to the former General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), the Publishers of the famous newspapers, THE NIGERIA STANDARD and SUNDAY STANDARD newspapers Jos, Nde Jonathan Ishaku.

Born on March 28, 1954 in Gwoza LGA of Borno State to the family of Late Rev. Ishaku and Kaka Keziah Ngwan, Late Nana

Huldah Kopkama, died on November 15, 2023 after a protracted battle with cancer at the age of sixty-nine (69) at the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) Jos.

The deceased, whose quest for education after her Primary and Secondary School in Limankara, Borno State, gained admission into the London School of Secretariat, United Kingdom and came out with a diploma in Secretariat Studies in 1977.

On returning from the United Kingdom, she took employment with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and subsequently moved to the United Bank of Africa (UBA), where she worked until her retirement in 1997. She, thereafter, went into active politics and business and was among the appointed Councillors of the Development Areas created by former Governor Joshua Dariye respectively.

Known for her uprightness, Nana, was said to easily blend with whoever she comes in contact with and that jokes were never in short supply. "Everyone loves the truth but not when the truth concerned you". She would never let the truth slide no matter how hurtful it was.

She was born in the priesthood family and was baptized at a tender age on September 28, 1969 and

devoted her life to evangelism and support for the mission at every opportunity she had. She was always quoted with her familiar slogan : "My Dad was one and so, I know very well the needs of missionaries".

However, while delivering sermon at the COCIN LCC Lowcost, the Associate Pastor, Rev. Ripji Merkur, said, the only thing that God hides from man is the how and time to death and urged Christians to follow the right path through Christ Jesus because heaven is real.

He described the deceased as a lover of the Lord in words and action and that she would enjoy a better part of Christ because she died in Christ and prayed that all would be able to enjoy the grace and make it to heaven. Emphasising that "whoever dies without Christ, is dead forever because Heaven is real".

Late Nana Huldah Kopkama Gochin, is survived by: Nde Yusuf Kopkama Gochin (Husband); Nenman Gochin (Son); Kankemwa Shwe (Daughter); Shikirmwa Tabat (Daughter); Emmanuel Gochin (Son); Rotshak Gochin (Son); Kaka Keziah Ishaku (Mother) and many brothers and sisters.

Floods displace 650,000 Nigerian children in 7 years - UNICEF

FLOODS have displaced 650,000 Nigerian children, making the country the second most affected globally by climate change impacts on children.

The displacement occurred from 2016 to 2023, as highlighted in a press release by the United Nations Children's Education Fund, UNICEF, on Monday, which coincided with the 2023 World Children's Day.

The UN agency emphasised that over 110 million Nigerian children are at risk due to rising temperatures, floods, droughts, and severe storms.

Dr. Salisu Dahiru, Director General of the National

Council on Climate Change, stressed the urgency of a swift and inclusive response, particularly considering the needs of vulnerable populations like children and women, in decision-making and implementation.

Similarly, Christian Munduate, UNICEF Representative in Nigeria, underscored the need to provide a platform for children to express their concerns about climate change, towards shaping a collective path toward a sustainable future.

Meanwhile, stakeholders in education, the environment, media, and relevant organizations converged at Evolution

Hotel, Gombe, for the launch of the Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC) in Nigeria, marking the 2023 World Children's Day.

UNICEF Bauchi Field Office streamed the launch live, highlighting key climate risks to children and outlining multi-sectoral climate actions planned for Nigeria from 2023-2027.

The event was attended by UNICEF officials, Gombe's Commissioner for Education, Professor Aishatu Umar Maigari, the Project Coordinator of Agro-Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscape (ACReSAL), and other stakeholders, including journalists and advocates for peace.

Other stakeholders who attended the launch in Gombe were veteran journalists Farida Muhammad Dunemia, Alhaji Usman Shehu, Alhaji Aliyu Ardo and others from Pathway to Peace DW Academia.

After the launch, an inter-school quiz competition on climate change was organized by UNICEF in collaboration with Gombe State Ministry of Education, ACReSAL and Pathway to Peace DW Academia.

Declaring the competition open, the Commissioner charged the students to see the inter-school quiz competition as an avenue to learn about climate.

She commended UNICEF for the launch of CLAC and also coming up with the idea inter-school competition on climate change.

Maigari called for the need to sustain CLAC and other interventions for children in order to leave a lasting legacy.

Daily Post reports that Government Girls Mega College, Gombe emerged first in the inter-school competition while Government Day Secondary School, Gandu and Government Day Secondary School, Gombe emerged second and third, respectively.

Student regains freedom after 50 days in captivity

ONE out of the five abducted female students of the Federal University Dutsinma (FUDMA) in Katsina State has regained freedom after about 50 days in captivity.

After she was released by her abductor, she was taken to Kuncin Kalgo, a community in Tsafe Local Government of Zamfara State from where she was later brought to Katsina on Sunday where she is receiving treatment at a hospital.

The spokesperson of the Katsina State Police Command, Aliyu Abubakar-Sadiq confirmed her release to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Katsina.

The students were abducted on 3 October 2023, when the gunmen invaded their apartments located behind Mariamoh Ajiri Memorial School, Dutsinma, around 2 a.m.



Egbetekun

Days after the arrest, the police claimed they arrested a suspected informant to the terrorists. The police have not released further details.



Dahiru

Sports



Sir David Brailsford (middle) with Sir Jim Ratcliffe (right) and Ineos chief executive Jean-Claude Blanc (left)

What role will Brailsford play in Man United?

By DAN ROAN

ONE of the most intriguing elements of Sir Jim Ratcliffe's imminent acquisition of 25% of Manchester United is the key role Sir David Brailsford is set to play at Old Trafford.

The Ineos director of sport is best known to a wider audience for having led the revival of British cycling.

But having overseen the petrochemical company's sports portfolio since 2021, Brailsford is now set to sit on a powerful three-person committee running the football operations of one of the world's biggest clubs.

It is the latest remarkable twist in a career that has featured much success, but also considerable controversy.

So how did Brailsford, 59, come to be in this position? Can he overhaul the way United is run? Will it work? And is it a risk?

The 'marginal gains' man

According to one of the most highly respected figures in English football, Newcastle United's sporting director Dan Ashworth, Brailsford has what it takes to succeed in the sport.

"I've known Sir Dave for a number of years, working across various different sports and he is without doubt the best in world sport at creating high-performance culture and turning that into winning," Ashworth said, after inviting him to speak to his Newcastle squad last season.

So where did Brailsford's journey begin?

The Derbyshire-born coach started building his reputation as a high-performance specialist at British Cycling 20 years ago, credited with helping to transform it into a team of serial winners thanks to the concept of 'marginal gains'.

"If you broke down everything you could think of that goes into riding a bike, and then improved it by 1%, you will get a significant increase when you put them all together," Brailsford told the BBC in 2012.

"There's fitness and conditioning, of course, but there are other things that might seem on the periphery, like sleeping in the right position, having the same pillow when you are away. They're tiny things but together it makes a big difference."

In fact, Sir Bradley Wiggins has since described 'marginal gains' as "a load of rubbish".

But for many years it seemed to work spectacularly. Team GB cyclists won eight cycling golds at the London Olympics, matching the eight they had won four years earlier in Beijing.

Three cyclists won the BBC Sports Personality of the Year in five years, and Brailsford was seen as a genius, helping to turn Britain into a cycling nation.

In 2013, Brailsford left British Cycling to concentrate full-time on his leadership role at Team Sky, the British professional cycling team he had helped to found.

They became dominant, winning a staggering six of seven Tour de France titles between 2012 and 2018, with wins for team riders Chris Froome (four), Wiggins, and Geraint Thomas continuing the success Brailsford had enjoyed at the national governing body.

Since Ratcliffe took over Team Sky in 2019, such success has proved elusive, the Ineos Grenadiers failing to win a single Grand Tour since the Giro d'Italia in 2021.

That was the year Brailsford was asked to take on an elevated role overseeing the operations of the various sports teams Ineos either owned or sponsored.

In addition to acquiring one-third of Formula 1 team Mercedes, Ineos also owns French Ligue 1 football club Nice and Swiss team FC Lausanne, as well as the Ineos Britannia sailing team headed by Ben Ainslie. There is also a performance partnership with the New Zealand rugby team.

This summer, in a rare appearance during the Tour de France, Brailsford hinted at a new version of 'marginal gains', one which borrowed approaches from the various sports under the Ineos umbrella to improve performances.

"Take nutrition," he told ITV Sport. "You can take the best learnings from that, and shift it across into football or into the sailing team..."

"It could be the data and analytics or strategic planning of the F1 team and bring it here [to cycling]. So there's a 'cross-pollination' of ideas... British Olympic sports, when I was part of that, did that ever so well. So to do that in a professional group of sports is exciting. I've been involved in that quite a lot."

When asked about the prospect of

getting involved at Old Trafford, Brailsford said, "We'd very much like to do it. To be custodians of one of the biggest sporting teams and brands in the world, and try to support the team and fanbase."

"I know Manchester really well, and you get a sense of what the culture's all about and what the fans want." Controversy, but Ratcliffe's 'backing'

But for many, the 'marginal gains' theory Brailsford became synonymous with is now tainted.

As recently as August, doctor Richard Freeman - the former chief medic at both British Cycling and Team Sky - was banned from all sport for four years for violating anti-doping rules, in one of the most significant cheating scandals in British sporting history.

Brailsford, British Cycling, Team Sky and Team Ineos have always denied any wrongdoing, with Freeman described as having fallen short of the ethical standards required of him, but having acted alone. But this was merely the latest twist in a period of intense questions, suspicion and intrigue.

In 2018, Brailsford appeared before a parliamentary committee to answer questions on the contents of a mystery "jiffy bag" Freeman had instructed be delivered to Wiggins before a 2011 race, amid an allegation it contained the banned anti-inflammatory drug triamcinolone.

This followed the revelation Wiggins received therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs) for triamcinolone to treat asthma and allergies shortly before three major races.

Freeman and Brailsford maintained the bag contained legal flu medication, and ultimately a parliamentary committee said it was unable to determine what was inside the jiffy bag.

Brailsford admitted "badly" handling the crisis after providing initial explanations for the delivery to the Daily Mail that later turned out to be wrong. And his evidence to the select committee was described as "extraordinary" by the chair of UK Anti-Doping.

But in a final report in 2018, the MPs accused Team Sky of "crossing an ethical line" in its use of TUEs more broadly.

"Contrary to the testimony of David

Brailsford in front of the committee, we believe that drugs were being used by Team Sky, within World Anti-Doping Agency rules, to enhance the performance of riders, and not just to treat medical need," its report concluded.

Team Sky issued a firm denial in response, along with Wiggins and Freeman, and reiterated their commitment to clean cycling.

But British Cycling, for so long the country's best-funded and respected sports governing body, was accused of a "serious failure" to keep basic medical records, a failure the report deemed "unprofessional and inexcusable". How did that tally with the sport's fabled attention to detail?

In 2021, Freeman was found guilty by a medical tribunal of ordering banned testosterone in 2011 "knowing or believing" it was to help dope an unnamed rider.

In her summing up, Freeman's lawyer had described Brailsford as "the spectre missing at these proceedings". The former Team Sky technical director Shane Sutton told the BBC it was "absolutely ludicrous" that "people are calling for Dave's head", and insisted neither he nor Brailsford had known anything about the testosterone.

But that did not stop the former shadow sports minister Clive Efford MP calling for Brailsford to be suspended, pending an investigation.

Such criticism has not deterred Ratcliffe, who said Brailsford retained his "full support."

"Your antenna starts pinging if you're uncomfortable about something" Ratcliffe told the Telegraph in 2021. "My antenna doesn't start pinging when I'm chatting to Dave. Quite the opposite." Can he restore United after a decade of decline?

Since then, Brailsford has become a familiar presence alongside British billionaire Ratcliffe. In March, the pair were part of the Ineos delegation that toured Old Trafford during United's year-long takeover saga.

For some fans, the prospect of Brailsford's prospective role at United has echoes of former England rugby coach Sir Clive Woodward's infamous spell as technical director at Southampton in 2005-06.

More recently, Todd Boehly's struggles as co-owner of Chelsea, despite his stellar reputation in US baseball, serve as another reminder of the unique challenge English football can pose to outsiders.

But others will be excited to see what difference Brailsford can make to recruitment and scouting, strategy, culture and sports science at a club regarded as under-performing, especially as there are signs of the difference he can make in the sport.

Brailsford conducted an audit at Nice in 2021, which was followed shortly after by the departure of the club's director of football Julien Fournier and CEO Bob Ratcliffe, Sir Jim's brother.

This led to Brailsford having a greater hand in recruitment than originally anticipated, with former Premier League players Aaron Ramsey, Ross Barkley and Nicolas Pepe among those he helped bring to the club in 2022 having hired controversial former Cardiff City and Crystal Palace director Iain Moody as a transfer consultant.

The following season, the club dropped to ninth place in the league, down from fifth the year before. However, there are signs this season that Nice are on track to achieve Champions League football - one of the main aims expressed by Ineos.

After a period of upheaval, they are currently second in the league under young coach Francesco Farioli - who Brailsford helped to recruit - one point behind Paris St-Germain and unbeaten after 12 games played.

Despite the controversy attached to his time in cycling, Brailsford continues to command significant respect as a guru of performance and innovation, and remains in demand.

Last year it emerged he was under consideration for a role in the ECB's high-performance team.

"One of the greatest winners of our generation" was how he was introduced during an appearance on the 'Diary of a CEO' podcast in January 2022.

During the interview, Brailsford spoke about how he got "super-excited about wanting to do big, bold ambitious things. And then afterwards I think 'ah, wow, what have I done? Now I've got to make it happen...let's get after it'. That drives me."

Sports



Super Eagles

'Sack Peseiro now to avert World Cup miss'

THE Professional Footballers Association of Nigeria (PFAN) has urged the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to sack Super Eagles coach, Jose Peseiro, with immediate effect, if it wants the country to qualify for the 2026 World Cup.

The Guardian said that, Nigeria failed to qualify for the Qatar 2022 World Cup on the away goals rule after drawing goalless away to Ghana and playing a 1-1 draw in Abuja. Against expectations, the Super Eagles managed to hold Lesotho to a 1-1 draw in Uyo and went to Rwanda to record another 1-1 draw with the Warriors of Zimbabwe in the 2026 World Cup qualifying series at the weekend.

The two draws mean the Eagles have just two points from a possible six. South Africa, who play their second game of the series today against Rwanda, lead Group C on three points and if they win in Kigali today, they will open a four-point lead over the Super Eagles.

Peseiro blamed Nigeria's poor result on fatigue, saying the players were tired after the long journey to Rwanda. "Our first half was very bad, second half was much better but we lacked energy to push for a win," Peseiro was quoted to have said after the game.

However, the chairman of PFAN Task Force, Harrison Jalla, disagreed with Peseiro. He said: "The coach is a misfit and he is only looking for where to put the blame. The NFF has to sack him now." Reminded of a similar step taken against former coach Gernot Rohr, a few months to the last AFCON in Cameroon, where the Eagles crashed out in the Round of 16, Jalla said: "It is more honourable for us to fumble with our local coach than spend about \$70,000 monthly on a foreign coach and get bad results. If the NFF fails to sack Peseiro now, another disaster awaits the Super Eagles at the AFCON in Cote d'Ivoire."

"We need to take the bull by the horn before it is too late. As it is now, our qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup is on the line. Again, this poor result by the Super Eagles speaks volume about the quality of leadership we have at the NFF. "There is urgent need for well-meaning Nigerians to break the monopoly of the racket going on in the NFF. We can't continue to pick the NFF president from one constituency, which is the weakest. I have said it several times that it is suicidal to leave the decision of who becomes the NFF president in the hands of the states' FA chairmen. Just that constituency alone and the FCT have 37 votes out of 44 votes".

We need equal representation in the NFF, and that is the only way the private sector can come in. "Our football is going down under the watch of Ibrahim Gusau, and Nigerians need to act fast. Gusau has to go as quickly as possible."

appointed, he has won just six of his 13 games. The Super Eagles have not improved since Gernot Rohr was sacked in 2021. Nigeria started their 2026 World Cup journey last week with fixtures against Lesotho and Zimbabwe. The Super Eagles were the favourites to win, but they were very disappointing, forcing Lesotho to a draw in Abuja and sharing the spoils with Zimbabwe in Rwanda.

Following the recent results, Nigerian football fans clamoured for Peseiro's sack. However, NFF chief Essien has revealed that it is a complex situation. "It is unfortunate that instead of six points from two games, we have just two," Essien told OJB Sports. "We have put ourselves in a very difficult situation. But when you say the NFF should sack the coach, we

Messi's World Cup shirts go for \$10m

Six of the shirts worn by Lionel Messi during Argentina's World Cup-winning campaign are to be sold at auction.

BBC SPORT said that, captain Messi, 36, lifted the trophy after his side beat France on penalties in last December's final in Qatar.

His shirt from the final is included in the set, which are expected to fetch more than £8m in the auction hosted by Sotheby's in New York.

The record for a game-worn football shirt is Diego Maradona's 'Hand of God' jersey, which sold for £7.1m in 2022.

Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's head of modern collectibles, said the sale of Messi's six shirts "stands as a monumental occasion in auction history".

"The 2022 Fifa World Cup stands as one of the greatest events in sports

history, intrinsically connected to Messi's valiant journey and firmly establishing his status as the greatest player of all time," Wachter said.

He played in all seven of Argentina's 2022 World Cup matches, but only two of the three shirts Messi wore during the group stage will be auctioned, after Australia squad member Cameron Devlin swapped shirts with the former Barcelona forward during the tournament.

Sotheby's said: "A portion of the proceeds from the auction will be donated to the Unicas Project, led by Sant Joan de Deu (SJD) Barcelona Children's Hospital with the support of the Leo Messi Foundation, to meet the needs of children suffering from rare diseases."

Messi's shirts will be on view at Sotheby's New York headquarters in a free, public exhibition during the



Lionel Messi scored two goals and converted from the spot during the penalty shootout as Argentina beat France in the 2022 World Cup final

ECOWAS marathon holds December 16

THE 2023 ECOWAS Abuja International Marathon will hold on December 16, the organisers have announced. Unlike past editions in which participants were restricted to just the half-marathon, this year's race will feature a five-kilometre fun run targeted at

families and other fun runners. The Guardian said that, in a statement yesterday, interested participants were advised to pick their free sub region registration forms at the ECOWAS secretariat, AFN offices across the six Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory and the Rugby Football Federation office in Abuja.

Okon, a former AFN Performance Director, said the statement said, will start at the ECOWAS secretariat, while the five-kilometre race will begin at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Expressway. Both races will climax at Eagles Square where there will be other fun activities with entertainment, it said.

Race Director, Gabriel Okon said, "This year's theme is promoting integration among ECOWAS citizens; so, we want our people, both old and young to come out en masse to be part of this year's race," Okon, a former AFN Performance Director, said. He also revealed that several mouth-watering prizes would be up for grabs at this year's race, saying: "Of course, a lot of prizes will be given out to the participants; we are expecting runners from across the sub-region, from Ghana to Senegal, Liberia to Gambia, and many more."

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Marathon

We will sack Peseiro if... NFF board member

NIGERIA Football Federation board member Nse Essien has stated that they are unhappy with Jose Peseiro's performance as Super Eagles coach. However, they can not sack him because they cannot afford to pay him off,

Peseiro took charge of the Super Eagles in May 2022, but he has been unimpressive. The former Braga coach arrived with a rich CV. However, his poor winning rate and penchant for getting sacked in his previous jobs stood out.



didn't employ him. "When you come to look at it, it was the sports ministry that employed him. They should have paid his salary, but up till now, they have not paid a dime.

"If you sack the coaches now, who pays the compensation? Not a dime has been paid to this coach, who earns around \$70,000 every month. If you sack him, you leave us with the responsibilities, and Nigerians will also crucify us.

"We have to respect his contract, but if we had the money to give him, why wouldn't we relieve him because we are not happy."

With the Africa Cup of Nations just a few weeks away, Nigeria is in a precarious situation. With the recent performances, the Super Eagles do not look good enough to win gold in Ivory Coast.

With the Africa Cup of Nations just a few weeks away, Nigeria is in a precarious situation. With the recent performances, the Super Eagles do not look good enough to win gold in Ivory Coast.

Sports

Azzurri qualify for Euro 2024 behind England

REIGNING European champions Italy secured the point they required against Ukraine to qualify for Euro 2024 as Group C runners-up behind England.

BBC SPORT said that, Aa2-1 win in the reverse fixture meant Italy only had to avoid defeat against Ukraine, with whom they began this crucial encounter level on points.

A frantic match in Leverkusen, Germany ended goalless to confirm the Azzurri's place in next summer's finals.

Third-placed Ukraine's qualification hopes rest on the play-offs in March.

Spurred on by passionate support at their 'home' venue amid Russia's ongoing invasion of their country, Ukraine had appeals for a stoppage-time penalty dismissed after Mykhailo Mudryk went down under a challenge from Bryan Cristante.

But Luciano Spalletti's side survived that late scare to ensure they will be present in Germany to defend their crown, qualifying for their eighth consecutive European Championship.

"As all of you know, the war in Ukraine is continuing," Ukraine boss Serhiy Rebrov said.

"It is quite hard for the players, they're always watching their phones, they're watching the news, same as me. In this atmosphere, it is not easy to work.

"But we understand we are presenting as a very strong country and I think today on



Italy finish second in Group C, above Ukraine by virtue of their superior head-to-head record

the pitch all the players showed that we have character and that we fight for our country."

Rebrov's Ukraine, the only side who had previously taken points off England, began positively in pursuit of the victory they sought.

Heorhiy Sudakov's low drive forced Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma into action in an end-to-end opening period, during which Anatoliy Trubin also produced a fine save to deny Nicolò Barella.

The Azzurri gradually asserted themselves but Trubin again came to Ukraine's rescue when Davide Frattesi was played through on goal, while Giacomo Raspadori fell agonisingly short of meeting the lively Federico Chiesa's ball across the six-yard box.

Donnarumma recovered superbly from his own failure to collect a cross to smother Mudryk's close-range attempt

as the match remained delicately poised at the increasingly tense BayArena, but Italy held on.

Ex-Napoli boss Spalletti, who only replaced Roberto Mancini as Italy boss three months ago, said: "We have a moment to pat ourselves on the back."

"Now, the level will step up. Now, the fun begins."

Elsewhere on Monday, the Czech Republic and Slovenia both also qualified from their respective groups.

West Ham's Tomas Soucek scored in a 3-0 win over Moldova as the Czechs qualified behind leaders Albania in Group E - though boss Jaroslav Silhavy stepped down after guiding them to qualification.

Meanwhile, Slovenia progressed as Group H runners-up to Denmark with a 2-1 victory against Kazakhstan.

Southgate 'learns a lot' from Three Lions games

ENGLAND manager Gareth Southgate believes "he has learned a lot" despite his side finishing their European Championship qualifying campaign unbeaten with a disappointing draw at North Macedonia.

BBC SPORT said that, already-qualified England got the point they needed to secure a top seeding at Euro 2024 in Skopje, but were unable to improve on their underwhelming performance in Friday's 2-0 win over Malta.

"I think in both matches we've been able to look at different players as well as trying to win," Southgate told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"Normally you're waiting until March to do that. We've learned quite a bit from those two games which is an advantage for us."

The hosts were awarded a controversial penalty at the end of the first half when England debutant Rico Lewis

caught striker Bojan Miovski with his hand as he jumped up for a header.

North Macedonia captain Enis Bardhi put his side ahead from the rebound after his spot-kick was saved by England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

England equalised in the 59th minute when Phil Foden's corner deflected in off Macedonian Jani Atanasov under pressure from Harry Kane.

The point sealed England's place in pot one for the draw for next summer's European Championship in Germany as one of the top five group winners, with 20 points from eight qualifying matches. 'Two flat games to finish'

England were routinely frustrated in Skopje against a North Macedonia side who were hammered 7-0 by the Three Lions at Old Trafford in June.

Former England goalkeeper Rob Green dubbed their

performance "rushed, hurried" and without "quality".

"In the end, two flat games to finish the campaign with," Green told BBC Radio 5 Live. "They got the equaliser and then North Macedonia caused problems and England caused more of their own."

Southgate's team had made a promising start. Declan Rice hit the post with a driven shot from the edge of the box in the 14th minute before Ollie Watkins sent a free header wide seconds later.

Midway through the first half Harry Maguire was fortunate not to concede a penalty when he nudged over Elif Elmas in the box. The penalty England did concede on the stroke of half-time though was harsh on the visitors.

Slovakian referee Filip Glova had initially waved play on when Lewis caught Aberdeen striker Miovski, but awarded the hosts a spot-kick after consulting the pitch-side monitor.

Seconds into the second half England had a goal ruled out for offside after Jack Grealish had timed his run too early before he bundled in Bukayo Saka's cross.

Their leveller eventually came just before the hour mark when substitute Kane did enough to panic defender Atanasov into deflecting Foden's corner into his own net.

England looked the likelier to grab a late winner but, just as they did for most of the game, struggled to break down their opponent's low block.

"Of course we would have liked to have racked the goals

THE launch of Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy's virtual golf competition has been pushed back one year, to early 2025, after its facility in Florida sustained damage.

BBC SPORT said that, TGL, an indoor "high-tech league", was due to start on 9 January 2024.

But those plans have been delayed after a power outage caused the collapse of the air-supported dome roof at the SoFi Center in Palm Beach Gardens.

No injuries occurred at the facility, which covers about 250,000 square feet.

"This decision came after reviewing short-term solutions, potential construction timelines, player schedules, and the primetime sports television calendar," TGL said in a statement.

"Despite this new timeline for the venue, we remain excited about the future of TGL and will continue to build excitement between now and the start of the season with our players, fans and teams."

Fifteen of the current world's top 20 are among the 24 PGA Tour players to have signed for the inaugural season.

Six teams of four players are set to compete in the TGL.

TGL: Woods, McIlroy's golf venture start delayed

They are the Los Angeles Golf Club, Atlanta Drive Golf Club, Boston Common Golf, Jupiter Links Golf Club, TGL New York and TGL San Francisco.

Woods is set to compete for Jupiter Links, while McIlroy will play for Boston Common.

The SoFi Center is set to host each event, which will take around two hours to play and be broadcast live in the US with all players wearing microphones.

Woods, a 15-time major winner, said: "Although the events of last week will force us to make adjustments to our timelines, I'm fully confident that this concept will be brought to life by our great committed players."

McIlroy said: "The postponement brings mixed feelings of disappointment and excitement.

"Above all, we are happy that no one was injured," he added.



Serena and Venus Williams, Stephen Curry and Liverpool owners the Fenway Sports Group are among the TGL backers

Silhavy steps down after qualifying for Euro 2024

JAROSLAV Silhavy has stepped down as Czech Republic manager after securing qualification for Euro 2024.

Silhavy, 62, took charge in September 2018 and led the Czech Republic to the quarter-finals of Euro

2020.

The Czech Republic booked their place at next summer's European Championship by beating Moldova 3-0 on Monday.

"Even though we are happy now, we had already decided before the game not to continue," Silhavy said.

"I informed the president [of the Czech Republic football association] Petr Fouska about it. The pressure was already enormous - sometimes I didn't even understand it. This also contributed to our decision."

§ Euro 2024: Who has qualified and who can still book their place in Germany?

Silhavy oversaw 26

victories during his 56-game stint in charge, drawing 10 and losing 20, and guided them to second place in Group E during their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign.

The Czech has had domestic managerial spells with a host of clubs including Viktoria Plzen and Slavia Prague.

"It's not just about me, but I have the entire implementation team behind me. I am convinced that we have done the job and we are leaving behind good results," Silhavy said.

Just 24 hours before Monday's crucial Group E game, Silhavy sent three players, including West Ham's Vladimir Coufal, home after they went to a nightclub on Saturday.



North Macedonia were given a controversial penalty at the end of the first half



Silhavy



Quest



writer

N. S. OKOROMA

FRAGMENT

"The inability of this policy to satisfy the national aspirations of the country rendered it unpopular. In 1969 a National Curriculum Conference was organised which reviewed the inherited curriculum and identified new national goals for Nigeria's education".

N. S. OKOROMA

Educational policies and problems of implementation in Nigeria

IN education as in other fields of human endeavour, every official action of an organisation must have a backing or a basis. It is this purpose that a policy serves. A policy defines the area in which decisions are to be made, but it does not make the decision. It usually provides a general guide that facilitates decision-making. Educational policies provide the direction for educational activities.

The formulation of an educational policy sets the stage for implementation which, according to Ukeje (1986), is perhaps the most important aspect of planning. Planning is usually an action which succeeds policy formulation but precedes implementation. Unfortunately, educational policies and goal attainment have been irreconcilable due to implementation constraints. Perhaps this accounts for the observation made by Governor Oyakhilome of Rivers State in an address sent to the Convention of the Nigerian Association for Educational Administration and Planning in 1986. He expressed concern about the problem of policy implementation thus: We know it is difficult to realize planned objectives one hundred percent. But our experience in planning education in this country shows a disturbing gap between planned objectives and attained results ... As professionals in the field of education, it may be pertinent to identify whether those critical gaps are results of faulty planning or faulty implementation (Oyakhilome 1986:2).

Policy implementation in education is a conspicuous national problem that has taken centre stage in Nigeria. This paper examines the problem in some detail and explores its implications for the development of Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Over the years, the gap between educational policies and goal attainment due to inadequate implementation of these policies has become of great concern to many observers. The paper is interested in identifying the implementation constraints and to explore the implications of poor educational policy implementation for national development. Following a clarification of the causes and effects of the problem of poor policy implementation, the paper will advance remedial measures.

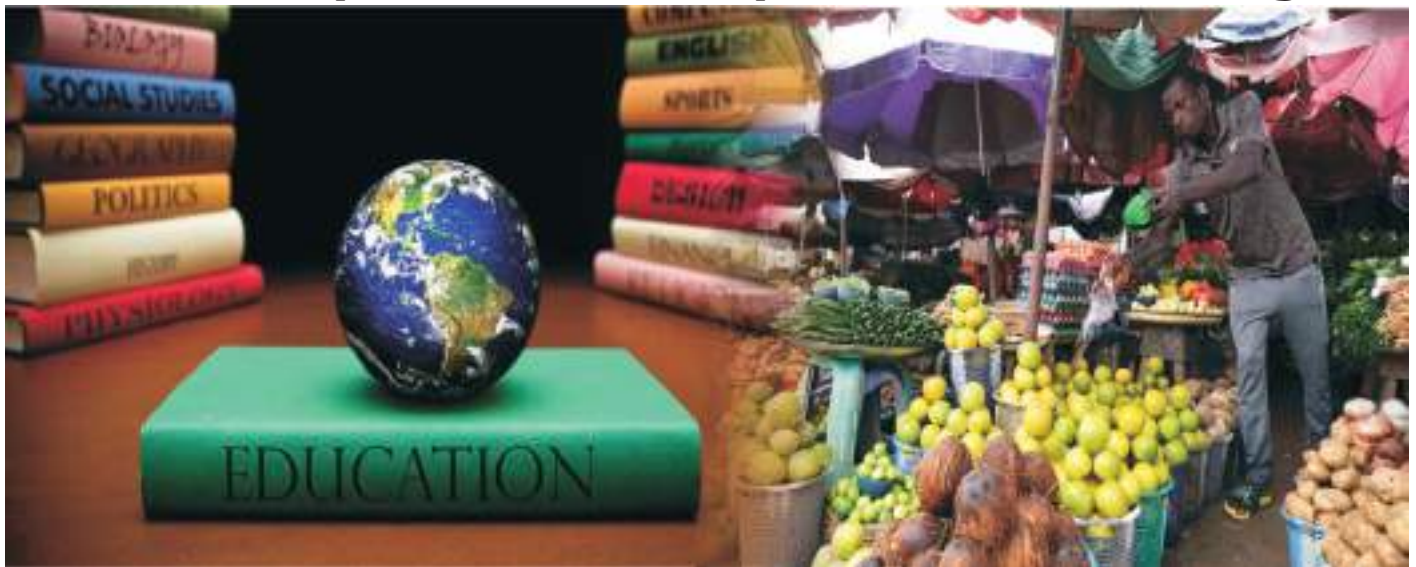
Research questions

In course of this examination, the following questions will be addressed.

- Are educational achievements in line with educational policies in Nigeria?
- What factors or constraints have made the implementation of educational policies difficult?
- What are the implications of poor implementation of educational policies for national development?
- What strategies can be adopted to ensure better policy implementation?

Policy as a concept

A policy serves the purpose of ensuring that every official action of an organisation must have a basis or a backing. Terry (1977: 1989)



considers that "a policy is an overall guide that gives the general limits and direction in which administrative action will take place". According to him, "a policy defines the area in which decisions are to be made but it does not give the decision".

A policy brings about a meaningful relationship between business objectives and organisational functions as it discourages deviations from planned courses of action. A policy ensures consistency of action because an organisation is governed by approved principles. A policy does not have to be rigid, as there should be room for adjustment if necessary after its formulation.

Perhaps this is why Hoy and Miskel (1978:215) believe that "policies are not only formulated but also programmed, communicated, monitored and evaluated"? The non-rigid nature of policies is confirmed by Lindblom (1959:86) when he describes policymaking as a "process of successive approximation to some desired objectives in which what is desired itself continues to change under reconsideration". In fact, a good policy is one that can be reviewed as the need may arise. Lindblom believes that a wise policy maker cannot expect all their policies to achieve a one-hundred percent success. Regardless of how good a policy may be, its implementation may introduce some element of imperfection.

The concept of educational policy

Educational policies are initiatives mostly by governments that determine the direction of an educational system (Okoroma 2000:190). According to Osokoya (1987:2):

Education is a distinctive way in which the society inducts its young ones into full membership. So every modern society needs some educational policies to guide it in the process of such initiation.

In the view of Awokoya (1981), educational policy is directed towards increasing the quality of life of a people. He believes that the objective of any policy is to satisfy individual needs, community

pressures and the degree of complexity and sophistication to which socialised personnel must be educated and trained to meet these demands. The following considerations, according to Awokoya (1981), are necessary to guide the formulation of adequate educational policy.

- It should be formulated and adopted through a political process which acknowledges the reality and legitimacy of conflicting interests and desires among its participants
- It should portray some elements of guidance for properly directed and coordinated action towards the attainment of the desired goals
- It should contain information on the broad objectives that should be reached
- It should be a binding guide on the actions of those implementing it
- It should be enforceable and enforced by the society which formulates it.

Kerr (1976) believes that, for a policy to qualify as an educational policy, it must be distinct from other policies. In his view, educational policies are distinguishable from other policies by the fact that policies on education are part and parcel of educational institutions. However, it is important to note that not all policies formulated in educational institutions can qualify as educational policies. Generally, policies must be rational and purposeful to enable them to stand the test of time.

Problems associated with policy implementation

The gap that often exists between policy formulation and implementation provokes inquiry to identify factors that constrain the effective implementation of educational policies. The problem of policy implementation is traceable to the planning stage which comes immediately after policy formulation. Okeke *et al.* (1985) and Ukeje (1986) have stated clearly that good planning will ensure effective implementation. Good planning that can facilitate effective implementation ought to consider such factors as the planning

environment, social environment, political environment, and financial and statistical problems. It is in recognition of this observation that Aghenta (1984: 239) noted:

For education to achieve all ends, it has to be carefully planned. The plan must take into consideration ... the needs of the society; the political, socio-cultural, economic, military, scientific, and technological realities of the environment are very important to its survival.

Adesina (1977) notes that planned implementation is constrained by the following factors:

- over-estimation of available resources – this is a situation where estimated resources are greater than actual available resources to implement a program
- under-estimation of the costs of implementing a plan – this happens when cost-estimates do not make adequate provisions for inflation and actual implementation costs become unmanageable
- over-reliance upon external assistance – plans that substantially rely upon assistance from foreign sources for their implementation run into hitches when such aid fails to come, and
- inaccurate statistical data – planning education requires accurate and up-to-date data. Plans that do not adequately provide for this usually have implementation problems.

Furthermore, Van Horn and Van Meter (1977) have also advanced three general explanations for unsuccessful implementation of programs, namely:

- the communication process – effective implementation requires that implementers know what they are expected to do; as messages pass through any communication network, distortions are likely to occur which can produce contrary directives, ambiguities, inconsistencies and incompatible requirements;
- the capability problem – ability to implement policies may be hindered by such factors as incompetent staff, insufficient information, political support,

inadequate financial resources and impossible time constraints, and

- dispositional conflicts – implementation of a policy may fail because those charged with the responsibility of implementation refuse to carry out their own assignments.

National Policy on Education

Prior to 1977 Nigeria operated an educational policy inherited from Britain at independence. The inability of this policy to satisfy the national aspirations of the country rendered it unpopular. In 1969 a National Curriculum Conference was organised which reviewed the inherited curriculum and identified new national goals for Nigeria's education. A National Seminar was organised by the National Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) in 1973 under the Chairmanship of Chief S. O. Adebayo. This gave rise to the

National Policy on Education in 1977 (Akangbou 1985; Bello 1986; Okoroma 2000).

The National Policy on Education is anchored on Nigeria's philosophy on education as enunciated through the nation's objectives. Nigeria has five main national objectives as provided by the Second National Development Plan and accepted as the necessary foundation for the National Policy on Education. They are the building of:

- a free and democratic society
- a just and egalitarian society
- a united strong and self-reliant nation
- a great and dynamic economy
- a land of bright and full opportunities for all citizens (FRN, 1998).

Implementation of the primary and secondary aspects of the National Policy on Education

An analysis of the implementation efforts of the primary and secondary aspects of Nigeria's education policy will give an insight into the relationship between policies and goal attainment through implementation.

To be continued