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Judicial pronouncements and survival of democracy

The last may not have been heard about the 2023 Nigerian general elections. This may not be unconnected with the retinue of litigations before the judiciary. Litigations that arose following the civic exercise. The outcome of which some analysts described as "victory for democracy" or "threat to democracy", of course, depending on the divide you belong to. In this piece, KENNETH DAKOP examines the implication of some of the judicial rulings or "cathedral" pronouncements as insinuated by former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Read on...



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NAWOJ elections: Lessons learnt and the task ahead

Recently the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ, from all over the 36 states and The Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Abuja, converged in Abuja, at the International Women Centre, for their 11th Triennial National Delegates Conference to elect its new executives at the national level.

The former National President, Ladi Bala, deserves commendation for the milestone achievements recorded during her tenure. This includes getting an office for NAWOJ and making it a household name. The new leadership should see this as a challenge and keep the tempo by doing much more.

Unfortunately, the election was a battle of the titans, negating everything the pen profession stands for. Delegates tried selling their candidates vying for different positions through any means possible. The delegate's conference was no different from the secular politics. Campaign of calumny, character assassination, money politics, and mudslinging, verbal assault all played out.

Sadly, the outing was very disappointing because members of the fourth estate whose business involves reporting and condemning underhanded behavior, displayed the very things they condemn in society.

NAWOJians should be mindful of the fact that they are professionals first and politics is only secondary. They should get rid of the politics of bitterness and display sportsmanship by working together for a better NAWOJ. Whatever they engage in, there should be decorum

Suffice to say that some of these things played out because some members felt they were not carried along in time passed and so felt that whatever it takes, the narratives of the past Executive must be changed.

With all these grievances and loopholes, we advise that the new NAWOJ executive should operate an all-inclusive leadership and open up room for proper communication by informing members about their aspirations, decisions, activities and goals that all zones will benefit from. The ability to listen and address issues will help strengthen the relationship between members and executives which will give them support and credibility.

It is expected that the new leadership of NAWOJ should create a template that will ensure the achievements of realistic goals for the association. In order to attain effective leadership, they should foster collaborative committees and stakeholders to enhance effectiveness and promote unity.

Furthermore, advocating for the rights and wellbeing of its members is tantamount. This can be achieved by fair and constructive negotiations with employers to achieve beneficial agreements.

Also, the union should adapt to change with the ability to maneuver evolving situations that will contribute to its success.

Apparently active member participation should be encouraged through meetings, events and feedback mechanisms which would build the bond of unity amongst members and ensure a more resilient union.

We encourage that the union's financial stability should be ensured through budgeting and financial management. This will ensure financial transparency in order to build trust amongst members.

Also NAWOJ should adhere to ethical standards which include reporting obligations and internal governance policies. The new leadership should know that their role is to serve the interest of its members not for selfish benefits. By incorporating these ethics, it will intensify a more successful and impactful tenure for the new executives.

CBN restricts transactions on accounts without BVN, NIN

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has announced a decision to prohibit financial transactions on bank accounts that do not have a Bank Verification Number (BVN) and National Identification Number (NIN) with effect from March 2024 as part of its effort to promote financial system stability.

In a circular to the commercial, merchant, non-interest and payment service banks, other financial institutions and mobile money operators, the CBN said effective immediately, any unfunded account/wallet will be placed on "Post No Debit or Credit" until the new process is satisfied.

"Effective March 1, 2024, all funded accounts or wallets shall be placed on "Post No Debit or Credit" and no further transactions permitted," the apex bank said in the circular that was signed by both director, payment system management

department, Chibuzo Efobi and director, financial policy and regulation department, Haruna Mustapha yesterday.

"It is mandatory for ALL Tier-1 bank accounts and wallets for individuals to have BVN and/or NIN, it said, adding that "it remains mandatory for Tiers 2 & 3 accounts and wallets for Individual accounts to have BVN and NIN;"

The Central Bank warned that the BVN or NIN attached to and/or associated with all accounts/wallets must be electronically revalidated by January 31, 2024, while also announcing that effective immediately, no new Tier1 accounts and wallets should be opened without BVN or NIN.

The CBN said a comprehensive BVN and NIN audit shall be conducted shortly and where breaches are identified, appropriate sanctions shall be applied.

"All financial institutions regulated by CBN are required to

apply strict compliance on restrictions on Tier1 accounts/wallets as they relate to limits on transaction values and cumulative balances," Efobi and Mustapha said in the circular.

By the new rule, the Central Bank said enrolment of new customers by manually creating a customer profile and subsequently attaching a BVN or NIN is strictly prohibited.

Where a BVN or NIN exists for a new customer, it directs the financial institution to use the same to electronically check the BVN database at the NIBSS portal and NIN at NIMC portal. It also asked the financial institutions to electronically retrieve and retain the underlying details (Names, DoB, Gender, Phone No, etc) as authentic customer details.

The apex bank said the use of any 'placeholder BVN or NIN' to support the creation of any customer profile is strictly prohibited and would be sanctioned accordingly.

FG, Germany sign Power Infrastructure agreement

President Bola Tinubu and the German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz on Friday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) presided over the further signing of the Presidential Power Initiative (PPI) agreement between Nigeria and Germany.

The agreement is designed to ultimately add 12,000mw of electricity to the national grid, according to Adabayo Adelabu, Nigeria's Minister of Power.

The agreement was signed at the sidelines of the United Nations Climate Conference (COP28) taking place at Expo City in Dubai. The managing director of the Federal Government of Nigeria Power Company, Kenny Anue, signed for Nigeria, while Nadja Haakansson, the Managing Director (Africa) Siemens AG, signed on behalf of Germany.

Speaking on the agreement, Anue harped on the commitment of President Tinubu to the development of power infrastructure, noting that he had reiterated time and again that

infrastructure development is critical to the ongoing reforms.

He affirmed that electricity and financing are at the heart of the economic reform agenda of the administration, adding that the PPI by design encapsulates both elements with the support of partners, Siemens Energy and the financiers that are backed by the German government.

Anue noted: "Mr. President, with your strong and dynamic leadership through the Minister of power, now we seek to exploit or expedite what was already a worthwhile programme in the presidential power initiative through this accelerated agreement today.

"Some of the things that have been achieved, erstwhile by the federal government, have been the establishment of the FGN Power Company as the special purpose vehicle for the implementation of the project."

"This is an agreement that has to do with end-to-end fixing in terms of grid stabilisation of the entire transmission grid in the Nigerian power sector, which will eventually improve the power supply in terms of regularity, in terms of functionality and in terms of affordability in the years to come.

"We're very happy that we're able to sign this agreement tonight. And in the next couple of months we will witness a lot of activities on the presidential power initiatives project."

On the financial implications, he revealed that the project is to be financed under the Government export credit facility that is being provided by a couple of German banks to Nigeria.

He added: "The original agreement we had was for \$2.3 billion. But what we have is up to date, just in the region of \$60 million, which has to do with the importation of the 10 transformers and the 10 power mobile substations, which Siemens have delivered to the country.

"They have been commissioned and we are in the presence of installation of these transformers. So far, it has cost us \$60 million dollars."

Buhari wasn't in charge of his govt -Ndume

Senate Chief Whip Ali Ndume defended the rendition of President Bola Tinubu's campaign tune at the hallowed chamber of the National Assembly during the presentation of the 2024 budget.

At the event earlier in the week, the lawmakers stood up as a symbol of respect, but the band was heard playing Tinubu's campaign song from when he was a presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

While the lawmakers have come under criticism, Ndume who represents Borno South, feels there is nothing wrong with the action. He argued that under the era of former President Muhammadu Buhari, the 'Sai Baba' mantra was also recited by the lawmakers.

"It is not a crime. Honestly, it is not a big deal. In this country, we pick on trivial things," he said on Channels Television's Politics Today.

"When a President walks in, there are times that some members take advantage of that situation to even challenge the President directly.

When Buhari came some time back, this same thing was done - 'Sai Baba' (was chanted). So why should Tinubu's case be a big deal?" 'Not In Charge'



Ndume

During the show, the Borno lawmaker also spoke on the administration of former President Buhari.

He claimed that, unlike Tinubu, Buhari was not in charge of his government.

"The President here is in charge. He takes charge, unlike our former President. That President will just give you an assignment, he will not look over you," he said.

That is where the problem is and he (Buhari) knows that. That was the mistake President Buhari made. He ended up confessing these days that he had more kleptocrats in his government that people that had more interest at heart."

With
**Katdamba
Y. Gobum**
On Sunday



OTHER SIDE

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"Beyond the reasons that may have been advanced for the violence, it is certain that since September 7, 2001, the orgy of attacks has been sadly replicated in all local government areas of the state. That is why the number of the death harvested in the last two decades is regrettable. Since the religious crisis in Jos took place. It was the year mistrust and hatred was brought to live with the people of the state-and even in the communities that make up the state."

Plateau: The years the locusts have eaten

Plateau: The years the locusts have eaten

Some call it the 22 years of madness on the Plateau. However you wish to call those years, one thing is certain: They are years one would never wish to be visited on any community again. Except perhaps those who wish they return are sadists, the state has had enough share of its tribulations.

For those who remember that black Friday afternoon of September 7, 2001, the day Jos went up in flames and for days, the city was engulfed in the most atrocious violence it would ever be witnessed, there is nothing so outstanding about the incident except that, it remains one of the saddest days, amongst other, in the history of Plateau State.

Taking arms against one another could be a harrowing experience on a people. Indeed it was sad, while it lasted. While it was surreptitiously planned by some crisis merchants, those who were caught off guard paid the supreme price. While it lasted, uncountable of people were wasted; thereby leaving scars on individuals, families and of the communities that make of the theater of the violence.

Today, many remember that had the crisis not taken place, brothers, sisters, fathers and mothers would today have become notable in various human fields of human endeavour.

They were regrettably cut short, wasted for no fault of theirs. From the Congo-Russia junction where a group of Muslim had converged for their Friday prayers; a certain Christian woman had made to pass, the argument which ensued soon became a conflagration of fire on anything was seen as the enemy's.

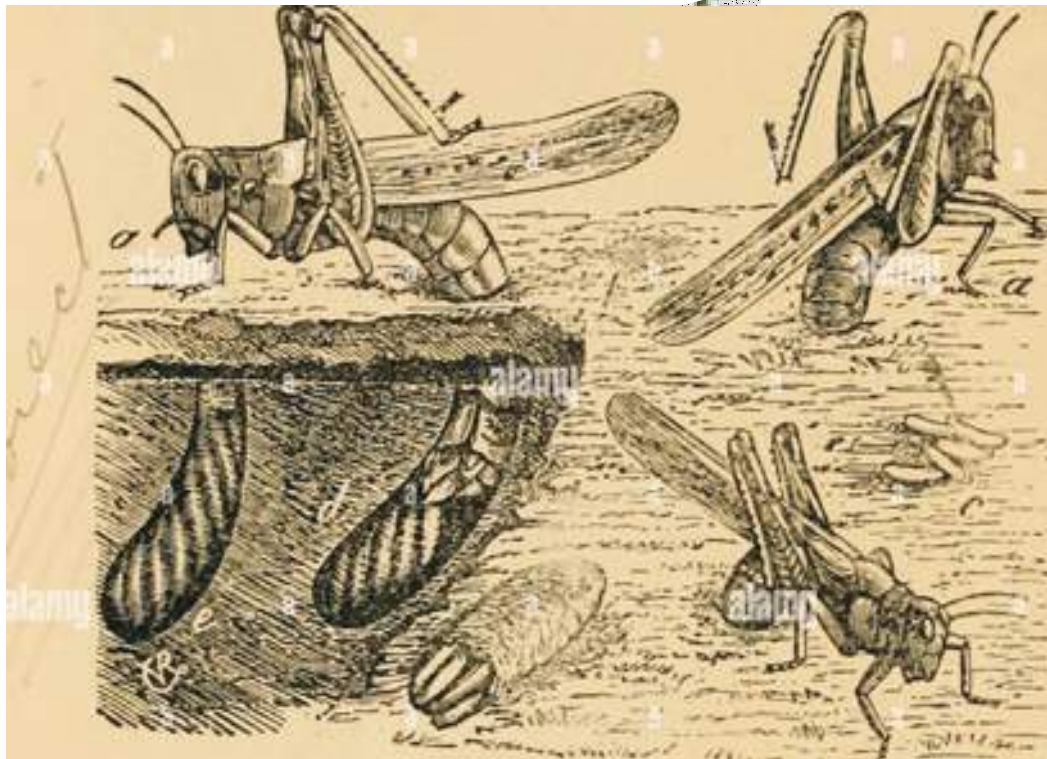
Since September 2001, the metropolitan city of Jos and Bukuru became divided on religious lines. Areas that hitherto had a mixture of both adherents of the two religions, Christianity and Islam could no longer contain adherents practicing them to live together.

Several years after the Jos crisis, some may have forgiven, but there are yet others who walk with the scars and find it difficult to let it go. Some few years ago, it was Governor Simon Bako Lalong who established the Forgiveness Center in the heart of the city. It was meant to stimulate those who have been wronged to see reason why the past must be put behind in the life of the state and its people.

In fact, the attacks on the state persisted up till 2023. There are yet grievances from members of those communities that have repeatedly been attacked.

They need assurances from government that they can be protected; and even when they suffer loss, some help should be extended to them by government agencies responsible for emergency management.

It was indeed sad, brothers and sisters who, before the crisis had co-existed together for decade took up arms against each other and chased their 'enemies' out of those communities.



Sadly, as it stands all together, the city is segregated along tribal and or religious lines. Entrances to communities and neighbourhoods are not done until one was sure of his or her safety first.

This development has made business in the city difficult, as it is different from what used to obtain in the past. Life has been a hell relating to one another. Everyone is a suspect of the other; those vendors who before now went around the city unchallenged are today cautious of where to enter to sell.

Beyond the reasons that may have been advanced for the violence, it is certain that since September 7, 2001, the orgy of attacks has been sadly replicated in all local government areas of the state. That is why the number of the death harvested in the last two decades is regrettable.

Since the religious crisis in Jos took place. It was the year mistrust and hatred was brought to live with the people of the state-and even in the communities that make up the state.

Perhaps for a few weeks of the incident, no one could categorically say they knew the reasons for the crisis. The buildup was the disappearance of private parts of men at different points in the city and the hot exchange by youth who wrote threats on wall and threw caution to the wind by telling whoever wanted to know that they were ready to face each other. The security failed to act; in fact, they should have known better what was to hit the city.

It's been two decades and nobody can tell you exactly what started the crisis and or who was arrested or prosecuted for desecrating the peace long enjoyed in the state.

Sadly for 21 years, the state has refused to move. Sadly also, the state is still walking within the perimeter of distrust, angst and cosmetic peace'.

It can be observed that the slightest of provocation no matter how far it is to Jos, people take up arms against each other, thereby, venting their anger on others as if the state has become a center for revenge. Recall what happened on the University of Jos after the killings of the Ondo 22 last year.

For these long years running, everything we ever prided ourselves of has been lost. Had but kept our peace, no state would have been our rival in tourism and commerce. The market that made many envy us was bombed in 2002.

Sadly the effort to rebuild the market has become contentious. We are where we are today because we have lost sanity and cannot get out of the quagmire on account that justice and truth have been denied us.

It has been stated: 'Nobody is a winner in a war. We lost properties, lives, businesses, opportunities, our cherished peace, and most importantly, the humanity in us was substituted with hunting human beings as games. May the state never experience those dark days again but return Plateau to our Home of Peace and Tourism'.

Sadly also, lands have been grabbed in Bassa, Bokkos, Barkin Ladi, Mangu and Riyom local government areas. It was in the course of these sad developments that some travelers who were enroute Ondo from Bauchi were attacked on Rukuba road and killed. Sad as it was, it is important to recall what may have happened before that event.

While there is no justification of the killings, that took place when terrorists sustained a vicious degree of attacks on Irigwe communities of Bassa and Yelwan Zangam inhabited by the Anaguta; a sleepy community on the outskirts of Jos North local government area in 2021; after a repeated siege on Riyom, Barkin Ladi, Jos South, Mangu and Bokkos

local communities.

The sustained attacks were so intense to the point that questions were asked: Do the people not deserve justice? Can the government and security find a way out of attacks? Can't there be reprieve for these communities? Do they not deserve to be protected? All Nigerians deserve to be protected, no matter where they come from; whether they are Christians or Muslims.

We have repeatedly said that justice is the meat for all, and not for a select group. No government can function when they select to give justice to Christians and or Muslims alone. Nations survive and prosper, so long as justice is given to all.

Truth has been established: The state remains marked. The communities are targets for these actions that had been hatched in secret dark places. Regrettably, we are a country that denies justice for its people; no wonder, there is always a cry for it whenever there is an attack. The people have every reason to believe that they are treated as second class citizens-always demanding for their rights.

It is even more regrettable that in the course of the years, a state of emergency was slammed on the state in 2004. It was as a result of the Yelwa-Nshar killings in May of that year that led to reprisal killings of Christians in the northern city of Kano. That led Secretary General of the Christians Association of Nigeria in the north, Saidu Dogo to question the rationale behind the imposition of the state of emergency.

He had told journalists thus: On the principle of justice, the decision to impose emergency rule in Plateau is wrong. If he had done the same in Kano it would've made sense. Many people were killed in Kano, and it was the governor (Ibrahim Shekarau) that went on radio to urge muslims to demonstrate'.

The state soon got round the

ashes of the destruction. The decisions of the peace conference during the emergency period by General Chris Ali were far reaching.

Not only did the state decide on the way forward, the peace conference established the fact that Jos belongs to: Berom, Anaguta and Jarawa people. For many, they reasoned: What could have been better than the outcome of a well coordinated peace conference meant to establish respect and togetherness in the fractured state?

The circle of violence in several other communities had followed after, claiming several hundreds of lives, displacing people from their ancestral lands in the process since September 2001.

Total strangers now occupy those lands; and it does appear that nothing can be done, because when they make attempts to return to take possession they are repelled, killed and thereby compounding their problems the more. Such has repeatedly happened in BarkinLadi, Riyom and Bassa local government areas.

But for how long should this ill-treatment persist? How long can the people remain traumatized, even when promises have been made and not fulfilled? There cannot be anything sadder to be treated as shabbily when the aggressor is regarded as the victim.

How it feels is only when one may have visited the displaced persons that had been scattered in different improvised facilities in different communities; or staying with relations whose living conditions is nothing to write home about.

Over the years, whether it is the Justice Niki Tobi, Justice Jotham Aribiton Fiberesima or Justice Bola Ajibola who chaired a few of the commission of inquiry into the various crises that tore the heart of the city into shreds, they have been able to establish one area of concern; sadly however, governments over the years at the level of the state have failed to act and deal with the perpetrators.

That is one aspect which the people of the state will continue to blame the government. Action has not been taken to assuage the feelings and expectations of the victims towards finding a lasting solution to the plight of communities.

The question to ask concerning this is: Why have governments been reluctant about implementing the outcome of the findings? Governments can't spend huge sums of money only to allow the outcome rot in the cabinet files of the Ministry of Justice.

There are issues which must be addressed in the case of Plateau, nay, Nigeria generally: Justice is central to peaceful living. Truth has only but a colour.

No matter how it is twisted, we cannot make a head way; but until it is established only then can we sleep not thinking of any one attacking communities in the dead of the night.

Note: This material was published last year. The issues raised in the piece are still with us -Editor

NEWS

By DUMAH RANDONG

PLSG restates commitment to support Urban Food Hype



Caleb

The US head of Oxfam disclosed that the Urban Food Hype was a pilot programme in six countries including Nigeria hoping that many youths will take advantage of the opportunity to go into food entrepreneurial business.

He also highlighted that the partnership with the government was to see it proving the worth of the policy framework for the success of the programme.

On his part, Country Director, Oxfam, Nigeria, Dr William Mafwalal, noted that Oxfam has worked in rural communities with 60 percent of the participants who are women and hopes to generate 3 billion naira as savings.

The programme which has ended, he added was self automated and self sustaining.

Mafwalal also stated that the Urban Food Hype was aimed at using the urban centres as production centres. He added that the pilot programme has started in Jos North and Jos South LGAs being the periphery of the city centres.

He pointed out that his administration came on board when farming activities had already gone far but that the government has been able to procure fertilizers which will soon be distributed for the dry season farming.

He further assured the organization of government's support to the Urban Food Hype so as to encourage the teeming populace to embrace farming.

Earlier, Head of Oxfam, United States of America, Dr Lati Laws on, had explained that the organization was founded 80 years back in the United Kingdom during World War 11 to advocate for food as a result of hunger.

He said since then, they have been working in the US and Nigeria as well as 50 countries of the world in agriculture and food security for many years.

PLATEAU State Government has expressed its readiness to support the Urban Food Hype, a pilot programme being spearheaded by Oxfam, a Non-Governmental Organization in the United States of America with interest in food sufficiency.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang gave the indication when the Head of Oxfam, US, Dr Lati Lawson and Country Director, Nigeria, Dr William Mafwalal, paid him an advocacy visit at the Old Government House, Rayfield, Jos, recently.

The governor who was represented by his deputy, Mrs Josephine Piyo, described the organization as very dear and important to the state because of its interest in the welfare of the people.

He said the partnership between it and the COCIN Community Development, CCD, has helped in the upliftment of the socio-economic lives of the people especially the rural dwellers.

Mutfwang said the organization's interest in food sufficiency with special attention to Plateau State was commendable. He noted that the choice of the state for the pilot programme was never a mistake. "If you go round, you will agree with me that Plateau is doing well in terms of farming. And with this assistance coming in, we are going to do a lot more, he added.

While assuring of government's support to the noble cause, the governor said agriculture was one of the strong pillars of his administration's agenda which believes that a food sufficient

Mutfwang inaugurates 600 Neighbourhood Watch Operatives

By DUMAH RANDONG

Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State has reiterated his commitment to tackling insecurity in Plateau as he inaugurated 600 Neighborhood Watch Operatives, the state security outfit saddled with the responsibility of maintaining peace in the hinterlands, codenamed "Operation Rainbow,"

Mutfwang, represented by his Deputy, Mrs Josephine Piyo, said that the revitalisation of the state security outfit was part of his administration's effort to ensure the security of lives and property.

"It is my pleasure to be here for the Passing Out Parade of the Neighborhood Watch Operatives of the Operation Rainbow. Today, we are witnessing the passing out of a crop of 600 galant operatives who were carefully selected out of the numerous citizens of Plateau State.

"I wish to commend the Coordinator of the Operation Rainbow, the Special Adviser on Security, Chief Security Officer and other security agencies who within this short period, has transformed, tutored and nurtured these young operatives to the end products which we see before us today.

"From the reports I have received and the parade we witnessed today, there is ample evidence that these soon-to-be-gallant security officials, have been put through the mills and have come out refined and ready to contribute their quota to the state's effort to secure lives and property in our dear state."

Mutfwang said that the revitalisation of the outfit was timely as it was coming when the state was at a critical period and needed consolidation on the gains of tackling security challenges that have ravaged the state for years.

He urged the operatives to put in their best in securing local communities by reporting early warning signs for swift security intervention, adding that it is the state's desire to create a conducive working atmosphere for every citizen to carry out their lawful businesses.

The governor cautioned the operatives against indiscipline and unprofessional conduct. He advised them to treat matters of security and safeguarding the lives and properties of citizens with utmost importance.

Mutfwang commended the NSCDC for training and accommodating the operatives and all other instructors from different security agencies for their input in training the young men and women.

The governor expressed his sincere appreciation to the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for his support to state owned security outfits in the country which he said has helped to beef up the strength of security and enhance capacity to confront diverse security challenges faced by states.

Earlier, the Coordinator, Operation Rainbow, AIG Bashir

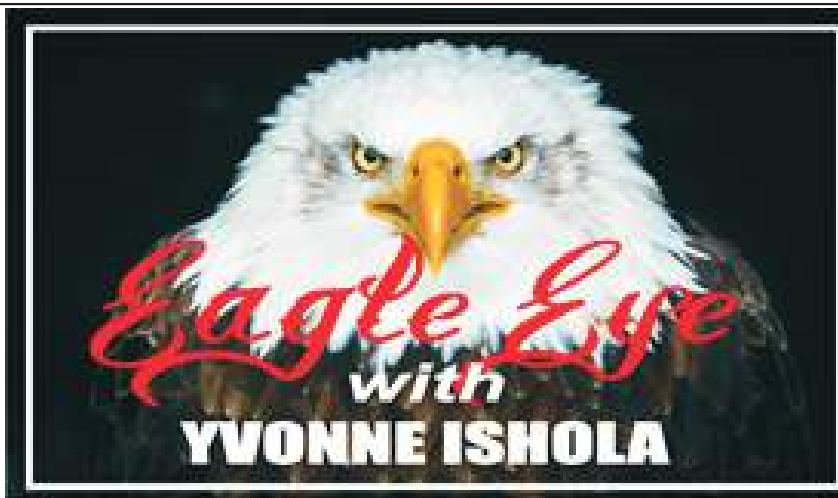
Dabup Makama (Rtd) said that the establishment which was passed by the Plateau State House of Assembly cited as "PLATEAU STATE RAINBOW AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH LAW 2012" and assented to on 20th March, 2013, was set up to perform community policing duties by operatives in their various localities.

Makama stated that the modus operandi of the outfit was also to provide accurate and timely information on security situations in all wards, which are gathered and shared with appropriate security agencies including the Nigerian Police for necessary proactive measures to be taken.

He appreciated the Caleb Mutfwang administration for revitalising the moribund security outfit, promising to strengthen the security network in the state for sustainable peace, security and economic development.

He added that the operatives would ensure an enduring peace and security of lives and property in the state. This, they plan to do through the process of proper articulation and development of all embracing measures to adequately address, contain and nip in the bud, within the norms of democracy and rule of law, any issues that could potentially lead to crisis.

Makama revealed that other batches of operatives would soon be recruited and trained to augment the number on ground.



Girl-child and her rough terrain

IT is very glaring that the African woman has a lot she is contending with. Tradition or culture and religious beliefs have clipped her wings from her formative years unlike her male counterpart, who enjoys limitless freedom.

In most homes in Nigeria, the girl-child wakes up at the break of dawn while the male children still snore away. If it is a rural community, she will join other young girls to go to the stream to fetch water in large basins to fill everywhere in the house. The weight of the containers they use in carrying the water from the stream is usually too heavy for their size and age. But the fact that no one wants to visit the stream several times especially when others are done fetching water, they would rather bear the weight and reduce the number of trips to the stream.

The girl - child is expected to start the fire in between her trips to heat bathing water. Exhausted or not, she is expected to run around, wash plates, sweep as breakfast is on heat. It is only when bathing water is ready that she will wake her male siblings and younger ones to take their bath. In some cases, she bathes her younger ones and prepares them for school. And at the nick of time, she rushes into the bathroom to take her bath, using as little time as possible to dress and then dash off to school most times unable to eat the breakfast she prepared.

Due to the burden of her responsibilities, it is no wonder that the boy-child often does better than her in academics. He comes to school refreshed and well rested. The girl - child, on the other hand, may be fatigued, her mind going ahead of her to plan what she would cook and finish up her remaining house chores.

An only girl among 3 boys said while growing up she thought her mother hated her with a passion due to the reasons enumerated above. On top of it all, anytime they came back from school, her younger brothers would change out of their uniforms, dropping them where ever they felt like, eat their lunch and go out to play with their friends. It was her duty to pick up after them, wash their plates and then everyone's uniforms.

This lady said she had no life but being a housekeeper or cook for her brothers who could demand for any kind of food apart from what was available. While she washed their clothes, they could be watching film or playing football. Every one seemed very insensitive to her needs as they used plates, clothes or water without regard.

She said " My mother would always say she was training me for my husband's house", which was ridiculous. That meant she was spoiling

her brothers for an unfortunate wife. This is the plight of most African girl-child.

As if that is not enough, the female gender has to watch her steps especially in the village. In most communities, there are foods that are taboos to women. In the Ibo community, a woman does not eat chicken gizzard. This is a serious offence.

In the Goemai community, a woman who is menstruating is isolated from her husband during those days. She is not allowed to enter the kitchen not to talk of cooking food for her husband especially if he is a traditionalist. Many a woman ended up with a co-mate after a prolonged menstrual period.

Unfortunately, our culture and traditions favour the men because he who pays the piper, dictates the tune. Till date the issue of inheritance favours men. There are traditions where women can not inherit anything from either their father or their husband especially if they have no children together. And to think that some parents still do not see the relevance of education for their girl-child. And some men do not allow their wives to empower themselves economically. They prefer them to depend on them completely.

We are living at a time that wickedness is an accepted norm. The rate death is sweeping away our productive population is scary. It would not be wrong to say every woman is a potential widow. Or every married man is a potential widower considering the number of deaths recorded every day.

Recently, I was in the company of a close relation that had just lost her husband. It shocked me when I overheard some of the rules that will guide her life. She was told that she will remain indoors for 100 and a few days without crossing the threshold of her gate. This applies because she is self employed or else it would have been 40 days if at all she needed to eke a living to survive or she was employed by someone.

Do you now understand how the life of suffering is initiated into the life of a widow? Even if you have a business and you are absent from your place of business for 3 months plus, it will take the grace of God for it to survive. A worse case scenario is if one was totally dependent on one's husband. Feeding, daily needs, school fees and if unlucky, rent, will all become issues and put one at the mercy of people.

Unless and until we address the issue of the girl-child as a second class citizen, the rights of a woman, this circle of women being economically disadvantaged will continue. The change begins with you.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Is Tinubu reforming Nigeria without concept?

As we are well aware, the visible manifestation of a pregnancy does not occur on the first day a man impregnates a woman. It typically takes approximately nine (9) months for a pregnant woman to develop a noticeable baby bump, progress through the stages of pregnancy, and ultimately give birth.

Similarly, the development and implementation of government policies and programs undergo a comparable process. The timeline for a government program or policy to materialise is even lengthier than the gestation period of a child. This protracted duration is reflected in the tenures of governments or the terms of elected public officials, which commonly span a minimum of 4-6 years.

This extended time frame is necessary to ensure the comprehensive planning, execution, and evaluation of policies and programmes, mirroring the intricate and time-intensive nature of fostering meaningful societal change.

In Nigeria, there exists a customary limitation of two four-year terms for the presidency, mirroring the governance structure observed in the United States, which is linked to the fact that Nigeria adopted this presidential governance system from the USA.

In my assessment, considering that President Tinubu has been in office for a relatively brief period of only six months, expecting immediate dividends from his policies and programmes is unrealistic.

So, the deliberate question intrinsic in the title of this piece serves the purpose of addressing concerns that have surfaced in public discussions, reflecting the inquiries and uncertainties in the minds of certain Nigerians.

The unequivocal response to the inquiry, "Is President Tinubu Reforming Without Concept?" is a resounding no. Contrary to the allegations made by detractors, Tinubu's reforms are meticulously conceptualised, marked by aggressive transformations in the economic and sociopolitical fundamentals of our nation—unprecedented in their scope and impact as has been laid out in this discourse.

After a cursory look, it becomes obvious that President Tinubu exhibits bravery by directly confronting challenges instead of avoiding them, although he is not without imperfections. Unlike his predecessors, who shied away from combating the powerful petrol subsidy mafia, Tinubu has chosen to confront these issues bedevilling Nigeria head-on.

Numerous Nigerian leaders, spanning multiple regimes, were challenged and ultimately defeated by the petrol subsidy mafia. This resistance persisted through the tenures of military heads of state including Gen. Mohammed Buhari (1983-1985), Gen. Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (1985-1993) and Gen. Sani Abacha (1993-1998).

The challenge endured into the democratic era, with Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's presidency (1999-2007) and continued through the administrations of Umaru Yar'adua and Goodluck Jonathan (2007-2010). Former President Buhari's eight (8) years reign is generally believed to have reversed the fiscal gains made by previous administrations with subsidies in petrol and naira becoming more deeply entrenched and corruption assuming unprecedented dimension.

President Tinubu's courage in addressing this longstanding issue sets him apart, demonstrating a willingness to tackle challenges that his predecessors avoided.

By retaining the subsidies on petrol and the naira, which were akin to a suffocating giant anaconda constricting our nation, the leaders in question implicitly share responsibility for the current hardships endured by Nigerians.

The only leader from the past who bears less culpability for subjecting Nigerians to unnecessary suffering is General Ibrahim Babangida. He attempted to address the subsidy issue on Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) by introducing the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP).

This homegrown initiative served as an alternative to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) conditions for providing a loan to Nigeria, aiming to help the country navigate financial challenges.

Regrettably, this endeavour faced a spectacular failure due to a lack of political strength to see it through to a logical conclusion.

At this juncture, it is pertinent to note that the reforms advocated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1985, which the military regime of President Babangida replaced with a domestic alternative known as the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), are akin to the reforms initiated by President Tinubu since assuming office in Nigeria on May 29th of this year. These reforms have been consistently implemented through executive and parliamentary bills signed into law over the past six months, all of which are aimed at



Tinubu

resetting the nation and the economy with a view to putting the ship of state on an even keel. This media intervention seeks to systematically consolidate and analyse the multitude of policies articulated during this six-month period of Tinubunomics. The primary objectives include elucidating the rationale behind these policies, delineating the criticisms that have accompanied the introduction and execution of select initiatives, and, ultimately, furnishing the public with a comprehensive understanding of the anticipated outcomes as envisioned by the current administration.

By undertaking this effort, it is hoped that we can dispel any misconceptions held by sceptics regarding the perceived disconnect between the policies and programs of the current administration and the expectations of the Nigerian populace. It is essential to rectify the inaccurate notion circulating in the public sphere.

Upon closer examination of the prevailing circumstances, characterised by a sense of urgency, it becomes evident that despite the initial rapidity in policy formulation—exemplified by the president's pronouncement on the abolition of petrol subsidy during his inaugural speech on May 29—there exists a method to the seeming disorder.

President Tinubu's address in Berlin, Germany, as part of the Germany-Africa Compact meeting during the G-20 summit, has been lauded for its masterful display of salesmanship.

"...look at me—I come from the private sector, trained by Deloitte. I served as the treasurer in Exxon Mobil. Define corporate governance in any way, and I am in it. I governed Lagos for eight consecutive years. Today, I can proudly beat my chest that Lagos state is on the horizon and the fifth-largest economy in Africa, rising from ground zero.

"This is the track record that led me to the presidency. Nigerians voted for me for reforms, and from day one of my inauguration, I implemented the reforms. My inaugural speech did not disclose what I would do. I removed the fuel subsidy that is a great burden to Nigerians from the moment I stepped into office.

"The arbitrage regime is gone forever. Now, you can bring your money in and out as you wish. If you encounter any problems, rest assured that I have built one of the most reliable teams Nigeria has seen to address them.

"I appeal to you to forget the past and focus on building a relationship that removes obstacles, fostering progress and prosperity in Nigerian-German relations. You can rely on us; we can rely on you; both of us can chorus Hallelujah at the same time..."

It is incredible that in his apt presentation president Tinubu front-loaded the apparent negative reputation challenges shackling Nigeria and addressed the fears of his audience which is a strategic way of getting investors to buy into their initiative. By so doing he exhibited a trait identified as a deal clincher in the book titled: "Backable. The Surprising Truth Behind What Makes People Take A Chance On You" written by Suneel Gupta a faculty member at Harvard University, where he teaches how to be backable.

Mr Suneel argues in his unique book which

Mike Krieger co-founder of Instagram endorsed in the following glowing terms: "Backable provides a super-readable and actionable look at how to make your ideas take flight. Whether you are pitching a brand new startup or an idea for your company's next product, you will find a wealth of insights and stories throughout" and Mr Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn amongst other notable authorities also took notice of and recommended it thus: "Whether you want to get ahead inside a company or build a start-up from the ground up, this fascinating book is a must-read".

Before delving further into an analysis of the concrete measures undertaken by the current administration to steer our nation away from the precipice of collapse by attracting foreign investors to bolster the Nigerian economy, fostering job creation, and enhancing prosperity, it is imperative to scrutinise the underlying reasons for Nigeria's fundamental economic challenges.

This examination is aimed at highlighting the necessity for increased discipline among public servants in managing the country's limited resources and the formulation of policies conducive to a transformative journey akin to Singapore's remarkable progression from a third-world to a first-world nation within a relatively brief time frame.

Aside from the unjust trade practices imposed by industrialized nations on African countries, another significant factor contributing to Africa's, particularly Nigeria's, economic struggles is the prevalence of theft, graft, and corruption among public officials, including both politicians and civil servants.

This assertion finds support in the case of Mr Jonah Ogunniyi Otunla, who served as the Accountant General of the Federation from 2011 to 2015 in Nigeria. During this period, Mr Otunla openly admitted to defrauding the government of public funds out of which he is refunding a substantial sum of N6.3 billion. That is likely a minuscule portion of the public funds he had illicitly diverted from the federal government treasury while holding the position of the country's treasurer.

The successor to the role of Accountant General of the Federation, Mr Ahmed Idris, similarly faced legal action in 2022 when he was apprehended by the nation's anti-graft agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), on charges related to the misappropriation of a staggering N80 billion Naira.

A recently updated report reveals that the aggregate sum of public funds pilfered by the Accountant General of the Federation (AGF) and his accomplices, who are presently undergoing trial in Nigerian courts, has surged to N109 billion.

In a prior instance, Mr Abdulmalik Maina, a senior public official entrusted with the task of recovering pension funds lost to corruption syndicates within the pensions office, paradoxically became implicated in embezzling the very funds he was assigned to reclaim for the government. Although he was tried and sentenced to incarceration, the current status of his serving term in any penitentiary remains uncertain.

The cornerstone of our nation's economy lies in the exploration and export of crude oil and gas, a vital source of foreign exchange earnings. It is approximated that a minimum of 80% of our foreign exchange income is derived from the export of these petroleum products.

Nigeria's allocated export quota from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) stands at 1.8 million barrels of crude oil per day. However, as of June of this year, approximately six months ago, the officially available quantity for export was less than 1 million barrels. The shortfall is primarily attributed to the rampant theft of crude oil from the pipeline responsible for transporting the product to the export terminal.

Despite the encouraging news of a current increase in crude oil production to approximately 1.3 million barrels, credited to enhanced surveillance and anti-theft measures implemented by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Ltd, the nation's oil giant, which engaged Tantita Security for pipeline protection in the past year.

Sources within the oil industry have disclosed that an astonishing amount of funds were being lost to international crude oil theft syndicates that held sway in the oil and gas-rich Nigerian Niger Delta region. This situation persisted until recently when authorities discovered their clandestine pipelines used for siphoning products and successfully apprehended vessels engaged in transporting stolen goods, subsequently setting them ablaze.

Arising from the above revelations, a significant conduit for draining our nation's wealth is corruption perpetrated by past leaders. One notable example is the late Gen. Sani Abacha, a former head of state, who unexpectedly passed away in 1998. It is widely believed that he embezzled billions of dollars, dispersing the ill-gotten gains across multiple countries worldwide.

Following his demise in controversial circumstances, a substantial portion of Abacha's looted funds, concealed in approximately half a dozen countries, has been gradually repatriated to Nigeria in periodic instalments. Notable among these countries are the United States, Switzerland, the relatively obscure Lichtenstein, France, among others.

The consensus is that Abacha, the military dictator, pilfered and concealed up to six billion dollars in foreign jurisdictions.

Due to the implementation of misguided economic policies, such as subsidies on petrol and the exchange rate of the naira with foreign currencies, as previously mentioned, our nation has experienced a situation where expenditures surpass income.

Furthermore, during President Muhammadu Buhari's eight (8) years of

two (2) terms tenure, the prevalence of corruption reached alarming levels. Despite our abundant human and mineral resources, our country's fortunes plummeted, leading to a distressing state of affairs where 133 million out of the 200 million citizens find themselves ensnared in what economists term as multidimensional poverty.

In their 2012 publication, the authors contested prevalent explanations, asserting that commonly cited factors such as geography, climate, culture, religion, race, or the lack of political leadership awareness fall short of comprehensively accounting for certain phenomena.

To reinforce their arguments, the authors conducted a comparative analysis of case studies involving various countries. Notably, they underscored instances such as the disparity in economic outcomes between North and South Korea, where analogous factors resulted in divergent trajectories. 2005 and further reformed in 2013, the electricity sector has undergone a shift reminiscent of the banking and telecommunications industries.

Previously restrained by government control, the aforementioned sectors are now driven by private sector entities following the removal of entry barriers, which is why they are foremost contributors to the GDP of our country.

A bit of background information on the situation which President Tinubu is building upon in the electricity power sector is in order.

In 2013, the federal government implemented a strategic move to reform the power sector and foster growth by privatising 11 electricity distribution companies (DISCOs) and six generating companies (GENCOs). Simultaneously, the government retained full ownership (100%) of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN).

This initiative was part of a broader plan to enhance the sector's efficiency and stimulate economic development. Ongoing comprehensive reforms in Nigeria's power sector are geared toward expanding capacity, increasing electricity accessibility, and upgrading transmission infrastructure.

Traditionally, Nigeria has primarily relied on thermal and hydroelectric sources for power generation, boasting an installed capacity of approximately 12,522 MW. However, the recent signing of the New Electricity Act 2023 by President Tinubu signals a robust exploration of gas-based electricity generation, marking a strategic shift in the country's energy landscape.

Now, investors including state governments are free to make investments in the power sector. The transmission aspects of the electricity power sector had been under the control of the government which is a friction point between GENCOS and DISCOS

In addition to the emphasis placed on electricity by President Tinubu, three other key legislative initiatives have been prioritised. These include the Judicial Officers Law, the Access to Higher Education Act, and the Data Protection Law.

It is worth recalling that during his inaugural address on May 29, President Tinubu committed to building upon the accomplishments of his predecessor, former President Muhammadu Buhari. In delineating his vision, President Tinubu also outlined various forthcoming changes and initiatives.

Significant changes have recently transpired. On June 8, the Judicial Officers Law, officially titled 'Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (fifth alteration) (No.37), 2023,' was enacted.

This legislation establishes a standardised retirement age of 70 for judges and ensures uniformity in the pension rights of judicial officers across different levels.

Furthermore, the Access to Higher Education Act, signed into law on June 12, is designed to provide financial assistance to Nigerian students in tertiary institutions.

This law which would be effective from January 2024, aims to facilitate students' access to interest-free loans from the Nigerian Education Loan Fund. Eligibility for these loans is contingent on the student's or family's annual income being less than N500,000.

The Data Protection Law, enacted on June 14, establishes the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) and provides individuals with the authority to seek remedies in the event of a data breach. The legislation underscores the importance of fair, lawful, and accountable processing of citizens' personal data.

SUNDAY POLITICS

Infrastructure, health, education, agriculture top Bauchi budget

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Senator Bala Mohammed has recently, presented the 2024 proposed budget of #300,219,705,820 to the State House of Assembly for scrutiny.

This followed approval of the 2024 estimated budget by the State Executive Council during its extraordinary meeting held at Government House Bauchi recently.

According to the Governor, the state's 2024 proposed budget is 48.2 percent higher than the 2023 budget due to increased revenue arising from the subsidy removal and the upward inflationary trends associated with the depreciating state of the local currency.

The breakdown of the budget indicated that capital expenditure takes the highest share of about one hundred and eighty billion naira, while the sum of over one hundred and twenty-one billion naira is earmarked for recurrent expenditure.

Presenting the 2024 budget, "Tagged Budget of Consolidation and Renewed Hope" to the 10th Assembly, Governor Bala Mohammed, revealed that Infrastructure, health care services, education, agriculture, job creation, and human capital development are the priority areas.

He further explained that the budget is also expected to be funded by Federal Allocation, Internally Generated



Bala

Revenue (IGR) as well as external and internal loans.

The governor maintained that it would focus more on the completion of ongoing projects as new ones may only be created where necessary.

Governor Bala solicited for the continuous support of the 10th Assembly towards formulation and implementation of policies

and programmes aimed at improving the quality of lives of the citizens.

Speaking after receiving the budget, the new Speaker of the State Assembly, Babayo Mohammed Akuyam, commended the governor for his commitment to transform the state and assured him of speedy passage of the

High Court stops APC chairman from parading himself

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

THE Bauchi State High Court Number Seven has granted an interim order restraining the All Progressive Congress APC, chairman Alhaji Aliyu Babayo Misau, from parading himself as the substantive Chairman of the party in the state pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice.

In a suit Number No/BA/07/992/2023, the case is between the plaintiffs, APC Concerned Citizens and defendants Alhaji Aliyu Babayo Misau, All Progressive Congress, APC.

Counsel to the plaintiffs, Barrister Isa Mohammed filed a motion, alleging that Babayo contravened the laws

of the party and acted against the victory of the Party in the recent governorship election in Bauchi state.

He told the court that the chairman acted against the party constitution during the general conduct of the election 2023, adding that his conduct contributed to the failure of the Governorship election in the state.

Barrister Isa told the court that it is in the interest of justice to grant the application in order to avoid any form of chaos from the aggrieved members

He asked the court to restrain the APC chairman from parading himself as the Chairman of the Party pending the determination of the

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

THE Kogi State All Progressives Congress Governorship Campaign Council has called on the Police, Department of State Services and other security agencies to immediately arrest the governorship candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Muritala Ajaka for allegedly sponsoring attack on the residence of Kogi INEC Commissioner, Dr. Gabriel Longpet in Lokoja, early hours of Friday.

The APC Campaign Council said the attack was perpetrated days after it alerted the nation of the plans of SDP thugs to attack INEC, adding that "they have finally done their worst by attacking the residence of the Kogi State INEC Commissioner, engaging security agents in a fierce gun battle and eventually burning down some vehicles in the residence and in the area." The Director of Media and Publicity/Spokesperson for the Campaign Council, Kingsley Fanwo, who spoke at an emergency press briefing on Friday, said, "The same arsonists also had an attempt to burn down the Kogi State Government House foiled by our eagle-eye security agents. The same attempt was foiled at the State APC Secretariat in Lokoja."

According to the APC, the SDP in the state and their collaborators are desperate to destroy some documents in INEC to cover the heist they committed in Kogi East where they allegedly killed APC supporters "and drove them out

SDP candidate, Ajaka should be arrested

- Fanwo



Fanwo

of collation centres to forge the results that were eventually trumped by the massive votes of Kogites for the Governor-Elect." The Campaign Council alleged that the SDP candidate and his collaborators were attempting to corrupt certain documents in INEC before handing them to their legal team. "We have no problem allowing legal teams to access documents and materials. It is the norm. But we won't allow any desperate blood thirsty politician tamper

with the true verdict of the Kogi people," Fanwo declared.

He noted that "the bold-face criminality being perpetrated by the defeated SDP candidate and his violent gang of criminals was as a result of the lack of consequences over the gruesome killing of an APC supporter, Khadijat, at Kotonkarfe by agents of the SDP," adding that they had imported thugs from neighbouring states into Kogi.

"They shamelessly came out to say Khadijat was bearing an arm. Till date, Muritala Yakubu Ajaka and his gun welding killers have been moving freely on the streets. If they had been arrested for killing an innocent woman, they wouldn't have had the gut to attempt to attack the Kogi Resident Electoral Commissioner," he stressed.

The Campaign Spokesperson stated, "We also told the world of plans by the SDP to burn down the INEC Office in Lokoja. We thank the Police and other security agencies for protecting the INEC Office. Frustrated by the watertight security around INEC, the gun throttling SDP criminals went to the residence of the Kogi State INEC Commissioner in an attempt to kill him. They were engaged in a fierce gun battle and they resorted to burning vehicles and other valuables around the area."

"The reason they are desperate to destroy some documents in INEC is to cover the heist they committed in Kogi East where they killed APC supporters and drove them out of collation centres to forge the results that were eventually trumped by the massive votes of Kogites for the Governor-Elect. They are attempting to corrupt certain documents in INEC before handing them to their legal team. We have no problem allowing legal teams to access documents and materials. It is the norm. But we won't allow any desperate blood thirsty politician tamper with the true verdict of the Kogi people. "After their violent protests a few days ago, our people have also moved to Lokoja to ensure their mandate is protected. Resorting to assassination and arson will never help the Social Democratic Party and their confused candidate."

"Now is the time to arrest Muritala Yakubu Ajaka before he throws Kogi into a state of anomie. Democracy is the expression of the wishes of the people. Those wishes have been expressed and no amount of bullets can silence the voice of the ballot. We are calling on the Police, DSS and other security agencies to immediately arrest the slide to anarchy by arresting Muritala Yakubu Ajaka and his co-swimmers in the pool of violence. We have cautioned our supporters to remain calm and the call will be more effective if the anarchists are immediately apprehended and prosecuted."



Babayo

substantive suit.

Barrister Isa asked the

court to grant a Mandamus order, directing the APC to appoint caretaker pending the determination of the substantive suit.

The Presiding Judge Justice Umar granted the order and restrained Babayo from parading himself as State APC chairman.

Justice Umar ordered that the parties to fast-track their case where the applicant is to file and serve his Motion on Notice and originating summons within fourteen days.

When the judge granted the order, the plaintiffs were unable to serve Babayo. Their counsel asked the court for substituted means of service vide substituted means to wit: by pasting same on the respondent's last known place of abode or at his house situated at Makurdi Road, GRA Bauchi, Bauchi State, which was granted by Justice Umar who fixed 11th December 2023 as the return date for hearing on the motion on notice.

COAS commends journalists in Sokoto

From **ANENE AIKE, Sokoto**

THE Nigerian Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt Gen Taoreed Lagbaja has appealed for collective support of all in the Military's continued efforts towards ending insecurity in the country.

Lt Gen. Lagbaja, who insisted that non-state actors that were undermining the nation's prosperity and security thrive on the collaboration of unpatriotic fellows in the society, urged the media not to unconsciously promote these bad elements in whatever form.

In his opening remarks at the 4th Quarter Nigeria Army Civil Military Media Chat, the COAS, represented by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 8 Div and North West Commander, Operation Hadarin Daji, Maj. Gen.

Godwin Mutkut, said, harnessing collective strength of all well meaning individuals and organizations was required for sustained peace and security.

He stated that the activities of non state actors that seeks to undermine the security, well-being and collective prosperity of our country would be highly degraded and almost non-existent without the collaboration of some unpatriotic and unscrupulous persons in the society.

COAS while stressing that terrorists are conscious of propaganda, said, "Terrorists, insurgents and other deviants seek attention and thrive by propaganda and reign of fear/terror on well-meaning citizens."

He therefore, use the opportunity to call on the media not to unconsciously provide these undesirable elements/characters, the oxygen to thrive by

propagating their nefarious activities".

He further noted that the media chat with its theme, "Media As A Force Multiplier In Nigerian Army Operations" was intended to encourage media practitioners from the north west region to continually support and positively represent the Army through constructive reportages that create favourable perception of their constitutional responsibilities.

In his welcome remarks, the Chief of Civil Military Affairs, Maj. Gen. Nosakhare Ugbo, said the media was cardinal to the Military non-kinetic operations.

That as the fourth estate of the realm, the media is a stimulant for social/national accountability, credibility and development. hence, the media is a worthy partner for the socioeconomic advancement of any country and helps in the actualization of organizational mandates.

He added that despite the challenges being experienced, the media must continue to pursue national goals and aspirations through patriotic and objective reportage.

That having acknowledged the huge role of the media in updating the populace, the Nigerian Army strives to carry the media along in all its dealings," Ugbo stressed further.

Delivering a lecture on, "Towards Effective Civil Military Cooperation Line of Operations of the Nigerian Army: The Role of the Media", the Guest Speaker, Maj Gen Usman Mohammed (rtd), appealed to media practitioners in Nigeria to prioritise patriotism..

Maj Gen Mohammed said the delay often encountered by journalists seeking clarifications on certain military operations had links with issues of national

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

Nigeria's declining democracy: Who is responsible?

We are all responsible for the failing democracy in Nigeria, not INEC, not the judiciary, and not politicians, TOSIN SAMUEL AFENIFORO writes.

NIGERIA'S democratic system has been facing severe criticism lately due to the country's ongoing democratic struggles.

Many people blamed the politicians, judiciary, and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the breakdown in the democratic process. However, it is crucial that every citizen of this great country takes a moment to reflect on their own responsibilities in this matter. We all must realize that we share the responsibility for the state of our democracy, and we must work towards improving it.

Democracy is not a passive spectator sport; it requires active and informed participation from the people. The bedrock of every democracy is its people. However, how often have we failed to fulfil our responsibility to hold those in power accountable? How many times have we ignored corruption or sold our votes for a small sum, only to later complain about the state of the country?

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) responsible for conducting free and fair elections in Nigeria is not impeccable. However, it reflects the society it serves. It is unreasonable to expect INEC to magically transform our elections into paragons of democracy if we continue to allow a culture of violence, voter intimidation, and election tampering. While it is easy to blame the referee when our team is losing, we should focus more on the players' competence and the fairness of the game.

There is a common belief that the judiciary system is corrupt. However, it is important to note that the judiciary operates within the framework set by the community it serves. The foundation of the judiciary is at risk when we allow a culture of impunity to persist and overlook instances of power abuse and corruption. We all have a responsibility to demand transparency, accountability, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Politicians undeniably are largely responsible for the current state of our democracy. However, we must also acknowledge that they reflect our choices as voters. If we continue to vote for candidates solely based on their tribal or religious affiliations rather than their competency, we cannot expect them to prioritize the interests of the whole nation over their own personal agendas. Therefore, we need to



Damagu



Ganduje



Gabam



Abure

be mindful of our choices and elect leaders who are deserving of the responsibility placed upon them.

Democracy is a continuous process that does not end on election day. In fact, it requires the active engagement of an informed and vigilant citizenry. Voting is just one part of the process. To make informed decisions, we need to educate ourselves about the fundamentals of democracy and learn to hold our public officials accountable.

We must create a culture of civic duty to build a robust democracy. This can be achieved by engaging in town hall meetings, participating in community development projects, respecting the rules of law, respecting human rights, and having productive discussions with our elected officials regularly. It is essential to challenge the status quo and demand transparency to improve society.

Rather than pointing fingers at INEC, the judiciary, or politicians, let us take a proactive approach to our

democracy. It is time for each of us to take responsibility and play an active role in shaping our country's future. By recognizing our collective

responsibility and participating in the democratic process, we can work towards building a Nigeria where justice, fairness, and accountability are at the

forefront. *Afeniforo is a sustainable development practitioner and Ph.D. scholar at the IUSS Pavia, Italy.*



Mahmood



PLATEAU STATE UNIVERSITY, BOKKOS

P.M.B. 2012, JOS, PLATEAU STATE - NIGERIA

ADVERTISEMENT FOR ACADEMIC STAFF POSITIONS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the under listed academic positions in the Plateau State University, Bokkos:

- i. Professor
- ii. Reader/Associate Professor
- iii. Senior Lecturer
- iv. Lecturer I
- v. Lecturer II
- vi. Assistant Lecturer

The above positions exist in the following faculties and departments:

- 1. FACULTY OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES**
 - a) Department of Microbiology
 - b) Department of Mathematics
 - c) Department of Biochemistry
 - d) Department of Physics
 - e) Department of Chemistry
 - f) Department of Computer Science
 - g) Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology
 - h) Department of Zoology
- 2. FACULTY OF ARTS**
 - a) Department of English Language
 - b) Department of History and International Studies
 - c) Department of Theatre Arts
- 3. FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**
 - a) Department of Economics
 - b) Department of Political Science
 - c) Department of Mass Communication
 - d) Department of Sociology
- 4. FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES**
 - a) Department of Accounting
 - b) Department of Management Studies
 - c) Department of Entrepreneurship
- 5. FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**
 - a) Department of Nursing Sciences
 - b) Department of Medical Laboratory Science
 - c) Department of Community Health
- 6. FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**
 - a) Department of Architecture
 - b) Department of Building
 - c) Department of Geography
- 7. FACULTY OF LAW**
 - a) Department of Public and International Law
 - b) Department of Private and Commercial Law
- 8. FACULTY OF EDUCATION**
 - a) Department of Science Education-
 - i. Physics
 - ii. Mathematics
 - iii. Chemistry
 - iv. Biology
 - b) Department of Arts Education
 - i. English Language
 - ii. Religious Studies
 - c) Department of Library and Information Science
- 9. FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**
 - a) Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension
 - b) Department of Animal Science
 - c) Department of Crop Science

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- PROFESSOR**
- Candidate must possess Ph.D. from a recognized institution in the relevant area of specialization, with at least twelve (12) years of cognate experience

in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institution.

- Candidate should be able to conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities; and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals.
- Candidate is expected to have fair knowledge about the operations of a university system.
- Candidate should be on the rank of a Reader/Associate Professor.
- Membership of professional body (where applicable) is an added advantage.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

- Candidate must possess Ph.D. from a recognized institution in relevant area of specialization, with at least ten (10) years of cognate experience in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institution.
- Candidate should be able to conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities; and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals.
- Candidate is expected to have fair knowledge about the operations of a university system.
- Candidate should be on the rank of Senior Lecturer.
- Membership of professional body (where applicable) is an added advantage.

SENIOR LECTURER

- Candidate must possess Ph.D. from a recognized institution in relevant area of specialization, with at least seven (7) years of cognate experience in teaching and research, preferably in a university system or similar institution.
- Candidate should be able to conduct research independently and have proven supervisory and administrative capabilities and must also show evidence of acceptable scholarly publications in reputable National and International journals.
- Candidate is expected to have fair knowledge about the operations of a university system.
- Candidates should be on the rank of Lecturer I
- Membership of professional body (where applicable) is an added advantage.

LECTURER I

- Candidate must possess Master's Degree from a recognized institution in relevant area of specialization, with at least five (5) years cognate experience and should demonstrate ability to carry out research in their areas of specialization.
- Candidate should be on the rank of Lecturer II.
- Possession of a Ph.D. is an added advantage.
- Membership of professional body (where applicable) is also an added advantage.

LECTURER II

- Candidate must possess Master's Degree in relevant area with at least two (2) years Teaching/Research experience.
- Membership of professional body (where applicable) is an added advantage.

ASSISTANT LECTURER

- Candidate must possess Master's Degree in relevant area with at least one (1) year Teaching/Research experience.
- Membership of professional body (where applicable) is an added advantage.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested and qualified candidates, who meet the conditions as stated above should submit their applications to the office of the Registrar, Plateau State University, Bokkos or through the email: registrar@plasu.edu.ng on or before 22nd December, 2023.

Please note that the University will only contact shortlisted candidates.

Signed

Yakubu F. Ayuba
Registrar

WITH the recent Court of Appeal sitting judgements of the in Abuja, it has become clear that the All Progressives Congress (APC) has again, gained control of the Plateau State House of Assembly. What is even more clearer is the dynamics playing out between the two major political parties; that is the APC and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). It will interest you to know that during the ninth assembly, the House was dominated by the APC with the PDP as minority.

However, the tables turned at the inception of the tenth assembly as the PDP became the dominant party, making the APC the minority. The present tenth assembly was inaugurated on 13th June 2023 and set the ball rolling with the election of the speaker, deputy speaker and other principal officers while climaxing with the constitution of twenty four House Standing Committees. No sooner had it taken off with legislative activities picking up, then came its sudden end.

While some political analysts described the development as rather unfortunate with the lawmakers being victims of circumstance, others blame them for their carelessness and ignorance which they now have to pay dearly for. One of the legislators affected describes it is merely 'politics at play'. Also speaking on grounds of anonymity, an aid to one of the legislators concerned the fact that his boss was unable to recoup his money after spending so much during the election.

The turn of events started with the resignation of the former Speaker, Rt. Hon. Moses Thomas Sule and his Deputy Rt. Hon. Gwotson Fom Dalyop. The duo had during an emergency plenary tendered their resignation without giving reasons. A new speaker in the person of Rt. Hon. Gabriel Dewan Kudengbena under the platform of Youth Progressive Party (YPP) was subsequently elected and sworn in immediately.

Many expected the new speaker to call for plenary and swear in the new members. But the turn of events saw the speaker adjourning sitting to the 23rd of January, 2024. Observers are of the opinion that it was a deliberate and calculated act, knowing fully well that the judgement before the Court of Appeal would have been concluded by then. As it is now, the new APC members need to be sworn in before they can participate in any sitting or House activities.

As the rulings progressed at the Court of Appeal, reports started filtering in that the PDP had lost all sixteen seats in the state House of Assembly, with the APC now occupying twenty two. Meanwhile before then, the Plateau State Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Jos had sacked the election of Rt. Hon. Moses Thomas Sule as speaker and member representing Mikang constituency. Sule contested under the platform of the PDP. According to reports, the tribunal's decision was based on the fact that his party the PDP failed to comply with a court order mandating it to conduct a fresh election for the state executive. The tribunal in its ruling also directed the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to withdraw the former speaker's certificate of return and award it to

Hon. Naanlong Gapyil Daniel of the APC who came second in the same election. The court judgements followed in quick successions, one after the other, as all the PDP members were sacked while those in the APC were returned and asked to be issued their certificates of return. The Plateau State House of Assembly now has the following returned members:
 Hon. Dachung Moses Dadon, representing Riyom constituency
 Hon. Daniel Nanbol Listick who contested under the platform of the Labour Party (LP) and is returning for a second term as member representing Langtang North Central constituency.



PLHA assembly: When the majority become minority



Dewan



Daniel



Gwotson



Akawu

Hon. Bendel is now representing Langtang South constituency. Hon. Abel Nimchak Nansak, Langtang North North constituency. Hon. Naanlong Gapyil Daniel, Mikang constituency. Hon. Laven Denty Jacob, Pankshin South constituency. Hon. Kwarpo Matthew Sylvanus, Mangu South constituency. Others are Hon. Sylvester Wallangko, Bokkos constituency. Hon. Dagogot Karyit Owen, Qua'an Pan North constituency. Hon. Dalyop Isaac, Jos South constituency. Hon. Abdul Yanga, who was the former member representing Mangu North East is also returning.

Rt. Hon. Yakubu Yackson Sanda, former speaker of the ninth assembly and member representing Pengana constituency now a returnee. Hon. Theodore Maiyaki Bala, representing Qua'an Pan South constituency. Hon. Dickson Chollom, Barkin Ladi constituency. Hon. Eli Bako Ankala, Rukuba/Irigwe constituency. Unfortunately, there will be no returned female lawmaker as the two women in the tenth assembly Hon. Happiness Matthew Akawu, representing Pengana constituency and Hon. Salome Wanglek representing Pankshin South constituency, both of the PDP, were also sacked.



Maiyaki

SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Ariwoola



Dongban



Mahmood

Judicial pronouncements and survival of democracy

The last may not have been heard about the 2023 Nigerian general elections. This may not be unconnected with the retinue of litigations before the judiciary. Litigations that arose following the civic exercise. The outcome of which some analysts described as "victory for democracy" or "threat to democracy", of course, depending on the divide you belong to. In this piece, KENNETH DAKOP examines the implication of some of the judicial rulings or "cathedral" pronouncements as insinuated by former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Read on...

As a caveat, it should be placed on record that electoral matters in Nigeria, particularly in Plateau State are touchy issues. No matter how one tries to analyze issues objectively, the tendency for one to be misconstrued is on a ratio of eight-to-ten. So this piece is not about the author but about the issues that have been on the front burner of Nigerian, nay Plateau politics in the last few months. Issues that bothers on politics and politicking.

Ordinarily, and on the surface, democracy is a style of government that is simply guided by the rule of law or supremacy of the law. If this definition is universal, then it only means that democracy thrives and finds expression from its heavy dependence on the rule of law. It is a government that is predicated on the law that a people collectively and willingly subject themselves to. It therefore means that the legislature and the judiciary are the two arms of government that gives democracy the distinct aroma that distinguishes it from other forms of government.

In another breath, democracy is said to be the rule of the

majority. Simply put, the majority will always have its way in democracy while the minority will always have its say. If that is anything to go by, then democracy, like someone posited: it is the tyranny of the majority. Tyranny because the majority will always lord it over those that are considered the minority.

Either way, government in any form whether democracy, theocracy or monarchical forms of government enjoys some level of tyranny. The difference being that democracy courts some level of legitimacy due to its design and practice which appears inclusive.

The idea behind democracy as crafted by the Greeks, was by default, a system that would give the people ample opportunity to decide who represents them at what level of governance. It was, by default, intended to be accomplished through a popular process of balloting and, litigation was a distant alternative in the leadership recruitment process.

But since it prides itself as a government that thrives on the rule of law, it then translates that the legislature and the judiciary

should play active role in the enactment and interpretation of the law that would in turn guarantee the seamless running of the government. With each arm independent of the other, it also serves as check and balance on one another to guard against abuse of power or conferring undue advantage on any arm at the detriment of the others.

The legislature in this wise enacts or make laws for the smooth running of government while the judiciary is vested with the responsibility of interpreting the laws. The judiciary functions as an arbiter where infringements are perceived at any stage of the democratic process; to correct anomalies in the system.

In interpreting the law, it is expected that the judiciary should be guided by both the letters and spirit of the constitution. The letters of the constitution may say one thing but, the spirit of the constitution may say another. In other words, in making pronouncements on electoral matters, analysts argued that beyond just interpreting the law, some considerations must be taken into cognizance by the judiciary

to weigh the options that such pronouncements of judgments could have on the polity.

In the last few weeks, the outcome of the 2023 general elections has been subjected to thorough scrutiny by tribunals and the Appellant court. For the presidential election, the supreme court also passed its judgment on the outcome of the exercise. Both the tribunal and the apex court affirmed the election of the incumbent President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as duly elected.

Across the states, tribunals passed various judgments on the outcome of the elections. Of particular interest are the legal tussles on the governorship elections in Kano, Zamfara, Nasarawa and Plateau States where the judicial processes have continued to generate interests amongst party supporters and their sympathizers. Like we pointed out in the opening paragraph of this discourse, the outcome of the judicial process is generating interests largely due to the different interpretations that the different interest blogs are giving it.

Just the other, the former Senator who represented Kaduna Central in the red chambers of the National Assembly, Senator Shehu Sani described the appellant court ruling on the Plateau State gubernatorial tussle as a threat to democracy. In his words, Sani described the judiciary as the "coffin of democracy". Recall that the tribunal had earlier affirmed the victory of Governor Caleb Mutfwang of the Peoples' Democratic Party, PDP as the

winner of the 2023 general elections.

In a similar judgment, the tribunal upturned the election of Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State in a unanimous decision. But that ruling was set aside by the Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja. Governor Sule, like Nentawe Yilwatda of Plateau State is of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC. In the same vein, the case of Kano State is not different as the court as the tribunal has also uprooted Abba Kabir Yusuf (Abba Gida Gida) of the New Nigerian Peoples' Party, NNPP for Gawuna of the APC.

The story in Zamfara may be have a different twist as the appellant court also set aside the ruling of the gubernatorial election tribunal that declared Dauda Lawal of the PDP as winner of the election and ordered a rerun to be conducted in three Local Government Areas of the state.

In the few examples cited above, the trajectory indicates that most, if not all the rulings were against the opposition candidates. Little wonder people like the outspoken Shehu Sani can afford to take a swipe at the judiciary for what it perceives as "injustice" against the opposition candidates.

The senator may not be alone in this regard. Former President Olusegun Obasanjo also cautioned that such rulings by a few individual who sit to handle matters concerning the votes of millions of Nigerians was dangerous to the survival of Nigerian democracy.

Obasanjo queried the propriety

The legislature in this wise enacts or make laws for the smooth running of government while the judiciary is vested with the responsibility of interpreting the laws. The judiciary functions as an arbiter where infringements are perceived at any stage of the democratic process; to correct anomalies in the system.

Continued on page 31

NEWS

NAF makes progress against oil thieves

By DORCAS PANKYES

AIR strikes against economic saboteurs and oil thieves continued unabated in South-south Nigeria as aircraft of the Nigerian Air Force under Operation Delta Safe, recently destroyed 2 Cotonou boats sighted at Arugbana near Okrika in Rivers State.

On the same day, the aircraft also destroyed an active Illegal Refining Site (IRS) with equipment and reservoirs loaded with illegal products at Yellow Island near Bonny Island in Rivers State.

In a report issued to journalists recently in Abuja by Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, Director of Public Relations and Information, Nigerian Air Force, he stated that similar strikes were also conducted on 27 November

2023 at a location Southeast of Abisse in Rivers State.

At the location, an active IRS was sighted concealed with reservoirs and a storage tank suspected to contain illegally refined products. The reservoirs and storage tanks were then engaged and destroyed.

Another location Northwest of Omama was also struck as it was observed to be containing items suspected to contain stolen crude oil in objects tied in sacks.

Subsequent reconnaissance flights over Cawthorne Channel, Bille, Dariama, Okrika, Bonny Island and Idama, revealed a retinue of destroyed and abandoned IRS, hitherto destroyed by the Air Component. These sites remain inactive, an indication that the measures being employed may be yielding the expected



Abubakar

outcome.

Either way, the Air Component of Operation Delta Safe will continue to

carry out its assigned duties until the activities of these saboteurs are completely halted or

Women in agriculture enjoy support of financial institutions

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

TRANSSPARENT and free access to services and incentives provided by some agro based financial institutions in Gombe has encouraged more women to venture into small and large scale farming.

These financial institutions, Bank of Industry (BOI), Bank of Agriculture (BOA) and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), charge low loan interest rates and are flexible. These features have continued to attract more women into farming. In addition, it has boosted economic development and welfare of the rural population.

Transparency in access to funding for Women in Agricultural cooperatives through these institutions has been a concern and a focal point for addressing gender disparity and ensuring fair and equitable access to financial resources.

However, investigation by our correspondent revealed that some of these women who utilized the opportunities offered by these institutions, have continued to tell stories of success and the positive impact it has had on their families.

BOI, BOA and SMEDAN are pivotal financial institutions in Nigeria that play significant roles in providing access to funding, support and resources to various sectors, including agriculture.



Nadada

One of the main ideas of agricultural cooperatives is self support as members are given soft loans with low interest rates. Some of these women share their experience with our correspondent.

Maryam Abubakar is the chairperson of Alfari Women Group, an Agric co-operative in Gombe with about 20 registered women, most of whom are farmers.

She is one out of many women who has been enjoying the benefits of micro and enterprise loans as well as medium scale loans from Bank of Agric in Gombe for the past two years.

The BOA, a Nigerian Government sponsored development bank, provides credit facilities to both small businesses within rural areas and Maryam noted that women are becoming more aware of the various loans obtainable through the BOA in the state, hence, the increase in the number of women who are currently benefiting from BOA loans.

She described the mode of accessing loans from BOA as transparent and without challenges and with an interest rate of 4%.

Maryam said many women who benefit from the loan find it easy to repay within the stipulated period of 6 months because of its flexibility.

Our investigation also revealed that many rural women are beginning to gain access to soft loans by various institutions, especially the BOA.

SMEDAN, another institution that has supported women farmers in Gombe State, has also recorded some remarkable achievements with the women entrepreneurs.

Mr. Umar, the desk officer for SMEDAN in Gombe office says, the agency does not issue out direct loans to individuals but can provide one with business planning, development information and advice to ensure that one has a good and confident start.

He said one of the programmes is the "wise P" for women in agriculture, which targets women in various LGAs in Gombe State. The

women in agricultural cooperatives are selected and are given entrepreneurship development training and funding as grants to start their business.

About 400 women from various local governments in the state have so far benefited from the first round of the "wise P" programme which started in 2016/2017 with three rounds of the programme successfully carried out to their completion.

Alaine Bello who is into food processing and poultry farming, is one out of the many women who has benefited severally from some programmes by SMEDAN like the "wise P" programme.

She testified that trainings have been held for them as well as cash and equipment provided for the women to support their agro businesses.

But at the Bank of Industry, it was observed that the bank does not operate its services or give out loans on the basis of gender.

Any individual who meets their conditions or requirements is rather provided with the needed facilities or equipment for their businesses with a 9% interest rate with a repayment period of 36 months and a moratorium of three to six months.

However, even with the support from these agro based financial institutions, some women in agriculture say they have survived and even thrived independently of these institutions.

Hajiya Jummai Ibrahim, a resident of Nayi Nawa Quarters in Gombe metropolis, engages in large scale dry and wet season farming at Dadin Kowa in Yamaltu/ Deba Local Government Area of the state. She also shares her experience.

She said she had never benefited from any loan scheme in spite of the fact that she cultivates large hectares of land, thereby contributing immensely to the food security programme of the government.

Jummai stated that though there were good returns on

investment in farming, she however noted that such returns may be preceded by a monumental loss, thus, acknowledging that farming is also characterised by risks which may turn a farmer to become unemployed if not properly managed.

"I cultivate crops such as rice, maize, groundnut and I am also into poultry and livestock farming. But I grow rice more than any other grains. I have about eight hectares of rice farm where I harvest about 150-200 bags of rice yearly.

"I have invested quite a lot in farming and I have acquired a lot through farming. Though I gain a lot, there are exceptional cases sometimes. In the year 2000, I experienced poor harvest as a result of bird infestation, worms and other diseases that affected my crops particularly rice and I had no money to tackle the challenge in time", she recounted.

In spite of some of the challenges she faced in farming, Jummai is not deterred by any of the challenges as she struggles through other means such as trading to sustain her occupation which she has passion for.

"I struggle and work very hard to be able to source for funds". She recalled that there was a time she had to sell off her landed properties to buy chemicals and other farm inputs to save her crops from pests and diseases.

When asked if she would like to join Agric Co-operative to access loans, Hajiya Jummai said she was afraid of any form of loans.

According to her, "Death can come at any time, and I am afraid to die with a loan as it will affect my children and relatives as well".

Transparency in accessing funding for women in Agricultural Co-operatives through these Institutions has been a concern and a focal point for addressing gender disparity and ensuring fair and equitable access to financial resources.



2024 budget scales second reading in Senate

The 2024 budget scaled the second reading in the Senate on Friday.

Senate urges Nigerian govt to withhold statutory allocations of LGAs with unelected officials

The Senate on Friday urged the Federal Government to withhold statutory allocations of local government councils whose officials were not democratically elected

President Tinubu targets 3.76% economic growth in 2024 fiscal year

President Bola Tinubu, on Wednesday, revealed that his administration is targeting a 3.76 per cent economic growth in the next fiscal year.

Ethiopian Airlines bans Nigerians from using Ghana-must-go bags on its flights

The Ethiopian Airlines has banned passengers from bringing 'Ghana-must-go' bags on any of its flights from Nigeria.

Buhari was not in charge of his govt — Ndume

The Senate Chief Whip, Ali Ndume, said on Friday former President Muhammadu Buhari was not in charge of his government

Air Force helicopter crash lands in Port Harcourt

A military helicopter belonging to the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) crash-landed in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, on Friday morning.

Nigeria signs agreement with Germany to improve electricity supply

Nigeria and Germany on Friday signed an agreement to improve electricity supply in the West African country

CBN orders banks to freeze accounts without BVN, NIN from March 2024

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has directed deposit money banks in the country to place a "No Debit" restriction on all accounts without a Bank Verification Number (BVN) and National Identification Number (NIN) from March 2024.

AfDB, FSDH sign \$20 million agreement to support MSMEs in Nigeria

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and FSDH have signed a new \$20 million Trade Finance Facility to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria.

Fire guts ABU Senate Building in Zaria

Fire on Friday gutted a section of Ahmadu Bello University's Senate Building at the Samaru Main Campus in Zaria.

Police, ICPC clear singer D'banj of rape, fraud allegations

The Nigeria Police Force and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) have cleared singer Dapo Oyebanjo aka D'banj of rape and fraud in the N-Power scheme.

Nigerians bothered about rising food prices, not budget, says Rewane

The Chief Executive Officer, Financial Derivatives Company Limited, Bismarck Rewane, has disclosed that Nigerians are more concerned about the ballooning cost of food items and not in the details of the 2024 budget recently presented to the National Assembly by President Bola Tinubu yesterday.

Reps summon NUC, others over termination of law programme in NOUN

The House of Representatives on Thursday invited the Acting Executive Secretary of the National University Commission (NUC) and the Director General for the Council of Legal Education over the termination of law programme at the National Open University Commission (NOUN).

Only PDP can decide Edo governorship candidate for 2024 — Obaseki

The Edo State Governor, Godwin Obaseki, said on Thursday the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has the sole right to determine its candidate for the September 21, 2024 governorship election in the state.

Impeachment Saga: Court dismisses Ondo Assembly appeal against Aiyedatiwa after withdrawal

The Abuja Division of the Appeal Court has dismissed an appeal filed by the Ondo House of Assembly against an earlier High Court judgment stopping the impeachment of the State Deputy Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa.

2024 BUDGET: The important numbers and who gets what

President Bola Tinubu on Wednesday presented the 2024 appropriation bill of the federal government of N27.5 trillion to a joint session of the National Assembly.

Investors make N44bn as Nigeria's capital market ends month on positive note

The Nigerian capital market continued its bullish run on Thursday with a 0.11% growth in the All-Share Index (ASI).

Tonto Dikeh tackles Mohbad's father in open letter

Nollywood actress Tonto Dikeh on Thursday took a swipe at Mr. Joseph Aloba, the father of late singer Ilerioluwa Aloba aka Mohbad for placing wealth above other considerations.

Arsenal win Champions League group with Lens thrashing

Premier League side Arsenal reached Champions League knockout stages as group winners following a 6-0 thrashing of French club Lens.

Mob attacks INEC office in Kogi

An angry mob on Wednesday attacked the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office in Kogi State

UCL: Barca beat Porto to reach last-16, Newcastle denied win at PSG

Barcelona sealed an incredible comeback victory over Porto in their matchday five clash of the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday night.

Compiled by Lois Daduot

SUNDAY FEATURE

Before the Nigerian military becomes hapless

These are not the best of times for Nigerians. The country is battling to contain ravaging insecurity, for over a decade now, which has resulted in the deaths of millions of citizens, while stunting the growth of its economy. ABDULSALAM MAHMUD writes.

SOME factors are responsible for persistent security challenges bedeviling our dear fatherland. They include poor governance, social injustice, extreme spiritual ideologies, the nation's unemployment crisis, and proliferation of small arms and illicit weapons, among others.

The aforementioned, and others not highlighted herein, are aggravating the Boko Haram and Islamic State of West African Province, ISWAP, terrorism. They are also the reason why the spate of kidnapping for ransom, ritual killings, violent thuggery and cultism, armed banditry, oil theft and herders-farmers clashes, among others, do not want to abate, amid the resolute efforts of our security agencies.

Nonetheless, I have always believed that it is only a matter of time for Nigerians and the country itself to heave a relief sigh over the troubling insecurity they are contending with at the moment. Something which happened last week has however compelled me to have a rethink about that becoming a possibility, in the near future.

Appearing before the House of Representatives penultimate Tuesday for the maiden sectoral briefing introduced by the 10th National Assembly, NASS, the service chiefs and the Inspector General of Police, IGP, confessed that multifaceted challenges were hampering their concerted efforts in the fight against terrorism, banditry, separatists' agitations and other security challenges, across the country.

They, however, said they have been doing their best in surmounting those challenges to ensure adequate security and protection of lives through their several counter-terrorism operations and exercises, which they said have yielded significant results since assuming office.

The service chiefs including General Christopher Gwabin Musa (Chief of Defence Staff); Lt. Gen. Taoreed A. Lagbaja (Chief of Army Staff); Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla (Chief of Naval Staff) and Air Marshal Hassan B. Abubakar (Chief of Air Staff) and the IGP, Kayode Egbotokun, at the briefing, identified the rising cost of aviation fuel, delays in release of funding for procurements of equipment; complexity in targeting terrorists within the populace; porous borders; inadequate personnel and sabotage as part of the challenges confronting the fight against terrorism.

While speaking, Gen. CG Musa said the inability of the country to produce most of the sophisticated military hardware needed for their operations had remained a major challenge as they depend largely on other countries for their procurements.

He said besides the challenge of bureaucratic bottlenecks in the procurement processes; the current dollar crisis has further exacerbated the problem. "We don't produce what we need in Nigeria and if you do not produce what you need, that means you are at the beck and call of the people that produce these items. All the items we procure are bought with



hard currency; none in naira.

"Most times when funds are released, by the time you turn these funds into dollars, it can only get us very little. For example, during the last regime, about N1 billion was set aside for defence procurements. Out of that amount, over 600 million dollars was for the procurement of the aircraft. So, the whole money had gone.

"For any ammunition we buy; we buy them in dollars and we spend in millions. So many times, when people see that funds are being released to the armed forces, they think it is so much but by the time you convert them to dollars, you do not get so much. One precision missile for our drone costs 5000 dollars. So, imagine how many we would be able to use and how many we can procure. So those are the challenges".

He said one other challenge hindering the fight against insurgency is that of alleged sabotage between terrorists and some compromised prisons' officials. "In the North East when we were debriefing some of the Boko Haram elements; some were telling us how from the prisons they could plan operations on the field. They passed funds across and we asked how. They use some of the warders.

"We are not saying all of them are bad, but they use some of the warders' accounts to transfer money and the deal is anybody's account it is transferred to, they share it 50-50," he said. On the activities of IPOB in the Southeast, the CDS said the role of the Finland-based Simon Ekpa remained a key issue that must be looked into by the federal government, adding that he has become a menace to the country.

He said, "This individual has become a menace to this country. The country must act on it diplomatically. Finland is having a freeway encouraging him to be

doing what he is doing. By his utterances and actions, he is affecting what is happening in Nigeria. We should never allow that. Our foreign service needs to step in to address the issue. It is either we invite the ambassador or somebody.

"They must explain why they are protecting him. And he is doing us more harm by his utterances. A lot of people are being killed. We cannot sit back and keep quiet." On the way forward, he said there was a need to exploit the contemporary global shift in the utilisation of space technology and cyber warfare for national defence and security.

The CDS said so far, they have initiated the process of establishing a joint cyber warfare intelligence command where such emerging technologies will be exploited to enhance the capabilities of the armed forces of Nigeria. He also advocated greater synergy between the security forces and the civil populace through intelligence sharing to succeed in the fight.

"Security is not only the responsibility of security forces. Everybody has a responsibility to play. We cannot be everywhere. So, we need education and sensitisation programmes to

educate Nigerians that security is everybody's responsibility. If you see it, you talk about it. You just don't keep quiet and say it is for the police. Everybody has a role. Our neighbouring countries, if you enter there as a visitor, I give you 30 minutes; they would know you are a visitor.

"Before you know it, the gendarmes are after you. There, it is different. People tend to think it is not their responsibility. We are not magicians. We need to have a system where we train from schools; let every Nigerian understand that they should take ownership of security," he said.

He emphasised the need for good governance as a panacea in addressing security challenges in the country. He said, "The magic wand to address insecurity is good governance. Anywhere you have good governance insecurity goes down. The security forces can only produce 30 per cent. We can only provide an enabling environment.

"If other aspects are not addressed, it is a problem. Security is not just military security. We have food security, health security, social security, and education security. All these play vital roles in achieving what we are doing. If we do not put these things in place through good

governance, it becomes a problem. People can't eat. People are hungry. No matter how you tell them to keep the peace, they will not because they have to eat and it aids criminality.

"So those are the aspects we are looking at that we must have good governance and everybody has belief in the country that this is their country. He said there was the need for diligent and quick prosecution of arrested suspects by the prosecuting authorities and the judiciary.

It is customary for the lawmakers who paid rapt attention to the defence chief and other service chiefs' lamentations, to promise offering their intervention. Like other Nigerians, I however care a hoot about how, and when their messianic intercession will come.

But I am having issues believing that their generous aid will yield any tangible result, insofar the challenges highlighted by Gen. CG Musa and other service chiefs – during the sectorial briefing – are not swiftly addressed by the federal government and other key stakeholders in the nation's defence and security sectors. The time to act is now, lest the Nigerian military becomes totally hapless.

Mahmud, deputy editor, PRNigeria, writes via babasalam1989@gmail.com

"We are not saying all of them are bad, but they use some of the warders' accounts to transfer money and the deal is anybody's account it is transferred to, they share it 50-50," he said. On the activities of IPOB in the Southeast, the CDS said the role of the Finland-based Simon Ekpa remained a key issue that must be looked into by the federal government, adding that he has become a menace to the country".

SUNDAY FEATURE

The goldfish in JAMB

For keen watchers and followers of his enthralling trajectory, the recent news that the Registrar/Chief Executive Officer of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Prof. Is'haq Olanrewaju Oloyede, has become a hot cake for five African countries that desperately covet his services, is not surprising or unexpected. His sterling performance at JAMB and at the University of Ilorin where he was vice chancellor between 2007 and 2012 easily recommends him for anybody or entity that truly desires the best in service delivery and organisational efficiency. He is a veritable goldfish that has no hiding place. KUNLE AKOGUN writes.

SO, even as most Nigerians have almost given up on the country as a result of its deep immersion in the cesspit of corruption, there are still some of our countrymen whose activities in both public offices and their private lives continue to assure us that there is yet hope for Nigeria; hope of a sure dawn of a truly new era; hope of a country that will surely rub shoulders with some of the best nations in the world in terms of every conceivable index of growth and development.

There is, however, an abiding feeling that these "new Nigerians" are either born ahead of their times or have simply found themselves at a wrong place at a wrong time. The JAMB registrar is unarguably one of these exceptional Nigerians. They are those that have successfully defied the pervasive anomie. In their lonely but dignifying walk, they tow the path of forthrightness by choosing to do things differently from the maddening crowd around them. They often do this to the chagrin of the evil minded, who frenetically seek the sustenance of the rotten status quo and to the admiration of all lovers of good things, who genuinely desire a shift from the ugly trend of corruption, bad governance, graft, and general integrity deficit.

As revealed recently at the sixth National Policy Dialogue of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences (ICPC), five countries are angling to poach the JAMB registrar because of his high level of integrity and ethical standards. Keynote speaker at the event, Prof. Toyin Falola, of the Department of History, University of Texas, Austin, USA, who dropped the hint, stated that "to effectively address corruption, it was important to focus on transforming behaviour and fostering a culture of integrity and accountability, which requires active participation from individuals across all sectors".

Prof. Falola's revelation was echoed by the ICPC's Director of Public Enlightenment and Education, Mr. Mohammed Ashiru Baba, during a sensitisation lecture on the "Role of Public/Civil Servants in the Implementation of the National Ethics and Integrity Policy", organised by the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) of JAMB in collaboration with ICPC on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 in Abuja. The ICPC director said, "Prof. Oloyede is an icon of integrity and it is evident in the way the public and, indeed, the world views the board. According to him, it is because of this high level of integrity that he is being sought after by five countries.

The transformational initiatives of Oloyede at JAMB, and his commitment since he became registrar in 2016 are legion. They include: the Central Admissions Processing System (CAPS) for automation of admission process; institution of Equal Opportunity Group for the conduct of the Universal Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) for Blind Candidates; expansion of capacities of CBT centres for standardisation purposes; introduction of E-Ticketing (for complaints); introduction of the Integrated Brochure and Syllabus System (IBASS) for prompt delivery of admissions requirements; use of Biometric Authentication to confirm validity of registration; introduction of E-slip printing; introduction of management dashboard to monitor registration and admission exercise real time; use of CCTV cameras in all CBT centres to monitor the examination and registration



PROF OLOYEDE

process real time; exemplary funds management; an ebullient staff welfare policy; as well as prudent and judicious use of JAMB's financial resources, an initiative that made it possible for the board to remit more than N70 billion to the federal government's coffer despite not being a statutory revenue generating agency!

The professor of Islamic Jurisprudence has so sanitised JAMB's operations that it seems that the 46-year old board had never been in any tangible operational existence before 2016!

Not only did he institute an enhanced welfare scheme for JAMB staff that boosted their morale and enhanced their service delivery, Oloyede's administration has substantially restored the sanctity of the board's main mandate, which is the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations (UTME). And, as evident in all the seven admission exercises he had superintended so far, JAMB's technology had considerably improved, with high level of transparency and advanced networking. The scrapping of the

traditional scratch card system for checking results is another positive rebellion by this audacious JAMB helmsman. And the drastic reduction in the application fees is a serious relief to admission seekers and their parents and guardians.

But by far the most remarkable feat

by any non-revenue yielding MDA in the country is the consistent annual remittance by Oloyede's JAMB of billions of naira to the federal government coffers since the past seven years. This is indeed praiseworthy, especially in a country where even some revenue generating

MDAs often turn round to ask government for extra-budgetary bail-outs to supplement their overheads and write off their deficit expenditures!

By this feat, Oloyede merely lived up to his credentials of administrative acumen, financial discipline and legendary transparency in public service. The erudite don and consummate administrator became a household name during his tenure as the vice-chancellor of the University of Ilorin between 2007 and 2012, having largely succeeded in turning the second generation university into a world class institution. This, he achieved by dint of hard work, resilience, consistency, tenacity of purpose and team spirit.

Indeed, Oloyede's trajectory has been a study in forthrightness, service excellence, administrative acumen, religious commitment to the achievement of set goals, and unapologetic insistence on fairness to all.

Despite his sterling track records of achievements, attempts have been made by mischievous elements to disparage and the reputation of this game changer. However, each of those sinister attempts not only fell flat on their faces, they also turned round to reconfirm the incorruptibility of this rare Nigerian species and enhance his integrity rating even among sceptics and inveterate critics. Talk of the Joy Mmesoma Ejikeme's result forgery saga; the allegation of employment racket raised by a member of the House of Representatives and the alleged unjust denial of admission raised by a candidate. But no sooner were these accusations made than they all fell like packs of cards when JAMB presented its usually unassailable defence against each of them.

Such is the stuff that this icon of service excellence and paragon of integrity is made of. May his tribe multiply in a country that is in dire need of true patriots that could take her out of the current wilderness of pervasive corruption and inefficiency in public service.

Akogun is Director, Corporate Affairs, University of Ilorin, Kwara state

"As revealed recently at the sixth National Policy Dialogue of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences (ICPC), five countries are angling to poach the JAMB registrar because of his high level of integrity and ethical standards. Keynote speaker at the event, Prof. Toyin Falola, of the Department of History, University of Texas, Austin, USA, who dropped the hint, stated that "to effectively address corruption, it was important to focus on transforming behaviour and fostering a culture of integrity and accountability, which requires active participation from individuals across all sectors".

THE word is agog with hysteria because of climate change. Far-reaching decisions that affect our lives are being made because of climate change. I often wonder if we are not doing too much globally because of climate change.

Recently, I found out that the weather can actually be controlled using weather modification technology. In other words, the weather could be engineered. This engineering of our weather could also be a double-edged word. One of such technology is called cloud seeding. This is one of the technologies used to cause rain and floods. Cloud seeding can do wonders in the desert. With rain caused by this technology, the desert could be converted into arable land. This seedling has been done in Dubai deserts.

Cloud seeding is an answer to droughts and dissertation. However, in the forest zones where rain is perennial, cloud seeding can lead to massive flooding. Today, occurrences of flooding across the globe has doubled. This leaves me with some questions. Are some of these floods the results of cloud seeding gone wrong? Is climate engineering under government regulation? how can climate engineering be regulated in Nigeria even before it arrives here if it is not already here?

I share with you an excerpt on what cloud seeding is from the Desert Research Institute:

What is Cloud Seeding?

Clouds are made up of tiny water droplets or ice crystals that form when water vapor in the atmosphere cools and condenses around a tiny particle of dust or salt floating in the atmosphere. Without these particles, known as condensation or ice nuclei, raindrops or snowflakes cannot form and precipitation will not occur.

Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique that improves a cloud's ability to produce rain or snow by introducing tiny ice nuclei into certain types of subfreezing clouds. These nuclei provide a base for snowflakes to form. After cloud seeding takes place, the newly formed snowflakes quickly grow and fall from the clouds back to the surface of the Earth, increasing snowpack and streamflow.

How we Cloud Seed

Cloud seeding can be done from ground-based generators or aircraft. The DRI Cloud Seeding Research Program primarily uses ground-based generators, which are designed and built by DRI and can be operated remotely. In the Carson and Walker River basins, DRI also conducts cloud seeding from a subcontracted seeding aircraft.

Most cloud seeding operations, including those run by DRI, use a compound called silver iodide (AgI) to aid in the formation of ice crystals. Silver iodide exists naturally in the environment at low concentrations and is not known to be harmful to humans or wildlife.

When storm systems move through one of our cloud seeding project areas, a solution containing a small amount of silver iodide is burned from ground-based generators or released from aircraft. Upon reaching the cloud, the silver iodide acts as an ice forming nuclei to aid in the production of snowflakes.

DRI's cloud seeding operation generally runs during the winter season of November to May, when storm systems are actively moving through our project areas. During dry winters when storm systems are absent for long periods, cloud seeding cannot occur, because cloud seeding requires the presence of moisture-filled clouds.

DRI's team of experts includes meteorologists who monitor the weather throughout the season for appropriate cloud seeding conditions. Cloud seeding does not occur during times when additional precipitation would be problematic, such as times of high flood risk or during busy holiday travel periods.

Benefits of Cloud Seeding

Cloud seeding is used all over the world as a method for enhancing winter snowfall and increasing mountain snowpack, supplementing the natural water supply available to communities of the surrounding area.

The effectiveness of cloud seeding differs from project to project, but long-term cloud seeding projects over the mountains of Nevada and other parts of the world have been shown to increase the overall snowpack in the targeted areas by 10% or more per year (Manton and Warren 2011, Huggins 2009, Super and Heimbach 1983).

At a study site in the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales, Australia, a five-year cloud seeding project designed by DRI resulted in a 14 percent increase in snowfall across the project area. This enhanced snowfall was shown to be a result of cloud seeding, at the 97 percent confidence interval (Manton and Warren 2011).

In Wyoming, a 10-year cloud seeding experiment in the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Range resulted in five to 15 percent increases in snow pack from winter storms (Wyoming Water Development Office 2015). And older research from a cloud seeding program in the Bridger Range of western Montana showed snowfall increases of up to 15 percent from cloud seeding

using high altitude remote-controlled generators (Super and Heimbach 1983). These generators are similar to the cloud seeding methods used by DRI's modern cloud seeding projects.

The foregoing is from the Desert Research Institute. following excerpt from the bulletin of Atomic Scientists explains the pros and cons of cloud seeding with instances of flooding in places like Dubai, which is also taking its first harvest from cloud seeding this year:

With water shortages in the American West continuing to worsen, policymakers are starting to recognize that incremental changes such as "avoiding long showers [and] fixing leaky faucets" will not be sufficient. During crises, "silver bullets"—promising but overly-simplistic technological solutions to complex problems—become increasingly appealing, despite the acknowledgement that no single technology or policy can address complex



Climate change?



challenges like water shortages or climate change.

Cloud seeding is perhaps the ultimate silver bullet, in which literal silver in the form of silver iodide is infused into clouds, causing ice crystals to form and water to condense into rain or snow. Cloud seeding is a form of planned weather modification. Most commonly used to increase precipitation as a drought management technique, cloud seeding is also regularly used to clear fog in airports, fight forest fires, suppress hail, and even divert rainfall, as it was used, for example, during the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

The promise of creating rain is highly appealing in the face of increasing water shortages and disruptions to water cycles exacerbated by climate change. While cloud seeding is not a new technology—the first experiments took place in the 1940s—it fell out of favor in the 1980s for being an "unacceptable ethical and environmental hazard." It is now back on the policy agenda as a climate adaptation strategy. Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, and California have all expanded their cloud seeding operations in the past two years in response to the worsening drought. Despite its potential, the risks associated with cloud seeding are high, and there is significant danger that cloud seeding may do more harm than good. "Human consequences."

As early as 1965, the National Science Foundation called for urgent social science research into the impacts of weather modification, stating, "If the developing techniques of weather and climate modification are to be used intelligently, the human consequences of deliberate or inadvertent intervention need to be anticipated before they are upon us." But these issues continue to be under-explored. Compared to other forms of geoengineering that have received greater attention and generated more controversy—such as expanding research on solar geoengineering—policy discussions about the use (and misuse) of cloud seeding are lacking, even though it has been widely deployed.

Having read the foregoing, we must interrogate cloud modification weather engineering technology in a world where flooding, earthquakes and all forms of weather hazards

threaten human life. If this technology gets into the wrong hands, it will become a deadly weapon of destruction where the weather can simply be modified to cause flooding in any area of choice. This should not surprise us because today's military power lies in the possession of the most destructive technology and water is just as destructive as fire.

Bhupendra Jasani, in a publication titled "environmental modification" talks about weather and climate modification, modification of oceans and earthquakes, modification of certain types of electromagnetic radiation reaching the earth and modification of the electrical behaviour of the atmosphere. This paper calls all of this geophysical modification. The paper reads and I quote as follows: "the term environmental modification embodies many types of deliberate or inadvertent changes in the environment where man leaves. One aspect of this, the deliberate geophysical modification, and its uses as a means of waging war, is considered here". From the foregoing, climate engineering can be used as a weapon of warfare. The likes of cloud seeding which can cause flooding.

The fact that cloud seeding exists should not surprise us. Already, we have biological weapons. Weather modification resulting in catastrophes exist. The point here is that while we look for ways and means of mitigating the damaging effects of flooding in our country, we have to consider the possibility of cloud seeding as remote as it may sound. Do we have the technology in private hands? How can the government put in place regulations that will govern this sector. Drones are already in private hands. In fact, there is a drone club in Abuja. We all know the security threats that drones can constitute. Is this regulated

The world is moving in ways that we cannot completely decipher or reverse. While these events might surprise us, it is important for our government to be aware of this and regulate its usage in our environment by enacting the relevant laws. Before we continue the conversation, please read the foregoing on the environmental modification convention from Wikipedia:

Prior to the Environmental Modification Convention signed in Geneva in 1977, the United

States used weather warfare in the Vietnam War. Operation Popeye saw the use of cloud seeding over the Ho Chi Minh trail. It was hoped that the increased rainfall would reduce the rate of infiltration down the trail.^[1]

A research paper produced for the United States Air Force written in 1996 speculates about the future use of nanotechnology to produce "artificial weather", clouds of microscopic computer particles all communicating with each other to form an "intelligent fog" that could be used for various purposes. "Artificial weather technologies do not currently exist. But as they are developed, the importance of their potential applications rises rapidly."

The Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (Geneva: May 18, 1977, Entered into force: October 5, 1978) prohibits "widespread, long-lasting or severe effects as the means of destruction, damage or injury". In 1972 an ENMOD convention on weather warfare presented that this permits "local, non-permanent changes".^[2] The "Consultative Committee of Experts" established in Article VIII of the Convention stated in their "Understanding relating to Article II" that any use of environmental modification where this is done "as a means of destruction, damage or injury to another State Party, would be prohibited."^[3] It also suggests all signatories are expected to abstain from using weather modification to cause harm at any scale, stating "military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, would result, or could reasonably be expected to result, in widespread, long-lasting or severe destruction, damage or injury." However, the treaty does not directly condemn military use of weather modification when it does not directly cause harm,^[3] such as the United States' use of weather modification in the siege of Khe Sanh, discussed above. The limitations of the treaty, and its application only to signatory states, allow weather warfare to continue to play a role in warfare throughout the twenty-first century. The United States prohibits weather modification without permission of the United States.

Next week, we will look into electromagnetic weapons of warfare.

TURN yourself into a sheep
Last week, I emphasized the need to have a personal relationship with God. In this series, it will be my pleasure to expatiate along that thought.

I believe there's an anointing upon your life, and it's working. I believe it. It is breaking barriers; it is opening doors. But this is the counterpart; this is how you cooperate with that anointing- you turn yourself into a sheep. It is sheep who can come close enough to the shepherd that anoints with oil. David was talking as a shepherd, and out of the abundance of the living revelation he had. Remember what he said when he faced Goliath, when Saul came and put his armor on David, and it was too heavy on him. David wore Saul's armor, but before he went to face Goliath, it was dragging him down and, and he said, Look, Saul, I can't wear this armor because I have not proved it. It's your armor. There comes a day when your Pastor's walk with God will fail you. There comes a day when your wife's or husband's walk with God will fail you. You have to develop your own armor. Your armor is your walk with God.

What have you proven? You stay with the principle of tithing until the open heaven comes. You have a testimony that will mark you with the goodness of God that you can tell somebody else this thing works. Then you can understand the dynamics of it. It is not that you just do it one day and see the result the next day. You stay with giving; you stay faithful as you stay with service. It is on that path of faithfulness that you get working revelation of God that you can use. You have proven something and it will serve you all the days of your life. He said, **"I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them,"** (1 Samuel 17:39). In the preceding verses- verse 34 to 37, when he went out he was telling Saul, look, **"Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew**

him. 36 Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. 37 David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine."

So David understood when he said the Lord is my shepherd. The Lord is the mighty warrior that fights for me. He is a mighty warrior. Deuteronomy 32:9 says, **"For the Lord's portion is his people..."**. Psalm 16:5 reads thus: **"Thou maintainest, my lot..."** He maintains my place for me. You see, I am not aggravated because I have a place in this life. I have a place in

the Lord. That's simply because he understood something about God. He is a Shepherd-Lord.

However, you must bear in mind that David had a personal relationship with God. You have to have a personal deal with this God. I know there are levels in Christianity. I know that people grow. But when people who have been long in Christianity start having these issues that you know, somebody offended me, somebody did this or that to me, so I won't come to church. I just discovered that that person is deficient of a personal knowledge of God.



I shall not want (8) God is bringing you into seasons of quietness



this life. I have a ministry or a call.

I have come to understand that nobody can determine my destiny, except the LORD, because it is He, the LORD, that is my Shepherd. David understood this. That the same way he did for his physical sheep is the way his Lord does for him. That is why David could say in the height of his iniquity, that I would rather fall into the hands of

The LORD is my Shepherd, my own Shepherd. Because of that, I don't want. Nobody can offend me to the point of not coming to fellowship with my Shepherd- the LORD.

So, the first thing that has got to be in place, why many people quote this verse and don't and cannot access the benefits is because, that lordship is not in place. Lordship, is ownership. It is an ownership deal.

See, the moment you become born again, the Bible says in Colossians 1:13 **"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son"**. So all of us, who have made the Lord our shepherd, we're living in another kingdom. Somebody else is our Lord, His name is Jesus, He is our shepherd. That means anything that is of Satan's kingdom has no right to enforce itself over us. But we take our authority from his lordship. That is why James will say in James 4:7, **"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."**

See, if the devil is not resisted then he does not flee. Poverty? If you don't stand against poverty, it will stick on you. Anything you don't stand against, will stick on you. And this standing against is not bone face, please. David knew something, he knew that God will be that kind of warrior for him. You must put yourself under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Lordship means owner, lordship means master. You derive your ability from Him. You can only be as strong spiritually as your connection with God is. That is why the Bible demands that you submit yourself to God, then resist the devil then he will flee from you.

So, before you can resist successful, you must submit. In other words, the strength you manifest is not your strength, it is your submission to God. You cannot see God physically- Jesus said **"No man has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has**

made him known," (John 1:18 NIV). So, Jesus, the Son of God, the word of God, who is God, is the only way we can practically submit. And the extent to which we are submitted to God is the extent to which we are submitted to this book, the Bible. So when the Bible says forsaking not yourselves together, you submit yourself to that verse, you are submitted to God. I am going to ask you a question- Is He your Lord?

Many believers are weak and feeble because the Lord has not yet become their Lord. Several people have met me and said, "our hearts is in Covenant Word; as soon as our family gets a car, we will be coming here". I would always say to them: "your heart is not here, nowhere". Many of us here trekked to church. And don't give me that excuse that it is your generation, or that things have changed. There is no generation in God, and nothing changes with Him. Pass your own test, sit down there and give God your ultimatum, tell God I won't come to church unless my car is fixed.

The truth of the matter remains: if the LORD is truly your LORD, you will take off all the restrictions you have put on your becoming a sheep of His fold. you'll come to accept that you have been limiting yourself from benefitting from His Shepherd Ministry and by so doing you have been unfair to yourself.

In our next series hopefully, I will expatiate on this thought. Until then, may the Spirit of the Lord God give you a deeper revelation of His Word, in Jesus' Name. Amen.

To be continued...



SUNDAY FEATURE

Deconstructing the discourse on corruption in Nigeria

Corruption seemed intertwined with the evolution of Nigeria as a nation-state. It has been a malaise, a big elephant in the room, regularly talked about, loathed through synchronic rhetoric, but growing in systematic proportion, with little or no hope of redemption. The discourse of corruption looks, therefore, like an exposition of the nation's attempt at social, economic and political development. From the descriptive "ten percenters" of the 1960s, it has gestated to greater fractions, sometimes 100 per cent, with gusto, extraordinary impunity and bravado, after the fashion of persons plundering a captured territory. Writers ABIODUN ADENIYI

THE looting of the public patrimony has been differently described as prebendal, predatory, rapacious, locust-like, or mindless. However, we are still challenged to continually examine its context, which is patently multi-dimensional, octopodal and cyclical, if to sustain an attempt at reminding the populace that the practice, deep-seated as it may appear, cultured or acculturated as it seems, is still an anomaly. The discourse of corruption looks, therefore, like an exposition of the nation's attempt at social, economic and political development. From the descriptive "ten percenters" of the 1960s, it has gestated to greater fractions, sometimes 100 per cent, with gusto, extraordinary impunity and bravado, after the fashion of persons plundering a captured territory. The looting of the public patrimony has been differently described as prebendal, predatory, rapacious, locust-like, or mindless. However, we are still challenged to continually examine its context, which is patently multi-dimensional, octopodal and cyclical, if to sustain an attempt at reminding the populace that the practice, deep-seated as it may appear, cultured or acculturated as it seems, is still an anomaly.

It is in this light that one can situate the work of Professor Ademola Adebayo on *How Corruption Works in Nigeria: Institutional Failures in a Culture of Corruption* from start to finish. The 531-page work bears the character of a magnum opus, far from a parvum opus, flowing from the recess of a long-established scholar, a researcher, administrator, university lecturer, public intellectual and corruption scholar. Prof. Adebayo deployed the curious skill of a practised researcher, from the prism of an agitated change agent, largely working from the case of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) to extrapolate a national, even global cancer, without losing focus of the meaning or unmeaning the problem represents for a nation in quest of development. He deployed the case to examine a retrogressive social fabric, seemingly untamed, despite a consciousness of it, several campaigns, workshops, submits, stakeholder engagements and numerous jamborees.

In twelve chapters, nearly a hundred sections, an appendix and a glossary, Professor Adebayo dissected the essences of corruption from the stage of its psychological construction to its hydra-headed practice, helping in the location of its past and present dimensions, and providing a gaze into its future. The work is at once exhaustive, penetrating, insightful, and fascinating, and leaves hardly any further questions unanswered unless they relate to the predictable evolution of new shades of corruption—a sure thing, likely in a state where an abnormality has been normalized, evening up to a perverse culture.



Two forwards to the book by erudite Professors Wale Are Olaitan and Victor Adetula delivered a helicopter overview of what is in Adebayo's pudding. They situated the literature within realms of our theoretical understanding of the sorry state of the land, as ensconced in Neo-Patrimony. The term, amongst many others, as clientelism, the patronage system, patrimonialism, rent-seeking, principal-agency, state capture, political culture and ruling coalition featured prominently in the work.

Neo-patrimony is in evidence, further from Max Weber's simple patrimony as an ultra-state of municipal hijack where officeholders share fortune simply based on nepotism, favouritism, ethnicism, religion, "connectionism" and such other nebulous reasons far from merit, laid down procedures, and against the interest of the populace. The distribution mentality becomes established, insidious, and continuous to the extent that the state becomes blinded to it, turning to salute it as a fad, a right opportunity to desire, culminating into stunted development, and the reversal of the concentric circle of leadership, where the leader privileges the interest of friends and associates, first, before the interest of the community—the ideal purpose of leadership.

Professor Olaitan and Adetula were united in describing the book as groundbreaking, not just for the decade-long effort invested in it, but for copious references to theories, pre-existing thoughts on corruption, the conflating and conflicting definition of the subject and the avalanche of evidence available to back up claims. In recommending the book somewhat as a classic, the

scholars highlighted its value in societies' pursuit of transparency, accountability and openness in the public expenditure process. The preface, acknowledgement and introduction by the author are a handful. Therein the reader is invited into the initial experience of the author at the CCB, the influential and instructive works of great reasoners like Francis Fukuyama, Andre Gunder Frank, Immanuel Wallerstein, Samir Amin, Walter Rodney, Claude Ake and Frantz Fanon, amongst others, and how they impacted on seminal work.

It is also within this bracket, specifically in the introduction that the author revealed his metaphorical construction of some computing terms to pinpoint the contexts of corruption practice. How? He described an internal ring of corrupt officials and their practices as the Local Area Network of Corruption (LANOC), while viewing their external variant with whom LANOC are in cahoots as the Wide Area Network of Corruption (WANOC). The two networks share the corruption philosophy, from the case of the CCB, and limit favour and opportunities to cronies, further to Neo-Patrimony. The two are related to the negotiation of deals, the monopoly of power, the continuation of the patron-client system, and the perpetuation of meritocracy, plus more.

Regretting here how "a culture of corruption is nurtured to become the default mode of governance", Professor Adebayo argued that the consequence is the emergence of a kleptocratic bureaucracy becoming an "indispensable political tool that is leading corruption in the country for the extractive ruling oligarchs that have been in power

in Nigeria". The author is no less analytical in Chapter 1, *On Corruption in Developing Countries: Conceptual and Theoretical Issues*, where there are exposes on Neoliberal definitions, Neo-liberal control, the views of Institutional Political Economy (IPE), the seminal Johnston's Theories, the syndromes of corruption, Khan's four-factor theory, corruption as a default order and how governance system determines corruption.

The chapter is lucid on the multiplying notions of corruption, from the willful appropriation of public patrimony to official advantage talking, and to the deliberate denial of services otherwise meant for the public. From breaking down the many definitions of corruption, it emerged to limit its analyses to "how endemic corruption works in Nigeria within the framework of Johnston, Khan and Mungiu-Pippidi's theories of corruption and control of corruption". This zeroing in looks safe faced with the ceaselessness of the malaise, the extending ideation and intellection around it, and the need to keep a focus, lest the direction of an analyst is obfuscated.

Chapter Two on the expansion of endemic corruption in Nigeria and the making of the CCB as an anti-corruption strategy takes us directly to the author's case, where he detailed constitutional provisions against corruption, the fusion of Ethics codes and codes of conduct powers of CCB, the frequency of assets declaration, CCB's powers on assets, the structure of the organization, their code of conduct, and why he thinks the organization is failing, and much else. In these regards, Professor Adebayo invites readers to the letters and the spirit of the

institution, the specificities of its functions, how much is expected from it, to drive a noble fight, and how less is being realized.

The inflexibility of its laws, the place of Income and Assets Declaration (IAD), and the role of the Code of Conduct for Public Officials (CCPO) were also in focus. With picturesque examples, sometimes directly naming names to drive home his points, he is unmistakable about the dysfunctionality of the many units in the institution, eventually adding up to the failure of the whole. What to do? "The Nationality Assembly needs to amend and overhaul constitutional provisions relating to the CCB/CCT to serve the cause of justice and promote federalism. The CCT should be decentralized. The present arrangement inhibits justice, increases the cost of governance and expands endemic corruption". See!

Chapter Three focuses on the Drivers of Nigeria's endemic corruption, which provides the author with the opportunity to give the malaise a historical and constitutional background. He located the driver within two paradigms: one within the realm of issues, and the other centering on personalities. Some of the drivers are identified as the failure to decolonize the post-colonial state, the activities of elite bureaucrats, and the defederalisation of Nigeria, the curse of resources, and the pressure to be corrupt. The parts of Generals Yakubu Gowon and Murtala Mohammed also featured confirming earlier hints on how regimes and administrations have severally perpetuated it, whether directly or indirectly; or campaigned against it, but still unable to reduce or eliminate it. The real or imagined anti-corruption initiatives of President Shehu Shagari, General Mohammed Buhari, General Ibrahim Babangida and General Sani Abacha were not ignored. The chapter concluded that most so-called fights against corruption are rather ruses than real efforts.

Chapter Four is on how dysfunctional leadership and human resource deficits stagnated the CCB. Here, he diagnosed the questions of causes and consequences of dysfunctional leadership, regionalization of positions, nepotism, and the lack of training for officials, leading to poor quality productivity and inefficiency. With illustrations, he demonstrated some lopsidedness in organizational recruitment, resulting in the weakening of institutional effectiveness, over time. Chapter Five on how extractive institution enables endemic corruption in the CCB, the author is explicit on enabling laws and CCB's operational framework, how the autonomy of the organization is subjugated, illegal and improper office holding, undue compartmentalization of departments, dearth of research and planning, lack of professionalism and the stagnation of branch offices of the institution by the headquarters.

INTERNATIONAL



North Korea has declared it's got the White House in its sights thanks to its new spy satellite - which the regime says is up and running, although the West has its doubts

Why is North Korea watching the White House?

Still, leader Kim Jong Un has been crowing over his new surveillance toy; and he's been happily sharing the alleged results. FRANCES MAO writes.

REPORTS put out by state media on Tuesday trumpeted a list of targets the North says it's seen: the White House, the Pentagon and air force bases along the US north-east coast and in its Pacific territory of Guam.

Closer to home, Pyongyang also listed South Korean military targets and its port city of Busan. Further afield and slightly more baffling: Rome.

But while the scope might at first seem impressive, there may be less to it than meets the eye.

"I will say that there are plenty of images of the Pentagon and the White House online," said a US military official on Tuesday in response to the picture reports. "So, let's leave it at that."

Anyone can clap eyes on the White House these days using Google Earth and internet livestreams. The BBC tried it - a live cam of the White House was the first result on YouTube.

So what is Mr Kim playing at here? Why has he made a big deal of this and does he actually get anything useful?

To begin with, there's still significant doubt over whether the North's satellite is working at all.

It's been floating up there for over a week now and there's been no independent confirmation that it's beaming images back to Mr Kim.

The US, South Korea and Japan say only that they know it is in orbit.

And if we know one thing about the North, it's that it is a country that "lies all the time", says Fyodor Tertitskiy, who researches North Korean politics at Kookmin University in Seoul.

"If they say something, that is not necessarily true. Always look at the action," says Mr Tertitskiy.

North Korea specifically named the White House as a target

Pyongyang has a history of peddling doctored images- making claims about military prowess and weapons far exceeding its actual capability- for propaganda aimed at domestic and international audiences.

The North this time has also chosen to not release the pictures it's supposedly receiving. It might be withholding the pictorial evidence so its enemies won't know the scope of what it's seeing exactly.

But it has in the past released pictures it's proud of. In 2022, it put out photos of Earth as seen from space, which the North said were taken on their most powerful missile launch in years.

But if it is the case that the satellite is functioning, experts believe the surveillance content delivered would be of a pretty poor quality.

The North Korean satellite has a limited resolution range of of 3m-5m per pixel, analysts say.

"So even if it can see the White

House, it has no tactical usage," says Uk Yang, a North Korea military researcher at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul.

Despite the low resolution, though, North Korea's satellite now means it can identify and select targets for nuclear strikes. "So the satellite has its strategic meaning," says Mr Yang.

And while it might currently be inadequate for gathering more meaningful intelligence, this move might also be about the North pushing its tech edge.

"The goal is to advance capabilities while normalising its launches... that violate UN Security Council resolutions," says Leif-Eric Easley, a professor of international studies at Ewha University in Seoul.

The regime has long defended its satellite programme. It argues that having it is a sovereign right, a military necessity and a domestic political promise, says Prof Easley.

Dave Schmerler, a satellite imagery expert at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), also says he thinks "it's a big leap for them going from zero to something".

"But until we can see the images they're collecting, we're speculating

on its use cases," he told Reuters news agency.

For Pyongyang, having eyes in the sky has also been a long-term goal politically - especially when the West has been able to surveil its territory for decades already.

"Pyongyang resents and fears what American satellites can see and believes it's in a space and arms race with Seoul," says Prof Easley.

A satellite image from October shows the North Korean port of Rason

That the reports surfaced in North Korea's main newspaper, Rodong Sinnum, suggests they were aimed at both domestic and foreign audiences, says Mr Tertitskiy.

For Western audiences, the North is presenting a "conspicuous show of force" regardless of whether it is real or not, he says, and a deliberate message of deterrence, warning the West against striking the North's military and nuclear bases.

"The message is if you ever dare strike our military targets, we will kill you.

"And one of the reasons why they're so obsessed with the White

House - the idea is to send that message personally to Joe Biden: We see you. And not just you America, but you Mr Biden. We see you and we can kill you."

For those living in the isolated Communist dictatorship, the claims of technical advancement are also designed to show the country is performing well. The launch announcement last week and the picture reports on Tuesday bookended "elections" held for local assemblies across the country.

Ecstatic crowds welcomed the Supreme Leader at a polling booth in South Hamgyong on the weekend

"I suspect the claim that the new satellite can see important sites in the US such as the White House and the Pentagon may be aimed at a domestic audience rather than an international one," said Dr Sarah Son, a lecturer in Korean Studies at the University of Sheffield in the UK.

"[This is] based on the fact that ordinary North Korean civilians have no access to the internet and likely have no awareness of the extensive resources available in the rest of the world for looking at satellite imagery of other places."



Fans inspire us to continue - Mary Njoku

Mary Njoku, CEO of ROK Studios, alongside Nollywood stars Desmond Elliot, Bolanle Ninalowo, Chinedu Ikedieze and Efe Irele recently embarked on a tour of South Africa, Zambia, the UK, Lagos and Accra connecting with fans and Nollywood lovers across Africa and the diaspora. In an exclusive interview with Nollywood Observer, Mary Njoku discusses Nollywood, content, fans and ROK studios.



Why did ROK decide to embark on this tour?

We embarked on this tour to connect with our fans across Africa and beyond. It has been such a wonderful and insightful experience so far, spending time with so many of our super fans in the UK and South Africa. It's great to hear what they think about Nollywood, what they love about ROK and what they want more of. We are always speaking to our fans - face-to-face and via our social media platforms to see how we can improve.

The tour would be incomplete without a "homecoming" with people in my home - Lagos and of course in Accra. The fans inspire us to continue telling African stories.

There are a number of consistent faces on the ROK tour, how is ROK able to get such loyalty and commitment from its actors?

We all want the same thing - to keep the fans entertained and to do what we are passionate about. It is very important to work with people who are on the same page as you. What we do is for the people, to make them happy. ROK is a family - we are on tour as a family.

What determines the type of stories produced by ROK TV?

What type of stories do the people who consume the content enjoy the most our environment, experiences and interactions

with people on a day-to-day basis powerful storytelling that reflects the many different aspects of African life

What has been the greatest discovery of the ROK team throughout the Rok Tour?

Seeing how much love we got from the people outside of Nigeria, especially in South Africa and Zambia. Nollywood is no longer a Nigerian phenomenon, it is for all of Africa and through this tour we have expanded our knowledge of people and places outside of Nigeria which can be developed into broader African stories.

How does ROK intend to give back to the next generation of Nollywood Directors, Producers and Actors that are aiming for a start in the industry?

This is the whole premise of ROK as a company. We love new faces. You can see that a lot of people have grown in the past few years through ROK. A great example, Efe Irele who is also on the tour with us, has really seen her career accelerate very quickly, and she has grown into such a versatile and well-sought out actress.

I am passionate about the younger generation and providing opportunities for them through acting, scriptwriting, etc. I was once in a position where I was in search of opportunity so anything I can do to lift others and create job opportunities, I will. Bringing new blood into Nollywood, whilst also

Continued on page 26

Nigerian celebrities who quietly ended their marriages

Some Nigerian celebrities have kept gist of their separation and divorce away from the public Here are some of your favourite celebrity marriages that ended quietly.



DR SID, SIMI

Nigerian music star Dr Sid and Simi got married in 2014 in one of the most talked-about celebrity weddings. They welcomed their first daughter and a second one a few years later.

Trouble in their marriage was first reported in 2017 but the couple stayed away from any public drama. In January 2020, Simi took to her Instagram page where she announced that their marriage was over.

Sid has remained silent about his divorce to date.



Osas Ighodaro, Gbenro Ajibade

Ighodaro and Ajibade met onset of a TV show and got married afterwards to fans and industry delight.

The couple's wedding ceremony was so huge, that it was televised on live TV.

In February 2019, fans and followers of Osas and Gbenro woke up to a rather strange post from the latter. He had in his post called out Osas over her parenting style. It was clear that they were separated at that time.

A few months later, Osas took down Gbenro's name from her Instagram handle. After several months in the United States of America, Gbenro marked his return to Nigeria with an interview on Rubbin Minds in December where he confirmed that they are divorced.



Etinosa Idemudia, Ighrosa

Etinosa Idemudia's marriage to Benin-based lawyer, Ighrosa is the most shortest-lived on this list. The former couple tied the knot in September 2020 and welcomed their first daughter on Christmas Day, the same year.

The movie star had planned to keep the news of her marriage crash away from the prying eyes of the public but the press had other plans. In May 2021, she called out a blogger for breaking the news about her marriage collapse.



Continued on page 26

EYE'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Hypertension: Worst foods for high Blood Pressure

By **BRUNILDA NAZARIO**

IF you have high Blood Pressure (BP), there are certain foods you should avoid. These foods are listed as follows:

Restaurant food

The shrimp fried rice at your favorite spot might be amazing, but it's likely full of sodium. Research suggests most of the sodium in U.S. diets comes from restaurant and packaged foods. Look for low-sodium menu options or ask the chef to make your meal without salt. Try other flavors instead, like lemon juice on fish and veggies. Most adults should eat no more than 2,300 milligrams of sodium a day. That's one teaspoon.

Frozen meals

They're fast and convenient. But they're also loaded with sodium, so it's best to avoid them. If you need something quick every once in a while, look for options with 600 milligrams of sodium or less.

Salty snacks

Most chips, crackers, and popcorn are high in sodium. For instance, a 1-ounce serving of plain potato chips has about 50-200 milligrams. Try low- or no-sodium nuts, seeds, chips, or pretzels when cravings hit. Or try fresh carrots or celery sticks for a satisfying crunch.

Pickled foods and their juices

Kimchi, sauerkraut, and other pickled or brined foods often pack plenty of sodium. Three ounces of pickle juice has about 900 milligrams, depending on the brand. Try to limit the amount of pickled foods you eat. And try marinades made from vinegar, pineapple juice, or citrus fruits like lemons, limes, and oranges. They add a tart flavor with less sodium.



Bread

It doesn't taste salty, but it's got plenty of it. One slice of white bread has between 80 and 230 milligrams. The next time you make a sandwich, reach for whole-grain bread, an English muffin, or a tortilla to cut back on sodium. You can also eat your sandwich "open-faced" with just one slice.

Soup

It's delicious on a cold day, but it's often high in sodium. One cup (8 ounces) of tomato soup can have anywhere from 700 to 1,260 milligrams. Buy low-sodium versions of your

favorites instead. Or make your own and flavor with herbs and spices.

Tomato juice and sauces

Three-quarters of a cup of canned tomato juice packs 660 milligrams of sodium. Look for low-sodium versions.

Processed meat

Lunch meat typically has about 750 milligrams or more of sodium per serving. That's about six thin slices. Other processed meats also high in sodium include hot dogs, corned beef, bacon, and sausage. Add salt pork, ham hocks, and spareribs to the list,



too. Stick with fish, chicken, and lean cuts of meat.

Pizza

Whether it's frozen or from your favorite delivery spot, it's likely high in sodium. A 4-ounce slice of frozen cheese pizza has 370 to 730 milligrams. And a 4-ounce slice from a restaurant has even more, at 510-760 milligrams. To cut back, order a

smaller pizza and ditch the stuffed crust. Opt for thin crust and veggies for even more health benefits.

Beer, wine, and alcohol

Your chances of high blood pressure go up when you drink too much alcohol. Men should stick with no more than two drinks a day. Women should keep it at one. One drink looks like 12 ounces of beer, 4 ounces of wine, 1½ ounces of 80-proof spirits, or 1 ounce of 100-proof spirits. Red wine has been linked to heart health, but you should still limit the amount you drink.

Cheese

Some types are more likely to raise your blood pressure than others. Keep it down with cheeses that are naturally low in sodium, like Swiss, which has 75 milligrams per 1-ounce serving. Goat, ricotta, and fresh mozzarella are good, too. Processed and hard cheeses such as American and cottage cheese have more sodium. A half-cup of regular cottage cheese has 455 milligrams.

Condiments

Ketchup, soy sauce, and salad dressings are all high in sodium. Shop for low-sodium substitutes. Or try lemon juice and vinegar for added flavor.

Source: Mayoclinic.com



SUNDAY PEOPLE

16 DAYS OF ACTISM

The Office of the First Lady of Plateau State Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development flagged off campaign on the 2023 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, at Government House Little Rayfield, Jos



Mrs. Veronica Abe, State Coordinator of National Human Rights Commission (right) decorating Barr. Helen Mutfwang, wife of the Governor



From left, Mrs. Ulan Samuel Jatau, wife of SGS, Mrs. Martha Dakur, PDP Women Leader and Barr. Olivia Dazyam, Executive Chairman Gender and Equal Opportunities Commission



From right, First Lady, Barr. Mrs. Helen Mutfwang (right), Mrs. Janet Satmak, wife of the Chief of Staff and Hon. Caroline Pangjiang, Commissioner for Women Affairs



Cross section of wives of top government officials and wives of the Transition Committee Chairmen of LGA

PHOTOS: JOHN LAR

ESTHER GONDA AT 70TH BIRTHDAY

The family of Engr. Esther Gavou Gonda recently held a surprise Thanksgiving Birthday Dinner at Crispan Hall, Rayfield Jos



Clergymen praying for Engr. Esther G. Gonda and family



From left, Dr. Nandaul Durfa, Barr. Danjuma Rimdan and Chief S. D. Makama CON



Engr. (Mrs.) Esther G. Gonda with her family in a group photograph



A cross section of well-wishers at the event

PHOTOS: JOHN LAR

SUNDAY PEOPLE

NBA BRIEFS JOURNALISTS

The Chairman, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Jos Branch, Barr. Izang Aware, Chairman and members of the 2023 NBA Law Week briefed journalists at the NUJ Press Centre, Jos on the activities of the Law Week and the opening ceremony coming up this Monday at the Millennium Event Centre



Barr. Izang, Chairman, NBA Jos Branch in a handshake with Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo, NUJ Council Chairman in her office



NUJ Council Chairman, Ayuku Pwaspo, NBA Jos Branch Chairman, Barr. Izang Aware in photograph with Chairman Planning Committee of the 2023 Law Week



NBA Jos Branch Chairman, Barr. Izang Aware (middle) briefing journalists, flanked by the NBA Law Week for 2023 Chairman (left) Barr. Niri Darong and other



Cameramen covering the briefing



Cross section of journalists covering the briefing



From left are, Priscillia Gurumnaan, Jude Dawam with Christy Gokyo



NUJ Chairman, Assignment Committee, Douglas Francis with the Committee's Secretary, Palang Kasmi



Members of NUJ taking notes during the NBA Press briefing

Photos: DANLADI DUK

THEY'RE SOWING WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

International day for elimination of violence against women

"THERE is no excuse for violence against women and girls". Violence against women and girls remains one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world.

Globally, the United Nations (UN) estimated 736 million women — almost one in three — have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life.

This scourge has intensified in different settings, including the workplace and online spaces, and has been exacerbated by post-pandemic effects, conflicts, and climate change.

The solution lies in robust responses, including investment in prevention. However, alarmingly, data on how much nations are committing to counteract violence against women and girls remains glaringly sparse.

For instance, just 5% of government aid is focused on tackling violence against women and girls, and less than 0.2% is directed to its prevention. "We need more investment in women's organizations, better legislation, prosecution of perpetrators, more services for survivors, and training for law enforcement officials" says the UN.

The UN movement for addressing these issues calls on stakeholders yearly to join the 16 days of activism. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women this year marks the launch of the UNiTE campaign from November 25- December 10 — It is an initiative of 16 days of activism concluding on the day that commemorates the International Human Rights Day (10 December).

This 2023 campaign Invest to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls calls on citizens to show how much they care about ending violence against women and girls and call on governments worldwide to share how they are investing in gender-based violence prevention.

The UN calls on stakeholders to join the global movement with the #NoExcuse slogan calling for urgent investments to prevent violence against women and girls. Dig deeper into the campaign's proposals — data, prevention, investments— and join the global movement with the #NoExcuse slogan to eliminate violence against women and girls.

UN women calls on stakeholders to

be a voice for survivors and for associations and movements that fight for women's rights. "We can all do something to



empower survivors and prevent and reduce gender-based violence. Use UN Women's social media materials and become an activist" says UN women while calling for partnerships to address the issues.

Why we must eliminate violence against women

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it.

In general terms, it manifests itself in physical, sexual and psychological forms, encompassing: Intimate partner violence (battering,

psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide); sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber-harassment); human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation); female genital mutilation; and child marriage.

To further clarify, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or

is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

According to the UN "The adverse psychological, sexual and reproductive health consequences of VAWG affect women at all stages of their life. For example, early-set educational disadvantages not only represent the primary obstacle to universal schooling and the right to education for girls; down the line they are also to blame for restricting access to

higher education and even translate into limited opportunities for women in the labour market".

"While gender-based violence can happen to anyone, anywhere, some women and girls are particularly vulnerable - for instance, young girls and older women, women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex, migrants and refugees, indigenous women and ethnic minorities, or women and girls living with HIV and disabilities, and those living through humanitarian crises".

"Violence against women continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfillment of women and girls' human rights. All in all, the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - to leave no one behind - cannot be fulfilled without putting an end to violence against women and girls".

Did you know?

More than five women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family.

Almost one in three women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their life.

86% of women and girls live in countries without legal protections against gender-based violence.

Source: More data from UN Women

You are not alone Illustration

Have you experienced abuse and need help? If you have felt threatened, unsafe or need assistance, please get the list of country help lines and contact them, says the UN.



BUSINESS WORLD

Addressing Nigeria's 21st century housing needs

Amidst the myriad of problems facing Nigeria, housing stands out. According to the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2019, only 10 percent of Nigerians who desire to own a home can afford it, compared to 72 percent in the United States and 78 percent in the United Kingdom. This estimate is inadequate for the size of our economy, indicating that only two hundred thousand people can afford a house out of a population of over two hundred million and still rising. OLAMIDE ABEGUNDE writes.



Affordable housing in Nigeria

THIS issue is exacerbated because, even with this revelation, governments have not deemed it expedient to declare an emergency in the housing sector of the country's economy. The post-civil war housing challenges persist, with no concerted efforts made to address the debilitating homelessness experienced by many Nigerians at the Federal, State, and Local government levels.

However, it is pertinent to state that the Federal government and state governments have, from time to time, embarked on the provision of low-cost housing. Still, it is obviously never sufficient, as what they do is merely the tip of the iceberg.

Speaking statistically, with a population of over 200 million, Nigeria is the largest black country in the world. According to Rice University Research, Nigerians rank as the highest-educated immigrant population in the United States. The country has a huge youth population, unemployed, unemployable, illiterate, and uninformed, especially in the North, which has become a catchment area and recruitment ground for terrorism and banditry laced with religious extremism.

Consequently, the housing problem in Nigeria is undoubtedly a pandemic of immense proportions. According to the International Human Rights Commission (IHRC), more than 28 million Nigerians lack access to decent and affordable housing. The Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) estimates that Nigeria will require about 28 million housing units to address the housing deficit in the country.

Housing deficit in Nigeria

Attempts in the past, largely by the federal government and in some instances state governments, to address the housing deficit in Nigeria can be compared to a proverbial drop in an ocean. Instead of reducing, the housing gap keeps increasing, evidenced by astronomical rents, especially in urban areas.

Unfortunately, even the issue of high rent is not being addressed by the government, apparently, because it lacks the moral rectitude to do so. The provision of affordable housing has been an insurmountable problem for the government itself, and its failure to provide enabling environments for public sector participation in the housing sector exacerbates the situation.

Nigeria's post-civil war housing deficit and the unavailability of affordable housing have increased tremendously. Recent data shows that in 1991, this grew from 7 million housing units to 12 million in 2007, and progressively shot up from 14 million in 2010 to a whopping 28 million housing units in 2022. The reasons include rural-urban migration, population explosion, multi-dimensional poverty, galloping inflation, lack of a mortgage system, unemployment, high construction costs due to inflation, and lack of political will by the government, among others. The question from stakeholders, especially professionals in the construction industry, is, "How will access to decent housing be made available to the average Nigerian household?"

Despite the debilitating housing deficit in Nigeria, this tide can be turned around given the country's immense natural and human resources. Given the huge resources required to meet the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) estimate of N21 trillion to address housing needs, the government need not do it alone. Experts have suggested a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Initiative

where the government provides the enabling environment like land, tax holidays, and other basic infrastructures, while the private sector brings in funding, including foreign direct investments (FDIs).

Housing needs can be addressed in Nigeria using the following Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives:

Build - Operate - Transfer (BOT)

A BOT model is generally used to develop a discrete asset rather than a whole network, for example, a toll road.

Build - Own - Operate (BOO)

This is a similar structure to BOOT (below), but the facility is not transferred to the public sector partner.

Build - Own - Operate - Transfer (BOOT)

The private sector builds and owns the facility for the duration of the contract, with the primary goal of recouping construction costs (and more) during the operational phase.

Design - Build

Design - Build - Finance - Maintain (DBFM)

Design - Build - Finance - Maintain - Operate (DBMFO)

Similar to BOOT, DBFO (and its variations) is more used in the UK for PFI projects. The private sector designs, builds, finances,

operates an asset, then leases it back to the government.

Design - Construct - Maintain - Finance (DCMF)

This is very similar to DBFM. The private entity creates the facility based on specifications from the government body and leases it back to them.

Subsequent governments, however, have not matched the passion with which these low-cost houses were built. Attempts should now be made for cheaper low-cost housing to address the housing needs in Nigeria. Dry building construction with materials such as cement fibre boards, galvanized profiles, wood, particle boards, and other cheaper sources of building materials should be experimented with, moving away from the traditional cement and sand materials.

Nigeria has all it takes to meet its housing needs given its enormous resources; however, there has to be the will to pull it out of the housing doldrums it is presently in.

Abegunde PMP, Mniqs, Fnimn is the CEO, Rusteve International Limited, a building construction and real estate company

BUSINESS WORLD

7 highlights of Nigeria's 2024 budget

THE Nigerian Government intends to spend 30 percent of its 2024 budget on debt servicing, allocating less to critical sectors of the economy.

The 2024 aggregate expenditure is estimated at N27.50 trillion which is 10.8 percent higher than N24.82 trillion in 2023, according to the public presentation by Abubakar Bagudu, minister of Budget and Economic Planning on Wednesday.

Africa's biggest economy budgeted N8.25 trillion (30 percent) for debt servicing in 2024 while critical sectors of the economy such as education was allocated N2.18 trillion (7.9 %), and the health sector, N1.33 trillion (five percent).

Infrastructure, defence, social development & poverty reduction were allocated N1.32 trillion (five percent), N3.25 trillion (12 %) and N534 billion (two percent) respectively in the budget.

Here are key highlights from the 2024 budget:

Education Sector (7.9%)

The education sector was allocated N2.18 trillion in the 2024 budget which indicates 7.9 percent of the total budget.

The amount provided for the Federal Ministry of Education and its agencies, including recurrent and capital expenditure was N1.23 trillion. The provision for Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), transfers to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund for infrastructure projects in tertiary institutions stood at N700 billion.

Health sector (5%)

The sector was allocated N1.33 trillion in the budget which is five percent of the total budget. The amount provided for the Federal Ministry of Health and its agencies (recurrent and capital expenditure) stood at N1.07 trillion, Gavi/ Immunisation funds, including Counterpart Funding for Donor Supported Programmes at N137.21 billion, transfer to Basic Healthcare Provision Fund was one percent of CRF at N125.74 billion.

Infrastructure (5%)

The government allocated N1.32 trillion to infrastructure which represents five percent of the total FGN 2024 budget. Infrastructure includes provisions for works and housing, power, transport, water resources and aviation.

Social Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (2%)

The government allocated N534 billion for social development and poverty reduction programmes, representing two percent of the total budget.

The defence and security sector has been allocated N3.25 trillion, representing 12 percent of the budget.

FG's actual revenue was more than its projected target in the first 9 months of 2023

According to the budget document, the retained revenue was N8.65 trillion, approximately 104.5 percent of the prorata target of N8.28 trillion as of September 2023.

"The FGN share of oil revenues was N1.42 billion (84.7 percent



Bagudu

performance), while non-oil tax revenues totalled N2.50 trillion (a performance of 135 percent," it said.

It added that company income tax and value added tax collections were N1.55 trillion and N318.95 billion, representing 221.4 percent and 111 percent of their respective targets.

"Revenue generation remains the major fiscal constraint to Nigeria's fiscal viability. However, the government is reviewing current tax and fiscal policies with the view to improving revenue generation," Bagudu said.

Revenue to GDP ratio to increase to 18 percent from 10 percent

The government aims to increase revenue to GDP to 18 percent from 10 percent.

"The target is to increase the ratio of revenue to GDP from less than 10 percent currently to 18 percent within the current term of this Administration," Bagudu said while adding that efforts will, however, focus on improving tax administration and collection efficiency.

The minister said the government will make efforts to further contain financial leakages through the effective

CBN's proposed capital raise seen boosting foreign investments

SOME experts in the financial industry have said that the proposed bank recapitalisation would boost foreign investments into Nigeria which could help drive the realisation of the country's \$1 trillion economy target by 2030.

This comes at a time when foreign investment inflows are at their lowest in 27 months. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), investments in Africa's biggest economy declined by 33 percent to \$1.03 billion in the second quarter of 2023 from \$1.54 billion recorded in the same period in 2022.

He added that the recapitalisation will not only make the sector attractive to investors but will also boost their confidence that the Nigerian financial sector is resilient amid incessant shocks to the financial market and global economy.

Adeola Adenikinju, a professor of economics and president of the Nigerian Economic Society (NES), said the country should position the banks to be able to play in the big leagues so that they can provide investment support for the real sector of the economy and take up risks. "It is not normal that the financial sector is growing and other sectors are not."

He added that the recapitalisation will show investment banks from abroad that the Nigerian banking sector is strong which would open up financial opportunities for local banks.

Yemi Cardoso, governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), said last Friday that the apex bank would be directing banks to increase their capital to serve a \$1 trillion economy.

Nigerian banks' capital adequacy ratio (CAR) measures a bank's financial



Adenikinju

strength by using its capital and assets. The current CAR in Nigeria is 10 percent for local banks and 15 percent for banks with international operations.

Data from the CBN's latest monthly report show that banks' CAR rose to 13.0 in May 2023 from 12.8 in the previous month. But reduced year-on-year from 14.4 in the same period last year.

It said the CAR rose slightly by 0.2 percentage point to 13.0 percent, from the level at the end of April, driven by a marginal increase in total qualifying capital over

JOURNALISTS covering Nigeria's Power Sector Thursday asked the Federal government to holistically review the sector 10 years after its privatization.

The journalists under the auspices of the Power Correspondents Association of Nigeria (PCAN), however, clarified that the review should not necessarily take away the assets from operators, but to find solutions to the huge challenges facing the industry.

The Chairman of PICAN, Comrade Obas Esiedesa, who made the call in his open address at the 3rd annual workshop of the association in Abuja, noted that the Electricity Act 2023 has prescribed far-reaching changes to how the sector has been governed in the past.

The workshop was themed: "Resolving Nigeria's Power Crisis: The Implication of the Electricity Act 2023".

He said: "The Electricity Act 2023, has prescribed far-reaching changes to how the sector has been governed in the past, especially the devolution of power to the states. We believe that the current position of the Act requires strong regulatory bodies to ensure the safety and efficient management of the industry."

"On November 1, 2013, the Federal Government handed over the distribution and most generation assets to the private sector, marking the beginning of private investment into the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry. Since then, expectations raised by the entrance of

Journalists to FG: Review power sector after privatisation



Adelabu

private entrepreneurs into the sector have largely remained unmet.

"Ten years down the line, the time has come for the Federal Government to take a holistic review of the entire Power sector privatization. Not necessarily taking away the assets from operators, but finding solutions to the huge challenges facing the industry."

"It is worrying to note that with over 13,000 megawatts of installed capacity, the industry is still struggling to deliver 4,000MW of electricity consistently. That is why as a group, we welcome the new

initiative by the Honourable Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu, that has specifically targeted the distribution sector and the consumers.

"We believe that transmission and distribution networks remain the biggest obstacles to efficiency and effective electricity supply in the country. We call for sincerity on the part of the government in the implementation of this new initiative unlike what we have seen in the Siemens project and quite a handful of other projects."

In his keynote address, the Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu, who was represented by the Director of Transmission of the ministry, Engr. Nosike Emmanuel claimed that the Electricity Act has liberalised electricity generation, transmission, and distribution.

Adelabu, however, disclosed that the Federal Government would further explore the country's regional energy potential.

He said: "As you are aware, the Electricity Act has liberalized electricity generation, transmission and distribution. It has also empowered States, Organisations and even individuals to generate, transmit, and distribute electricity."

"Under this Act, the State government can issue licenses to private investors to operate power plants and mini-grids, within the States. Private investors can also obtain licenses for generation, transmission, system operations, trading, distribution, and supply."

"We will also pay attention to the generation segment particularly in areas of distributed (embedded) power from renewable energy sources, while at the same time, advancing baseload power through thermal and hydro plants in the medium to long term."

"We will further explore our regional energy potentials. We will focus on solar energy in the North, mini hydro power plants in the Middle belt, and the Southwest, hybridized with solar while our coastal States will be identified for wind energy utilisation."

economy because you have more muscle to do more business."

Ayodele Akinwunmi of FSDH Merchant Bank Limited, noted that the recapitalisation will allow the banks to be well-capitalised to continue to support the economy given the recent changes in the economy.

He said it would attract foreign investors into the banking industry through Foreign Direct Investments, therefore helping the country to drive part of the much-needed long-term foreign currency investment into the important and attractive sector to stabilise the value of the naira.

Analysts at Comercio Partners noted that the planned recapitalisation could lead to increased activity in the capital market, presenting an opportunity for financial advisory firms to play a pivotal role in navigating the evolving landscape.

The removal of the petrol subsidy tripled the petrol price to N617 from N184, causing public transportation providers such as buses, tricycles and motorcycles to raise transportation fares.

The naira has plunged to record lows across markets since the central bank allowed it to weaken by as much as 40 percent against the dollar in June.

The high cost of dollars and the implementation of a 7.5 percent value-added tax on diesel imports, which was suspended last month in September, pushed its pump price to as high as N1,200 per litre.

The country's inflation rate, a measure of the general price level, rose to 27.33 percent in October from 26.72 percent in the previous month, according to the NBS.

movements in total risk-weighted assets.

During the banking consolidation exercise of 2004, the minimum capital requirements for banks were raised from N2 billion to N25 billion. The revised capital requirement was an equivalent of \$187 million. Muda Yusuf, chief executive officer of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise, said.

He added that a bigger capital base also enhances the banks' capacity to do bigger business and investments. "From those points of view, it helps the

ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

Funding in micro, small and large businesses

In Africa, apart from the known business challenges such as the decrepit infrastructure, inconsistent government policies, double taxation, increasing inflation, regulation irregularities and the COVID-19 pandemic consequences in recent times, overwhelmingly, lack of capital or funding issues contribute majorly to business failures. TIMI OLUBIYI writes.



ACCORDING to findings of several surveys, one of the top challenges faced by entrepreneurs and businesses in Africa today is access to funding. Without doubt, funding is the bloodline of any form of business, therefore, whether it is a startup, nano, micro, small or medium-sized business, or an established large firm, knowing how to raise capital can often make the difference between business success and failure. In fact, funding is important at all business stages and cash which is most time referred to as "capital" in business terms majorly dictates the pace of performance in any business.

Invariably, without funding or capital, it will be extremely difficult to get any enterprise off the ground. However, the structure that exists in the business significantly affects the access to the choice of fund options. Recall, every business has a different structure and needs, it is, therefore, imperative to state that no financial solution is one size fits all, fund options usually require different rules and steps. Consequently, businesses will be required to carefully plan, research, learn, and understand the necessary funding options in order to come up with the right decision.

So, the big question for businesses is what are the ways to adequately raise capital for seamless operations? And this is the focus of this piece. Capital comes into any business particularly in two ways: as equity or as debt. However, donations, grants, incentives, interventions, or subsidies can also be employed in certain aspects of a business to encourage activities in particular industries or sectors by the government. Just like other forms of capital raising options these grants and subsidies can be initiated for either short-term or long-term purposes. That said, equity capital involves exchanging a portion of the ownership of the business for financial investment in the business, most times it involves selling shares of the company in exchange for funding. The ownership stake resulting from this equity investment allows the investor to share in the company's profits. Equity capital is usually a cheap form of funding and is an important source of capital on a long-term basis. However, sometimes it involves going public, getting listed on an Exchange, and also giving up partial or major control of the business.

On the other hand, debt capital is when a business borrows fund from individuals or institutions and agrees to pay them back later. Debt capital simply means loans and borrowings. The main consideration in debt capital is the ability of the business to generate sufficient returns to service the debt (interest and capital repayment). A typical mode of raising debt capital is through bank loans. Banking institutions provide loans to individuals or businesses who approach them with a solid business plan, and good business structure with capacity for repayment. Bond is equally a debt instrument, and a way of raising debt capital as well. Without doubt, it belongs to debt capital categorization because the authorized issuer (business) owes the bondholder debt and it depends on the terms of the bond issuance. The most significant difference between equity and debt is that, unlike debt, equity capital does not require an amortization schedule for repayment. More so equity capital involves the investor taking an ownership position in the business.

Significantly, there are several sources to consider when seeking business funding or any financing, some of it are expressed here. The easiest and starting point for small businesses from context observation is usually with self-funding and personal investment, where entrepreneurs leverage their financial resources to support business operations. Self-funding can extend to family, associates and friends for capital, otherwise referred to as bootstrapping. Both self-funding and bootstrapping lets business managers, operators, and entrepreneurs leverage their financial resources to support the business operations. Further to this is angel investment, where investors who are generally wealthy individuals or retired business executives invest directly in a business or startups owned by others. These angel investors are often leaders in their field who not only contribute their experience and network of contacts but also their technical and/or management knowledge. Most times this form of capital raising is in exchange for equity ownership in the business and an active management role.

Also, trade credit is another significant form of capital raising option where business suppliers are willing to transact or sell on credit. Such credit may range anywhere from one month to three months or as agreed. This is a very good method for businesses to fulfil short-term funding needs. It is an inexpensive method of funding for any business, I must say. Further to this is private equity investment, where private equity firms raise equity capital that is not listed on any Stock Exchange for investment purposes. Invariably, these firms raise funds from investors and then invest these funds in promising start-ups and businesses that require capital. The drawback of this funding option is that a controlling position or substantial minority position in the business is usually acquired and then looks to maximize the value of their investment. Thus, the entrepreneur might not have sole control over the business decisions, which may lead to conflict. Looking at another capital raising option is retained earnings as a way of raising finance, it simply means businesses can reinvest any set-aside profits for business operations for expansion, equipment purchase, and development purposes.

The key information from this piece is that there are many business funding options available for businesses. Therefore, business owners, managers and entrepreneurs do not have to get discouraged if one does not work out, other options can easily be explored. To find the right fit, in-depth research and adequate due diligence are imperative, having in mind these following questions-how much is really required for the business? When is it required? How long will it take to raise the funds? What are the specific requirements to access the fund? What will the fund be used for? What are the associated risk with the fund type? From whom is best to raise the fund? How expensive is the fund? How and when is repayment? Is the business actually fundable or bankable? Because some fund options may be a perfect fit for a business situation, while others may be completely impractical, therefore due diligence is absolutely required.

Aside from every business having unique funding needs, each funding option also differs in availability, terms, funding amount option, and eligibility criteria. Therefore, each fund option needs detailed attention ahead of time. Whether a business opts for a bank loan, an angel investment, or a government grant, note that each of these sources of financing has specific advantages and disadvantages. Good luck!



Fans inspire us to continue - Mary Njoku

Continued from page 18

collaborating with professional stars that have paved the way for the rest of us, is an important balance.

What steps must a Director take to get their project showcased on ROK? Must ROK be an executive producer on the project before it is showcased on the channel?

At least 85% of the content on ROK is produced by us, however we do also acquire content from other production companies to showcase on our platforms across Africa and the UK. Quality content, quality storytelling - this is critical to all of our acquisition decisions

Where do most viewers of the ROK channel come from and what does it tell the team about the type of content being produced?

As a TV channel, ROK reaches 13.5 million subscribers across DSTV and GOTV platforms in Africa alone. In the UK it reaches 12.5M viewers. We create diverse content from epic dramas to modern city romance stories, to make the movies relatable to viewers both home and abroad.

What message would you leave for someone that does not believe in Nollywood content but you would like to use ROK as a factor to convince them to begin this journey?

As long as we continue to produce



meaningful and relatable stories, that are entertaining and speak for us Africans, we will continue to create new Nollywood converts on a regular basis.

What is the goal of ROK in the next 2-5 years?

To produce more African content, for Africans by Africans. We would like to unite Africa by inviting talent from other countries - we want to learn about South African stories, about Zambian stories, about Africans who grew up in Europe, we want to share relatable content through our movies and series.



Nigerian celebrities who quietly ended their marriages

Continued from page 18

Mofe Duncan, Jessica Kakkad

Mofe Duncan and Jessica Kakkad had one of the most discreet breakups in the history of celebrity marriage crashes. It had to take a die-hard fan of Jessica to burst the bubble in September 2019.

A few hours after the news broke, Mofe Duncan took to his Instagram page to release a statement where he revealed that the marriage had crashed a year earlier and that he still maintains a cordial relationship with Jessica and her family.



Anita Iseghohi, Tom Iseghohi

Another celebrity marriage collapse that was very discreet was that of former Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria, Anita Iseghohi, and her business executive husband, Tom.

The former beauty queen took to her Instagram page in November 2018 where she revealed that her 11 years marriage to the former MD of Transcorp Corporation had ended. The union is blessed with three children.



Damilola Adegbite, Chris Attoh

Just like Osas and Gbenro, Damilola Adegbite and Chris Attoh had one of those onset beautiful love stories. The couple got hitched on February 14, 2015, in Accra, Ghana.

In April 2017, Chris Attoh slammed divorce rumours in a radio interview. The couple had earlier unfollowed each other on Instagram.

The actress remained silent about their separation after that. However, in September that same year, Attoh finally revealed that their marriage had crashed.



Blossom Chukwujekwu, Maureen Esisi

Blossom Chukwujekwu's split from Maureen Esisi was probably the most shocking separation gist in 2019. Social media will not forget in a hurry how Blossom and Maureen showcased their beautiful and 'happy marriage' to the admiration of many.

In September 2019, the news broke of their separation.

While blogs gave different accounts of the reason behind their marriage collapse, the couple remained mute. Although Maureen has made several cryptic comments about their failed marriage.

Blossom on the other hands has done a great job keeping conversations about his failed marriage out of his way.



THE SWORD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Recipes

Nigerian coconut rice with smoked mackerel

By **ABI OLAYIWOLA**

COCONUT rice, with its slightly sweet flavour, is much loved around the world. It is a quick and easy meal prepared differently depending on where you are in the world. The Nigerian coconut rice is a spicy dish, bursting with flavours from the addition of spices and condiments like dried ground crayfish, curry powder etc. The addition of smoked mackerel and colourful peppers to this recipe makes it a nourishing one-pot meal.

How to cook Nigerian coconut rice with smoked mackerel

Here are the ingredients you need to make my Nigerian Coconut rice:

The recipe can be adapted for vegetarians by excluding the smoked mackerel and the ground crayfish.

A few ground notes about the ingredients:

Coconut milk: The Nigerian coconut rice is rice cooked with coconut milk. This is different to the Indian coconut rice, which is cooked with shredded coconut. You can either use freshly made coconut milk or canned coconut milk like I did. Please note that you cannot use the dairy replacement coconut milk from the refrigerator in the shops, as this is highly diluted and not meant to be cooked. If you prefer to make your coconut milk at home, this post will show you how.

Rice: I used golden/sella basmati rice as it is fluffy with a unique flavour, but any non-sticky rice will work for this recipe. Just follow the cooking instructions on the pack and remember to reduce the water quantity because of the added coconut milk.

Vegetables: As this coconut rice recipe is a one-pot meal, you should add vegetables for nutrients. I used peppers, but you can use your vegetable of choice. Green peas, sweet corn and carrots all go well with coconut rice. Whichever vegetable you choose, you must be aware of the cooking time. This will help you to know when to add it to the pot, as you do not want soggy overcooked vegetables in your Naija coconut rice.

Added Protein: Use your protein of choice for this recipe – chicken, liver, gizzard, beef and dried fish all work well in Nigerian coconut rice. If you are using meat, you need to cook before adding to the rice.



Thyme: You can use substitute dried thyme with fresh thyme. Substitute one tablespoon of fresh thyme for one tablespoon of dried thyme.

How to make it

Chop the onion and garlic, and strip the thyme (if you are using fresh). Prepare the smoked mackerel by removing any remaining bones before flaking. Keep to one side.

Wash the rice at least three times until the water goes from cloudy to slightly clear to remove excess starch. Drain in a colander.

Heat oil in a saucepan under medium heat and pour in the onions.

Allow to cook until the onions start to brown, then add the garlic ground pepper and curry powder.

Stir for around 30 secs. Pour the coconut milk into the pan. It is normal for the cream and the liquid in the canned coconut milk to separate in cold weather. If this happens, use a spoon to scoop out the cream at the top into the pan before tipping the liquid in.

Add the thyme, crayfish and some salt. Then pour in the rice with some salt to taste. Add the fish.

Add enough water to cook

the rice – remember to take into account the liquid coconut milk, which means that you need less water than you would typically use.

Cover the pan and bring the mixture to a boil. When the rice has nearly absorbed all the liquid (the liquid does not cover the rice anymore at this point), add the peppers and cover the pan.

Nigerian coconut rice

Reduce the heat until the rice absorbs all the liquid. Remove from heat and fluff the rice with a fork.

Can I use shredded coconut? Not directly for this Nigerian coconut rice recipe as you want the creamy coconut taste without coconut pieces. If you only have access to shredded coconut, you can extract milk from it as shown here.

How long will it keep in the fridge?

Coconut rice will keep in the fridge for around a week. Make sure you warm properly by heating the rice all the way through before consumption.

Another recipe

Nigerian coconut rice is a spicy dish, bursting with flavours from the addition of spices and condiments like dried ground crayfish, curry

powder etc.

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Total time: 45 minutes
Course: Dinner, lunch, Main
Course: Cuisine
African, Nigerian
Servings: 4
Calories: 795 kcal

Ingredients

2 tablespoons Oil
1 medium Onion or 1 cup chopped
3 cloves Garlic
1 tablespoon Curry powder
1 tablespoon Ground pepper
1 tablespoon Thyme stripped or 1 tablespoon dried
400 g Coconut milk (1 can)
2 tablespoons Ground crayfish
2 cups Rice
Salt to taste
2 fillets Smoked mackerel
1 Green pepper
1 Red pepper
1 Yellow pepper

Instructions
Chop the onion and garlic, and strip the thyme (if you are using fresh). Debone and flake the fish. Keep all aside.

Wash the rice at least three times until the water is no longer cloudy. Drain in a colander.

Heat oil in a sauce under medium heat and pour in the onions.

Allow to cook until the onions

start to brown, then add the garlic, ground pepper and curry powder.

Stir for around 30 secs. Pour the coconut milk into the pan.

Add the thyme, crayfish and some salt. Then pour in the rice and some salt. Add the smoked mackerel.

Add enough water to cook the rice, taking into consideration the added coconut

Cover the pan and bring the mixture to boil. When the rice has nearly absorbed all the liquid, add the peppers and cover the pan. Reduce the heat until the rice absorbs all the liquid. Remove from heat and fluff the rice with a fork.

NUTRITION

Calories: 795kcal
Carbohydrates: 91g
Protein: 28g
Fat: 36g
Saturated Fat: 22g
Polyunsaturated Fat: 4g
Monounsaturated Fat: 8g
Trans Fat: 1g
Cholesterol: 40mg
Sodium: 96mg
Potassium: 939mg
Fiber: 4g
Sugar: 3g
Vitamin A: 1254IU
Vitamin C: 125mg
Calcium: 98mg
Iron: 6mg

NEWS

Alia procures over 100 buses for Benue Links

From **TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi**

IN a bid to cushion the transportation hardship being experienced by people of the state as a result of fuel subsidy removal, Governor Hyacinth Iormem Alia has handed over 100 newly procured buses to Benue Links Transport Company limited.

Governor Alia who performed the exercise recently at the company's headquarters in Makurdi, said the 100 buses were one of the palliatives his administration has provided to the people.

He commended management of Benue Links Company for being proactive in identifying and opening new routes to cover more towns and villages across the state even before the arrival and handover of the new buses.

The governor appealed to the company to strictly monitor activities of her drivers with a view to checking arbitrary hike in fares, over speeding, overloading and adherence to traffic rules and regulations.

Governor Alia who commended President



Bola Ahmed Tinubu for introducing a bouquet of palliatives from which states chose to address peculiar needs of their people, thanked him for the wise initiative.

Earlier, Commissioner for Power and Transport, Barr Omale Male, appreciated the governor for keeping to his words and assured him and people of the state that the buses will be used strictly for the purpose they were procured.

In their separate goodwill messages, the state Deputy Governor, Barr. Sam Ode, Hon. Iwuchukwu Moses and the Sector Command BARR AWARE Safety Corps and two passengers - Rosemary Iordebbe from Benue State

and Ede David from Cross River State all thanked Governor Alia for his bold steps to revive Benue Links Company.

Acting General Manager of the company, Alexander Fanafa in a remark, thanked Governor Alia for providing new buses that will boost the operational capacity of the company as well as address the transportation needs of the people.

The Chairman, Benue State House of Assembly Committee on Transport, Rt Hon. Jonathan Agbideh, some members of the State Executive Council and other

functionaries, were among the dignitaries that graced the occasion.

By **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

JOS branch of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), has outlined activities to mark its Law Week 2023, starting with Juma'at prayer at the Yantaya Mosque in Jos, the Plateau State capital, Friday November 1 to climax Wednesday December 6, 2023 with annual law dinner.

The Jos branch Chairman of NBA, Barr. Izang Aware, Esq, disclosed this Thursday, while addressing journalists at the press conference organised by the association on the occasion marking the 2023 Law Week, held at the Plateau State Headquarters of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Jos.

Other activities following the Juma'at prayer include road walk and sporting activities Saturday. Thanksgiving service and cocktail party in honour of Philemon A. Daffi, Esq, the Attorney-General and Commissioner of Justice, Plateau State will hold on Sunday December 3, 2023 respectively.

Also, the lined up of the activities included; FIDA Session, Human Rights Lawyers forum, Bar and Bench Relations Committee and Public

NBA Jos branch outlines activities for Law Week



Aware

Private Development Centre among others in that order.

According to Chairman, "the Law Week, with the theme: "Law and Policy: A Chequered Odyssey", the theme for this year's Law Week resonates with the contemporary times. As legs practitioners, the jurisdictional definition of the law is inherent as a result of the training of the lawyers.

"Apparently, from the definition, notwithstanding that policy dwells more in of public administration. Yet, as legal practitioners, our law offices will be functional and effective where they are predicated upon the twin pillars of law and policy.

"Other stakeholders in the justice set

administration such as the Judiciary, Armed Forces, the Nigeria Police, Department of State Security, Nigeria Correctional Service, etc, will be functional if there is a practical interplay between law and policy.

"Other words that connote the same meaning as policy are strategy, plans, blueprint, scheme, etc because we want to have an impact on specific problems bedeviling Plateau State. We shall be having breakfast sessions where the Human Rights Committee of the Branch as well as the Young Lawyers Forum of the Branch will discuss key areas of the larger theme from the problem of Human Trafficking", he enthused.

Police denies alleged support for thugs

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

KOGI State Commissioner of Police, Bethrand Onuoha has denied allegations against him and the State Command of being responsible for recruiting and supporting thugs in favour of a certain political party or personalities.

A statement by the Police Public Relations Officer, SP William Aya, which was made available to journalists in Lokoja recently, he gave 24-hours ultimatum to the Spokesman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Farouk Adejoh-Audu to substantiate the allegation.

The statement reads; "Our attention has been drawn to a reckless allegation against the Kogi State Police Command and the Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Command, claiming that the CP was responsible for recruiting and supporting thugs in favour of a certain political party or personalities.

"It is not the tradition of the Police Command to respond to all allegations, especially frivolous ones by politicians accusing us of bias, but the last one by one Farouk Adejoh, who claimed to be speaking on behalf of the Social Democratic Party, is a direct affront on the integrity and authority of the Nigerian Police Force, hence the need to set the record straight.

"The Command is hereby giving Farouk Adejoh 24 hours to substantiate his allegations against the State Police Command and the CP or we might have no option than to invoke our operational processes to hold him to account for his reckless and unsubstantiated claims.

"The Police Command doesn't belong to any political party. Our responsibility is to protect lives



Onuoha

and property, a mandate we have protected without fear or favour.

"Today, we received reports of a protest gone awry at the state office of the Independent National Electoral Commission. The CP swiftly directed the deployment of officers and men to restore normalcy at the INEC office. Our concern is the protection of the staff and property of the Electoral Commission as well as the safety of the citizens transacting businesses around the INEC office.

"With the support of other security agencies, calm was restored at the INEC State Headquarters. How the operation that restored peace at the INEC office has infuriated the Social Democratic Party is what we don't understand. The protesters, who blocked the road and were burning tires to scare people, were all wearing the fez caps of the Social Democratic Party.

"The Police Command hereby sounds a note of warning to the SDP and other political parties, to desist from disturbing the peace of

the state as anyone that tries to obstruct operations at the INEC Office will face the full wrath of the law.

"The CP has therefore, unbiasedly directed full investigations into the allegations raised in Farouk Adejoh's statement with a view to ensure that a final knell is placed on attempts by politicians to drag the Police Force into partisan disagreements. We are for all Nigerians.

"While other parties have conducted themselves in a relatively peaceful manner, the activities of the Social Democratic Party have generated a lot of security concerns before, during and after the election. They have refused to cooperate with the Nigerian Police in dealing with security issues, a situation that has raised tension in the state.

"I urge all parties to have faith in the judiciary and refrain from taking the laws in their hands. Any breach of peace henceforth will be dealt with decisively and without compromise, no matter the elements involved.

"The State Police Command wishes to assure Kogites of their safety as plans have been put in place to guarantee peace," the statement concludes.

Cooperative society celebrates patron, 36th years anniversary

By **POLYCARP ISHAYA**

KAJOLA Cooperative Society held its 35 years anniversary, in thanksgiving, a tribute and appreciation in honour of Chief Enoch Adelowo Adelola, the Oba of Yoruba of Pankshin and Kanke Local Government Areas and the patron of the cooperative society at the Kajola Hall in Pankshin.

Though it was a working day, it did not take off the shine from the 36th year anniversary and the celebration in honour of Chief Enoch Adelowo Adelola, who is one of the founders and patron of Kajola Cooperation Society in Pankshin, Plateau State.

Members of the cooperative, their friends and relatives, came in their numbers. The chief celebrant was not left out. Dressed in blue Ankara fabric and members of Kajola Cooperative Society, also dressed in their uniforms to be easily identified. The guests and everywhere around the hall had a feel of celebration.

The array of distinguished dignitaries streaming into the hall with eye-catching attires, was one of the signs that the hall was in a mood of celebration that Wednesday literally turned a Sunday.

The occasion slated for 10:00am saw members and guests occupying the seats before the occasion commenced and by the time the occasion started, the hall was already filled to capacity. Most guests ended up outside the hall.

The celebrant, came in, in the company of his family, Mrs Enoch Adelola and their daughters. Chief Enoch Adelowo said seeing how they were all gallantly dressed in blue, gives him so much joy. He recalled that it seemed a few years though thirty six years had passed, since Kajola Cooperative Society was formed by

Chief Joshua Awoleke and Chief Enoch Adelola in January 1987. The late Emmanuel Isa Mailafiya (of blessed memory) later joined in the formation of the cooperative society.

In a written statement issued by Mr. Gyang Pam in August 1996, Chief Joshua Awoleke, one of the founders of the cooperative, relocated to Abuja. And in November 2001, another founder of the cooperative society, Baba Emmanuel Isa Mailafiya, passed on, leaving Chief Enoch Adelola to take the responsibility of piloting the affairs of the cooperative society. With the death of Baba Mailafiya, it brought a lot of fear and apprehension from some members of the cooperative society who really doubted the capacity of Chief Enoch Adelola to steer the leadership of the cooperative society.

Today, the cooperative society has three groups: A, B and C. Each group has a chairman and other officials. Presently, the membership of the cooperative society has risen from the three founders to one hundred and eighty (180) members; it is still growing in membership.

He has also introduced into the cooperative society; monthly lectures mainly on health and wealth issues and the lectures are mainly centered on wealth creation, wealth multiplication and wealth management. The health aspect is centered on alternative health therapies, common daily mistakes that can cause ill-health and common daily routine that can boost immunity and prevent sickness.

Chief Adelola in demonstration of his caring heart and his consideration for the upcoming members, he reviewed the interest rate paid on loans by members from 2% per month to 10% per annum. This is known to be the lowest interest rate paid by members amongst sister cooperative societies.

It was therefore a celebration of God's goodness and appreciation for the patron of the cooperative society for providing the enabling environment for members' businesses to thrive all over. It is therefore an acknowledged fact today, that members of Kajola Cooperative Society, Pankshin are quick to admit that Chief Enoch Adelowo Adelola is a silent achiever, a humble man endowed with meekness, slow to anger and always ready to help others, especially the younger ones.

They prayed for long life in good health for him and promised to keep the cooperative society flag flying and also to keep fanning the flames in order to keep it rising higher and higher.

Responding at the occasion, the patron of the cooperative society, Chief Enoch Adelowo Adelola thanked members of the cooperative society for finding him worthy to be appreciated and celebrated. He said the ceremony held in his honour is deeply appreciated by his family, saying that the journey has not been easy but with God all good thing are possible, adding that his achievement so recorded during his time as the chairman and supervisor of the cooperative society will not have been possible without the support and input of so many people which time will not permit him to mention them one after the other.

To all the Exco members of the three groups of the cooperative society, both past and present, he appreciated them. He thanked the host community, the Ngas nation and the entire people of Pankshin for their support and peaceful atmosphere created for the cooperative society to thrive.

The high point of the occasion was the presentation of gifts to the patron of the society by the three chairman of

NEWS

NNPC urges stakeholders to refrain from Goodwill Messages

By DORCAS PANKYES

THE Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, Malam Mele Kyari, expresses gratitude to stakeholders and Nigerians for their enthusiasm regarding his reappointment by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

This was said in a statement signed by the Chief Corporate Communications Officer, NNPC Ltd Olufemi O. Soneye

Viewing this reappointment as a renewed challenge, Kyari is committed to stabilizing the oil industry and enhancing service delivery for increased revenue.

The statement noted that the GCEO humbly appeals to stakeholders in the oil sector and fellow Nigerians



Kyari

to support the company messages on his under his leadership to reappointment. He ensure the success of its emphasizes the necessity for all stakeholders' commitment to drive revenue growth and fortify resilience for the naira and the economy.

Consequently, the GCEO kindly requests all parties concerned to refrain from issuing congratulatory

From POLYCARP ISHAYA, Pankshin

THE Acting Provost of the Federal College of Education, Pankshin, Dr. Mrs. Christiana Fwenji Zumyil has reiterated her determination and commitment in ensuring that all contracts awarded in the college were done to specification else the management of the college would reject such contracts.

Dr. (Mrs) Christiana Zumyil made this statement while she was being handed over the keys of revitalization NEEDS assessment for public college of education project procurement and installation of solar power upgrade within the college by the contractor of the project, Mr. Lawi Damteer (Bamshak Global Service Limited).

She added that she was sure that the project she was taking over to be used by the college was done in line with the contract agreement and she equally appreciated the contracting firm for keeping to time. Zumyil also appreciated the Works Department of the college, for the prompt supervision of the project at all times.

Speaking earlier, the Director for Works of the college, Arch. Gotap Miri, said although not all the schools in the college had been installed with the solar power upgrade within the college, but with time, they would have it.

He assured the Acting Provost of the college that the contracting firm, Bamshak Global Services limited has done a wonderful work

Acting Provost applauds TETFUND for projects

and that the project will stand the test of time as the contractor has done the work in line with the contract specification.

The project brief was given by the representative of the Director of Procurement, Arc. Inuwa Joseph and the inspection of the facility was done by the Acting Provost of the college in company of other members of the college management staff.

The inspection of the facility took the Acting Provost, Dr. Christiana Zumyil and her management staff to School of Languages, Early Childhood Care Education/ Primary Education(ECCE/PED), the college library, the college ICT, schools of Vocational and Technical Education (VOC & TECH), School of Adult Non Formal and Special Education and School of Arts and Social Sciences.

In his remark, Mr Lawi Damteer of Bamshak Global Services Limited in Mangu, the contracting firm, thanked the Acting Provost and her management staff for finding Bamshak Global Services limited worthy of executing and installing the solar power in the various schools of the college. He assured the college management that the project is done according to the contract specifications.

Mr. Lawi Damteer however advised the users of the solar power, the various schools, to jealously guide and protect the facility in order for it to last longer.

Vote of thanks came from the college Registrar, Nna Elizabeth Homsuk, who thanked the Acting Provost for finding time to inspect the installed solar power upgrade within the college. She prayed

that the project would last for the benefit of the college.

In a similar but separate development, the handing over of year 2017/2018/2019/2020 (merged) TETFUND annual intervention project reconstruction and Extension of Music Education development building of the Federal College of Education Pankshin, the project keys were also handed over to the Acting Provost of the college, Dr. (Mrs) Christiana Zumyil after she had gone around for the inspection of project with her management staff.

Dr. Zumyil thanked the TETFUND for the annual intervention project always carried out in the college, saying that without the TETFUND intervention project in the college, the college wouldn't have been where it's today in terms of infrastructural development.

She appreciated the contractor, Arh Muazu Ishaq Sabo of Mahadi Services and Resources Limited for a work well done. She also thanked the Principal consultants, Engr. Lucas Istifanus Ibrahim of Satpang Strategy Consultants Limited for the time taken to make sure the project is done in line with the contract agreement.

The high point of the occasion was the symbolic handing over of the keys to the building by the principal consultants, Engr. Lucas Ibrahim to the Acting Provost of the college.

Security outfit celebrates anniversary, commissions new office

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Tarmac Security Limited, a private security outfit in Jos, has commissioned a new office in Jos, the Plateau State Capital after soaring for twenty years, contributing its quota by complementing the efforts of Nigeria's conventional security agencies.

The occasion which was held at the new edifice along Domkat Bali road in Jos, recently, had in attendance both security experts and religious leaders. It marked the twentieth (20th) anniversary of its existence in thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness throughout its establishment.

While appreciating the dignitaries who graced the occasion, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tarmac Security Limited, Pastor

Inkotaria Ipalibo, said it was quite challenging and frustrating for them while striving, but God has been faithful to them right from the thing started in a four corner room.

He commended the synergy between his organisation and other private and conventional security outfits as well as their clients for them to reach this far. And urged the Federal Government to partner with private security agencies in the fight against insecurity in the country.

The security CEO, however, advocated for synergy between private and government-owned security agencies so that the fight against insecurity would be won because having private security practitioners with different perspectives would go a long way in combating crime in Nigeria.

"Over the years, the regular security agencies have been utilising the strategies they know, but we have been getting the desired result by complementary on their efforts. So, it is high time they extended their olive branch to the private sector to synergize and collaborate and get the collective results.

"Apart from the synergy, I am also advocating for use of technology in the fight against crime and criminality in Nigeria, because there are several technological infrastructures that have tracking devices that can help in tracking and arresting perpetrators of crime," Ipalibo advocated.

On his part, the Zonal Chairman of Association of Private Security Practitioners of Nigeria

(ACPSPN), Dr. Edwin Usoroh, congratulated Tarmac for breaking the jinx of having a befitting office accommodation in Jos, because it was not easy or common for a private security organisation to achieve this feat in this part of the world.

There were goodwill messages from the Assistant Continental Overseer/Pastor in-charge of Region of Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), the Head of Department, Deputy Commandant Adetu Isaac Oche, who represented the Plateau State Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and the representative of Sects Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) RS4.1 Plateau, Route Commander P.G. Gyang respectively as Tarmac officers and clients were presented with awards amidst prayers.



Zumyil

Bandits raid Kaduna community, abduct 8

By JOHN FWAH KADUNA

BANDITS have stormed the Dan-Honu II community in New Millennium City, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, and abducted eight people.

Among those abducted were a new couple who got married last Saturday, the Imam of the community mosque, his wife, and three children, including a 10-month-old baby.

Sources disclosed that the bandits stormed the community around 8:50 p.m., numbering about 10, with AK47 rifles and other dangerous weapons. They were said to be clad in black, with one of them masked.

A resident of the area who simply gave his name as Alhaji Mohammed, who escaped the abduction by the whiskers, said the bandits started by picking the Imam and his family, whom

they met outside the community Juma'at Mosque, before proceeding to a four-flat compound where they picked the new couple.

According to Mohammed, "I was inside my own apartment when the bandits stormed our compound. At first, when they started banging on the new couple's door because they went straight to their apartment, I thought they were security people who came to arrest my neighbour. They started banging on his door and shouting, 'Dan Iska ba za ka fito ba?', meaning, 'idiot, will you not come out? That was when I realised that they were kidnappers. So, when they could not force the door open, they broke his window and broke the burglary proof.

"On gaining entrance into the apartment, the bandits tried to open the door, but they could not open it. So, they brought the couple out through the broken window. They injured the husband, and blood was dripping from his body.

"Then they made an attempt to

enter my own apartment too. They had broken the glass window, but as they were busy hitting the burglary proof to break into my apartment, one of the vigilantes in the community fired a shot into the air. Then, on hearing that gunshot, the bandits became uncomfortable. Then, they left our compound," Mohammed narrated.

Meanwhile, the Imam, Malam Suleiman, and his neighbour, Malam Musa, who were picked while they were relaxing with Arabian tea outside the mosque premises, escaped while they were being led out of the community into the bush.

Similarly, the new bride, who was said to have gone through surgery recently, was abandoned in the bush by the kidnappers when she could not cope with the pace of their trekking in the bush. Imam's wife was also let go when her baby's cry almost exposed the bandits to vigilantes around Kaduna.

The bandits eventually succeeded in going away with the new groom, identified as

Ibrahim, and two of the imam's children (15-year-old Abba and his younger brother). They were yet to establish contact with the family as of the time of filing this report.

Narrating his short ordeal in the hands of the bandits, Imam Suleiman said two of the seven bandits who abducted them were armed with AK47 rifles with chains of bullets, while others carried axes, machetes, and sticks.

He said, "They beat the 10-month-old baby because he was crying. They even threatened to kill him, saying that his cry was disturbing them. But I thank God that my wife and the baby later escaped after I had escaped, but they (bandits) went away with my two children.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of Kaduna Command, ASP Mansur Hassan, said the police are still trying to establish the true account of the incident.



Ipalibo

NEWS

Mutfwang engages EU, US envoys on bilateral cooperation

By PETER TITLE

DESPITE the distractions, Plateau State Governor, Barr Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, carries on with governance to better the living conditions of the people.

He engaged the European Union in bilateral discussions to enhance human capital development, implement climate adaptation programmes, mainstream gender and youth development, improve the agriculture value chain and promote investments in digital economy within the state.

Governor Mutfwang disclosed this in a statement signed by the Director of Press and Public Affairs, Gyang Bere and made available to Government House correspondents in Jos while on a courtesy visit to Her Excellency, Samuela Isopi, Ambassador, EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS at the EU Delegation compound recently in Abuja.

Reflecting on the historical ties between Nigeria and the EU, he noted that apart from Lagos, Jos hosted the largest concentration of Europeans and foreign nationals during the pre-independence period. This was largely attributed to the favourable climatic conditions, touristic features and hospitable nature of the people.

Governor Mutfwang expressed gratitude to the EU for its significant interventions in Plateau, pointing out previous projects in the water and sanitation sector that directly benefit citizens, especially those in rural communities.



Mutfwang

He reaffirmed his administration's dedication to deepening and strengthening the relationship between Plateau State, the EU and its member states.

While stressing the importance of security as the foundation for meaningful development, the governor noted that his administration counts on support from the EU and its member states for the advancements in key thematic sectors such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, green economy and infrastructural development.

Governor Mutfwang pointed out that Plateau is among the states in Nigeria that have domesticated the Child Rights Act, Gender and Equal Opportunities Act. He renewed his administration's

commitment to combating Gender-Based Violence in the state.

The EU Ambassador, Samuela Isopi, noted that the envoy has provided technical assistance to Nigeria in human capital development, digital economy, climate change, water and sanitation.

She said the EU has carried out interventions at Science School Kuru, Mangu, Shimankar and other rural communities in Plateau, and expressed the EU's commitment to further support the state for the benefit of the people.

Governor Mutfwang also visited the Acting Ambassador/ Charges' De Affairs US Mission to Nigeria, Mr. David Greene in Abuja, where he solicited for support to address insecurity and improve the living conditions of Plateau citizens.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A Nigerian Air Force (NAF) MI-35P helicopter crashed at Port Harcourt on December 1st 2023. The unfortunate incident occurred at about 7.45am shortly after the aircraft took off for an operation against economic saboteurs in Rivers State.

Fortunately, the entire crew of 5 survived the crash with very minor injuries and are currently being attended to at NAF Medical Centre, Port Harcourt.

The disclosure was made in a press statement signed by Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, Director of Public Relations and Information Nigerian Air Force, Friday in Abuja.

The report stated that the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar, is currently enroute Port Harcourt to assess the situation for himself, see to the wellbeing of the crew and give further directives.

Incidents of this nature are yet again a grim reminder of

NAF MI-35P helicopter suffers Mishap



Abubakar

the dangers associated with military flying and the risks NAF pilots and technicians experience in their onerous

tasks of defending our nation and deterring criminal elements from their nefarious activities.

NIAS trains, empowers 30 pastoralists in Gombe

By WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Nigeria Institute of Animal Sciences (NIAS) has trained and presented 60 sheep to 30 pastoralists as a way of empowering them for better livelihood.

The empowerment programme is under the Institute's Empowerment of Vulnerable Group in selected Livestock Production Value Chain in Pastoralists Communities in Gombe State.

Registrar of the NIAS, Professor Eustace Iyayi, was represented by Dr Babatunde Fola Adebayo, Head of Training and Internship of the Institute, during the training and

presentation of the sheep and starter packs to the beneficiaries at the Education Resource Centre Gombe.

He said the 30 beneficiaries who consist of thirteen (13) women, were each given a good breed of a male and female sheep to rare and multiply over time and grow their own businesses. So that it will be another source of income for them.

He cautioned them against selling off the sheep, stressing that, "we hope they will go home and multiply these animals so that they can turn to a form of business for you because we know we are giving you good breeds".

He said part of the monitoring process of the beneficiaries by NIAS is that they would be engaged consistently. "We have the data of the beneficiaries. If they have any technical problems rearing the

animals, we'll help them solve the problems even at our end.

"We have an intelligent and hardworking zonal development officer, Mr Ismaila, who is going to ensure proper monitoring process", he stated.

The Permanent Secretary in the Gombe State Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Dr Ibrahim Yakubu, was also present at the event and cautioned them against giving the animals medication without professional supervision.

Dr Babawuro Yahaya, from the Department of Animal Sciences, Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State, lectured the beneficiaries on modern practices in rearing sheep and goats.

Apart from the sheep, the beneficiaries were also presented with two 50kg of animal feeds as well as 5kg of sortlicks as starter packs.

Police nabs 8 armed terrorist teenagers

By DORCAS PANKYES

EIGHT armed criminal bandits between the age of 19, 20 and 27 years that have been kidnapping and terrorizing residents of Kaduna State have been arrested by the police.

Accordingly, the Commissioner of Police (CP), Musa Yusuf Garba, has also charged police

operatives to go on the offensive as we enter the yuletide season.

The command made these disclosures in a statement signed by its spokesman, ASP Mansur Hassan, and made available to newsmen in Kaduna recently.

The statement stressed that "In a recharged drive towards guaranteeing that

lives and properties are secured in Kaduna State especially during the impending festive season coupled with the Commissioner of Police Kaduna State Command, CP Musa Yusuf Garba's directive to Divisional Police Officers and Tactical Commanders, to go on the offensive, Police Operatives from the Divisional Headquarters Maigana have succeeded in the arrest of eight suspected kidnapers and armed robbers.

"The said operatives, led by the Divisional Police Officer had on the 17th November, 2023 at about 0200 hours, stormed the criminals' den in Nuba farm and arrested the following persons:

- (1) Bello Suleiman, 20 years old, (2) Ismail Abubakar 20 years old, (3) Usman Suleiman, 20 years old, (4) Umar Suleiman Gero, 19 years old and, (5) Isah Lawal 20 years old all of Soba LGA of Kaduna State. Others are (6) Abubakar

Bello, 27 years old of Sakaru village in Soba LGA, (7) Ibrahim Mu'azu, 20 years old of Bagaldi village, Soba, and (8) Umar Suleiman.

"Preliminary inquiry disclosed that the aforesaid suspects were responsible for the abduction on the 25th August, 2023 of Hon. Kawu Ibrahim Yakasai.

"Equally, a certain Adamu Mu'azu 'M' of Bagaldi village was their kidnapped victim in recent time. Their gang leader, one alias Hanazuwa 'M' of Farin Kasa village is at large though trailed. All the suspects will have their day in court at the completion of investigation", it stated.

The Commissioner of Police, Kaduna State Command, CP Musa Yusuf Garba hailed the operatives and tasked them to even be more circumspect during this yuletide season.

The CP, as well called on the public to be security conscious as criminal elements are on the prowl to unduly meet up with the demand of the festive period



Fahetakin

Change of Name

GERLONG	MAFULUL
I, formerly known as MISS GERLONG BLESSING DANJUMA , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. BLESSING EMMANUEL GANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please	I, formerly known as MAFULUL LINDA HARUNA , now wish to be known and addressed as JEREMIAH LINDA TELINA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.
HASSANA	CHRISTIANA
I, formerly known as HASSANA SUNDAY SARAH , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPHINE GERSHON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA DANTALA , now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTIANA GYANG JATAU . Correct date of birth is 25/01/1992 not 25/12/2002. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ALIU	FOR SALE
I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI RABI YATU , now wish to be known and addressed as ALIU RABI YATU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Judicial pronouncements and survival of democracy



Continued from page 10

of three to five judges overturning the decisions made by millions of voters during an election, saying it is unacceptable.

He made this comment at the high-level consultation on Rethinking Western Liberal Democracy in Africa, held at Green Resort Legacy, Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

He faulted what he labelled "cathedral pronouncements" by the judges.

In his words, the former Nigerian president was tacitly reacting to the ongoing judgments of the Court of Appeal on the electoral disputes arising from 2023 elections in Nigeria, which has led to the sacking of three opposition governors.

The affected governors are Dauda Lawal of Zamfara State, Abba Kabir Yusuf in Kano State, and Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State.

The Zamfara and Plateau state governors are Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) members while the Kano State governor is of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP).

According to Obasanjo, the powers vested in the few judges is "totally unacceptable", even as he cautioned political leaders on the dangers of injustice if the trend is not reversed by the

Supreme Court.

"I believe whatever form of democracy we have or whatever system of government we have, three or four men in the judiciary should not be able to overturn the decisions of millions that have voted. Now, we have to find a way to handle that. I don't know what the way will be but, for me, I think it's totally unacceptable that millions (of votes), maybe 10 million on one side, maybe 9 million on the other side, then you have five people sitting down, three of them agree, two disagree, and you come up and make cathedral pronouncements that cannot be changed; I believe that should not be accepted.

"How do we do it? I don't know. But whatever form of democracy we have, we should look at how to handle this. If you say 'go again for election,' then, what happened to the previous election? I don't know. So, I personally feel strongly about." Those were the words of the former Nigerian leader.

The acting Legal Adviser of the PDA in Plateau State, Barr. Panshak Dakyen, seems to corroborate the position of Obasanjo when he also argued that only three judges instead of five as required by law presided over the Plateau State gubernatorial appeal which declared Nentawe

Goshwe as winner of the election.

Dakyen went further to argue that there was no case of court disobedience by the PDP in Plateau state anywhere in the law courts. He claimed that the party in the state complied with all court directives concerning the repeat congresses that was conducted in September 2022.

He went ahead to claimed that even the contenders like Bitrus Kaze and others were at the repeated state congress. A claim that has been vehemently denied by Hon. Kaze and the APC in the state.

As the arguments for and

against the outcome of the gubernatorial elections rages on, utterances purportedly credited to some political bigwigs as having more connections outside the state that could warrant the judgment to go in the favour of his party may not be doing the image of the judiciary any good. With the outcome of the ruling in the favour of the party only goes to deepen the mutual suspicion of Nigerians on the impartiality of the judiciary in the process. The judiciary must rise and save its revered institution from being dragged into the murky waters of politics. The survival or otherwise of democracy in

Nigeria largely depends on the neutrality of the judiciary.

Just last week, a Youth Group, All Youth Re-Oriented Initiative (AYRIN), chided President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his silence over what it termed confusion and miscarriage of justice by the Nigerian judiciary. The group warned that "the president's silence may be an invitation to anarchy which may possibly lead to military intervention in the political space". We say God forbid! But we must as citizens insist on the right thing to be seen to be done to preserve, strengthen, deepen and widen the democratic process in Nigeria.

I believe whatever form of democracy we have or whatever system of government we have, three or four men in the judiciary should not be able to overturn the decisions of millions that have voted. Now, we have to find a way to handle that. I don't know what the way will be but, for me, I think it's totally unacceptable that millions (of votes), maybe 10 million on one side, maybe 9 million on the other side, then you have five people sitting down, three of them agree, two disagree, and you come up and make cathedral pronouncements that cannot be changed; I believe that should not be accepted.

METRO-FOCUS

When tenants are to be blamed

By YVONNE ISHOLA

THE woes of landlords sound so strange especially in this clime. But landlords also suffer in the hands of tenants. They also cry.

There was a story making the rounds of a trusting landlord who lost his house to a cunning tenant. The tenant had stayed for decades in the house. And the landlord was comfortable with him occupying his property because they never had problems.

However, one day, he got the shock of his life when he was told by his caretaker that his house is no longer his but his tenant's property. He laughed at the claim, telling his caretaker that he had his papers intact and the claim could only be a joke. He could not imagine the tenant he treated so well stabbing him in the back like this. But that was exactly what he did.

Mr. Landlord could not locate his papers. After a long tug of war in the court, the tenant won the case because the landlord could not substantiate his claim with any proof. One other thing in favour of the tenant was the fact that he had stayed in the house for so long and people around just assumed it was his house.

A landlord was lamenting recently at the condition of his house after his tenants packed out. He said the walls were scratched with something like metal, the ceilings in the passage were falling. The kitchen was a sorry sight. It was like they were using firewood to cook. If not, their stove must have been smoking badly. The kitchen looked as if it was painted in black. Even the windows registered that colour.

The landlord above calculated how much it would cost him to fix the house and he discovered that he will need more than a year's rent. He felt cheated because he had allowed the tenant to stay for some months after his rent expired.

There is this female landlord, a widow who believes if anyone has had it bad in the hands of tenants, she is the one. One of her tenants took as his parting gift, all the electricity cables, the wires that drew power into the house, to his new house. She did not know about it until a new tenant came to look at the house. Locating him was not easy but she located him and collected all the cables and wires. Even though she had to part with good money to bring power back to the house.

The above landlord also said apart from taking something from your property, a tenant could leave something unpleasant for you in your property.

According to her, "one of my tenants left my house infested with cockroaches. When I say infested, it is not the normal infestation. Cockroaches were swarming in the house. It was fumigated but after a little while,



the new tenants complained. It became a continual process which cost me a lot," she concluded.

The woes are endless. For this particular tenant, his tenants left him a gift he hated when they packed out. Because of that gift, he had had to refund two tenants that entered the house after them. They discovered that the house was infested with bed bugs. He said he fumigated the property the best he could after the first tenants complained and packed out but it seemed not to have dealt with the matter. He

ended up engaging the service of a professional after he was forced to refund the second tenant his rent.

Another landlord said he once had a very irresponsible tenant who called him one fateful day and informed him that his toilet was broken and he needed it to be fixed. "I did not dignify his disrespect with an answer," the landlord stated.

I have heard cases where the roof is leaking or sink blocked and tenants would call the landlord to come and fix it. That was the case

of Mr. John who was living in the same compound with his tenants. He said he needed no soothsayer to tell him to get himself out of the compound for his sanity's sake. Today, he has handed all affairs patterning his property to lawyers and he has no regrets.

Unfortunately, if one's troubles do not originate from tenants, they could originate from caretaker. A landlord said his caretaker robbed him blind of 2 years' rent before he discovered that he had lied the first year

when he told him that he was robbed of the rent money when he went to pray. The second year, he said the tenants were refusing to pay. It was later discovered that they had given him the money. He was forced to own up but can't pay back the money.

The above landlord said he had no recourse but to hand over his property to a lawyer. It pays off, he claims because without any argument, his money enters his account as at when due. He does not have to relate with his tenants who may take him for granted. And there is usually an agreement entered into before a tenant is accommodated. At the end of his/her stay, everything must be in order or the tenant will pay for its repair.

This is a better arrangement. The tenants won't get too familiar with the landlord and so, can't take him for granted. This is business after all. If all the tenants above had handed everything to lawyers, the first tenant would not have lost his property to the cunning tenant. In the same way, the tenant that made away with electricity cables and wire would not have dared. Neither would have any of the tenants vandalise the house they stayed or destroyed any part of it.

If you are a tenant, what kind of tenant are you? Do onto others what you want others to do to you.

"This is a better arrangement. The tenants won't get too familiar with the landlord and so, can't take him for granted. This is business after all. If all the tenants above had handed everything to lawyers, the first tenant would not have lost his property to the cunning tenant. In the same way, the tenant that made away with electricity cables and wire would not have dared. Neither would have any of the tenants vandalise the house they stayed or destroyed any part of it. If you are a tenant, what kind of tenant are you? Do onto others what you want others to do to you."



PLATEAU STATE UNIVERSITY, BOKKOS

P.M.B. 2012, JOS, PLATEAU STATE - NIGERIA

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the Post of the Chief Security Officer, Plateau State University, Bokkos

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Must be an Ex-Service man not below the rank of Chief Superintendent of Police or equivalent rank in the other Armed Forces, with genuine evidence of discharge or retirement from service
- Must demonstrate proactive ability and competence in Management of civil security matters, preferably in tertiary institutions of learning.
- Must have obtained relevant training in security service.
- Appreciable knowledge of ICT will be an added advantage.

THE ROLE

The Chief Security Officer (CSO) of the University is saddled with the responsibility of all security situations in the University. The Chief Security Officer shall:

1. Be answerable to the Vice-Chancellor for the day to day coordination of security of the University campus and properties.
2. Ensure the protection of life and property on the University campus.
3. Ensure the monitoring and prevention of criminal and cult activities on the University campus.
4. Advise the Vice-Chancellor on Security matters
5. Coordinate the activities of all Security Officers
6. Monitor security situations in the University: educate the University community on crime detection and prevention.
7. Carry out other duties as may be assigned.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The General conditions of service are as obtainable in the Nigerian Public University system. The appointment is for period of Two (2) years on contract; and renewable twice subject to satisfactory performance and based on the recommendation of Management and approval of the Governing Council.

Method of Application

All applications and curriculum vitae are to be addressed & forwarded in three (3) copies, addressed to:

**The Registrar
Plateau State University, Bokkos
P.M.B 2012 Jos,
Plateau State, Nigeria.**

Applicants should have three (3) referees, at least two (2) of whom should be competent enough to attest to the candidate's professional standing and character.

Candidates should request their referees to send their confidential report direct to the address above.

CLOSING DATE

Applications should reach the Registrar not later than four (4) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

**Signed
Yakubu F. Ayuba
Registrar**



PLATEAU STATE UNIVERSITY, BOKKOS

P.M.B. 2012, JOS, PLATEAU STATE - NIGERIA

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Director of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Plateau State University, Bokkos.

A. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Applicants must possess the following
- A good First Degree in a relevant area of Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Electronics Engineering
 - A Master's Degree in relevant discipline
 - Membership of the Computer Registration Council of Nigeria or equivalent.
 - Professional Certifications from at least any two (2) professional bodies.
 - Candidates should have at least seven (7) years cognate experience in managing complex ICT projects.

B. THE ROLE

The Director of ICT shall be responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the effective implementation, operation and management of the University's ICT infrastructure, systems and services, ensuring it is fit for the delivery of a robust and cost-effective technology solutions to meet the growing and dynamic needs of a multi-user/complex community. The Director will lead in the development and execution of the University's strategic plans and goals, meeting the requirements of the academic units, management and service departments, staff and particularly the students to ensure the University benefits from the competitive advantages that ICT has to offer. In that role, the Director of ICT will report to the Vice-Chancellor to create an effective IT driven University that is cohesive, forward-looking, service-oriented, and keenly focused on the changing needs of the University.

The person to be appointed must demonstrate broad and in-depth knowledge and hands-on-experience in successfully managing complex ICT infrastructure, systems and applications. He/She must demonstrate high level of credibility, honesty, initiative and commitment. The person will provide leadership within the ICT team and other units of the University and must therefore be able to lead, organize, supervise,

motivate and work as part of a team. He/She must also demonstrate extensive and in-depth knowledge of the University system.

C. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The general conditions of service are as obtainable in the Nigerian public University System. The appointment is for a period of **five (5) years** and the person may have his/her tenure extended for further period of **one (1) year** subject to satisfactory performance.

D. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates are to send in their typewritten applications and curriculum vitae in three (3) copies, addressed to:

**The Registrar
Plateau State University, Bokkos
PMB 2012 Jos
Plateau State, NIGERIA.**

Applicants should give names of three (3) referees at least two (2) of whom should be competent enough to attest to the candidate's professional/academic standing and character
Candidates should request their referees to send their confidential report direct to the above address.

CLOSING DATE:

Applications should reach the Registrar not later than four (4) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted

**Signed:
Yakubu F. Ayuba
Registrar.**



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

Side impact protection bars q/a

1. What is the purpose of side impact protection bars?
To protect the occupants when the vehicle is hit from side
TAKING EMERGENCY/CORRECTIVE ACTION
2. Your tyre bursts while you are driving. Which two things should you do?
Pull up slowly at the side of the road
Hold the steering wheel firmly to keep
3. Which two things should you do when a front tyre bursts?
Let the vehicle roll to a stop
Hold the steering wheel firmly
4. When braking with a vehicle fitted with A.B.S. you should...?
Press and release the brake at slow intervals
5. You are driving along and you get a four-wheel sideways skid, you should...?
Turn the steering wheel in the same direction as the skid
6. What should do when you are driving along and you get a front wheel sideways skid?
Turn the steering wheel in the same direction the vehicle is heading?
Push in the clutch and take your foot off the accelerator
7. You are driving along and you get a rear wheel sideways skid. You should...?
Push in the clutch and take your foot off the accelerator
Turn the steering wheel in the direction the rear wheels are heading
8. A rear tyre blow out could cause...?
The car to sway from side to side
The car to go out of control
9. Your vehicle engine cuts out suddenly while you are driving along. You should...?
Put the gears in neutral
Signal and steer the car to the side of the road
10. The engine of your vehicle which has power steering cuts out suddenly while you are driving along, what should you do?
Steer as best as you can to the side of the road
Grip the steering wheel tightly
11. If your brake fails while you are driving along, you should...?
Switch on your hazard warning lights
Engage a lower gear
Pump the brakes firmly and quickly
Steer for vacant openings on the right
12. If your accelerator jams while you are driving along, you should...?
Engage a neutral gear and apply brakes
Try and flick the accelerator with your foot
13. You are driving along and find yourself heading towards a head-on crash. What should you do?
Apply the footbrake firmly
Flash your headlights and sound the horn to attract the attention of the other driver
14. You are suddenly confronted with an obstacle on the road as you drive along, you should...?
Apply the foot brake firmly
15. You are required to stop suddenly as you drive along. You should?
Apply the foot brake firmly
16. To stop in an emergency, you should...?
Maintain firm pressure on the foot brake
17. To help avoid making an emergency stop, you should...?
Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you
Scan the road well ahead

TECHNICAL MATTERS BOTHERING ON ROAD SAFETY PROTECTION/CLOTHING

18. While riding motorcycle, you should wear...?
Gloves, boots, helmet and protective clothing
19. In Nigeria, it is recommended that the protective clothing which you wear while riding a motorcycle should have...?
Yellow and green stripes
Yellow and orange stripes
20. When must you wear protective clothing while riding motorcycle?
At all times
21. Which footwear should you wear when riding motorcycle?
Protective boots
22. Why should motorcycle riders wear gloves?
To protect their hands from cold and wet
To protect their hands if they fall off
23. When is it necessary to wear gloves?
Always
24. How do you protect your eyes when riding motorcycle?
By wearing a helmet with an adjustable visor
25. When is it permissible for you to drive a moped or motorcycle in public place without wearing a helmet?
Never



NEWS

Don calls for investment in energy technologies research

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

A Professor of Solid Physics and Material Science, Tajudeen Oladele Ahmed has called on the Federal Government and universities across the country to invest heavily in Energy Technologies Research to boost the nation's dwindling economy.

Professor Tajudeen who is currently the Head of Department of Physics at the Federal University, Lokoja, made the call while delivering the 16th Inaugural Lecture titled: Solid-State Physics: Materials Development for Sustainable Energy Technologies held at the institution's Auditorium on Thursday.

According to him, "Nigeria as a nation needs not to abandon this frontier of STI for advanced nations but should invest in it as this would in the long run put the country in the forefront or as a contender for green technology in the new era of low-carbon economy.

"Federal University Lokoja can also play a critical role in the materials development and sustainable energy technologies for inclusive economic development of the nation. This can be achieved by establishing research centers for clean energy and storage and water technologies would be successful.

"Also, with the existence of such standard laboratories in place, grants providers will be comfortable to finance researches directed toward global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Furthermore, this would encourage research collaborations within and outside the country which would ultimately lead to Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and new jobs could be created for teeming youths as evidence of



OLADELE

positioned, the critical ingredients for FUL to adequately perform and contribute to STI development need to be provided by the government and other agencies. Hence the need to follow up on the existing government funding agencies."

He, however, enumerated benefits derivable from energy technologies research in FUL to include; "location advantage of the university and the enabling environment, the establishment of a sustainable research center for clean energy and storage and water technologies would be successful.

"This is indeed a paradigm shift, the university has to contend with not only for the purposes of sustainable and inclusive national economic development, but for her own survival too. Hence, this innovation and entrepreneurial-driven thrust must be embarked upon as soon as possible.

"While there is a need to enhance capacity in FUL as a new university in Nigeria which is strategically

university impact and role in modern technology for sustainable and inclusive national growth.

"If this process of change is sustained, it would create additional new demands on high-level technological skills and technological developments, as well as on high-quality manpower that is capable and alert in adjusting to the changing industrial environment.

"Such developments would put FUL as a forerunner and an institution with technological capability and expertise, to play a major role in promoting and developing technology in order to achieve the national objective of becoming a developed country in the near future".

In his speech, the Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Olayemi Akinwumi, described the lecturer, Professor Tajudeen Oladele Ahmed, as an esteemed speaker and a beacon in the field of Solid State Physics.

"The potential impact of his research extends far beyond the walls of our university, influencing the trajectory of technological advancements and contributing to the global dialogue on sustainability," the VC affirmed.

ACF mourns an icon

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

THE AREWA Consultative Forum (ACF) is in deep sorrow over the death of Dora Maude Miller-Akanya, who passed on at 90 years of age.

The deceased is sister to the late Northern musician, Bala Miller, and descendant of the Miller family that contributed to the growth of Christianity in Wusasa, Zaria, Kaduna State.

National Publicity Secretary of ACF, Prof. Tukur Muhammad-Baba, stated recently, "In what appears to be an unending season of death of iconic elders and trailblazers from this part of Nigeria, ACF has learned about the passing of Mrs. Dora

Miller-Akanya, aged 90, and who will be buried on December 1, 2023, at Wusasa.

"ACF is in a deep mourning mood. But in total submission to the will of God, ACF will remain consoled that Mrs. Miller-Akanya lived and enjoyed a fulfilled and exemplary life worthy of emulation."

According to Mohammed-Baba, the deceased was certainly a lady that embodied grace, confidence, class and elegance without flamboyance in behaviour and comportment.

He added: "Born into the famous Miller family of old Zaria City and then Wusasa,

Mrs. Miller-Akanya was, together with her equally late twin sister, Jummai Jarma, one of the very first females from this part of the country to acquire western education.

"She then went on to enjoy high profile life as a public and civil servant, blazing the trail for females, mentoring many and being first, in the records, for her gender in many appointments and other engagements."

While condoling with the family and friends of the late Miller-Akanya, the people of Zaria City and Wusasa as well as the government and people of Kaduna and indeed Nigeria as a whole, ACF prayed to God to grant her eternal rest.



Reality Bites

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Top warning signs of domestic abuse

By STEVEN GANS

SOME of the signs of domestic abuse, such as physical marks, may be easy to identify. Others may be things you can easily explain away or overlook—say, chalking up a friend's skipping out on an activity you once enjoyed together as being due to a simple loss of interest.

Domestic abuse affects each person differently, but it impacts everyone both physically and psychologically. It's often an aggregate of related signs of domestic abuse that tip someone off that a person is at risk.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of their social, educational, or financial status. While red flags aren't always proof that someone is being mistreated in this way, they are worth knowing. Many who are abused may try to cover up what is happening to them for a variety of reasons, and it goes without saying that these individuals could benefit from help.

Physical signs of domestic abuse

If someone is being physically abused, they will likely have frequent bruises or physical injuries consistent with being punched, choked, or knocked down—and they'll likely have a weak or inconsistent explanation for these injuries. Some signs of physical abuse include: Black eyes,

bruises on the arms, busted lips, red or purple marks on the neck, sprained wrists.

It's also common for someone to try to cover up the physical signs with clothing. For example, you may notice someone you care about wearing long sleeves or scarves in the hot summer. Wearing heavier than normal makeup or donning sunglasses inside are also common signs of domestic abuse.

Abuse occurs when one person in a relationship attempts to dominate and control the other person. Usually, the control begins with psychological or emotional abuse, then escalates to physical abuse. When domestic abuse includes physical violence, it's termed domestic violence.

An inside look at domestic discipline

There is emotional signs of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse, of course, can take a serious emotional toll, creating a sense of helplessness, hopelessness, or despair. Domestic abuse can cause people to believe that they will never escape the control of the abuser. They may also exhibit a constant state of alertness to the point they never can completely relax.

Other emotional signs of abuse include: Agitation, anxiety, or



constant apprehension, changes in sleep habits (sleeping too much or not enough), developing a drug or alcohol problem, extremely apologetic or meek, loss of interest in daily activities, low self-esteem, seeming fearful, symptoms of depression, talking about or attempting suicide.

These symptoms, of course, could be due to many other conditions or factors, but they are typical of domestic abuse victims who feel they are trapped in an abusive relationship.

How abuse causes behavior changes

If you notice that someone who was once outgoing and cheerful has gradually become quiet and withdrawn, it could be a sign of domestic abuse. You may notice that the person:

Becomes reserved and distant, begins isolating themselves by cutting off contacts with friends and family members, cancels

they feel paralyzed to make decisions or to even protect themselves or their children. When the fear gets to that point, they will even turn down help offered by friends, family, or even professional protective services.

What controlling behavior looks like

Domestic abuse is not about violence, it's all about control. If you notice that someone seems to be controlled or extremely manipulated in all areas of their life, it could be a sign they are being abused at some level. Here are some examples of control: Asking permission to go

anywhere or to meet and socialize with other people, constant calls, texts, or tracking by their partner wanting to know where they are, what they are doing, and who they are with, having very little money available to them, not having access to a credit card, or having to account for every penny spent, not having access to a vehicle, referring to their partner as "jealous" or "possessive," or always accusing them of having affairs. If you or a loved one are a victim of domestic violence, contact the appropriate authorities for confidential assistance from trained advocates.

How to help a loved one

If you suspect a loved one is experiencing domestic abuse, there are steps you can take to support them and encourage them to get help. Listening to your loved one, watching for warning signs, and offering support are essential.

If your loved one confides in you, help them make a safety plan. This plan should include excuses they can use if they need to leave the situation, where they can go if they decide to leave, and an escape bag filled with essentials they will need if they need to leave quickly.

Also, put your loved one in touch with resources to help them stay safe and get the help they need. This can include domestic violence shelters and helplines offering information and direct assistance.

You can also encourage your loved one to join a domestic violence support group to help them heal from their experiences. If you witness or know that abuse is happening, contact 911 immediately.



SUNDAY SPORTS

Could Waldrum stay on as boss?

A month on from the expiration of his contract with the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), there remains a lack of clarity surrounding the position of Randy Waldrum, the former coach of the Nigeria women's national team. OLUWASHINA OKELEJI writes.

THE 67-year-old led the Super Falcons to the last 16 at the Women's World Cup in August but the American has been missing in action since their elimination at the hands of England in Brisbane.

In his stead, Justin Madugu has taken caretaker charge of qualifying matches for next year's Olympic Games and the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations.

The messaging coming out of the NFF has been decidedly mixed, with successive communiqués both affirming and denouncing his standing as Nigeria coach.

A particular bone of contention has been a sense of divided loyalties, as Waldrum combined the Nigeria job with working for the University of Pittsburgh, whose women's team he also managed throughout his time with the West Africans.

"The coach appeared to prioritise his other commitments in the United States," a top NFF official, who did not want to be named, told BBC Sport Africa.

"Managing a country like Nigeria should not be on a part-time basis."

Waldrum had been expected to put in an appearance on the eve of the Olympic double-header against Ethiopia late last month, but it was Madugu who guided Nigeria to a 5-1 aggregate win over the East Africans.

He followed that up with a 5-0 win against Cape Verde in the first leg of their Women's Nations Cup second-round qualifying tie in Abuja on Thursday.

Short of reiterating his incumbency, little has been heard from Waldrum in the months following the World Cup, a fact



Randy Waldrum was appointed as Nigeria boss in October 2020, and the Super Falcons finished fourth at the Women's Africa Cup of Nations last year

that plays into one of the major concerns within the NFF.

In September the NFF stated it would "ensure meritocracy in the composition of new coaching crews" for its various women's sides "within the shortest possible time".

A lack of available funds is also a background issue for the NFF, with one member of its executive committee saying the organisation would like to terminate the contract of men's national coach Jose Peseiro - even after the Portuguese accepted a pay cut in September.

"There may be (changes) because of the financial position of

the federation," the NFF official added.

"The board has not discussed the possibility of extending Waldrum's tenure. Nothing has been decided yet for certain."

Waldrum's reluctance to look to the Nigeria Women's Football League (NWFL) for talent has also sparked some consternation from pundits and fans.

With the local league beset by issues surrounding administration and logistics, the national teams play a key role in the promotion and development of domestic-based players.

The other side of the argument

would point to the fact that Waldrum has had to work under a number of restrictions over the course of his employment by the NFF, most notably late and infrequent salary payments.

He also famously got into a public war of words with his employers after questioning the distribution of funds received from world governing body Fifa, as well as alleging a breach of contract and claiming a lack of support.

The NFF's defence, as set forth by its director of communications Ademola Olajire, was essentially to respond with a personal attack

and there is clearly no love lost between the parties involved.

However, Waldrum exceeded expectations at the Women's World Cup, taking Nigeria through an unbeaten campaign that featured three clean sheets and only exiting against eventual runners-up England after a penalty shoot-out.

This has earned him credibility and support from some quarters, with former NFF president Amaju Pinnick leading the lobbying for the American to be retained and allowed to build on the relative success in Australia.

Waldrum also enjoys some approval from within the Super Falcons squad - albeit not unanimously.

His willingness to fight their cause publicly, as well as his player management, has brought a number of them onside.

"He's not just a coach; he's a father, he's an advisor, he's a mentor, he's just a man with grit and lots of good attributes," midfielder Deborah Abiodun told Nigeria's Punch newspaper.

"He has contributed to my life positively."

There have, however, been fallings out with the likes of forward Ngozi Okobi, who has played for the national side for over a decade but was axed from the World Cup squad.

With the ongoing lack of consensus within the leadership of Nigerian football, it remains to be seen what the future holds for Waldrum.

Madugu, who had been a member of the backroom staff since 2009, is set to oversee the second leg of the Women's Nations Cup qualifier against Cape Verde on Tuesday, while Olympic qualifiers against Cameroon (19 and 28 February) lurk further on the horizon.



Falcons

SUNDAY SPORTS



Falcons

Five takeaways from falcons 5-0 win

A second half brace from Okoronkwo Esther, a first half brace from Uchenna Kalu and a lone goal from Gift Monday helped the Super Falcons secure a 5-0 win over Cape Verde, Soccernet.ng reports.

Taking a deeper delve into the game, Soccernet.ng brings you five takeaways from the thrilling 5-0 win at the Abuja Stadium.

The Racing Louisville forward has been mostly deployed as a right winger for the Nigerian team, but this evening, in the absence of Asisat Oshoala, was placed in the number nine role and repaid the coach's faith in her by scoring a first half brace.

Eyebrows were raised when Coach Randy Waldrum included the 20-year-old Rivers Angel U.S.A based player in his squad, but she

showed today that she deserved that spot.

Super Falcons goalkeeper, Chaiamaka Nnadozie organized her defense properly again today. Although the opponents rarely threatened, the communication and synergy amongst the defensive trio was evident.

Following the team's round of sixteen exit from the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, they've grown in leaps and bounds and today's win sent a message out to the other teams who intend on participating in the tournament in 2024.

With strength in depth and dedication from all the players, the Super Falcons can do it again.

The midfielder led by example today again,

bagging an assist. She took charge of the set pieces duties, recovered the most balls and kept

Leverkusen CEO expresses displeasure over AFCON schedule

BAYER 04 Leverkusen CEO, Fernando Carro has voiced his displeasure over the timing and schedule of the African Cup of Nations tournament, Soccernet.ng reports.

Fernando Carro, who took over the reins at the club in 2018, is exploring the possibility of taking legal action to prevent Victor Boniface and Nathan Tella from representing the Super Eagles at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.

The Spaniard's major concern is the devastating effect that the players' absence will cause in the team, as it will most likely lead to a disruption in the

U CHENNA Kanu and Esther Okoronkwo were at the braces as Nigeria secured a straightforward 5-0 win over Cape Verde in the first leg of their second round of the 2024 Women Africa Cup of Nations qualifier played at the Moshood Abiola Stadium in Abuja, Soccernet.ng reports.

While Nigeria walked over São Tomé e Príncipe in the first round, Cape Verde claimed an impressive 6-3 aggregate win over Liberia to set up the clash with the Falcons.

But they were no match for the nine-time Africa queens in the FCT on Thursday afternoon.

United States-based Uchenna Kanu scored twice, and Gift Monday added another in a frantic

Okoronkwo hand Falcons biggest win in five years



Luis Diaz (number seven) scored at Anfield for the first time since August to put Liverpool in front

first half before Esther Okoronkwo came off the bench to grab a brilliant double.

Kanu drew first blood for the Super Falcons when

she found the net with an easy tap from the edge of the box in the seventh minute.

Goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie made a stunning save to deny Cape Verde from equalizing shortly after.

It was the wake-up call Nigeria needed as Tenerife forward Monday doubled the lead for the Falcons following a goalmouth scramble in the 25th minute.

Pitts midfielder Deborah Abiodun was running rings around the Cape Verdeans in midfield. Still, it was Atletico Madrid midfielder Rasheedat Ajibade who came close to making it three in the 33rd minute, but her fine effort flew narrowly wide.

Nigeria would not be denied, though, as Kanu scored the third with her second of the match off Toni Payne's brilliant pass just before halftime.

Esther Okoronkwo replaced club teammate Monday in the 53rd minute, and shortly after the hour mark, the substitute increased Nigeria's lead to four with a sublime finish off Akudo Ogbonna's cross.

Eleven minutes later, Esther Okoronkwo grabbed her second of the match as she pounced on Rofiat Imuran's cross to make it five for the home side.

The game ended 5-0, with Nigeria recording their biggest win in a competitive fixture since beating Equatorial Guinea 6-0 at the CAF Women's Africa Cup of Nations in 2018.

Cape Verde and Nigeria will meet again for the second leg on December 5 at the Estádio Nacional de Cabo Verde in Praia, where Nigeria will look to maintain their advantage.

Reds win comfortably to top Europa League group

LIVERPOOL have reached the last 16 of the Europa League as group winners with victory over LASK at Anfield.

BBC SPORT said that, Luis Diaz and Cody Gakpo both struck in the space of three first-half minutes before Mohamed Salah's penalty after the break and Gakpo's second late on in a straightforward win.

Toulouse's failure to beat Union St-Gilloise ensures Liverpool cannot be caught at the top of Group E.

The Reds go through to the knockouts and avoid February's play-off round.

Liverpool had total control inside 15 minutes following a

quickfire double.

First, Diaz sprayed a ball wide to Joe Gomez before running around the back of the defence into the area to meet the right-back's cross and steer his header into the net.

Shortly after, a well-worked move between Diaz, Salah and Gakpo around the LASK box was finished from close range by the Dutchman.

Liverpool missed several first-half chances to put the game to bed, but had to wait until LASK keeper Tobias Lawal felled Gakpo in the area on 48 minutes, allowing Salah to slam in the

third, with Gakpo adding a fourth following Trent Alexander-Arnold's clever pass.

"Two top results for us tonight in the group," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp. "A lot of positives from the game."

"This game should have been put to bed [before half-time], we should have finished it off but we didn't. The third goal just after half-time was helpful. "We worked for the clean sheet, which is what we wanted, so a top result and really good performance."

It would have been a major shock had LASK, who have now failed to beat English sides in six meetings and have conceded at least two goals in every game, won at Anfield.

But it was a major shock when Toulouse, 15th in Ligue 1, beat Liverpool last time out, disrupting what had looked like a procession to the latter stages of the Europa League.

Perhaps stung by events in France, Liverpool began this match much livelier and got the job done.

Although LASK - roared on by endlessly noisy away fans - did have their moments, they were overcome by the hosts' sheer quality.

Jurgen Klopp did make nine changes from the draw at



African players have been integral to Leverkusen's purple patch this season, ranging from attack to midfield and then to defence

Manchester City, but Salah was among the two who remained and this was hardly a Liverpool youth XI.

One player who came in was goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher, who looks set to start the next few games with Alisson sidelined. The Republic of Ireland international was reassuringly solid and made a number of good saves in a very open second half.

"He will get a little run in the team and what a way to start that run, keeping the clean sheet," former Liverpool striker Michael Owen told TNT Sports of Kelleher.

"He wasn't overworked but everything he had to do he did well. He has never let the team down. He has always done well when he has come in."

Former Liverpool midfielder Joe Cole added: "Klopp has always talked glowingly of him. He has always said he is the best number two goalkeeper in the league."

"It is a thankless job - you are rarely used and when you are you are in the limelight, but Liverpool are in safe hands with him. There is an air of calm to the back four."

"He will be tested with Liverpool's high line. He will have some work to do and a role to play for sure."



Luis Diaz (number seven) scored at Anfield for the first time since August to put Liverpool in front

SUNDAY SPORTS

Aston Villa: Four officers injured in clashes



World Athletics had to change its schedule at the World Championships in Budapest this summer because of the extreme heat

THIRTY-NINE people have been arrested after violence broke out in the build-up to Aston Villa's game with Legia Warsaw in Birmingham on Thursday night. Four police officers were hurt in clashes with away fans near Villa Park. West Midlands Police said officers were "faced with disgusting and highly dangerous scenes", including having flares thrown at them. BBC SPORT said that, the Europa Conference League tie went ahead with away fans blocked from entering the stadium over safety fears. Officers with batons and shields were seen trying to regain control of the area while missiles were launched at them as fans of the Polish side attempted to force their way through barriers. Several videos posted on social media showed the disorder, including missiles being thrown at fans in the ground from a road adjacent to a stand. West Midlands Police said one of the injured officers had been taken to hospital, and said two police horses and two police dogs had also been hurt. Disorder is believed to have been triggered by tensions over restrictions on the number of away fans who were going to be permitted to enter Villa Park for the match. Police said the allocation for visiting supporters had been reduced to 1,000 tickets on the advice of local emergency services, adding Legia fans had "been involved in previous match day disorder". In a [statement](#) posted on the club website ahead of the game, the Polish side accused Aston Villa of restricting access to their fans despite assurances, calling the move "counterproductive and baseless". It said the club's owner and other senior executives who

were due to be at the game were boycotting it in response to the move. In a statement released after the match, Chief Inspector Tim Robinson said: "This should have been a great evening of football which was enjoyed by fans from both clubs. Unfortunately, there were appalling scenes, which saw away fans dangerously throw flares and other missiles at our officers." He said "due to the extreme violence" police were left with "no other choice but to prevent away fans entering the stadium. The safety of everyone is our priority, and clearly we had no other option." Aston Villa said in a statement: "In spite of numerous requests for cooperation from Legia

Warsaw concerning their travelling supporters, especially in the last two days, no assistance on the serious safety matter of away fans attending Villa Park was forthcoming from the visiting club. "The club has repeatedly, including this morning, raised concerns in conjunction with Uefa and all the relevant authorities to Legia that ticketless away supporters were attempting to attend Villa Park." West Midlands mayor Andy Street urged Uefa - European football's governing body - to "swiftly... take strong action" against Legia Warsaw. Dutch police officers were injured during large-scale disorder during their

TIGER Woods has said he will continue to play for as long as he thinks he can still win as he prepares to return to professional golf. BBC SPORT said that, Woods will play in the Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas having not played since injury forced him to withdraw from the Masters in April. The 15-time major winner then had fusion surgery on a bone in his ankle. "There will come a time when I can no longer win. When that time comes, I will walk away," Woods said. "I love to compete. I love the camaraderie, being around the guys." The 47-year-old American said earlier this month he had "zero issues" with his surgically repaired right ankle, which was done to address post-traumatic arthritis following the 2021 car crash that sidelined him for nearly 14 months. However, he indicated that

Woods will play until he can't win

other injury problems remain. "The only way to fix that was to replace it or have it fused," Woods said of his ankle. "The next part is the hard part. The six months of doing nothing. The first couple months were really rough - I'm here on the good side now." The five-time Masters champion has struggled to walk 18 holes since but, after he was seen caddying for his son Charlie at the Notah Begay III Junior Golf National Championship earlier this month, he has decided the time is right to return to action. "I was hitting golf balls a lot trying to get Charlie ready for the event. Then, post-event, I thought, 'I can probably do this,'" Woods said. "I've played a lot of holes.

I haven't used a pencil and a scorecard. "My game feels rusty. I haven't played in a while. I'm excited to compete and play. I'm just as curious as all of you are to see what happens. "I can tell you this, I don't have any of the pain I had in Augusta in my ankle. Other parts are taking the brunt of the load. But that surgery was a success." The tournament, a 20-player invitational event which will also include Justin Rose, Scottie Scheffler, Matt Fitzpatrick and Viktor Hovland, begins on Thursday in Albany, The Bahamas. Woods said he hopes to play one tournament per month in 2024 and that this event will help to determine his schedule for next season.



World Athletics had to change its schedule at the World Championships in Budapest this summer because of the extreme heat

'Athletes directly impacted by climate change'

THREE-quarters of athletes have been directly impacted by climate change, a survey by World Athletics has found. BBC SPORT said that, athletes highlighted negative effects on performance and health, with 85% saying the sport in general has suffered because of the climate crisis. The survey also revealed 90% of those questioned believe the sport's governing body could also help to build a more sustainable future. World Athletics president Sebastian Coe said the concerns are "loud and clear". Nearly 400 athletes who competed at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest in August took part in what is the organisation's third annual survey. Lord Coe added: "Our athletes continue to

speaking clearly about the impacts that the climate crisis is having on their lives and on their sport. "It's important for us to continue to act on those

concerns and use the influence we have to help drive meaningful change." Last week, [YouGov](#) figures showed nearly two-thirds of those who

play or watch golf have experienced extreme weather associated with climate change in the past year. The survey

demonstrated how grassroots sports have struggled to thrive in conditions such as flooding. World Athletics' 2023 results are an increase on last year's survey, when 72% believed climate change had negatively affected the sport and 66% reported a direct impact. Athletes also raised the issue of air pollution, with 83% saying they were very concerned. The survey is to coincide with the start of the COP28 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which begins in Dubai on 30 November. Next year, World Athletics is implementing a scheme to improve sustainability at its events, while another initiative launched in 2022 has athletes act as green champions to highlight issues.



World Athletics had to change its schedule at the World Championships in Budapest this summer because of the extreme heat

SUNDAY SPORTS

Eritrea: Country that doesn't play international football

The distant dream Eritrea's footballers had of reaching the 2026 Fifa World Cup was extinguished before it had even begun. The East African country, who last played an international in January 2020, pulled out of qualifiers for the finals in Canada, Mexico and the United States just a week before they were due to play their first game against 2022 World Cup semi-finalists Morocco. MARK LOMAS AND KELVIN writes.

THE Eritrean National Football Federation (ENFF) nor the country's government have commented on the decision, which has angered both players and supporters.

"I don't know why it has happened or who is in charge. It is clear that those at the top aren't taking football seriously enough," Eritrea midfielder Mohammed Saeid, who plays for a club in Sweden, the country of his birth, told BBC Sport Africa.

"I feel so frustrated because there are a lot of players coming through right now with Eritrean backgrounds, many playing around Europe.

"We could compete if given a chance but when they see what is happening, will they really want to represent Eritrea in the future?

"I'm going to be able to tell my kids one day that I played for the Eritrea national team and it was one of the most amazing things I've experienced. But there are now so many players being denied this opportunity."

After also withdrawing from preliminaries for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, the latest decision poses questions over what future the country has in the game.

The country currently has no world ranking despite being a member association of global governing body Fifa.

"The sudden absence of Eritrea on the global stage leaves a void that's deeply felt by fans," Canada-based fan Akil Tecleab told BBC Tigrinya.

"Soccer is more than a game; it's a source of national pride and unity. It's disheartening to see our nation seemingly becoming the only one dampening the spirit of sports.

"The lack of communication with supporters and the absence of a clear reason only intensifies the disappointment."

The worry over defections Eritrea were scheduled to play 10 matches over the course of the next two years after being drawn alongside Morocco, Zambia, Congo-Brazzaville, Tanzania and Niger in Group E of Africa's World Cup qualifiers.

It is believed a major reason for the withdrawal is because the country fears domestic-based players will abscond and defect once they travel aboard - a risk heightened by



Saeid



President Isaias Afwerki has governed Eritrea since it became an independent country in 1993 and his People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) is the sole political party

five away trips which would have begun in Morocco last week.

Eritrea has been plagued by repression at home and tense relations with its neighbours since winning independence from Ethiopia in 1993, and the one-party state has a highly-militarised society.

A United Nations report this year highlighted "serious concern" over human rights in the country, including forced conscription and arbitrary detentions, and said that the rule of law was "non-existent".

There are multiple previous instances of Eritrean players absconding while on club and international duty.

Botswana granted asylum to 10 members of the squad which played a 2018 World Cup qualifier in the country in October 2015 and the most recent incident involving the men's national team came when seven went missing during a regional championship in Uganda in December 2019.

"Defection of players is incorporated with the political situation in our country," said a former government official, speaking anonymously to BBC Sport Africa.

"The government says everyone must be conscripted. Everyone, whether it is a doctor, football player, a cyclist or an engineer, has to finish national service. But it doesn't end after 18 months.

"They don't have any future and they are not living a good life in Asmara (the country's capital city). So, if they get a chance the best decision will be to defect."

One Eritrea fan understands why players would make that choice as he says "nothing has been done" to promote football in the country.

"The national team has not been participating in the main competitions so when players get a chance to go abroad they do not

want to go back," Million Abraha, who now lives in Kenya, told BBC Tigrinya.

BBC Sport Africa contacted both the ENFF and Eritrea's government for comment but neither responded.

Expanding horizons

The anonymous government official believes the ENFF are now aiming to gather a squad of players from the Eritrean diaspora to play in future qualifiers on the continent to prevent the possibility of domestic-based players defecting.

Saeid, who plays for Trelleborg in Sweden, had hoped his international debut in 2019 would be the start of an exciting new chapter in his career.

However, he is yet to add to the sole cap he won against Namibia and the first Saeid heard about Eritrea's withdrawal from World Cup qualifiers came on social media.

"I thought the match would still go ahead - all of the players did," the 32-year-old said.

"We were speaking among each other last month and there was genuine hope that we might play again.

"We even hoped we might be able to squeeze in a friendly in the last international break so we could all get to know each other again as it had been so long.

"I was telling my parents I'd be representing Eritrea again and was looking forward to it. Then I found out that there was no game."

"The coach didn't know who I was"

Saeid's trip to Namibia to make his debut for Eritrea four years ago gave him a glimpse into what he perceives as deficiencies of the ENFF.

"It was chaotic and disorganised," he smiles ruefully.

"The coach didn't even know who I was. I had to introduce myself and tell him I was one of the few players who was playing in Europe.

"Surely the head coach should know who his players are?"

"There was just very little information - if you don't know when and where to fly to, for example, how are you expected to perform on the pitch? You need these basic resources to be right."

Yet despite what Saeid describes as "highs and lows" amid difficult preparations, he was thrilled to make his international bow.

"It was still one of my best trips," Saeid recalls. "I played for the country of my parents and this was a feeling of unbelievable pride for me.

"For the first time in my life, I was around people who all spoke the same language as me and looked the same as me. That was special.

"Playing for Eritrea made me better understand the fans and understand that no matter the result, they will support the national team and find joy in football. It felt like it was an exciting time, that we were part of a team that could do something great."

Eritreans 'will always be ready'

Despite the setbacks, Saeid remains hopeful that positive change can come to Eritrean football - and insists the appetite is still there among those keen to play for their country.

"It needs someone to come in and shake things up," he said.

"It would be great to have a coach who can bring experience and instil some professionalism - someone who can improve things off the pitch and also actually coach the players and help them improve.

"Every time there is an international window we are waiting for news. There have been so many opportunities that have come and gone.

"We are tired of all the time that has been wasted and we want to play; the players will always be ready to play for Eritrea."

But others believe nothing will improve until the country's government revises its outlook.

"The political status in our country is not safe," the former Eritrean government official said.

"The geopolitics of our region harms the situation. The main solution is the peace and stability of the country has to be sustained first."



Ten Eritrean players were granted asylum in Botswana in October 2015 after playing a 2018 World Cup qualifier in the country



December 3, 2023

Remo Stars set to host Plateau United

REMO Stars Football Club (RSFC) are set to play host to Plateau United on Sunday looking to extend their unbeaten streak in the ongoing Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL).

The tie between the Sky Blue Stars and the Peace Boys is scheduled to take place at the Remo Stars Stadium in Ikenne-Remo, Ogun State by 4pm.

While the home side currently occupy first position in the standings with eight points, Plateau United are placed in eighth spot with six points after just two wins from their last four fixtures.

Remo Stars picked another point on the road after their first maximum points in Lagos in the first game of the NPFL season with Samuel Anakwe getting his second goal of the season against Dakkada FC after Muritala Lawal had earlier put the host on front in the twelfth minute in Uyo.

Plateau United on the other hand, got an emphatic 3-0 victory over Heartland FC at the New Jos Stadium with goals from Jesse Akila, Chimezie Izuchukwu and Mohammed Zuikifilu.

The host will be hopeful that sensational Andy Okpe get back his goalscoring form and to see Ifeanyi Ojukwu and Abdullahi Oyedele fit to compete against the Peace Boys on Sunday.

The Sky Blue Stars have a host of players to call upon if the injured players aren't back before Sunday with the



likes of Ibrahim Yusuf, Dada Oladimeji and Edugbeke Andrew will be looking to grab their chances in weekend's encounter against Plateau United if called upon by the gaffer.

Remo Stars will have to be wary of the likes of Elisha Golbe and Daniel Itodo who were part of the players that grabbed the maximum victory against Remo Stars in

Matchday One of the NPFL played in 2017 at the Gateway International Stadium, Sagamu.

Other players that need to be looked at going into that game against Plateau United are Ruben Bala, Charles Henlong and Jimmy Ambrose who have enough experience in the top tier of Nigeria Football.

Both sides have met only twice and that was in 2017

when Kim John and Elisha Golbe goals ensured they got the maximum points against the Sky Blue Stars, Victor Mbaoma scored his first ever NPFL goal for the host in the 42nd minute but it wasn't enough for them to pick a point.

The reverse fixture saw Hamzat Owolabi got the only goal of the game after he connected a long throw from

Daniel Itodo to give Plateau United a hundred percent victory over the Sky Blue Stars in Jos.

The Remo Stars Stadium is a fortress for the Sky Blue Stars since they started playing active football on that pitch, they have not conceded any goal, and they hope to maintain that record.

A win for the Remo Stars will help keep the momentum of

keeping their NPFL status intact and also maintain a record of not losing a game at home in presence of their supporters.

Meanwhile, Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) has made a case for players in the league to be involved in Super Eagles to stimulate aspirations of players to stay in the country rather than seeking clubs outside.

The plea was one of the high points of the communique reached at the inaugural NPFL Board and Staff retreat in Abuja which was graced by the President of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Ibrahim Gusau in Abuja on Wednesday.

During the interactive session between the Board members and Staff, it was observed that the NPFL must create heroes to attract fans in larger numbers to the stadium.

"It is recommended that the NPFL Board will reach out to the NFF with a recommendation that NPFL players must be included in future call-ups to improve their confidence and quality of play", it was stated.

Gusau, who declared the retreat open, commended the NPFL Board for the bold plan to reposition the league, said the NFF will back every forward looking proposition to add value to make the competitive and attract investors and Sponsors to grow domestic football.

Nations Cup Qualifier:

Five-star Super Falcons wallop Cape Verde

THE Super Falcons of Nigeria asserted their dominance in the first leg of their final round 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifier, securing a resounding 5-0 victory over Cape Verde on Thursday.

Right from the kickoff at the MKO Abiola Stadium, the Super Falcons took control of the match, dictating the tempo and creating numerous scoring opportunities.

Their efforts were rewarded in the seventh minute when Uchenna Kanu broke the deadlock, sending the home crowd into a frenzy.

The Super Falcons continued to press forward, doubling their lead in the 25th minute through Gift Monday, who capitalised on a goalmouth scramble.

Before the half-time whistle blew, Kanu completed her brace with a brilliant finish from a Toni Payne assist, ensuring a commanding 3-0 lead for the home team.

In the second half, Super Falcons coach, Justin Madugu, made tactical substitutions, bringing on Esther Onyenezide and Esther Okoronkwo for Peace Efih and Gift Monday, respectively.

The substitutions proved to

be effective, as Okoronkwo made an immediate impact, scoring a sublime goal from an Esther Akudo Ogbonna cross in the 66th minute.

Okoronkwo's scoring spree continued in the 77th minute, as she added another goal to her tally, sealing an emphatic 5-0 victory for the Super Falcons.

With this dominant performance, the Super Falcons have put one foot in the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, which will be held in Morocco.

They will travel to Praia for the second leg on 5 December, aiming to complete the double and secure their place in the continental tournament in grand style.

Meanwhile, the Super Eagles of Nigeria have dropped by two spots in the latest FIFA ranking to place 42nd in the world.

In the ranking table on the website of the world football governing body, on Thursday, the Eagles dropped 16.04 points to rank 1474.44 points as against 1490.48 in October.

However, the drop did not affect the team's placement on the continent as it still remained the 6th team on the continent behind Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Algeria and

Egypt respectively.

This drop in ranking for Nigeria is coming after the Super Eagles were held to a 1-1 draw in their two 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifying matches against Lesotho on 16 November and Zimbabwe on 19 November.

Argentina (1st) still lead the way ahead of France (2nd),

England (3rd, up 1) are now in the trio of teams at the front of the pack, followed by Belgium (4th, up 1), who have also climbed one place.

Although Brazil (5th, down 2) have lost ground following back-to-back defeats by Colombia and Argentina, they have clung on to their place in the top 5.

The Netherlands (6th, up 1) and Portugal (7th, down 1) have traded places in the top 10, which is once again completed by Spain (8th), Italy (9th) and Croatia (10th).

Uruguay (11th, up 4) have made solid progress, but they have to be content with a place just outside the top 10.

The Comoros Islands

(119th, up 9), meanwhile, enjoyed an even better month with wins against the Central African Republic and Ghana, and have two reasons to celebrate as they are now in 119th place, their highest-ever position.

Kosovo (101st, up 4) may not have climbed as many positions as the Comorans, but the Kosovans are also now higher in the ranking than ever before.

Guinea-Bissau (103rd, up 7), Azerbaijan (114th, up 6), Libya (120th, up 6), Malaysia (130th, up 7) and Rwanda (133rd, up 7) are the other big movers in the November ranking.

The ranking also had the re-entry of Samoa (187th), American Samoa (188th) and Tonga (196th), who were all playing international football again following months of inactivity.

This latest ranking considered FIFA World Cup qualifiers that took place in African countries, Asia and South America.

The other confederations' schedules included UEFA EURO 2024 qualifying matches, Concacaf Nations League 2023-24 encounters and the Pacific Games 2023.

These matches all had a significant effect on the FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking, including on the make-up of the podium.



Right from the kickoff at the MKO Abiola Stadium, the Super Falcons took control of the match, dictating the tempo and creating numerous scoring opportunities.