

**Mutfwang
urges
citizens to be
selfless**

P10



NUJ commended for holding maiden Christmas carol

Page 28

Doctors seek legislation to address organ trafficking

Page 2

Coexist in peace to pave way for development - CSO, CEO

Page 10

THE Nigeria Standard



VOL. 13 NO. 902

WEDNESDAY, December 20, 2023

N200

Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

Tinubu pledges to uphold media freedom

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has said his administration will always uphold media freedom and respect opinions, whether they are adversarial or complimentary to his government.

The President made

the pledge on Monday, in Abuja, during a meeting with members of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association of Nigeria (NPAN).

The President, in a statement issued by Ajuri Ngelale, his Special Adviser on

Media and Publicity, assured NPAN members that he would carefully consider their request for a review of policies affecting the paper industry, acknowledging concerns about existing regulations hindering local access to

newsprint.

Speaking on the challenges faced by travellers during the festive season, the President said the federal government is taking measures to alleviate the high cost of transportation by granting waivers to

operators in the air, road, and rail transportation systems.

He also said steps are being taken to reduce the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

"I care about what is going on in the country. I thank you for your

support and opinions, even the criticism of our government. Without the support of some of you, I will not be standing here as president.

"You have held our feet to the fire, and we will continue to respect your

Continued to page 1



President Tinubu acknowledged concerns about existing regulations hindering local access to newsprint

Continued to page 1

Nigeria ratifies new policy to deepen inclusive education

THE Ministerial Session of the 67th National Council on Education (NCE), has ratified the reviewed National Policy on Inclusive Education as a working document in Nigeria, following the approval of some major policy decisions that would guide implementation of the education sector in the next one year.

This was contained in a communiqué issued at the

Nigeria inflation to rise high in December

NIGERIA'S inflation rate is on course to rise to its highest in more than 18 years in December, dampening Christmas spending for cash-strapped consumers.

This soaring inflation is expected to spur the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to raise its

benchmark interest rate in its next meeting. The Monetary Policy Committee last met in July, when it increased the rate for the eighth straight time to 18.75 percent.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), consumer prices rose to a fresh 18-year high of

28.20 percent in November, the same as in August 2005, from 27.33 percent in October.

Inflationary pressures are set to build from here. The fuel subsidy's removal will continue to add to inflation through second-round effects. And the naira's fall in value against

the dollar will continue to push up inflation too," David Omojomo, Africa economist at Capital Economics, said.

He said the CBN would deliver aggressive interest rate hikes to restore its credibility and bring down inflation.

"The governor's

comments last month highlighted that a new inflation targeting framework is being prepared. At the next

Monetary Policy Committee meeting, we have pencilled in an interest rate hike of 400bp, to 22.75 percent."

The International Monetary Fund has urged

the apex bank to hike interest rates in the next meeting to address the country's high inflation rate.

"The central bank, under its new leadership, has started to withdraw excess liquidity that was in the system and contributing to

Continued to page 1

News

Tinubu pledges to uphold media freedom

Continued from page 1

opinions whether we agree or not. One thing I must say is that I read every paper, various opinions, and columnists", the President said.

President Tinubu said his administration will remain steadfast in "reinvigorating, retooling and re-engineering the economy", citing bold decisions by his administration to end the petrol subsidy regime and initiate the ongoing unification of foreign exchange rates.

"I promise you a very transparent government. We will try our best to draw water from a dry well and create a good economic environment that will serve the people. The future of our country is clear with committed investments in health, infrastructure, transportation, and education, among others. We have to take care of the poor. If we

invest in our own children and leave the children of the poor, the children of neglect will attack your investments", he said.

In his remarks, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, reiterated the federal government's commitment to fostering a vibrant and responsible media landscape in the country.

"Our democracy thrives on the principles of transparency, accountability, and the free flow of information. The role of the media, particularly the newspapers, is paramount in upholding these principles", the Minister said.

Commending NPAN for providing a platform for national discourse and for diverse voices, the Minister implored the

association to collaborate with the Tinubu administration through effective dialogue, advancing shared values, and addressing challenges confronting the nation.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Kabiru Yusuf, NPAN president and chairman of Media Trust, owners of the Daily Trust Newspapers and Trust Television, while congratulating President Tinubu on his election victory and Supreme Court affirmation, raised pressing concerns facing the newspaper industry.

"Our particular concern is the newspaper industry, which employs thousands of Nigerians: journalists, marketers, distributors, administrators, accountants. Newspapers are also part of the building blocks of democracy and reliable sources of information in a world that is overwhelmed by fake news", he said.

Doctors seek legislation to address organ trafficking

THE FCT chapter of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), has called on the National Assembly (NASS) to enact laws specifically aimed at addressing and preventing organ trafficking in the country.

Speaking at a press briefing in Abuja on Monday, the chairman of FCT NMA, Charles Ugwuanyi, said with specific laws, Nigeria can make efforts towards eradicating organ trafficking and protecting the well-being of its citizens.

Mr Ugwuanyi said the existing law governing organ transplants in the country is limited in depth, hence unable to address emerging issues.

"It only requires the donor to be above 18 years of age and the fact that there is no financial inducement for the donation," he said.

The briefing was organised to address the allegation of illegal kidney trade involving Alliance Hospital, an Abuja-based medical facility.

Daily Trust in an investigation published on 10 December, detailed the thriving economy of illegal



Ugwuanyi

kidney trade in the FCT and how agents operate freely, luring young men from low economic backgrounds to sell their kidneys.

The investigation also highlighted how Nigeria's socio-economic challenges have contributed to the travails of the young men who sell their kidneys without minding the long-term repercussions, as Nigeria has no regulatory body in charge.

In a reaction to the findings via his official X account, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Muhammad Pate, clarified that there is a policy and legal framework that enables regulation of health practice in Nigeria, including medical transplantation.

Mr Pate said Sections 51-56 of the National Health Act 2014 (NHA 2014) prohibit the illegality uncovered in the investigation, adding that the central issues concern the enforcement practices and evasion of the regulatory guidelines by criminals.

The minister further noted in his reaction that his ministry recently inaugurated the Tertiary Hospitals Care Standards Committee to enhance the effectiveness of the government in regulating practices.

He noted that in the proposed 2024 appropriation directed by President Bola Tinubu, "we slated significant resources to enhance such regulations and curb the criminality experienced by Nigerians over so many years in the past."

In reaction to this, Mr Ugwuanyi said every potential case must be given a balanced judgment by constituted authorities.

He called on the relevant government authorities and the legislative arm of government to review the laws. He also expressed worry that organ harvesting may become a common practice soon if nothing is done.

So, we can project that in the next few years, there will be a lot of organ harvesting. Therefore, we must and we will keep calling on our government to strengthen laws guiding them," he said.

Let us see what is happening as pointers to bigger problems in the future and that is how the society develops."

Mr Ugwuanyi also called on the public to allow relevant authorities handle the issue instead of blacklisting the hospital involved.

He said the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) has a tribunal that tries doctors on issues related to bad practice and others.

And we always encourage our patients, if you feel you haven't been treated well. Please don't choose violence against us, violence can be physical, emotional, cyberbullying, please go to the tribunals," he said.

Speaking at the briefing, the managing director of Alliance Hospital, Christopher Otabor, explained that as a rule, kidney recipients source for their donors and present them to the hospital for screening for compatibility and fitness for donation.

Mr Otabor said after the screening, the hospital proceeds to ensure they meet the legal requirements before commencing any medical procedure.

He said the requirements include: "Donors must be 18 years or above and must sign consent in the presence of two adult witnesses. Donors are expected to swear an affidavit stating their age and affirming that the decision to donate is by free will and there is no compulsion or financial inducement."

"We have followed the above protocol strictly for all the kidney transplant cases done by the hospital."

Nigeria inflation to rise high in December

Continued from page 1

high inflation. The next Monetary Policy Committee meeting should further raise the policy interest rate," it said in a statement.

A recent report by KPMG Nigeria described the country's inflation as cost-push inflation, projecting it to hit 30 percent by December.

We also note that sustainably taming inflation would require not only monetary responses which are generally more apt for addressing demand-pull inflation, but also addressing underlying supply-side problems driving cost-push inflation," the report said.

It added that it required focusing on ways to boost local production, improve local infrastructure, cut energy and transportation costs and boost foreign exchange inflow.

The NBS report highlighted that the food inflation rate, which constitutes more than 50 percent of headline inflation, was 32.84 percent in November, compared to 24.13 percent a year earlier.

prices of bread and cereals, oil and fat, potatoes, yam and other tubers, fish, fruit, meat, vegetables and coffee, tea and cocoa," it said.

Analysts at Comercio Partners noted that food inflation printing above 30 percent depicts higher food prices and further strains to food supply within the Nigerian economy.



Cardoso

Nigeria ratifies new policy to deepen inclusive education

Continued from page 1

end of the 67th council meeting of the NCE on Friday in Lagos, entitled, 'Addressing the Challenges of Policy Implementation: A Panacea for the Achievement of Education 2030 Agenda', the NCE is



Mamman

the highest policy making body in the education sector under the chairmanship of the minister of education.

The Council also approved the reviewed National Education Quality Assurance Policy and its implementation guidelines as a working document in Nigeria, and the reviewed National policy on HIV & AIDS for the Education Sector as a National Working document in Nigeria, among other policies.

Similarly, a strategic roadmap to equal access to higher education was also launched.

The basic thing about education is that

everybody should have it; it's free. But because we are in a place where some persons out of the way they were born cannot attend school or go through the same processes of learning like the others, we have to make sure that those people that are differently abled can have access," David Adejo, permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, said.

According to him, the reviewed policy on inclusive education seeks to bring everybody in the education sector into a basket, to see how they would be able to get access to quality education.



Business & Economy

Driving infrastructure devt through non-interest financing

During the last administration, the government borrowed massively to finance the development of the country's dilapidated infrastructure. However, financial experts have advocated non-interest financing to develop its infrastructure; BENJAMIN UMUTEME writes.

Non Interest (Islamic) Finance is not a religious product/service restricted to Muslims alone but a series of financial products developed to meet the requirements of a specific group of investors.

It is built on principles that uphold a positive ethical message derived from the holy Quran and the Sunnah, moral considerations, fair and just trading practices. This includes the avoidance of ribah (interest and gharar), contractual and legal uncertainty, as well as leniency to debtors where the borrower can prove mitigating circumstances. Also avoided are investments in forbidden commodities such as alcohol, tobacco and companies whose debt exceeds one – third of its assets.

Its principles are built on the generation of wealth from legitimate trade and asset based investment. Risk should be shared between the capital providers and the expertise. Under non-interest finance, capital and labour are conceived as a single factor of production. Just as it is expected, that investment should have a social and an ethical benefit to the wider society beyond "pure return."

Non-interest finance helps in the furtherance of financial inclusion, attracting foreign Direct Investment as well as attracting investment products amongst several others.

With its myriad of challenges the country faces in addressing its massive infrastructure deficiency, analysts say Nigeria's fiscal authorities could turn to non-interest financing to bridge its infrastructure gap.

The Debt Management Office puts Nigeria's total public debt stock as at June 30, 2023 at N87.38tn (\$113.42bn). According to the debt office the surge was occasioned by the N22. 71 trillion ways and means advances obtained by the federal government from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). And many financial experts say a large proportion of the debt was collected in the name of



financing infrastructure development by the Muhammadu Buhari-led administration.

But the question many are asking is despite the huge sums borrowed, the country's infrastructure remains decrepit.

Non-interest funding Speaking at the first annual Securities Exchange Commission Nigeria international forum on the non-interest capital market which was held recently in Abuja, Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy Wale Edun said the federal government was considering the non-interest market as a means of resolving funding challenges and reduce the country's debt-to-revenue ratio.

The minister noted that with fiscal exhaustion being experienced by the country, a non-debt and equity financing mechanism that does not require payments of interest is the only way to go.

Edun reaffirmed the government's commitment to fine-tuning sustainable forms of financing in line with the global climate action agenda, as well as the participatory opportunity provided by equity and non-interest finance to develop infrastructure.

He said, "Non-interest financing is a critical part of funding and that is because as we all know, we are faced with three crises right now which are the climate, and biodiversity.

"But there is also a debt crisis

in major countries and of course, the available solution is non-debt, equity and financing mechanisms that will eliminate the pains of paying interest on loans. Rather, it is better to have a participatory opportunity that equity and non-interest finance gives.

"And so what we are saying here is a critical piece of the solution to the crises of the world currently, including the fact that for the rapid and inclusive growth this administration desires, we need to have green projects so we don't only need to have projects funded by equity.

"As we all know, our debt service levels and revenue to debt service ratio are so high and currently constrained. There is fiscal exhaustion in many parts of the world and there is also a need to finance green projects. So the only way to grow our economy is not just relying on foreign direct investments, and domestic investments but tap into the world of non-interest financing."

Critical role

On his part, the director-general of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Lamido Yuguda, said non-interest financing can play a critical role as the federal government looks to bridge the country's huge infrastructure gap.

According to him, with almost N1 trillion raised through Sukuk to finance 5000 kilometres of critical roads and bridges, non-

interest financing was the way to go for Nigeria.

Yuguda said the oversubscription of the most recent 6th Sovereign Sukuk by 435% underscores investor confidence, showcasing the strategic role of Sukuk in infrastructure development and financial inclusion.

"We are all aware that sukuks backed by assets promote risk sharing in high-risk projects, offer flexibility in project stages and foster public-private partnerships.

"Therefore, Sukuks are a good structure for infrastructure financing, as they clear the issuer's balance sheet of debt, given that the investors own the assets to be financed and share in the gains from such assets. This is really an attractive capital market instrument to be explored by both corporates and governments at all levels.

"The non-interest capital markets have a huge role to play in the current economic program being pursued by the administration of His Excellency, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. We are of the belief that the country's economy cannot reach its target size without a lot of investments in critical infrastructure. Indeed, with the high debt-service to revenue ratio, sukuks present a viable alternative to other modes of financing.

"The non-interest capital

markets have a huge role to play in the current economic program being pursued by this administration. We believe that the country's economy cannot reach its target size without a lot of investments in critical infrastructure. Nigeria has the potential to join the league of global Islamic finance jurisdictions if we could address issues, such as inadequate awareness

"Nevertheless, the government must be visionary and place a premium on the kind of project it intends to deploy non-interest finances on as a way of demonstrating prudence.

"On the other hand, non-interest finance comes with its own terms and conditions that are very unique and business-like in nature. Here we are talking about a financing facility that may not accommodate moratorium, buy back or even due payment date extension factors.

"We acknowledge the fact that parties involved would deliberately fashion out the best possible terms and conditions suitable and mutually beneficial to all parties. Instructively, as earlier pointed out, non-interest financing is a great deal to help address our infrastructure gaps as well as reduce fiscal imbalance in our economic and governance system, yet we must take such a facility with the depth of ensuring it is business-like."



Business & Economy

Wage award delay, withheld salaries worry civil servants

THE stoppage of the payment of N35,000 wage award promised by President Bola Tinubu and the withholding of salaries of some civil servants has raised worries among the affected workers.

The government has also yet to deploy the promised Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses to cushion transport costs amid rising cost of food and other commodities.

Tinubu had shortly after announcing subsidy removal promised to provide a cheaper means of transportation by unveiling buses that will run on CNG, and give N35,000 wage award to federal government workers.

In July, he told Nigerians that his government had made a provision to invest N100 billion between then and March 2024 to acquire 3,000 units of 20-seater CNG-fuelled buses.

BusinessDay gathered that the wage award was paid only for September.

The Trade Union Congress recently warned of dire consequences for stopping the payment of the N35,000 wage award.

The Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, on Monday, kicked against the non-payment of the N35,000 wage award.

Mohammed Ibrahim, its national president, in a communique at the end of a two-day meeting in Abuja,



Buhari

insisted that the federal government must fulfill its obligations to pay the wage award.

He said: "The NEC recalls the approval of the federal government to pay a wage award of N35,000 to workers in its payroll effective from 1st September 2023. The one for the month of September 2023 was paid in the month of November 2023.

The current mechanisms put in place to drive the implementation of the IPPIS were introduced to remove ghost workers from the civil service payroll system.

The head of service who confirmed the widespread rot said the government was also working to address the issue in the non-core ministries, departments, and agencies, adding that

about 205,411 officers that are not core civil servants have been registered.

"The next step is that we will go ahead and verify these officers to ensure that all the documents are correct and then move them into the IPPIS for salaries."

As at July 2023, a total of 69,854 civil servants had been verified under the IPPIS.

Mohammed Ahmend, director of information in the Office of the Head of Civil Service, told BusinessDay that everyone affected who is a genuine civil servant will be accommodated.

"This is not the first time we are embarking on verification; it is an ongoing thing and those who are genuine civil servants will be verified at the end of the day," he said.

Tinubu inaugurates NNPC 11-Man Board

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has inaugurated the 11-man board and management team for the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) with a charge on the board members to focus on profitability, increased production, and robust governance.

Speaking after inaugurating the board and management team in his office at the State House, recently in Abuja, the President emphasized that their appointment should not be viewed as mere "cake sharing," urging optimal performance on their part.

He also called for a critical review of Petroleum Industry Act and recognition of the Niger Delta's vital role in producing oil.

Addressing newsmen after the inauguration, Chairman of the 11-man board, Chief

Pius Akinyelure, set an ambitious production target of two million barrels per day by 2024 for the NNPC, emphasizing the substantial challenges confronting Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

He also canvassed for a comprehensive overhaul of the national security architecture to address losses incurred through oil theft and pipeline vandalism.

His words: "To make sure that as the key performance indicators of the oil industry in Nigeria, probably, we'll become number one in Africa and probably competing with leading oil and gas companies around the world. It is not an easy task, but we know we have the challenge of oil stealing, the vandalism of our pipelines.

"Our commitment is to produce at a rate of two million barrels per day,

anytime from next year. But to do this, we have to overhaul our security architecture so that the incidences of stealing,

anytime from next year. But to do this, we have to overhaul our security architecture so that the incidences of stealing,

anytime from next year. But to do this, we have to overhaul our security architecture so that the incidences of stealing,

anytime from next year. But to do this, we have to overhaul our security architecture so that the incidences of stealing,

anytime from next year. But to do this, we have to overhaul our security architecture so that the incidences of stealing,

anytime from next year. But to do this, we have to overhaul our security architecture so that the incidences of stealing,

THE trade balance between Nigeria and China increased to N7.54tn in the first nine months of 2023.

According to an analysis of data from the National Bureau of Statistics, the bilateral trade deficit in favour of China is widening, with a steady increase in Nigeria's imports from the Asian country in the past one year.

An analysis of the foreign trade statistics released by the Bureau showed that Nigeria imported N8.4tn worth of goods from China in the nine months between January and September 2023.

A break down showed that the country imported N1.29tn worth of produce in Q1, N2.56tn in Q2 and N4.53tn in Q3.

Further details of the NBS data for the nine months 2023 show that exports from Nigeria to China was valued at N126.61bn in Q1, N251.8bn in Q2 and N482.4bn in Q3, making a total of N860.82bn and indicating huge deficits during the period.

Nigeria, China Trade Deficit Rises N7.54tn - NBS

Nigeria's main exports to China include minerals, metals, agricultural products, crude oil, and agricultural products.

In 2021, a report by obtained from China's Custom agency stated that Nigeria topped the chart amongst African countries importing from China with imported goods valued at \$23bn (about N9.6tn) or 16 percent of total continent's imports from China.

But the country didn't feature on the top five African countries in exports to China in the same period, as it recorded only \$3bn (about N1.3trillion) exports in the year.

Experts say the recurring trade deficit speaks to the persistent weak production capacity and competitiveness of Nigerian firms.

Last week, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Doris Aniete, came under scrutiny when she appeared before some

senators to defend her ministry's budget and was asked where the country's balance of trade stood, especially with China.

"What is our balance of trade, especially with China? Those countries importing things to Nigeria are expected to build factories in Nigeria," the Senator representing Edo North, Adams Oshiomhole, queried.

"We have to take advantage of our population to grow our industries."

However, the minister told the joint panel that her ministry had yet to get such record.

"Sir, I regret to say that we seem to have no record of our balance of trade or at least it does not exist in the ministry and that is why we initiated a new unit called the trade intelligence unit to ensure that such data are generated and stored," Uzoka said.

Nigeria's cryptocurrency usage remains highest in Africa

DESPITE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) directives restricting licensed banks from engaging in cryptocurrency-related activities, Nigeria's crypto market has defied the odds and consolidated its status as a key transactional vehicle in the sub-Saharan nation.

Currently, Nigeria has a population of 223 million, making it one of the fastest-growing countries in Africa and one of the youngest in the world, according to a United Nations and Interest study.

43 per cent of the country is under 15 years old.

Nigeria's cryptocurrency usage remains the highest in Africa and one of the most developed countries in the entire world, with an annual growth rate of 9 per cent despite the recent pullback on Bitcoin's interest Chainalysis report, showed that Nigeria ranks third in the list of only six countries that have recorded consistent growth since 2021.

Stablecoins are now the preferred crypto asset in Nigeria because they are pegged to a popular reference asset, the American dollar to hedge against inflation and the naira devaluation. Currently, USDT is the most widely traded stablecoin in Nigeria.

Nigerian businesses and the diaspora population are also adopting USDT and other stablecoins to facilitate payments. It is no longer uncommon to see tour operators in Nigeria quote their packages in US dollars and offer USDT as a payment option.

The naira is the worst-performing currency in Africa and has lost four-fifths of its value this year alone against the American dollar.

Bitcoin has notched a strong ending this year despite recent pullbacks in price action. If today were the last day of 2023, the king of digital assets would have returned almost 150 per cent, marking the best year since 2020, when it rose a phenomenal 305 per cent.

CAC warns against registering business without starting operations



Abubakar

it in your briefcase because that is not helpful to the economy," he said.

According to the director, such companies are termed

shelf companies and are discouraged from being kept in the register of companies of CAC; thus, they are delisted.

"The idea of delisting companies is that we should not be seen encouraging shelf companies.

"By shelf companies, we mean registered companies that are redundant or dormant; they are not doing anything.

"So they do not have to be on the register of companies. The appropriate thing to do is to remove them or strike them off the register," Nidia said.

He said the commission had published an initial list of

about 100,000 companies to be delisted.

"We gave an initial period of 90 days, which has elapsed, to those who think they will still be in business to file annual returns for them not to be delisted.

"After the initial publication, about 5,000 companies responded to file their annual returns, with the remaining approximately 95,000 to be delisted.

"What we have done recently is to issue another publication, requesting companies that have filed their returns and their names are still on the list to get back to us with evidence.



Beyond bytes: A socio-technical approach to data management

The world is more polarised than ever before, with global conflict and geopolitical tensions drawing strong lines between regions and even within countries. Conflict, social unrest, inflation, climate change, and much more, are leading the world towards a trend of de-globalisation on a scale not many anticipated as recently as 10 or 20 years ago. The effect of this is that power and data are becoming fragmented.

THE result is that businesses may well be aware of data fabrics, data meshes and modern data stacks and may feel inclined to rush towards these technology solutions, but unless they address the cultural obstacles within their organisations and embrace a socio-technical approach, their investments and efforts are likely to be in vain.

How did we get here? Our new ever-fragmented reality leads to uncertainty in technology, which is naturally reacting to what's happening in the world. As a result of the uncertainty and rapid changes in technology – which includes artificial intelligence (AI) and the decentralised blockchain and web 3.0 – the global skills shortage bites harder than ever before. In addition to this, regulations have become more complicated with even more red tape around rules about where data may and may not be stored in our fragmented world.

The impact here, and most organisations would attest to the fact that they are likely flooded by large and complex datasets from various sources. They have difficulty integrating and managing data from different systems precisely because the data may be stored in different formats, structures, and locations. In addition to this, locating data from different systems in a large organisation can be challenging, while rapidly changing compliance regulations make it difficult to comply.

The only way to succeed, in 2024 and beyond, is to have a clear and comprehensive data management strategy.

Data management refers to the process of collecting, storing, organising and maintaining data to support analysis and decision-making. Integrating a decentralised



data world means there has to be interoperability between platforms and applications.

This is because data management involves more than the technical aspects of data storage, processing and analysis. It also includes the social aspects of data governance, change management, data quality management, user upskilling and collaboration between different teams. Organisations that know how to use technology the best will have an

edge over their competitors. But what does this mean for organisations that need a clear and comprehensive data management strategy? It means they need a fabric or mesh to help them govern and control data. The more decentralised and fragmented the world gets, the more technology is trying to weave it back together.

Data fabric is a tech-centric architecture for data management that unifies and integrates data across multiple

systems. Data fabric uses a variety of approaches to create a unified data management system that allows organisations to access, process, and share data more efficiently.

Data mesh, on the other hand, is a decentralised data architecture where data is treated as a product and managed by dedicated data product owners. This approach transfers the responsibility from the central data team to the business units that create and consume data.

To improve the odds of successfully building an effective data management strategy, working with a trusted and experienced data partner to help shift the organisation's data culture is a crucial – and often missing – step. The Data and Analytics Leadership Annual Executive Survey 2023 found that cultural factors are the biggest obstacle to delivering value from data investments.

Data fabrics, meshes and modern data stacks will continue to consolidate an increasingly decentralised world by making

the management of data easier. However, to ensure control over security and governance, and to extract value from data that is trustworthy requires a tactical shift to what we call a socio-technical approach. In other words, any strategy must be made up of an investment in people, process and technology to be successful.

This is because data management involves more than the technical aspects of data storage, processing and analysis. It also includes the social aspects of data governance, change management, data quality management, user upskilling and collaboration between different teams. Organisations that know how to use technology the best will have an edge over their competitors.

Organisations would do well to engage with data partners who embrace a socio-technical approach to data management if they'd like to improve their odds of deriving value from data and extracting insights that can help them make better business decisions.

Lee Wearne, Data Strategist at Insight Consulting.

"But what does this mean for organisations that need a clear and comprehensive data management strategy? It means they need a fabric or mesh to help them govern and control data. The more decentralised and fragmented the world gets, the more technology is trying to weave it back together. Data fabric is a tech-centric architecture for data management that unifies and integrates data across multiple systems. Data fabric uses a variety of approaches to create a unified data management system that allows organisations to access, process, and share data more efficiently. Data mesh, on the other hand, is a decentralised data architecture where data is treated as a product and managed by dedicated data product owners. This approach transfers the responsibility from the central data team to the business units that create and consume data".

Politics

Alia tasks Benue people on supporting Tinubu

From **TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi**

GOVERNOR Hyacinth Iormem Alia of Benue State has tasked people of the state to remain supportive to the programmes of the federal government as well as cooperate with donor agencies working in the state to serve as part of their contribution to benefit from the central government.

The governor who made the appeal recently in Makurdi, when he commissioned 250KVA solar system donated to Benue State University Teaching Hospital, BSUTH, by office of the Vice President, Kashim Shettima and the renovated Mental Health Psychosocial Rehabilitation Center at the institution, expressed appreciation to God for touching the heart of the V/P to consider Benue for the project. He added that his action has demonstrated love for the state.

He assured that Benue State Government under his watch would continue to prioritize health issues, adding that with the innovative ideas of the new CMD and revival of the Mental Health Psychosocial Rehabilitation Center among other services introduced, the state would soon become a tourist medical center not just in the North Central but the entire country.

According to the governor, government has put in place modalities to bring back all medical personnel of Benue origin to contribute their quota to the growth of the health sector as well as employ other competent medical experts to manage all health institutions.

He appealed to quarks who have terminated many lives in the past for lack of professionalism to leave the state or face prosecution as it was no longer business as usual.

The governor, who assured Benue people of better days ahead, appealed to civil servants, particularly those at the Teaching Hospital to embrace hard work by living up to the challenges ahead as well as complement efforts of the new Chief Medical Director who is poised to take the hospital to a higher height.

In his remarks, Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Dr Yanmar Ortese, acknowledged the commitment of the governor in the area of health. He added that Governor Alia was the first governor to comply with the Abuja declaration by allocating 15% to the health sector in the 2024 budget proposal as well as commencement of payment of hazard allowance to Benue health workers.

The Health and Human Services Commissioner, however, appealed that a Teaching Hospital be also established in zone A since zones C and B have one each to cater for the health needs of



Alia

the people. On his part, the Chief Medical Director, CMD, Benue State University Teaching Hospital, BSUTH, Dr Stephen Hwande, acknowledged efforts of Governor Hyacinth Alia in repositioning the health sector especially the teaching hospital. He expressed hope that the 250KVA solar power and the Mental Health Psychosocial Rehabilitation Center would contribute to improving health condition of the people and commended the Vice President for the gesture.

Governor Sani presents N458bn budget to State Assembly

From **John FWAH, Kaduna**

KADUNA State Governor, Senator Uba Sani has proposed a total budget of N458,271,299,477.66 for 2024 which he presented to the State House of Assembly on Monday.

Tagged, "Budget of Rural Transformation for Inclusive Development" he said, N318,836,576,558.28 has been earmarked for Capital Expenditure and N139,434,722,889.38 is for Recurrent Expenditure representing a capital to recurrent ratio of 69.57% to 30.43%.

To this end, education has the largest share of N115,421,129,011.16 or 25.19%, health followed with N71,647,821,975.33 or 15.63%, and the sum of

N93,597,652,206.40 which is one-fifth of the budget or 20.42% is allocated to the economic sector, including agriculture, public works and Infrastructure, and housing.

Governor Sani said, "The draft budget prioritises capital spending in accordance with our SUSTAIN Agenda, which not only aims to deliver inclusive development through the provision of critical infrastructure, especially in our rural communities, but also delivering on social protection and human capital development to reinvigorate the productivity of our people, create jobs and boost the economy.

"The proposed 2024

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

SENATOR Ifeanyi Araraume has warned against the appointment of a fresh non-executive chairman for the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL).

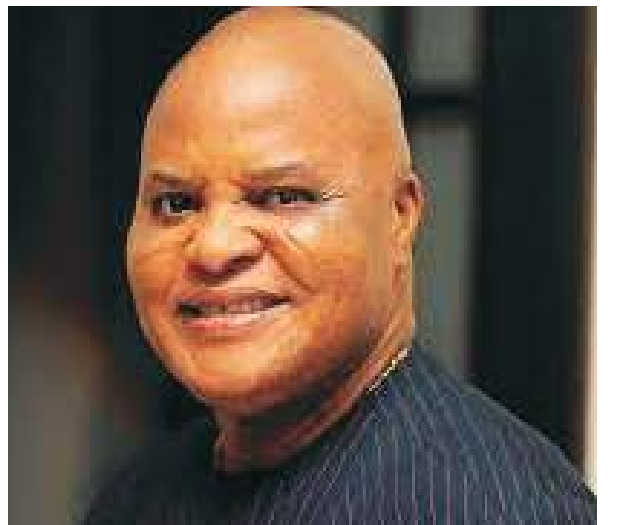
Araraume, who is the recognized chairman of the board, stated that the move by President Bola Tinubu is in breach of an order of court.

In a public notice issued recently by his lawyer, Dr Ogwu Onoja, SAN, Araraume stated that he remains the chairman of the board until ordered otherwise by the court.

The statement read in part, "Our attention has been drawn to the news of the appointment of a new member of NNPC limited board including a new non-executive chairman by the president on the 27th November 2023".

It said it was in violation of the judgment and order of the Federal High Court, Abuja dated 18th April 2023 in suit] no: FHC/ABJ/CS/1621/2022_ between Senator Ifeanyi Godwin Araraume v. The President, Federal Republic

Senator kicks against appointment of new NNPC chair



Araraume

of Nigeria, NNPC limited and Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) where in the court restrained the president from removing the name of Senator Ifeanyi Godwin Araraume from the Corporate Affairs Commission as a non-executive director of NNPC limited.

"This judgment remains valid and subsisting until this movement without being set aside". Araraume then demanded a whopping sum of #10 billion as damages due to the unlawful manner he was removed as chairman, saying his name was used to incorporate the entity.



Sani

"Budget of Rural Transformation for Inclusive Development" has a total Capital Expenditure and budget size of N139,434,722,889.38 is N458,271,299,477.66, of Recurrent expenditure.

Therefore, the draft budget prioritises capital spending in accordance with our SUSTAIN Agenda, which not only aims to deliver inclusive development through the provision of critical infrastructure, especially in our rural communities, but also aims to deliver on social protection and human capital development to reinvigorate the productivity of our people, create jobs and boost the economy.

He said, "This budget has been prepared cognizant of the current economic realities in the country. Removal of subsidy on Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), high inflation, and unification of the exchange rate have made it imperative for sub-national governments to make necessary adjustments in their policy, programme and project considerations.

"States must also adopt fiscal discipline, transparency, and accountability through efficiency in allocation and utilization of available resources.

Sani noted that the House holds great promise for the good people of Kaduna State, adding, "Through the effective implementation of this budget, we shall bridge the gap between the rural and urban areas, revitalize the rural economies, address poverty frontally, empower our people, address our infrastructure deficits, and renew the people's belief in governance and democracy. This is a budget like no other. It is a Life Transforming Budget.

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

FORMER VICE President, Atiku Abubakar has accused an online newspaper of mischief and witch hunt by claiming that he refused to release his academic records.

It would be recalled that the newspaper had reported that Atiku refused to release his academic records despite exposing President Bola Tinubu's own.

But former Vice President Atiku in a statement by his media adviser, Paul said the newspaper did not adhere to any known ethics of journalism and accused it of publishing a story that is neither controversial nor shrouded in a cover-up.

According to him, the report was base are already in public space. The statement emphasized that INEC is the body that is the repository of all relevant documents required by law for any one contesting election into public office. But the newspaper did not write to the electoral body to place a demand for Atiku's documents.

Former Vice President Atiku said he is an alumnus of both ABU Zaria, and the Anglia Ruskin university in the United Kingdom. And none was contacted for his academic records with them.



Atiku

Politics

How Buhari, Buni, others revived APC

THERE were cries and protests from sidelined senior politicians, if you like, the deep members of the party; those who committed their time, energy and other resources to negotiate the formation of the APC. Doors were shuttered on their faces. They were treated poorly. They consequently recoiled into their shells, reliving Bola Ige's "siddon look."

Countless litigations against the party emanating from members and non-members based on varied complaints and interests were so distractive, disruptive and even destructive.

The perceived failure to reward those who contributed to the success of the party by the primary beneficiaries of that success when governments were formed, generated anger and muted internal rebellion. The then leadership of the APC at the national level was in disarray. Many state branches were in crisis.

Worried by the party's tottering towards implosion, immediate-past President Muhammadu Buhari and a few other deep members of the APC came together and used their wisdom and foresight to find ways to rescue the party from a political precipice.

On June 25, 2020, the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the APC met under the sagacious leadership of Buhari and dissolved the crisis-ridden National Working Committee (NWC) led by Adams Oshiomhole, a former governor of Edo state, now senator, and former leader of the country's labour movement.

The NEC created a Caretaker Extraordinary Convention Planning Committee (CECPC) chaired by the governor of Yobe state, Mai Mala Buni, a foundation member of the party and its national secretary prior to becoming a state governor. Membership of the CECPC reflected the diversity of the party's historical origin.

While some members of the dissolved NWC thought of taking legal action against the dissolution of the body, a tactful Oshiomhole heeded Buhari's call by withdrawing his court case against the party and accepted the disbanding of the NWC by the National Executive Committee.

Caretaker Chairman, Buni,

There was a time the All Progressives Congress (APC) was in a serious crisis of self doubt, which almost tore it apart. That situation largely resulted from internal squabbles, a quarrelsome struggle for supremacy and an unimaginative management of electoral success and growing membership size, writes DANBATTA.



Buhari

and members of his committee rebuilt the party so successfully that it made an inroad into the South-east, expanded its membership base nationwide and among states and national assembly members. This made APC the second largest political party in Africa, after the older African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa.

A delighted Buhari severally praised Governor Buni and members of the caretaker committee for rebuilding the party and making it trustworthy for the electorate ahead of the 2023 general elections.

The then president himself was praised by the APC which heartily felicitates with him on December 16, 2023 on the occasion of his 81st birthday anniversary.

The APC said in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary Felix Morka that, "As two-term president, your administration did a commendable job of laying an enduring foundation for the development and greatness of our dear country."

The party described Muhammadu Buhari as "Legendary for his unparalleled integrity, incorruptibility and uncanny dedication to nation building, we celebrate a visionary leader, elder statesman, patriot and democrat."

In a similar birthday message, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu described Buhari's leadership qualities as peerless and noted the

former president's unparalleled record in contribution to the development of Nigeria.

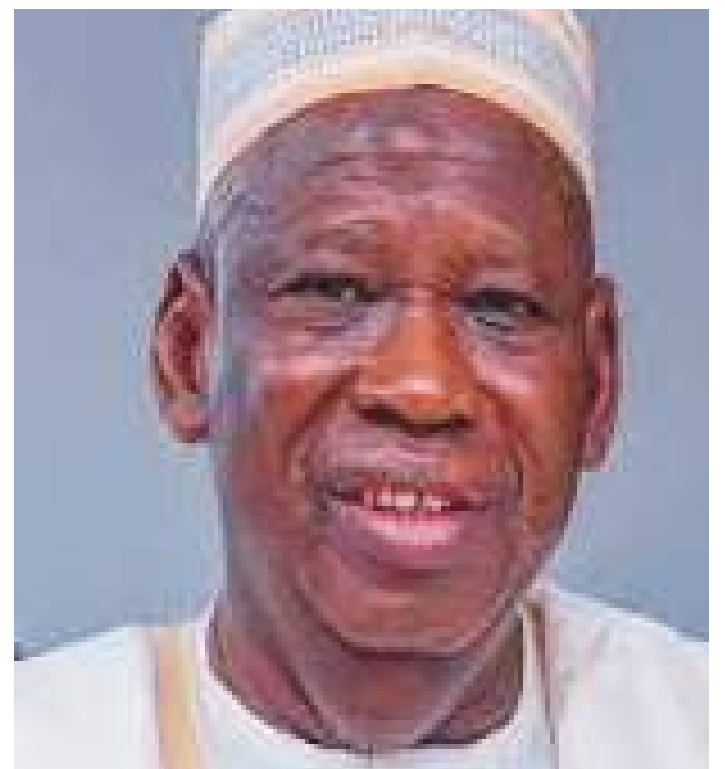
The now rested CECPC organised a national convention at which a fresh corps of leaders was elected. The new team led the party to win more state governorship and legislative seats in the general elections. Topping that success was the election of Asiwaju Tinubu as president of Nigeria.

In a television interview, Buni recalled that despite attempts to cause confusion, he and members of his team did not fumble or failed in reviving the APC, strengthening it and turning it into a leading party that resoundingly won the 2023 general elections.

Dambatta is APC National Director of Publicity on leave.



Buni



Gaduje

"The perceived failure to reward those who contributed to the success of the party by the primary beneficiaries of that success when governments were formed, generated anger and muted internal rebellion. The then leadership of the APC at the national level was in disarray. Many state branches were in crisis. Worried by the party's tottering towards implosion, immediate-past President Muhammadu Buhari and a few other deep members of the APC came together and used their wisdom and foresight to find ways to rescue the party from a political precipice. On June 25, 2020, the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the APC met under the sagacious leadership of Buhari and dissolved the crisis-ridden National Working Committee (NWC) led by Adams Oshiomhole, a former governor of Edo state, now senator, and former leader of the country's labour movement"

IMAGES

GOVERNOR MUTFWANG AT BOOK DEDICATION

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang on Sunday attended the formal dedication of the History of COCIN Headquarters held at the Compound Church, Jos



Governor Mutfwang delivering his message



Prof. Nuhu Dakum making remarks during the book dedication



COCIN President, Rev. Dr. Amos Musa Mohzo commenting on the history of COCIN Headquarters and dedicated the book



Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, wife Barr. Mrs. Helen Mutfwang and others at the ceremony



Cross section of members of the State Executive Council



Copies of the books being dedicated by the COCIN President



Cross section of the Governor's Aides at the book dedication ceremony



Former President of COCIN, retired Rev. Prof. Soja Bewarang presenting his remarks

Politics

Gov Sani: Election petition victory and service delivery

For Senator Uba Sani, Governor of Kaduna state, the Court of Appeal's dismissal of the petition by Isa Ashiru Kudan, candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and the affirmation of his victory in the March 2023 elections was a validation of the people's will. More importantly, it was a welcome relief from a needless distraction that had, without doubt, adversely affected governance. EMMANUEL ADO writes.

THOUGH the governor clearly won the election fair and square, the election petition was upsetting because there was never a guarantee of how the judicial pendulum will swing. We have seen frivolous cases, minor slips or extraneous matters leading to severe consequences. So, election petitions are psychologically nerve wracking.

Under such uncertainties, there was no way Governor Sani or any other elected official could have the desired peace of mind to focus on the delivery of his campaign promises.

The obviously elated and relieved Uba Sani said: "It is now time to peacefully move forward and continue to work hard for the people of Kaduna without distractions, as the task ahead of us is huge".

The effect of what has become drawn out election, and most times unnecessary legal challenges, should worry Nigerians, due its adverse cost on governance and on the judiciary that is often saddled with the flimsiest of electoral cases, such that pre-and post election cases have become the norm. According to the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Olukayode Ariwoola, at the commencement of the 2023/2024 legal year, a total of 1,271 appeals and motions were filed in the 2022/2023 legal year, of which 388 were political appeals. Also, of the 251 judgements delivered in the period under review, 125 were political cases. This should be a wake up call to major stakeholders to address the problem.

Considering the backbreaking workload of judges, it's high time the law is amended so that most appeals can terminate at the Court of Appeal, such that only certain matters related to interpretation of the law would get to the Supreme Court. But the ideal will be for politicians to accept defeat.

Unfortunately, just as petitions for the 2023 elections are gradually being disposed off, petitions are already flooding in from the off season elections recently held in Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa states; and from events already playing out for next year's Edo and Ondo states elections, it is logical to expect more election cases because the average Nigerian politician is a bad loser.

Now that the Court of Appeal has rightly thrown out Isa Ashiru Kudan's petition in a unanimous judgement due to the inexplicable failure of his lawyers to fully comply with the provisions of paragraph 18 of the First Schedule to the Electoral Act, 2022, it's hoped that Isa Ashiru Kudan will congratulate Governor Uba Sani



Sani

and join hands with him to move Kaduna state forward.

The truth is that, head or tail, it's a herculean task as things stand, for Isa Ashiru Kudan to convince the Supreme Court to order a rerun election considering the well considered judgement of the Court of Appeal that he doesn't have a good case. It's Isa Ashiru Kudan's choice, to be defeated four times by Uba Sani, who has, so far, defeated him at the general election, the election tribunal and Court of Appeal.

While the petition, undoubtedly, distracted Uba Sani, he has nonetheless shown an unwavering commitment to deliver on his undeniably constructive, and progressive campaign promises encapsulated as Sustain; aimed at Sustaining The Progress, which have been designed to achieve specific objectives geared towards the greater good of Kaduna state people. Like they say, the morning shows the day.

With his steady steps since his swearing in on May 29, 2023, Governor Uba Sani has shown that his spectacular performance as Senate Committee Chairman on Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions was not a fluke. He had sponsored more than 12 consequential bills, of which three were signed into law, a remarkable feat for a single-term senator.

During his eventful time at the upper legislative chamber, Uba Sani had shown keen interest in security issues, including

federal security services.

"We strengthened the manpower and overall operational capacity of the Kaduna Vigilance Service (KADVS), because of the challenge of inadequate personnel to successfully wage the battle against bandits and other criminal elements. It's our hope that with their knowledge of the local environment, bandits will now have no hiding place", said the governor.

Another area that the governor has prioritised is human capital development. An assessment of skills in the public and private sectors of Kaduna state citizens had showed an alarming gap, which has denied them the opportunity of playing in the fast changing fields of the 21st Century, and to contribute effectively to the economic development of the state. The effect of the skills deficit is that jobs that would have ordinarily gone to local residents are handled by foreigners, hence the construction of the Kaduna State Vocational and Technology Skills City.

The establishment of a vocational and technology skills city, a life changing initiative, is to help retool and upskill the capacity of beneficiaries to handle technical and technological tasks, and make them employable in strategic sectors of the economy. The target is to train 400 participants every quarter, a total of 1,600 trainees in one year. Successful graduands would be helped to acquire necessary certifications in Microsoft/CISCO/Huawei systems, oil and gas services, welding and fabrication, automobile gas conversion, etc.

Another area that is dear to Uba Sani is the welfare of the people, and the Solar-For-All project, an initiative of Kaduna Power Supply Company. To implement the project, the government has entered into an agreement with Basscomm Nigeria Limited and Eneriv Power Limited for the

provision of solar power to civil servants under the Solar-For-All programme. The initiative is a win-win for the people, considering the epileptic power supply, and for the government which is committed to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which the provision of renewable energy is a critical component.

Governor Sani can always be counted upon to embrace any programme that will make life easier for the people. Plans are in top gear to extend the solar power programme to other residents of the state.

Other programmes that have been implemented in the last few months include the construction of boreholes under the PEWASH programme in Kubau and Makarfi local government areas of the state, in furtherance of the Sustain Agenda, to increase access to water supply in rural areas across the state.

Like the Nasir El-Rufai administration, the new regime has continued a strategic engagement with several development partners. Some Middle-East countries like U.A.E. and Qatar have openly keyed into the partnership, with commitments to projects in agriculture, renewable energy, among others.

Thankfully, Uba Sani understands that he must deliver on his SUSTAIN Agenda, the central thrust of which is rural transformation through massive infrastructural development. His 2024 "Budget of Rural Transformation For Inclusive Development" has confirmed that fidelity to his electoral promises. If the morning truly shows the day, then it promises to be a great day, a time of bountiful harvest, for Kaduna state residents under Governor Uba Sani.

Ado writes from Kaduna.

"Considering the backbreaking workload of judges, it's high time the law is amended so that most appeals can terminate at the Court of Appeal, such that only certain matters related to interpretation of the law would get to the Supreme Court. But the ideal will be for politicians to accept defeat. Unfortunately, just as petitions for the 2023 elections are gradually being disposed off, petitions are already flooding in from the off season elections recently held in Kogi, Imo and Bayelsa states; and from events already playing out for next year's Edo and Ondo states elections, it is logical to expect more election cases because the average Nigerian politician is a bad loser."

News

Mutfwang urges citizens to be selfless in God's work

BY PETER TITLE

THE Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has enjoined the people of the state to rise above ethnic and religious differences, and channel their efforts towards issues that would yield tangible democratic dividends for the state and promote selfless service to God and humanity.

He made the call on Sunday during the formal dedication of the History of the Church Of Christ In Nations (COCIN), Headquarters Church in Jos, held at the Compound Church, Jos, Plateau State.

Governor Mutfwang, who emphasized on the significance of history for any nation's survival, lauded the book as essential for steering COCIN Church towards continued faith and development.

Reflecting on his past involvement with the church since the 1980s, initially as a student and later as a speaker, he commended the Church's initiative and described it as a positive step towards taking it to greater heights.

According to him, the Church should maintain unity and steadfastness in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ, and underscored its



Mutfwang

pivotal role in the broader Nigerian Church context.

"We must not fail the church. May God ignite our hearts with this burden and fire, bringing glory to Him. To those who have labored here, may God bless you abundantly; may He help us finish strong."

Governor Mutfwang described COCIN Church as a pathfinder and a trailblazer, envisioning God's spirit flowing through it to foster enduring unity across Plateau and Nigeria as a nation.

During the book dedication, COCIN President, Rev. Amos Mohzo, expressed gratitude

for God's enablement in documenting the church's history for future reference. He encouraged the congregation to acquire a copy to learn about the church's history, growth, and development.

Taking a text from 1 Timothy 1:18-20, Rev. Sylvester Dachomo, the Reverend in charge of the COCIN Headquarters Church, emphasized the value of a good conscience as a priceless treasure, fostering peace, tolerance, and right living with God. He urged the congregation to heed their conscience in decision-making.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Chief Executive Officer, Connected Development a Civil Society Organisation, Ambassador Hamzat Lawal has called for peaceful coexistence among the people of Kogi State in order to pave room for economic and infrastructural development in the state.

Ambassador Lawal made the call when he paid a visit to the Ohimegye Igu of Koton-Karfe Kingdom, His Royal MAJESTY, Abdulrazak Gambo Isah-Koto in Kogi Local Government Area of the state as part of his post election advocacy visit to the kingdom.

According to him, Kogi State government under the leadership of Governor Yahaya Bello, has done a lot in ensuring that the people of the state, despite their diverse ethnic groups and religions, were able to live peacefully with one another.

He said the traditional leaders in Kogi State have roles to play to complement the effort of the governor through constant preaching of peace and the need for people to live a life devoid of crisis in order to enjoy the dividends of democracy.

"Knowing fully well that you are a first class king and a peaceful traditional ruler which you demonstrated during the last governorship election in your domain, you still have a role to play in ensuring that the existing peace in your kingdom continues."

Why we established Eternal Home Cemetery

From Musliudeen Adebayo, Ibadan

THE Chairman of Eternal Home Cemetery, Major General Olayinka Kamil Kadiri (OFR) has explained the rationale behind the establishment of the cemetery.

Kadiri made this declaration while speaking during the end of year party held at the cemetery located at Km 25 Ibadan-Oyo Express Road, Motunde AFJIO Local Government Area in Oyo State recently.

The event, which was held within the premises of the cemetery, was attended by government officials from the state, security agents, staff and religious leaders and friends of the family.

Kadiri who was flanked by his wife, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the cemetery, Dr. Adebukola Kadiri, noted that the establishment of the cemetery was conceived so as to provide a safe place for the dead.

He added that the idea was conceived so as to reduce the menace of theft of corpses and body parts of the people who have been buried.

The Chairman of the cemetery maintained that the cemetery was established to ensure safety of the dead at all times.

He said, "Eternal home was conceived about three years ago as an idea on paper without thought that it could materialise. The idea materialised into what we are celebrating today."

"We established this to ensure that the loved ones that are dead are safe. To prevent the issue of theft of the bodies of the dead ones.

Coexist in peace to pave-way for development - CSO CEO



Lawal

"In the last off-cycle governorship election, the people of Koton-Karfe came out en-mass to cast their ballot peacefully and this happened through your continuous sensitization and encouragement you gave to your people."

"In the last eight years, Kogi State had enjoyed relative peace and I know the role you played working tirelessly with His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello to achieve the feat for the people of your kingdom."

"As the governor-elect takes over the leadership of the state on January 27th, 2023, it is expedient that we join hands to support the new government

for the progress of the state" he said.

Responding, the Ohimege Igu of Kotonkarfe, Alhaji Abdulrazak Isah-Koto, said he had heard much about the visiting CEO and expressed confidence that the new administration will be successful.

The royal father thanked him for demonstrating love for the community through empowerment, adding that the people would continue to pray for him and the government.

Highlight of the visit was the presentation of N5000 each to 100 vulnerable people in Kogi Local Government Area.

"It is a necessity to keep our dead ones in a befitting place. I want to thank all of us for coming".

Mrs. Kadiri while speaking, said that the private cemetery is not just a cemetery but a place that offers best of service to ensure loved ones rest well.

She said that "We decided to celebrate our achievements which happened to be our end of the year party. And to let the spouses of the staff know where their spouses are working is not just a place."

"Let me tell you something, I am a Muslim by birth, I came from a Muslim background and what the Qur'an says is that anyone that takes part in the burial of any Muslim, you have a reward for that."

"It is not all about fashion, we should think about our loved ones that are dead. That is why I decided to set it up".

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

Alumni reaffirms commitment to Institution's development

By FWENJI GOAR

A call has been made to alumni associations to maintain their pivotal role in advancing educational institutions.

This was contained in a message delivered by the Vice Chancellor of Tai Solarin University of Education, Prof. O. S. Banjo, recently, at the 2023 national convention of the Nawair Ud Deen Grammar School Old

Students Association, held in Abeokuta.

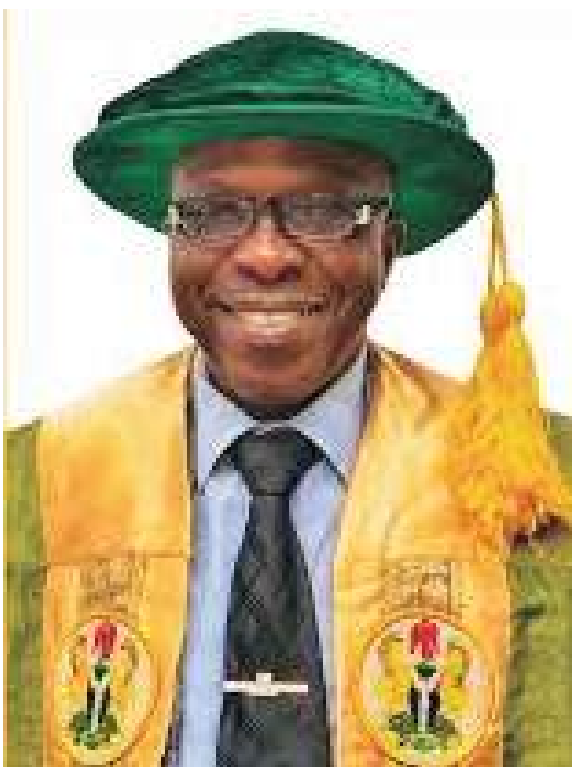
Addressing a diverse gathering of former students, Prof. Banjo emphasized the crucial need for sustained support and nurturing of educational institutions. He underscored the vital role alumni associations play as a backbone for schools, advocating for their continuous involvement in uplifting their alma mater.

"Alumni associations are the lifelines that breathe vitality into educational institutions," Prof. Banjo remarked. He outlined various aspects where alumni associations can make substantial contributions, citing their significance in fostering togetherness, acting as ambassadors, providing support systems, and offering expertise.

The distinguished professor stressed the importance of alumni networks in aiding current students, citing how alumni support enhances employability through mentorship, scholarships, and career guidance.

Prof. Banjo further highlighted areas where alumni can support their alma mater, including infrastructural development, provision of essential tools, support for teachers and administrators, and crucial funding initiatives.

"Old students' associations are not merely nostalgic gatherings; they are powerhouses capable of revitalizing and projecting their alma mater to greater heights," Prof. Banjo affirmed. He underscored the reciprocal benefits for alumni members, including inspiration, financial support avenues, and



Banjo

News

CSO empowers over 500 women In Kogi

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

As part of efforts to put smile a on the faces of the people at the grassroot, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Connected Development, Ambassador, Hamzat Lawal, has empowered over 500 women with cash to improve their livelihoods.

The empowerment programme which was part of the post election sensitization advocacy to the grassroots on the need to sustain the existing peace in the state and to set agenda for the incoming administration in Kogi State, was organized by one of the leading Civil Society Organizations, "Connected Development."

The programme took place in Adavi, Kogi-Koton Karfe, Okehi and Okene Local Government Areas of Kogi State.

Addressing the beneficiaries during the post election sensitization and advocacy in Okene recently, Ambassador Lawal said the empowerment was a token to appreciate women for coming out en-mass to cast their ballots peacefully during the November 11, 2023 off-cycle governorship election in Kogi State.

Lawal who is also an international election monitor, noted that as a philanthropist, he has to complement the effort of the state government in eradicating poverty at the grassroots. He urged other spirited individuals and corporate organizations to consolidate on what the government had been doing to ameliorate the suffering of the less privileged in the state.

I think that as CSO, individual and private sector,



Bello

we should consolidate on what the government is doing to eradicate poverty, especially at the grassroots.

"This cash empowerment which is N5,000 per recipient, we targeted 500 people in different wards across the state. We have reached out to 100 vulnerable people in Koton-Karfe at Ohimeyge Igu palace, 200 people at Oboroke in Ihima, 100 beneficiaries at Abuga Ozuja ward in Okengwe and 100 people at Onyi-koko ward in Okene.

"This empowerment is mainly meant for women because they are peace builders and the fabric of the society. I am using this medium to appeal to women to prioritize the education of their children and wards. I am here today because of how much my mother has invested in me through education and I want every parent to do same," he said.

Ambassador Lawal earlier visited the Nigeria Union of

Journalists, to meet with all working journalists in the state in an interactive session to fashion out the possible way to ensure the success of the incoming administration in Kogi State.

Ambassador Lawal also took the post election advocacy to Onoziomi Central Mosque in Adavi LGA where he charged Muslims faithful to remain peaceful even in the face of provocation, noting that Islam is a religion of peace.

One of the beneficiaries of the empowerment, Mrs Hafsat Suleiman from Oboroke in Ihima community, described the gesture as a big relief to women at the grassroots. She added that "This is the first time an individual will come to the ward for post election advocacy and also presenting cash to the people.

She thanked Ambassador Lawal for his kind gesture and urged other well meaning Nigerians to emulate him.

tragic incident is thoroughly investigated with a view to compensating victims and taking corrective measures to prevent future occurrence.

The communiqué also said that "The Forum resolved to stand united in its commitment to addressing those challenges through enhanced collaboration with security agencies, strengthening local law enforcement, community engagement, adoption of modern technology and administrative reforms, as well as addressing the root causes of insecurity such as poverty, unemployment and deepening social inequality.

Adding further, "The Forum further resolved to collectively fastrack regional integration through investment in infrastructure, human capital development, trade, commerce, agriculture, environment, digital economy and cultural exchanges.

"The Forum received briefing on the activities of the New Nigerian Development Company (NNDC) by the Group Managing Director and accordingly constituted a committee to review the report of the earlier committee on NNDC operations with a view to repositioning the company for greater productivity and profitability.

It also collectively resolved to support the Kaduna State Government and victims of the unfortunate incidence of bombing at Tudun Biri community, Igabi Local Government Area by donating the sum of one hundred and eighty million Naira (N180,000,000.00) only to the victims".

The next meeting of the Forum would be held on 2nd March, 2024.

Northern Governors Forum donates N180m to Tudun Biri

From JOHN FWAH, Kaduna

The Northern Governors Forum has collectively resolved to support the Kaduna State Government and victims of the unfortunate incidence of bombing at Tudun Biri community, Igabi Local Government Area by donating the sum of One Hundred and Eighty Million Naira (N180,000,000.00) only to the victims.

This was contained in a communique signed by the Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya at the end of a one day inaugural meeting held in Kaduna recently.

"The Forum commiserate with

the Government and people of Kaduna State over the unfortunate bombing incident at the Tudun Biri Community of Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State during which some members of the community lost their lives and properties while others who sustained various degrees of injuries are currently receiving treatment in various hospitals.

It prayed for the repose of the souls of those who lost their lives and speedy recovery for the injured and for God to grant the families of the deceased the fortitude to bear the loss.

It appreciated Kaduna State and Federal Government for the way and manner they handled the unfortunate incident so far.

"The Forum resolved to work collectively to ensure that the



INUWA



Security agencies, sirens and the rest of us

RIDING on our roads are very perilous these days not only from the threats of bad roads, kidnapping and banditry but also from the dangers posed by siren blaring and reckless security agents. For all they care, nobody has the right to use the roads except them. This mentality existed since the interference of the military in politics and the consequent militarisation of our politics. Since the unfortunate interruption, security agencies have, and are still, arrogating to themselves unnecessary importance in spite of the return to civilian and democratic governance.

Unfortunately, the civil population has towed the same line and has refused to de-militarise itself. Once on the road, nobody else matters. It is understandable when it is an emergency. Indeed, right thinking people know that they have to give way when such situations arise. Sadly, however, this is not the case in our country. There have been many cases of the molestations of innocent road users by this set of people who feel that traffic laws are beneath them and therefore, of little or no consequences to them.

This unfortunate and sad attitude continue to be ignored and has become a silent and acceptable norm in our society. Just like everyone is complaining about in-discipline, so too we need to speak up about law officers breaking the law. They must lead by example if they are to have the moral ground to correct others. They beat traffic lights and expect bloody civilians to obey the lights. They drive against traffic to ensure that roads are cleared for use by all and sundry. We cannot continue to disobey our laws forming some kind of immunity when we are supposed to display the highest moral values so as to serve as examples to others.

We continue to whine about indiscipline when everything about us portrays our senselessness. The security agencies must note that they owe their existing to the society and must work to serve the

public. They enjoy certain privileges because of the special roles they play in the society. But they must pay the society back by providing services that allows it run seamlessly. They cannot and should not continue constituting themselves into a clog in the wheel of the growth and progress of the society. They must therefore, subjugate themselves to civil authority. It is not right to ride a motorbike when the law has banned the use of this mode of transportation in an area or at a certain period. Anything short of this is unacceptable and should not be condoned.

The leadership of these agencies must put in place deliberate measures too to ensure that these agencies are trained in such a manner not to see themselves as above the law. If we are to entrench

“
Unfortunately, the civil population has towed the same line and has refused to de-militarise itself. Once on the road, nobody else matters. It is understandable when it is an emergency. Indeed, right thinking people know that they have to give way when such situations arise. Sadly, however, this is not the case in our country. There have been many cases of the molestations of innocent road users by this set of people who feel that traffic laws are beneath them and therefore, of little or no consequences to them.
”

discipline, everyone must be conscious of the fact that a law compliant society is one that is ready and willing to develop. And if we must develop as a society, we must chase indiscipline and corruption out of our society, or at, least curb it to the barest minimum.

We are being eaten up by cultism

Our streets and neighbourhoods are not what they used to be in times past. You could walk the streets at any time and feel safe but not anymore. Our children have imported cultism into our streets and are living dangerous lives. They kill at the slightest provocation and have become laws on our streets. It is common knowledge that you cannot freely walk the streets of Jentan Adamu, Rukuba road, Utan or Apata without being molested. The security agencies need to look with seriousness at the activities of these miscreants and cleanse our streets of these dregs of society.

Parents too have an important part to play in dealing with this menace. They must take responsibility for their children. They must know what company these children keep and must work seriously during their formative years so as to avoid unpleasant consequences in the future. And, we must also return to our communal ways of doing things where all children were considered to belong to the entire community and when they run foul of any law, any member of the community can deal with them without recourse to their parents.

To curb the activities of these set of people too, we must deal with the drug menace and those producing them. Society cannot continue to sit by watching its young population being decimated by drug use. The Drug Enforcement Agency must be positively engaged to provide leadership in this fight and those dealing in these illicit drugs must be exposed. They live in our communities. They are not ghosts. Neither are they spirits. Unless society rises to the occasion and fights these scourges to a standstill, we run the risk of losing our future leaders to the sad reality that is facing us as a people.

News

Deputy Gov counsels Customs officers on good leadership

Willie Attah, Gombe

GOMBE State Deputy Governor, Manasseh Daniel Jatau (PhD), has described good leadership as one of the major factors propelling development in any organization.

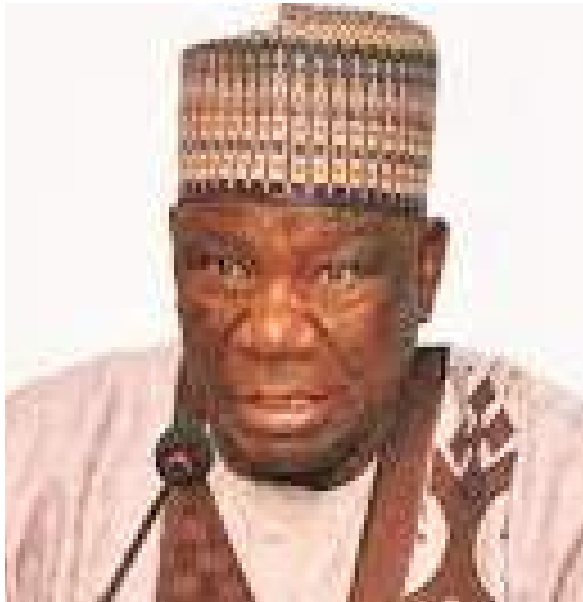
The Deputy Governor, himself a retired Deputy Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs, said in a paper he presented as a Guest Speaker at the Comptroller General of Customs Conference, that leadership plays a pivotal role in triggering development in organizations.

The event which took place at the Intercontinental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos, had in attendance many officers of the NCS.

He said, "The consequences of bad leadership has been the bane of development decades after decades in spite of abundant human and natural resources".

Dr. Manasseh who called on the leadership of the Nigerian Customs to be vibrant, exemplary and exhibit high sense of resilience in the midst of daunting challenges, stressed that it is the panacea to successful service delivery.

According to him, "leaders



Manasseh

are expected to ensure that organizations are effective, be they public or private".

He stressed also that the 'death' of numerous private organizations, banks, airlines and many others and the experience of Nigerians after the privatization where the sellers were the buyers, are pointers that ownership structure has nothing to do with effectiveness.

He observed that effective organizations are those that adapt more efficiently to environmental and internal challenges. "The fallacy that the ownership

structure of organizations determines effectiveness or otherwise should be discarded by now", he emphasized.

He therefore challenged leaders to be relevant, responsible, resilient and adaptive in order to address challenges facing organizations in critical periods.

The Comptroller General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, called for a paradigm shift to open governance, not just as a trend but a complete transformation for greater productivity.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE management of the Kogi State Internal Revenue Service (KGIRS), under the leadership of Alhaji Saliyu Sule Enehe, has announced a substantial increase in revenue collection which amounted to N23bn in six years.

According to Enehe, the Service has elevated the collection of revenue from the N250 million recorded about five years ago to over N18 billion in 2022.

In a similar vein, the revenue body takes pride in engaging 450 Kogites from various professions, with a notable accomplishment being the signing of the 2017 revenue harmonization law.

The Director of Administration at KGIRS, Abubakar Mohammed Bello, shared this information during the Round Table Discussion organized by the Nigerian Post Newspaper at the NUJ Press Centre, in Lokoja, Kogi State.

The event focused on the theme "KGIRS: Revenue Generation, Yesterday,

KGIRS generates N23bn in six years

Today, Tomorrow."

Bello, represented by the Head of Corporate Communications of the Service, Mal. Mohammed M. Idris, highlighted the significance of manpower development and staff welfare enhancement in the success of revenue generation.

He emphasized that the management has prioritized these factors, starting the year with comprehensive staff training on taxation principles, attitudinal change, and managerial skills.

"To boost the morale of the workforce, all legitimate accumulated outstanding commitments due to staff and related arrears were cleared.

"To further enhance welfare, staff salary scales and steps, coupled with periodic increments, were developed and implemented among other measures."

The Director of Administration expressed gratitude to the state Governor, Alhaji Yahaya

Bello, for contributing to the success of the Service.

He acknowledged the governor's support, including the seamless implementation of full autonomy, process automation, employment of over 450 Kogites from various professions, and the signing of the 2017 revenue harmonization law.

To ensure the Service remains well-equipped, Bello mentioned that the management undertook initiatives such as replacing worn and damaged furniture, providing additional equipment, and servicing official vehicles.

Earlier in the event, Mr. Mike Abu, the Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper, stated that the discussion focused on gathering various views and opinions of stakeholders, to serve as an agenda-setting exercise for the incoming government of Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, billed to be sworn in on January 27, 2024.

JUTH CMD admonishes FUSHSO students on hard work

From TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi

STUDENTS of Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo, have been admonished to be

hard working, determined, dedicated and always strive for academic excellence.

Chief Medical Director, Jos University Teaching Hospital, Jos, Plateau State, Dr. Pokop Bupwatda, gave the advice at the maiden public lecture in the series of the Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo, Benue South Senatorial District, recently.

The CMD who spoke to the guests at the event SUNDAY STANDARD in an interview on the sideline, said as a thorough bred professional, the students should count it a rare privilege to be nursed by the vice chancellor as quality medical professionals.

pioneer VC was someone who pursues his vision irrespective of daunting challenges.

He said the team Professor Ujah has put in place was an assemblage of great minds. And expressed the hope that the institution in the nearest future will become a model for the training of world class healthcare professionals.

The medic who was one of the guests at the event explained that when an institution of learning has quality lecturers, it is sure of producing quality students who will in turn become the nation's high quality medical professionals.

Church empowers over 3,000 less privileged

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

AS part of its yearly Community Based Outreach (CBO), the Christ Image Assembly (CiA) with headquarters in Lagos, has empowered over three thousand (3,000) less privileged persons, donating wrappers, rice and other items in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

This gesture took place recently, at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium Jos, where beneficiaries drawn from all faiths trooped in to receive their special gifts prepared by the leadership of the ministry ahead of the Christmas celebrations.

Presenting the items to the excited crowd at the venue, the Senior Pastor and Overseer of Christ Image Assembly, Bode Orekoya, said, "God is not only God in heaven, but God in heaven and earth and on the earth, He created men to represent Him.

"That is why God would not physically come to help people. He will be using people to help themselves and that is why He raised up the Church so that they can fully represent Him here for the will of God to be run on earth as it is in heaven.

"So, if the love of God is to be shown to men in a practical way because God is Spirit, He will use those of us who are representing Him in the body of Christ to show that mercy. And that is the commission we are just obeying. We are just obeying why we were created to make sure that we can connect people to God to know how God loves them", he enthused.

According to the man of God, "You know, there is something that always gives one joy in life. It is when you see another person happy because of what you did to him. That

kind of joy is not what money can buy and you will feel fulfilled. Also, when God is happy with you, it is enough.

"God came for everybody, be it Muslim or Christian and Jesus died for mankind. In fact, they say He died for sinners and that He came for the sick and the healthy people for they need no treatment. So, this gesture is for everybody! God loves every mankind and He wants every man to come to Him. He does not want anybody to be a candidate of hell fire", Orekoya encouraged.

On his part, the representative of Nigerian Evangelical Mission Association (NEMA) in Plateau State, David Okoye, commended CiA for this great gesture. He emphasised that, "Jesus said since you did it to the least of His people, you have done it to Him. So, you can see that Jesus is being demonstrated here by showing the love of

Jesus which Christ did in the same way.

Also, the International Director of Mission and Network for Christ Image Assembly, (C.I.A), Evangelist Lekan Amusan, disclosed that the programme started on Thursday December 14, 2023 with counseling, ministering, administering medical attention to over 2,500 people as it climaxed with the presentation of items which happened to be the 19th edition.

However, it was a celebration galore at the Rwang Pam Stadium, the venue of the programme in Jos, the state capital as beneficiaries were seen dancing home with new wrappers, bags of rice and other items. Aisha Yahaya Ahmed, Martha Aniha and Samuel Dadung, prayed to God to continue to bless the ministry to continue to do more for the less privileged people.



Bupwatda

Foreign Commentary

Yemen's Houthis 'will not stop' Red Sea attacks until Israel ends Gaza war

YEMEN'S Houthis will not halt attacks on ships linked to Israel in the Red Sea, despite the United States announcing a new maritime protection force to counter them, a spokesperson for the rebel group said.

"Even if America succeeds in mobilising the entire world, our military operations will not stop ... no matter the sacrifices it costs us," Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a senior Houthi official, said in a post on X on Tuesday.

The Houthis would only halt their attacks if Israel's "crimes in Gaza stop and food, medicines and fuel are allowed to reach its besieged population", al-Bukhaiti said.

He spoke after US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin [announced](#) a coalition on Monday to protect trade in the Red Sea after the attacks forced shipping lines to suspend operations.

The Iran-linked Houthis have waged attacks on more than a dozen commercial ships in an attempt to pressure Israel to end its bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

"These reckless Houthi attacks are a serious international problem and they demand a firm international response," Austin said about the new 10-nation coalition. He said the force would operate "with the goal of ensuring freedom of navigation for all countries and bolstering regional security and prosperity".

After the US announcement, Houthi Major General Yusuf al-Madani said in a statement: "Any escalation in Gaza is an escalation in the Red Sea ... Any country or party that comes between us and Palestine, we will confront it."

Spokesperson al-Bukhaiti told Al Jazeera on Monday that the group would confront any US-led coalition in the Red Sea.

"You have the military establishment in Yemen, in the areas controlled by the Houthis, warning that they will continue to target ships cruising through the Bab el-Mandeb strait and the Red Sea and they insist they are doing this to protect people in Gaza, in particular," Al Jazeera's Hashem Ahelbarra said, reporting from Doha on Tuesday.

"A top Houthi official, Mohammed Abdulsalam, who is also a senior negotiator, said the attacks by the Houthis are not an act of defiance but if this new coalition is adamant on launching attacks, then they will have to bear the consequences of what he described as a broader conflict in the region.

"But he said at the same time that the Houthis are still adamant on the need for the Israelis to stop the war if they want the Houthis to stop the attacks," our correspondent added.

On Tuesday, Abdulsalam told Reuters news agency



Houthis

that the US-led naval patrol mission is "essentially unnecessary" - as all waters near Yemen are still safe, except for Israel-linked ships or vessels travelling to Israel.

The US and British navies said over the weekend that their destroyers had shot down a total of 15 drones in the waterway.

In the latest incident on Tuesday, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, said four small boats, each carrying four to five people, approached a vessel off the coast of Djibouti in a "suspicious" manoeuvre - but that no weapons were seen during the incident.

At least 12 shipping companies, including the Italian-Swiss giant

Five people feared dead in suspected ADF attack in Uganda

At least five people were killed, including a local leader, after suspected rebels from an armed group allied to ISIL (ISIS) attacked an area in western Uganda late on Monday, the area legislator told Reuters on Tuesday.

On Monday, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacked Kyabandara parish in Kamwenge district in Western Uganda at about 10pm (19:00 GMT), the lawmaker, Cuthbert Abigaba, said.

The attackers then killed a local councillor whom they found in a small roadside restaurant she operated alongside four of her clients who had just sat down for a meal, Abigaba said.

"After the killing, they burnt the restaurant and also proceeded and looted items from nearby shops before fleeing," he said.

The deputy spokesperson for Uganda's military, Deo Akiiki, confirmed the attack and said they would give details later.

The ADF was formed as an anti-Kampala rebel group in

Mediterranean Shipping Company, France's CMA CGM and Denmark's AP Moller-Maersk, have [suspended](#) transit through the Red Sea due to safety concerns. UK oil giant BP on Monday became the latest firm to announce it would avoid the waters.

Houthi attacks have effectively rerouted a significant portion of global trade by forcing freight companies to sail around Africa, imposing higher costs and delays for energy, food and consumer goods deliveries.

About 12 percent of global trade passes through the Red Sea, which connects to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal, including 30 percent of container traffic.

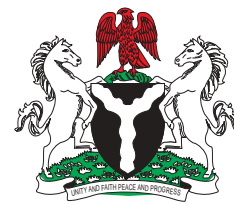
the mid-1990s and initially battled the government of President Yoweri Museveni from bases in the Rwenzori mountains.

After its formation, the group was eventually routed by the Ugandan army, with remnants fleeing into eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo where they have since orchestrated deadly attacks with thousands of casualties in the last decade across both countries.

The ADF in 2019 pledged allegiance to ISIL, which has previously claimed responsibility for some of the ADF's attacks.

Uganda launched a ground and air campaign against the ADF in the DR Congo in 2021. Museveni has said the operation has succeeded in killing a large number of rebels, including some commanders.

The group has continued to carry out attacks including on a school in Western Uganda in June in which dozens died and another that killed two foreign tourists and their Ugandan tour guide.



BASSA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

INVITATION TO TENDER

Bassa Local Government council wishes to invite competent and reputable contractors with good track records of performance to submit tender for the execution of the under-listed projects:

- 1.0 Renovation of area court at Jebbu Bassa
- 2.0 Completion of primary school at Nyakala in Rukuba Chiefdom.
- 3.0 Renovation of Primary Health Care at Kwasha in Irigwe Chiefdom.
- 4.0 Installation of 500KVA Transformer at Zagun in Rukuba Chiefdom
- 4.1 Construction of 3x3m Box culvert and erosion control at Kasancham in Rukuba Chiefdom
- 4.2 Construction of 3x3m Box culvert and erosion control at Hukke in Irigwe Chiefdom.
- 4.3 Construction of a 3 cell Box- culvert at Kasuru in Pengana Chiefdom.

REQUIREMENT / QUALIFICATION FOR TENDER

The following are required to be submitted before the closing date

- i. Evidence of registration for tender with Bassa L.G.C
- ii. Evidence of registration with C.A.C
- iii. Evidence of registration with pension commission of Nig.
- iv. Tax clearance certificate for 3 previous years
- v. Evidence of company registration and registration of key personnel with relevant professional bodies.
- vi. Provision of VAT Certificate
- vii. Audited accounts for 3 years
- viii. Evidence of appropriate documentation fees.
- ix. Evidence of Financial Capability /reference letter form a reputable bank
- x. Evidence of similar projects carried out.

4.0 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

The pre-qualification documents shall be submitted to the office of the director of personnel management and dropped in the tender box on or before 29th December 2023 at 12 noon, Tender Documents shall be opened at 2 pm same day at the legislative chamber

Documents should be spiral binded please.

Please note that Bassa Local Government is not committed nor obligated to short list any contractor or to award contract to any of the contractors. The council has the right to reject any bid.

Sarah Yakubu Azi
Secretary, Tender Board
For Transition Implementation Committee
Chairman,
Bassa Local Government

CHANGE OF NAME

MUHAMMED
 I, formerly known as **MUHAMMAD SAFIYA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MUHAMMED SAFIYA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

RIMFA
 I, formerly known as **RIMFA DENIS BOBI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **RIMFA DENIS NANSOH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

Feature

Continued from page 32

with bile. "Lawan was too busy trying to be APC's presidential candidate to even participate in the senate primaries in Yobe," he stated, "and unsuccessfully begged Machina [the actual winner of the primary] to stand down for him, but the Supreme Court just declared him the winner of a contest he didn't participate in anyway.

"It's a blatant case of justice for sale. Nigeria's Supreme Court is, without doubt, a rotten gaggle of useless, purchasable judicial bandits. The highest bidder gets their judgement." Recall that Justice Adefope-Okojie had alluded to this extreme perception of members of the apex court by this social commentator to underscore how low they had ebbed in the estimation of ordinary Nigerians.

Also adding his own voice to the conversation about the Imo matter, Mike Ozekhome, SAN, threw in this challenge: "One area that needs critical analysis and interrogation is what makes a candidate that came 4th in an election to be declared winner of that election."

Then this one: "Another area that requires an urgent answer is why INEC has so failed the nation that presidents and governors are now being packaged and delivered for the country and states, against the clear choice of the electorate at the polls.

"... That is the sorry state we are in today, especially since 2015. May God help Nigeria" (**VANGUARD**, January 15, 2020). Unfortunately, since 2020 when Ozekhome cried out about this desperate state of affairs, matters have only deteriorated.

Also, it is worthy of note that all of these allegations were being made against the Supreme Court at the very time Honourable Justice Dattijo Muhammad was among the jurists at the top court. Perhaps in the book he has promised to write, he will provide more information and insights about these.

That said, in his considered opinion and based on his long years in the judiciary, Justice Mohammad offers this unflattering assessment: "In some quarters the view is strongly held that filth and intrigues characterize the institution these days! Judges are said to be comfortable in companies they never would have kept in the past. It is being insinuated that some judicial officers even campaign for the politicians. It cannot be more damnifying!"

Now, before judgement day, is there anything more to say about the nature, roots and consequences of the recent absurd verdicts than former President Olusegun Obasanjo's take on the issues? To the straight-talking statesman, it is "totally unacceptable" for between three to five justices to overturn the mandate of millions of voters given to their choice candidates during elections.

According to **VANGUARD** newspaper (November 22, 2023), he cautioned political leaders and the powers-that-be about the dangers that lay ahead if these judgements are not overturned by the Supreme Court.

His strong views about the drawbacks inherent in the judiciary overturning the mandate of millions of citizens through judicial fiat resonates well with this writer. A little background would suffice

Before judgement day



here.

The origins of the current gale of sackings of Plateau State's elected PDP lawmakers can be traced to 2021 when the courts excluded the main opposition Party from the October 9, 2021, local government polls. The ruling APC went on to 'win' all the chairmanship seats in the 17 local government areas along with the 325 councillorship positions.

Commenting on those events, yours sincerely had decried that travesty as the machination of politicians and their ilk whose consciences had long perished. Then I made the point that as a result of what transpired, we had been left with a situation "where a whole generation and millions of eligible voters were so flagrantly disenfranchised and their rights squashed in one fell swoop."

"Even in war," I reasoned, "certain moral principles are upheld to demonstrate that man still clings to some pieces of decency" (**VANGUARD**, October 17, 2021).

Yes, indeed, before judgement day, there is a little that more ordinary citizens can also say about what is currently happening. These petty laymen who know very little about the dizzying intricacies of the law? Yes, they can also say something.

They line up from sunrise to sunset (sometimes they have to go back home and return to continue the following day), under heavy rain and sweltering heat, hunger and thirst, simply to cast their ballots for their preferred candidates and political parties. Only for these choices to be rendered useless by the courts, sometimes for very shady and shoddy reasons.

Honestly, citizens have been had, rapaciously despoiled. Sacking the people that the electorate sacrificed so much to elect easily makes them lose hope in their perceived place as key players and stakeholders in the democratic process.

It is widely believed that a few

individuals and interests have hijacked this democracy; they have turned politics into an alibi for their self-serving interests.

Now, all we are left with is an illusion of true democracy. As a result, once strongly held beliefs about the beauty, efficacy and relevance of democracy to our overall wellbeing as individuals and country are dangerously shifting in the wrong direction.

The sword of justice has suddenly turned into a merciless, inequitable and brutal Sword of Damocles. It is decimating both the people's freely given mandates and our democracy - for which patriots made the supreme sacrifice to make it materialise.

But it must be said that even the much-awaited Supreme Court judgement, insignificant as it may appear in the face of the substantial damage that has already been inflicted on Plateau State's representatives at the state and federal parliaments, may well make a world of difference - if it swings in accordance with the majority of citizens' wishes.

Those candidates who 'won' the elections through the instrumentalities of the appellate court argue that their counterparts who claim they were robbed are simply being bad losers; that if the judgements had turned out the other way, the same people complaining would have applauded those jurists as having upheld justice and fairness.

But that is just being too simplistic, pedestrian, even wicked. There is something about truly winning, or losing, a court case that makes all parties walk away feeling satisfied that, indeed, justice was served. It is that certainty, that soothing spirit of relief that justice was served, that makes the convicted felon serve his sentence with the full understanding that he is doing time for the wrong he actually committed.

On the contrary, it is the sense that justice has been perverted that makes the man convicted for a

crime he did not commit to continue seeking redress for as long as he breathes. This is the pervasive feeling and drive in Plateau citizens who anxiously await the verdict of the apex court.

Human beings, no matter how primitive, immoral and uncouth, are imbued with a moral compass, a conscience, that shows them the difference between wrong and right. It also pricks them whenever they cheat or fall foul of the law.

Let's be very clear about this: The highly esteemed justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria are bound to hold and espouse very strong ideological and world views. Most times, these guide them in their arduous tasks of the dispensation of justice at that highest echelon of the justice delivery system and, to a certain extent, their personal lives.

This is true even in the United States of America, which prides itself as the bastion of modern liberal democracy, after which Nigeria adopted its own version.

That is why the January 22, 1973, Roe vs. Wade landmark decision of the United States Supreme Court which guaranteed the woman's right to abortion was overturned by the Supreme Court on June 24, 2022. In a way, President Trump had set the tone for that decision when he appointed conservative-leaning justices to the apex court which put them in the majority.

His appointments of Neil Gorsuch, in 2017, Brett Kavanaugh, in 2018, and Amy Coney Barret, in 2022, effectively gave the conservative Republicans a six-man lead in the Supreme Court as against the liberal/progressive Democrats who are pro-abortion.

I have taken the liberty to briefly paint the above picture in order to show that justices of the highest courts in democracies are known to even openly exhibit their ideological proclivities or persuasions. Which is why they are mostly appointed by Presidents based on their ideological leanings. However, and mark this, these

iconic guardians of the law are expected to be beyond partisanship when it comes to absolute matters of the law. Their personal world views, ideological bents and political affiliations must never deliberately interfere with their interpretation of the finer details, the spirit and substance, of the law.

During an interview for *The New Yorker* (November 11, 2021), Isaac Chotiner asked Linda Joyce Greenhouse this follow-up question: "Maybe the question is, do we want the Supreme Court Justices to think of themselves as political actors?"

The Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter replied: "It's not a simple yes or no. It's impossible for anybody to say the Court is not a political actor. I mean, it obviously is. It's in the thick of our politics. I'm certainly not arguing to the contrary.

"Then the next step, as you say, is, well, what should each individual justice think about that? And should they tailor the arc of their careers with that in mind? And I just think that's a very personal decision for each one [of them to make]."

The 76-year-old Mrs. Greenhouse is the Knight Distinguished Journalist in Residence and Joseph M. Goldstein Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School and a contributing writer for *The New York Times*, where she reported on the Supreme Court for almost three decades.

Whichever way the scales of justice tilt on judgement day, the justices must know that a lot of harm has already been inflicted on the mandate of the people in Plateau State. Therefore, whichever way judgement goes, it will certainly either deepen injustice or assuage a great wrong.

It is not too late to still save and restore to Plateau State some semblance of hope, no matter how little, no matter how late. It may just be that proverbial timely stitch that saves nine. If some things are worth fighting for this is certainly one of them.

Surely, there is still a glimmer of hope, a light at the end of the tunnel, that justice will be restored to the true winners of the gubernatorial ballot. In my October 17, 2021, intervention from which I quoted above, I ended on a note of hope and optimism for true restoration.

I have not given up. Which is why I shall close with these same words as I did two years ago: "[There] is a positive sign that a segment of the political class still believes in the ability of our temples of justice to uphold the rule of law and protect the integrity of our democracy. Despite the outcome[s], democracy still looks forward to better days ahead.

"Even in this thick atmosphere of despondency, growing out of a collective feeling of shattered hopes, and mutual suspicion, brought about by our fractured unity, there is a glimmer of hope that out of all these may yet emerge a stronger democratic Plateau State - and Nigeria."

GYANG is the Chairman of the N.G.O, Journalists Coalition for Citizens' Rights Initiative - JCCRI. Emails: info@jccri-online.org; chrisgyang01@gmail.com

Feature

Navigating a careful balance towards climate control

CHETA NWANZE

NIGERIA'S journey towards industrialisation and energy security ultimately requires a careful balance with climate change responsibilities. Embracing renewable energy, promoting efficiency, and considering strategic options like nuclear energy can pave the way for a sustainable future. Transparent policy decisions, international collaboration and responsible resource allocation, are essential as Nigeria navigates the complex terrain of energy and climate control.

In 2016, the Benue State Government proposed a generator tax, claiming that it would invest the proceeds in repairing and maintaining the ozone layer. However, when Terna Francis, the media assistant to the Chairman of the Benue Internal Revenue Service's board at the time, Mimi Orubibi, was asked how the proceeds would be used to "maintain the ozone layer" about 30 kilometres above the earth's surface, he had no idea. This shows the Nigerian state's attitude towards what should ordinarily be a serious affair. Various state actors see such openings as a chance to fleece the country's long-suffering populace, whether in cash or kind.

Thus, it should be no surprise that fast forwarding to 2023, Nigeria's COP28 delegation turned heads with, for example, the unexpected inclusion of the Inspector General of Police, possibly in response to the whimsical notion of "arresting" climate change or to not missing the opportunity of a paid trip to Dubai. After all, addressing climate change requires a certain level of policing of the planet's carbon offenders, and who could be more fitting to take on this role than the Inspector General? I also found the presence of the head of the Nigeria Labour Congress in Dubai rather interesting. If the climate goals are not met, I guess Nigerian workers will go on strike to force the issue modest industrialisation and a predominantly agrarian economy, resulting in lower energy demands and reduced emissions. Unlike developed nations with thriving manufacturing sectors and fossil fuel consumption, Nigeria uses limited fossil fuels, contributing to substantially lower emissions. If Nigeria industrialises, the current economic structure will keep emissions relatively low.

"In 2016, the Benue State Government proposed a generator tax, claiming that it would invest the proceeds in repairing and maintaining the ozone layer. However, when Terna Francis, the media assistant to the Chairman of the Benue Internal Revenue Service's board at the time, Mimi Orubibi, was asked how the proceeds would be used to "maintain the ozone layer" about 30 kilometres above the earth's surface, he had no idea. This shows the Nigerian state's attitude towards what should ordinarily be a serious affair. Various state actors see such openings as a chance to fleece the country's long-suffering populace, whether in cash or kind".



Nigeria needs a comprehensive approach to counteract potential climate impacts.

Having said the bleeding obvious, Nigeria has set ambitious targets for power generation and industrialisation, aiming for a 30,000 MW electricity generation capacity by 2030, signifying a shift from reliance on oil and gas exports. However, these goals may impact emission levels and climate metrics, as increased industrial activity leads to higher energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. While this could challenge Nigeria's efforts to address climate change and meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement, the country must prioritise its people's well-being as it undergoes the processes of growth and development.

Underdeveloped countries like Nigeria must actively participate in tackling climate change with inclusive strategies that go beyond symbolic participation. It's essential because the downsides of climate change are likely to affect these countries more than others. The interconnectedness of environmental issues means we need inclusive strategies that take in a wide range of inputs and

emphasise everyone's responsibility to find effective and fair solutions.

Nigeria needs a comprehensive approach to counteract potential climate impacts. One strategic initiative involves a substantial investment in renewable energy sources like solar, wind and hydropower. This move will diminish the country's reliance on fossil fuels, fostering a transition towards a more sustainable and cleaner energy mix.

Given Nigeria's energy infrastructure and limited access to renewables, achieving power generation goals may involve heavy reliance on fossil fuels, primarily natural gas. While considered cleaner than coal and oil, natural gas still emits greenhouse gases, posing a challenge to Nigeria's climate aspirations.

Nigeria needs a comprehensive approach to counteract potential climate impacts. One strategic initiative involves a substantial investment in renewable energy sources like solar, wind and hydropower. This move will diminish the country's reliance on fossil fuels, fostering a transition towards a more sustainable and

cleaner energy mix.

Another approach is the enhancement of energy efficiency. By incorporating energy-efficient technologies and practices across both industries and households, there is a significant potential to curtail energy consumption and the resultant emissions.

The exploration and implementation of carbon capture and storage technologies present a critical avenue. These technologies can effectively capture and store emissions from industrial processes, thereby mitigating their release into the atmosphere. Furthermore, promoting sustainable land use practices, particularly the protection and careful management of forests, is essential. Forests serve as natural carbon sinks, absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide and contributing to environmental balance.

Lastly, an essential aspect of climate action involves investing in measures for climate adaptation. This includes building resilience to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events and rising sea levels. This approach is vital for safeguarding lives, protecting livelihoods, and ensuring the durability of critical infrastructure in the face of evolving environmental challenges.

In response to global challenges, nuclear energy presents a compelling option for Nigeria, offering both affordability and sustainability. Despite high initial capital investments, nuclear power provides stable and inexpensive electricity with a lower carbon footprint than traditional fossil fuels.

Beyond economic considerations, the shift towards

nuclear energy holds geopolitical significance. By reducing dependence on Middle Eastern oil-producing countries, nations aim to decrease political influence. Diversifying energy sources, including focusing on nuclear power, allows countries to mitigate the impact of geopolitical events on energy security.

For underdeveloped countries like Nigeria, nuclear energy offers reliable power, carbon-free electricity, and reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels. Nigeria's significant uranium reserves make nuclear power a feasible option, with the Nigerian Atomic Energy Commission overseeing feasibility studies and plans for nuclear power plants.

However, while nuclear energy presents advantages, countries like ours must consider safety, security, technical expertise and waste management before embarking on nuclear energy programmes. International cooperation, transparent communication, and a commitment to safety and non-proliferation are crucial for successful nuclear energy implementation.

Nigeria's journey towards industrialisation and energy security ultimately requires a careful balance with climate change responsibilities. Embracing renewable energy, promoting efficiency, and considering strategic options like nuclear energy can pave the way for a sustainable future. Transparent policy decisions, international collaboration and responsible resource allocation, are essential as Nigeria navigates the complex terrain of energy and climate control.

Cheta Nwanze is a partner at SBM Intelligence.

EYE'S WORLD

With PALANG KASMI

Health

As NUJ Plateau holds maiden christmas carol

By PALANG KASMI

It was a gathering of former NUJ Chairmen, veteran and practicing Journalists, politicians, and people from all walks of life at the maiden Christmas Carol organised by the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Plateau State Chapter.

The historic event which took place at the NUJ Press Center on 17th December 2023, with the theme "Oh come let us adore Him" attracted personalities from the public and private sectors among which are representatives of heads of security outfits in the state including The Nigeria Police Force, Federal Road Safety Corps, Nigeria Civil Defence and Security Corps, Nigerian Army. Other guests that graced the occasion were His Royal Highness Emir of Wase, Alhaji Mohammed Sambo Haruna the 3rd who is the patron of Plateau NUJ, politicians, Bishop of the Methodist Church, Diocese of Jos, Rt. Rev. Dr. Nkechi Nwosu, Nigeria Labour Congress Chairman Plateau state, comrade Eugene Manji, CAN Chairman, Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo among others.

Chief host of the carol and Chairman of the occasion, Plateau commissioner for Information, Hon. Musa Ashoms expressed excitement with the serene and welcoming atmosphere that comes with the Yuletide celebrations. He commended Plateau Journalists for the initiative, which he described as the first of its kind in the state.

"This ambience is not the usual one, that is why you see Christians and Moslems celebrating Christmas like this and that is what we need in the state", the Commissioner said.

He commended the NUJ for the initiative and called on citizens of the



state to emulate the Journalists for spearheading peaceful coexistence through their historic maiden carol event, which he said had attracted people from interreligious and ethnic affiliations.

In her opening address, NUJ Chairman, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo, stated that from the outlook of events which has both religions participating, the maiden event was mainly organised to preach religious harmony and show to the world that peace has returned to Plateau state.

She said "As journalists putting this programme together being the first to bring Plateau people, veterans, family and friends together to praise and thank God for

the many blessings we have enjoyed throughout the year as we look forward in a few days to another year".

"As a Union we will continue to promote religious harmony, tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and ideals that would continue to strengthen our bonds of unity".

While calling on Plateau citizens to continue to pray for peace, prosperity and development of the state and country, the NUJ Chair said "This carol reminds us of the need to embrace the virtues of love, peace, joy, unity, tolerance, and share with those in need at this difficult time in the history of our nation".

A veteran Journalist, Nde Gideon

Barde took the first lesson preceded by the Plateau State Director of the National Orientation Agency, Mrs. Kaneng Pam-Hworo, while other lessons were taken by Mrs. Clementina Lapni Danladi, and Rt. Rev. Dr. Nkechi Nwosu.

Guest speaker, Pastor Emmanuel Aremu who took his biblical reading from Col. 1:16 commended the NUJ for putting together the laudable Christmas carol programme.

He said according to the Holy Bible everything was created by God and it is a remainder that it is meant to be used to serve God, therefore in his sermon, he reminded Journalists to note that the Journalism profession is meant to be a tool for serving God and humanity.

The Cleric noted that the disciples of Jesus Christ were reporters adding: "Your reports as members of the pen profession are meant to bring light and make the people of Plateau have peace of mind".

"Your reports shape society. If the facts you are dishing out to the public is factual, precise and accurate, even the public and God will praise you for it", he tasked the journalists.

In a goodwill message, Patron of the NUJ, Emir of Wase, HRH, Alhaji Mohammed Sambo Haruna the 3rd, represented by Alhaji Adamu Abdullahi, the Santalin Wase described the period of Christmas as

a period of love, peace and most importantly charity urging people to imbibe and extend the spirit of peace and love to one another, as displayed by the lord Jesus Christ.

The Representative of Plateau Veteran Journalists, Nde Gideon Barde in his remarks said veteran Journalists are professionals who are accomplished, experienced, and have distinguished themselves as ex commissioners, former General Managers, and Press Secretaries.

He assured the executives of the NUJ, of the support of veteran journalists to move the Union forward, and said the profession of journalism is a noble profession that was established by God with the foundation of truth and justice, to ensure human rights is protected.

"Without journalism the world would be very dark. Journalists should do their work well and be ambassadors of peace", said Barde who was historically an ace broadcaster and former Press Secretary to the Late JD Gomwalk.

There was also goodwill messages by Senator representing Plateau Central Zone at the Senate, Hon. Diket Satso Plang who was represented by Evangelist Sam Mbok, Director of Press to the Plateau State Governor, Mr. Gyang Bere, Member representing Jos North-north Constituency in the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Dr. Adamu Aliyu, CAN Chairman Plateau State, Rev. Fr. Polycarp Lubo, NLC Chairman, Plateau State who in their separate speeches all praised journalists for setting the agenda in the society, and called for unity among Plateau citizens.

Aside congregational hymns, series of Christmas carol songs was led and sang by the Jos metropolitan Choir while guests were entertained with a spoken word presentation by Rudolf Adidi aka Ruddapoet, a Christmas song by Vera Bonshak, and other artistes. Rev. Emmanuel Nimcheffa offered Special prayers for peace in Plateau state, tasking journalists, politicians and citizens of the state to strive to create a peaceful society.

While rating the event high, in her closing remarks, Chairman of the planning committee, Mrs Lucy Chindaba disclosed that the event which was very successful will be a yearly one, even as she thanked everyone for making the first edition of the Christmas carol a memorable one.

Evolution of girl child education in 21st Century

By GUNYEN SHITNAAN Bethel

IN the 21st century, the landscape of education has undergone a transformative shift, particularly in its approach towards ensuring the education and empowerment of girl children. This era has witnessed a remarkable surge in initiatives aimed at breaking barriers and fostering an environment where girls have equal access to education, equipping them with the tools to become future leaders.

Historically, girls faced multifaceted challenges in pursuing education, ranging from cultural norms to socioeconomic constraints. However, this century has seen a paradigm shift in attitudes, policies, and practices, ushering in an era where the importance of educating girls is recognized not just as a matter of equity but as an essential investment in societal progress.

One of the key drivers of this change has been the acknowledgment of the far-reaching benefits of girl child education. Beyond individual

empowerment, educating girls has a ripple effect on communities and economies. Studies consistently highlight the correlation between female education and a host of positive outcomes, including improved health, increased economic productivity, lower birth rates, and enhanced social development.

Moreover, technological advancements have played a pivotal role in expanding educational opportunities for girls. Digital platforms and online resources have bridged geographical gaps, providing access to quality education irrespective of location. These tools have empowered girls to pursue learning at their own pace and explore diverse subjects that might have been previously inaccessible.

The 21st century also witnesses a surge in advocacy and policy interventions promoting girl child education on a global scale. Governments, NGOs, and international bodies have rallied together, implementing programs that address systemic barriers, promote gender-sensitive

curricula, and provide scholarships and incentives to ensure girls not only access but thrive in educational settings.

However, despite these advancements, challenges persist. Socioeconomic disparities, cultural norms, conflict zones, and inadequate infrastructure still hinder the educational journey of many girls worldwide. Addressing these issues demands sustained efforts from various stakeholders to create an inclusive, safe, and supportive environment for girl child education.

As we stride further into the 21st century, it's pivotal to recognize that empowering girls through education is not merely a goal but a catalyst for achieving broader societal progress. The strides made in this century serve as a testament to the collective commitment towards ensuring that every girl has the opportunity to learn, grow, and shape a brighter future for themselves and the world at large.

Gunyen Shitnaan Bethel writes from Veritas University Abuja.



THE NIGERIA STANDARD'S WORLD

With PALANG KASMI

Health

Christmas spices and herbs to highlight the season

By VLADKA MERVA

From sweet cinnamon and clove to piney rosemary, Christmas spices and herbs are a wonderful way to add flavor and warmth to your home or holiday recipes.

Christmas spices bring a rich, spicy aroma and taste to festive dishes. In addition, it is a beautiful way to add flavor and warmth to your home. Cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, ginger, and cloves are some of the most popular Christmas spices. These spices are almost always combined for maximum flavor enhancement. Still, each one packs its unique flavor profile when used alone. Christmas spices are a mixture of aromatic ingredients used to flavor festive holiday dishes. Christmas spices add a touch of warmth and nostalgia to your loved one's home this holiday season.

Explore our favorite spices and herbs to create wonderful Christmas flavors and enhance the festive atmosphere.

Cinnamon sticks

Cinnamon sticks can add flavor to mulled cider, tea, hot chocolate, cookies, cakes, and other desserts. They can also be used as garnish for drinks like eggnog. Use cinnamon sticks tied together with ribbon or twine to make garlands or wreaths. This cinnamon extract comes in handy when baking.

Nutmeg

Nutmeg is a perfect seasonal spice in many Christmas dishes and desserts like spiced cakes, pumpkin pies, mince pies, and gingerbread.

It makes a delightful addition to festive beverages like a Christmas whiskey cocktail. This spice adds a great flavor and a slight sweetness to the dish that reminds people of the spirit of Christmas. It can also season savory dishes such as mashed potatoes, omelets, and soups. However, it should be used sparingly since its flavor can be overpowering.

Ginger

Ginger has become a common ingredient in many Christmas desserts and a popular flavoring for holiday drinks. Vegan gingerbread loaf, with its moist texture and rich spices, has joined the ranks of gingerbread cookies and cakes as a traditional favorite. Alongside these are ginger snaps and other Christmas treats like spice cake and fruitcake. Candied ginger is also often given as a gift during the holidays. Additionally, ginger is sometimes added to mulled cider or wine for a warm, festive drink.

All spice

Its sweet, warming flavor makes it a popular spice to taste mulled wines, pies, cookies, apple cider, and other holiday treats. But, like cloves, allspice berries are hard and should be ground, simmered, or scooped out before serving. The term 'allspice' itself includes a combination of the flavors and aromas of some popular spices - pepper, cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg yet it stands on its own in terms of taste. Its shape and color resemble peppercorns, which is why it is also called Jamaican and myrtle pepper.



Cardamom

Cardamom is an ideal spice to use for Christmas cooking. It can be used to make festive drinks such as mulled wine and hot toddies or in traditional dishes like mulled cider or spiced apple juice. Cardamom can also be used in sweet treats like gingerbread cookies, cakes, and pies or in savory dishes like curries and stews. Its warm and spicy flavor adds a unique depth of flavor that makes it perfect for the holiday. A close relative to turmeric and ginger, cardamom is a spice made from the seed pods of the cardamom plant. Cardamom is also believed to have medicinal properties. In traditional Indian medicine, it is used to treat digestive problems, colds, and headaches.

Cardamom has a strong, pungent flavor and menthol-like aroma with notes of lemon, mint, and smoke. Ground cardamom has a more intense flavor than whole seeds, so use them sparingly.

Fennel seeds

Fennel seeds are often used in Christmas dishes, such as stuffing and roasted vegetables. They can also be added to soups, stews, and salads for a unique flavor. In addition, fennel is known for its sweet licorice-like flavor and aroma, which make it an excellent addition to holiday recipes.

They can be used whole or ground and added to sweet and savory dishes. Sugar-coated fennel seeds were used against abdominal pain.

Saffron

Saffron is not a traditional Christmas spice but can be used to make special festive treats. It adds a warm, earthy flavor and golden color to saffron rice, tea, water, pasta or desserts. Saffron can also be added to savory dishes such as rice, stews, and sauces. Saffron is the most expensive spice in the world, used for various dishes, and is a natural dye. Saffron's dry blossoms are rare, and their flavor is described as bitter and sweet with hints of honey. It's also believed to have medicinal properties and can treat depression, anxiety, insomnia, and even digestive issues. - the food or pastry turns bright yellow to orange.

Rosemary

The evergreen herb rosemary is often used during the holiday to make wreaths by weaving it into a circle shape. It is also used for decoration, often hung around the home or in a doorway. It has long been associated

with the Christmas spirit, as it was believed to bring good luck and protection to anyone who hung sprigs in their home. As an herb of remembrance, it is also thought to bring back fond memories of past Christmases when used during the holiday. With its deep green color, intense aroma, and subtle flavor, rosemary adds an extra layer of joy to any Christmas celebration.

Sage

Sage is a popular herb in traditional stuffing holiday recipes such as sage and onion stuffing and roast potatoes with sage butter. To make a more Christmassy atmosphere, use sage leaves to decorate holiday wreaths and garlands.

Parsley

Parsley can be used as an herb garnish or chopped up in salads. However, it is also popular to decorate a Christmas table, as its bright green foliage makes it look festive. Parsley can be used in various ways to dress up the home for the holidays, including making a garland out of it or decorating the tree and mantle. It can also be used to make wreaths, topiaries, and centerpieces.

Lemon balm

Lemon balm is a sweet-smelling herb perfect for adding zest to teas or baked goods. It can be used to make festive holiday drinks, such as a hot toddy or mulled cider. It can also be added to baked goods like cookies and cakes for a memorable holiday touch. For those wanting something savory, lemon balm can be used in recipes like stuffing or potato salads. Making it a great addition to any Christmas dinner!

Lavender

Lavender has a calming aroma and can be infused into oils or added to desserts for a pleasant floral taste. During Christmas, lavender can be used to make festive decorations such as wreaths and garlands. It can also be included in Christmas potpourris and added to homemade candles and soaps. In addition, you can use lavender essential oil in a diffuser to create a relaxing atmosphere during the holidays.

Bay leaves

Bay leaves are not typically used as Christmas decorations. However, they can be added to Christmas wreaths or garlands for a festive touch. The bay leaf is often associated with the holidays because it symbolizes peace, prosperity, and good luck. You may also use dried bay leaves for tea



making, potpourri or hanging from doorways.

Thyme

Thyme is a fragrant herb that is used in many Christmas dishes. It's popular in stuffing recipes and can season roasted vegetables, soups, sauces, and more. It also pairs well with traditional holiday spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves. Add a sprig to your Christmas wreath for a festive touch!

Lemon balm

Lemon balm adds flavor and aroma to Christmas dishes, such as stuffing, potatoes, and other holiday favorites. It can also be used in teas and mulled drinks for extra flavor. In addition, lemon balm's bright, citrusy flavor adds an uplifting note to winter treats and has been known to have calming effects. Add some fragrant herb to your Christmas recipes for a unique and refreshing twist!

Oregano

Oregano is not traditionally associated with Christmas. However, it can be a flavorful addition to many winter dishes. Oregano pairs particularly well with roasted vegetables, stews, and soups. It can also be used for stuffing and other holiday side dishes. If you're looking for a unique way to use oregano during the holidays, try adding it to

an extra flavor kick! Make sure you distinguish oregano from marjoram.

Making festive spirit

Frankincense

Frankincense and myrrh are two of the most famous gifts associated with Christmas. They were among the gifts given to Jesus by the Magi (the three wise men), according to the Bible. Frankincense was used as a perfume in religious ceremonies, and myrrh was used for its medicinal properties. These two gifts are believed to symbolize Jesus's divinity and his mission as a healer. Try this organic frankincense essential oil for a memorable holiday scent treat.

Myrrh

Myrrh is an aromatic resin used for thousands of years in religious ceremonies and medicinal purposes. In the Christian tradition, it is one of the gifts given to Jesus by the three wise men at his birth. The resin has a strong aroma and is often used as incense or fragrance in churches during Christmas services.

Today, myrrh is included as part of Christmas decorations and gift-giving traditions. Its distinctive aroma also makes it a popular scent around the holidays, with many people burning incense made from myrrh in their homes or using its essential oils in personal care products such as lotions

Editorial

Nigerians, hardship and Christmas celebration

THE year 2023 is one many Nigerians would never forget in a hurry for the obvious reason of being a year of great economic downturn which has affected almost every strata of social life.

The fuel subsidy removal by President Tinubu on 29 May, during his inauguration, is a development that has caused hardship for many Nigerians because of the attendant increase in the prices of goods and services.

Apart from the removal of subsidy, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) also announced the unification of all segments of the forex exchange (FX) market as part of efforts to engender transparency in the markets and boost investors' confidence. Although the policy has been widely applauded as well-intentioned and necessary, it has put additional pressure on the local currency and manufacturers, with ripple effects on prices.

BOTH policies are being put in place at a time Nigerians are just recovering from the shocks of a controversial naira redesign policy that crippled businesses and made life difficult for many Nigerians who could not access their funds for several months.

ALTHOUGH the federal government has announced a series of palliatives to mitigate the impact of petroleum subsidy removal and similar shocks on the people, many Nigerians are still reeling from the devastating impact as prices of petrol, foodstuff and other essential commodities continue to rise.

WITH the yuletide around the corner, many Nigerians are in a state of nostalgia of the season known for its funfare, vacation and elaborate celebrations. However, it is certain that this year will not follow the traditional pomp and pageantry that is always associated with the period.

MANY families have been struggling to put food on their table as well as settling the house rents, school fees of their children and wards in private and unity schools and other sundry expenses. With such mounting bills to settle especially with schools resuming in January, many may not be celebrating the yuletide with the usual grandeur.

UNDOUBTEDLY, a large number of Nigerians might not be able to afford rice, and other complementary staple foods that are highly sought after and consumed during this period due to the high cost.

FOR others who are used to traveling to their country homes to spend time with kith and kins, this year's economic situation may not permit such "luxury vacation." This is due to high cost of petroleum products that have skyrocketed prices of everything that has made life too rough for Nigerians today.

THE cost of staple foods has increased dramatically, pushing many to the brink of hunger. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that many low-income earners are engaged in jobs with little to no protection against subsidy removal such as casual labor or small-scale farming. As prices rise, their income remains stagnant, eroding their purchasing power and pushing them deeper into poverty.

THIS year's celebration calls for cautioning spending, considering the myriad of problems we are battling with, the economic realities and the unforeseen. A word is enough for the wise.

SKILLS is said to be the capacity to do something well, technique ability it is usually acquired or learned.

While grade can be defined as the performance of an individual or a group or an examination or test.

I therefore admonish undergraduates in tertiary institutions to be experts or professionals in their various area of specialization, most especially students of mass communication.

Mass Communication is indeed a broad course which has lot of branches, firms and organizations are after undergraduates who are more specialized in their field of study which includes journalism, broadcasting reporting and so on. So they can improve on the growth of their organization.

However, grades are of top priority for students in tertiary institutions which can make their parents proud. But the truth must be told, nowadays

people tend to buy certificates due to unemployment in the nation, and can't perform effectively in their offices.

Meanwhile they do not have certain qualities of either a broadcaster, reporter or a journalist, and do not have the ethics of a professional media practitioner.

Undergraduates should have a thought on how they impact to the growth and development of their various organizations or place of

Enhancing skills amongst undergraduates

industrial training. Lecturers are advised to put more efforts in lecturing students on how to improve their writing reading and listening skills as they dream to be great media professionals or practitioners.

Lastly, critical thinking and problems should be well admonished by lecturers, whereby everyone experiences problems in their



Barracks' road bridges need urgent attention

RECENTLY, the two bridges linking the Police Barracks road from West of Mines up to the one along St. Theresa's Church are fast becoming death traps with holes taking over.

Permit me therefore to appeal to the Plateau State Ministry of Works to urgently carry out repair works on the two bridges which are fast giving way to pot holes and now on the verge of collapse.

However, these bridges which are within the city centre constitute an embarrassment to the state which prides itself as Home of Peace and Tourism.

These bridges, apart from linking other major roads within the metropolis serve as alternative routes for motorists who try to avoid the usual hustle and bustle at the busy Ahmadu Bello Way.

Therefore, by repairing the road and the bridges, it could add to the beauty of the city centre as well as reduce traffic congestion that is associated with the Terminus area of the metropolis.

The risk of allowing these bridges to collapse would mean causing more hardship for those plying the West of Mines area to Ahmadu Bello Way therefore causing a major blow to an already congested

metropolis. Prevention they say is better and cheaper than

cure. **Abdulazeez Abubkar is an IT student from Federal**

Polytechnic, Bauchi.

Nigerian youth must shun political violence

POLITICAL violence is becoming a global phenomenon which many nations try to contend with within their political system. This can be in form of crises in the society particularly during elections where most politically related violence are always attributed to the teeming youths that are supposed to be the backbone of every society. Due to idleness, lack of education, unemployment, poor orientation and greed of the political class our youth are becoming vulnerable in our society.

Another factor which reinforces violence in African political system is the desperate attitude of African politicians, the desperation to win election and occupy political offices by all means is a major cause of political violence.

In some cases, it is the contestants who in their quest for political powers organize some youths and provide arms that will be used to enforce fear during

election and it is said that "when two elephants fight only the grass suffer". It is simply the youths who are at the middle of those desperate fellows aspiring that are being use against each other and even to the civilians who are peacefully exercising their rights to vote for a representative with pure intention and hoping to choose a credible candidate that will protect their interests.

During campaigns, the money and offer of some materials to the voters have become the order of the day across African nations. It is also a factor responsible for continued spread of political violence. The level of poverty on the continent is such an intimidation where the innocent youths may be recruited for violence which is done just to survive. The politician use of huge amount of money during electoral campaigns in form of gift to the poor especially those in the rural areas just to win peoples votes is not

good for the people and democracy. Who would then be on ground during election to snatch ballot boxes and cause confusion, specifically, the youths are targeted as instruments of perpetuating violence and their hearts are poisoned with money and other items which can make them participate and not be concerned of the danger involved in executing such acts.

For this phenomenon to be discontinued, there must be a favourable, peaceful atmosphere for citizens to participate in the country's democracy and be able to elect their representatives peacefully without any molestation. The youths should therefore be cautioned on accepting any gift from politicians or be used as violent instruments to disrupt any peaceful election process in the country.

Gloria Jared is an IT student from Kwararafa University, Wukari.

STANDARD CARTOON

Kidnappers and delegates are the jobs that pays more than Central Bank and NNPC in Nigeria.
"Cash flow no network problem"
True or False?
Government must answer this question.



Opinion

By
DANIEL IGHAKPE**Why read the newspaper**

"FOOLISH is the man who never reads a newspaper; even more foolish is the man who believes what he reads just because it is in the newspaper."

– August von Schläzer, German historian and journalist of the late 18th century.

The newspaper is an important document which can be described as a powerhouse of information. It is important because it keeps us informed about current developments in our environment and in other parts of the world. Over the past few centuries, newspapers have shaped culture, influenced politics, played an important role in business, and affected the daily lives of millions of people.

However, newspaper reading is becoming a dying habit, especially as the world moves towards digitalization. You can now get virtually everything on your phones and computers, so people are no longer into newspaper reading as they were before. Most importantly, people are themselves running out of the habit of reading itself.

The internet has made it worse as now there is a video for virtually everything. People will not mind watching a five-minute video, but will however not prefer to read a five-minute long article.

Let us go through a brief history of newspapers. In Nigeria, the life of newspapers started in the 19th century when the European Missioner from the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Henry Townsend established the first printing press in

1854. According to him: "My objective is to get the people to read and beget the habit of seeking information by reading."

History has it that five years later, on November 23, 1859, the first edition of Nigeria's first newspaper, "Iwe Irohin," came out. The newspaper was published every fifteen days and sold for 120 cowries. It was highly patronized by the few literate people in Yoruba land; and the circulation of the paper was around 3,000 at that time.

Today, there are several newspapers and newspaper publishing firms in Nigeria. And with the improvement in printing technology and other Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), newspaper production has become a lot easier and faster, with more high-quality output. Nigerian newspapers are now not only read in homes, offices and in the streets, but also online. Some are published on a daily basis, others come out weekly, while others appear fortnightly. They publish news on all national and local events, politics, sports, crime, obituaries, and business.

Feature stories, reports from foreign countries, and interviews with prominent figures and experts on particular subjects are also published. Most newspapers also provide an editorial page as well as columns for opinion articles (Op-Eds)/ criticism articles; also weather news; classified ads; forecasts; comic strips; cartoons; and so on. All these and more are covered in

Nigerian newspapers. There are now also newspapers that are specifically designated "online newspapers," which exist only on the internet, without a hard-copy, printed version.

Today, newspapers compete with electronic media – radio, television, and the internet. Nevertheless, in spite of the advantages which electronic media have over the print media, the newspaper business continues to thrive. Other electronic broadcast media even complement the use of newspapers for dissemination of information via press review.

The newspaper continues to function as a unique medium of mass communication. Apart from its traditional function of informing, educating, persuading and entertaining the masses, newspapers play other functions, such as: providing better interpretation of the stories in the news; ensuring easy understanding and retention of media content; ensuring easier storage and retrieval of information, which one can refer to repeatedly; serving as a viable tool for mass education and mass literacy by motivating and encouraging good reading habits among the masses in the society.

However, while it is good to read newspapers, it is also wise to examine the news with healthy skepticism. Everybody makes mistakes, even the most honest and skilled professionals. Sometimes, journalists must

contend with unreliable news stories. At times, hoaxes are fed to the press. Even well-intentioned journalists do not always get the story right. They usually work at a quick pace. So sometimes they are not able to report a well researched story. Also, manipulation of the news may occur, even in areas where freedom of the press is enjoyed.

Nevertheless, although various factors can prevent newspapers from being entirely objective, they still can help us stay informed about what is going on in the world – even while we make allowances for its limitations.

What are the benefits of reading the newspaper? Reading newspapers is a good habit that can provide a great sense of educational value. It helps us get acquainted with the current affairs of the world. It carries information about the economy, entertainment, sports, business, industry, trade and commerce. Cultivating the habit of reading newspapers will not only enhance one's knowledge about general information, but it will likewise improve one's language skills and vocabulary.

In addition, a person who reads newspapers can speak fluently on various topics. They can socialize better, as they are well aware of the most common topics currently on the minds of people. Similarly, it also saves us from getting bored. Newspaper reading can also result

in opening doors to new employment opportunities. Reliable companies post their advertisements in the newspapers for business and employment. So, it is a good place to search for jobs. Furthermore, we can easily promote our brands, products and services with the help of newspapers.

The value of reading a newspaper extends far beyond what has been mentioned above. If you regularly read a well-written, well-balanced newspaper, it could also help stimulate brain function for improved performance in the following areas: critical thinking skills, balanced viewpoints, enhanced cognition (i.e. the more the mind is exercised, the stronger and more flexible it becomes), and more.

So, whether young or old, let us form a habit of reading newspapers. In spite of all the odds against the newspaper as a medium of mass communication, it continues to compete favourably with other media of mass communication because of its unique advantages. Therefore, conscious effort needs to be made at ensuring that the newspaper continues to be well produced to reflect its enduring advantages.

Ighakpe writes from Festac Town, Lagos via
danny.ighakpe@gmail.com;
0817 479 5742.

A month ago, I conducted a short survey among working professionals asking which of the following they would be happy to experience in their organisations. Would it be – Civility and Respect, Growth and Development, Psychological and Physical Safety, Clear Leadership and Expectations. Interestingly, Growth and Development got the highest votes at forty-one percent. This says a lot considering the number of certifications, accolades, conferments, and titles people bag almost daily.

ADVERTISEMENT

Hardly would a week pass that you would not congratulate someone on some academic or learning achievements, so what is going on? Or could it be that, although people learn a lot, nothing improves in and around them with the acquired knowledge? A sage once differentiated knowledge from wisdom with his apt definition. He said, "Wisdom is the direct application of knowledge". This means that learning is just a step in the right direction, a means to an end and not the end. Learning cannot lead to growth and development without using the knowledge gained to solve problems, invent things, and make or execute policies.

It is no news that the Nigerian community in the United States is the most educated immigrant community in the country. An average Nigerian adult holds at least a university degree. However, most people learn a lot, year in and year out, only to fulfil righteousness and rarely to solve problems. We go to colleges/universities so that we can get a job. We get all the certifications so we can hold the job. We obtain a second degree to get promoted within the organisation, elevated through a new job, or change a career. We continue to accumulate accolades, titles, and memberships to remain relevant. Thirdly, we return to university for the third time to pursue a PhD as a retirement fallback position.

In contrast, in the developed world, learning is to solve problems and not just

Developing a learning culture at workBy **OLAYINKA OPALEYE**

for the fun of getting educated. As a result, their learning goals, outcomes, and methods often change based on solutions they need or are trying to anticipate. So, because we learn with little or no goal to solve new problems, our curricula are outdated and sometimes out of sync. This is probably one of the reasons employees go for many certification programs and more degrees to be promoted within their organisations or get a better job elsewhere. The proper purpose of learning to achieve results includes promotion but is not limited to it as it should stem from both parties' interests. This mutual interest brings us back to the importance of an employee aligning their personal goals with their organisation's.

Learning outside the walls of the workplace has tremendous benefits as it brings fresh views, exposure, and expertise into bear. However, this individual external learning benefits employees more than employers, except when certain boxes get checked. So, the next time you sponsor any of such, be sure to tick most of the boxes with questions such as – How relevant is the program to both the present and future of the organisation? What immediate, envisaged, and future problems will the knowledge solve? How will the knowledge be shared with others in the organisation that need it? What project(s) is the knowledge useful for? How will the program enhance personal mastery in the learner's field? How will the knowledge be used to plan for an intelligent fast failure? Can a minimum viable product be developed for quick testing from the knowledge, observation, and condition post-learning? Will the program give or share crucial market information, relevant statistics, and valuable data? Etc.

Learning outside the walls of the workplace has tremendous benefits as it brings fresh views, exposure, and expertise into bear. However, this individual external learning benefits employees more than employers, except when certain boxes get checked.

So, as much as external training is critical and should be encouraged, the most effective way of building a learning culture that will guarantee mutual reward for employees and employers will be for learning to occur within. Aside from engaging experts to come over to train staff, learning, and application should be continuous through sharing, anchoring, matching, and giving. It is also necessary to take note of the different categories of people that exist even within organisations that are highly driven by learning culture. These three categories are takers, matchers, and givers.

In a culture, people do what is best for them by seeking and acquiring knowledge as much as they can get from others while avoiding giving back unless they must. The problem with this learning culture is that takers will always want to get ahead individually rather than collectively. Takers are only willing to do what is best for them and not necessarily what is best for the team or organisation. Trust becomes an issue with confident takers because, once their loyalty shifts from the common good, they cease to be impactful. An organisation with a talking culture is often toxic.

On the other hand, a matching culture trades favours evenly. The quid pro quo type of organisational behaviour is on the premise that 'If I do something for you, I expect you to do something for me in return'. In a matching culture, people care more about fairness, so things are more squared within the organisation.

More learning and teaching occur within the organisation, with much more effective collaboration encouraged.

Lastly, people generally enjoy helping others in the giving culture. Knowledge sharing and mentoring take place freely. Everyone looks for ways to contribute to their team positively. The people in the organisation experience massive generosity as people are willing to help one another without expecting anything in return. The giving learning culture allows for creativity and innovation because every knowledge acquired gets shared in different ways. It also promotes a culture where people choose and are committed to doing what is best for their team in serving the company's mission.

Call to action

You will be amazed to learn that there are great organisations in which each category is prevalent. So, which category would you rather have the most people in your office be in and why? What would you do if you realised that your least preferred category was the predominant one in your organisation as a new employee? Would you resign, adjust, or try to change things? What would you do as an employer if you discovered that your organisation is more skewed to the least preferred category? What would you change?

If you or your organisation needs help identifying the prevailing learning culture in your workplace, clarity on the topic, or further engagement of a workplace wellness specialist, kindly send an email to oopaleye@gmail.com.

Olayinka Opaleye is a Wellbeing Specialist and Corporate Wellness Strategist. She writes from Lagos. Tel: 09091131150 or follow her on www.linkedin.com/in/olayinkaopal eye

Change of Name

<p>DANIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as IJUDIGAL DANIEL now wish to be known and addressed as MAMZA, IJUDIGAL DANIEL. Correct date of birth is 16/12/1992. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DATONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DATONG SIMON, now wish to be known and addressed as DATONG JOHN NAANLANG. All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth is 29/7/2004, not 29/7/2002. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>GARBA</p> <p>I, formerly known as GARBA AUGUSTINE KIM, now wish to be known and addressed as GARBA AUGUSTINE DAVOU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>AGYONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAUL AFALA AGYONG, now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN PAUL AGYONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ISYAKU</p> <p>I, formerly known as HAUWA ISYAKU, now wish to be known and addressed as HAUWA MUHAMMAD ISYAKU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SAMUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as JENNIFER NYAM AUGUSTINE, now wish to be known and addressed as MARYJENNIFER AJO SAMUEL. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ISAAC</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISAAC GRACE, now wish to be known and addressed as MAMMAN GRACE ISAAC. All former documents remain valid. Authority of Operation Rainbow and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PONFA</p> <p>I, formerly known as PONFA RIMBUT NGOSHIK, now wish to be known and addressed as PONFA RIMBUT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>MANNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN MANNA, now wish to be known and addressed as BONGVYAP MANNA MIRI. My correct date of birth is May, 22, 1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>LAMI</p> <p>I, formerly known as LAMI SUNDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as LAMI SANI WAKILI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SALEH</p> <p>I, formerly known as SANI MOHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as FRANCIS POLIT SALEH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>BELLO</p> <p>I, formerly known as BELLO NUHU DOGON YARO, now wish to be known and addressed as BELLO NUHU MAIKASUWA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>FURERA</p> <p>I, formerly known as FUREIRA ADAM MUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as FURERA ADAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BARNABAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAKOP PETER BARNABAS, now wish to be known and addressed as BARNABA KATPE PETER. Correct date of birth is 18-04-1998 not 18 04 1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DIMLONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as NENPAN SUNDAY UMARU DIMLONG, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY UMARU DIMLONG. Correct date of birth is 20-02-1987 not 28-02-1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>TABITHA</p> <p>I, formerly known as TABITHA BWEDE, now wish to be known and addressed as TABITHA PAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>HASSAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as LOHOTLAP ISHAYA HASSAN, now wish to be known and addressed as HASSAN ISHAYA LOHOTLAP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ALTINE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ALTINE LENGKAT, now wish to be known and addressed as ALTINE BITRUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>OJIMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as OJIMA IKOJAH, IKOJAH OJIMA SUNDAY, SALEM OJIMA IKOJAH now wish to be known and addressed as OJIMA SAMSON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JAMILU</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANLAMI JAMILU, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULRAUF JAMILU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CECILIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVID CECILIA, now wish to be known and addressed as NANCWAT CECILIA LAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ETANOYH</p> <p>I, formerly known as UGEH ETANOYH MARGARET, now wish to be known and addressed as ASHUOBEN ETANOYH MARGARET. All former documents remain valid. and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MIMIDOO</p> <p>I, formerly known as ITYO KASE MIMIDOO MIRIAM, now wish to be known and addressed as MIMIDOO MIRIAM JAPHET. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YOHANNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as BAULUS YOHANNA, now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS YOHANA. Correct date of birth is 29-01-1947 not 01-01-1940. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>NANMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as DASHAL NANMAN TITUS, now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS NANMAN DASHAL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GRUMNAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as GRUMNAN DAGIN, now wish to be known and addressed as GRUMNAN DANLADI DAMAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MOSES</p> <p>I, formerly known as MOSES CHRISTIANA JOHN, now wish to be known and addressed as MOSES CHRISTIANA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BRIDGET</p> <p>I, formerly known as NKWIRI BRIDGET and NKWIRI NENWOH BRIDGET, now wish to be known and addressed as BRIDGET NENWOH JACOB. Correct date of birth is 13/12/1996, not 13/12/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JEMIMAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as JEMIMAH MBAYA, now wish to be known and addressed as JEMIMAH DAUDA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SANI</p> <p>I, formerly known as PETER DANLAMI MICHAEL, now wish to be known and addressed as SANI MUHAMMED KHALEED. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DAPANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAPANG ANIAGEM, now wish to be known and addressed as DAPANG AWAGURUM. Correct date of birth is 30/03/1997 not 9th Feb, 1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SAGIRU</p> <p>I, SAGIRU IBRAHIM SHATA, wish to state that my correct date of birth is 1st January 2003 not 1st January 2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MANYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as TIMKAT MANYA SARAH, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY MANYA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AFINIKI</p> <p>I, formerly known as AFINIKI SULEIMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as AFINIKI MACHEAK GOBIN GONAP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IGWE</p> <p>I, formerly known as IGWE NULL VINCENT, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH VINCENT IGWE. correct date of birth is 12/04/1982 not 12/04/1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>VOU</p> <p>I, formerly known as SIMON VOU VICTORIA, now wish to be known and addressed as DALYOP VICTORIA VOU. correct date of birth is 17/08/1978 not 17/08/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>KOMYE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ANAH SAMUEL, now wish to be known and addressed as KOMYE ANNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LYNDA</p> <p>I, formerly known as RAPHAEL LINDA BLESSING, now wish to be known and addressed as RAPHAEL LYNDA SAMANJA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NIMTUR</p> <p>I, formerly known as NIMTUR NIMCHIT IBRAHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as NIMCHIT PONSACK LADONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ADISA</p> <p>I, formerly known as SULEIMAN ADISA MUSBAHU, now wish to be known and addressed as MUSBAU SULEIMAN ADISA. Correct date of birth is 04-04-1978 not 05-04-1978. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SULEIMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as AYOMIDE BILLYAMINU SULEIMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as BILLYAMINU SULEIMAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHINASA</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHINASA JERRY OKAFOR, now wish to be known and addressed as CHINASA JEREMIAH OKAFOR. Correct date of birth is 26/07/2002 not 26/07/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>SALISU</p> <p>I, formerly known as AISHA SALISU, now wish to be known and addressed as AISHA SALISU YAKUBU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EMMANUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as EMMANUEL S. DOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL SHEKWOLO DOMA. Correct date of birth is May 20, 1986 not December 8, 1982. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOSHUA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSHUA ROTIMI, now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL JOSHUA ROTIMI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAYYABU</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISA DAYYABU, now wish to be known and addressed as HALIDU DAYYABU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>UMMUIMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISMAIL UMMU IMAN IBRAHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as ISMAIL UMMUIMAN IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BOYI VICTORIA TOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as TOMA VICTORIA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>KWANMEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as KWANMEN SHITNAAN CYNTHIA, now wish to be known and addressed as KWANMEN CYNTHIA TUAMKWO. Correct date of birth is 13/10/1998 not 04/12/2000. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>TOMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as BOYI VICTORIA TOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as TOMA VICTORIA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>DANBOYI</p> <p>I, formerly known as BARTHOMEW SARAH, now wish to be known and addressed as DANBOYI AMANDA SIMI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>NURUDDEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as NURU IDRIS, now wish to be known and addressed as NURUDDEN SHUAIBU AHMAD. Correct date of birth is 15/3/2000 not 15/3/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ABDULLAHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI AISHA, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULLAHI AISHATU MUHAMMAD. Correct date of birth is 4/4/1998 not 1/1/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>YOHANNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DACHUNG, YOHANNA DANGBARAN, now wish to be known and addressed as DACHU, YOHANNA DANGBARAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>LADI</p> <p>I, formerly known as LADI BALA, now wish to be known and addressed as LADI EMMANUEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HAUWAU</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS HAUWAU UMAR IBRAHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS HAUWAU MASUD IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CECILIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as CECILIA DARE, now wish to be known and addressed as CECILIA DANIEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABRAHAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABRAHAM DANIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ABRAHAM MWANLONG DAPUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANBOL</p> <p>I, formerly known as NIMMYEL NANBOL, now wish to be known and addressed as NIMMYEL NANBOL MAXWELL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ZINGBONG</p> <p>I, formerly known as TYEMGAR G. TANCIT ZINGBONG, now wish to be known and addressed as ZINGBONG TANCIT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

News

Agric revolution, antidote to insecurity, poverty

From
JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

VICE President Kashim Shettima has identified agricultural revolution as the only bold step Nigeria could take to put an end to insecurity and reduce poverty among its growing population.

This was contained in a press release signed by his spokesman, Stanley Nkwocha which a copy was obtained by **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** in Abuja.

The vice president said this could be achieved through the deployment of technology to actualize food security among the country's growing population.

The statement quoted Shettima as speaking at the recent 13th convocation lecture of Al-Hikmah University in Kwara State. He underscored the role of education and training of the country's population to take full advantage of what he described as the growing influence of technology in all aspects of human existence.

Vice President Shettima noted that it was only when



Shettima

Nigeria as a nation begins to think boldly about revolutionizing production processing and guaranteeing sustained food security that it could identify sectors of the nation's agricultural assets that were most likely to benefit from the application of technology.

He said Nigeria's future could be secured by agricultural revolution through imaginative and bold leadership, a secure and peaceful environment and a sound education system that does not reduce the limit of the citizens to only the sky.

THE Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Professor Muhammad Ali Pate says the Federal Ministry of Health was ready to support the training of human capital resources at the Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo to produce quality human resources.

Professor Pate gave the assurance at the maiden public lecture series of the Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo. He stated that human capital was key since it drives every other resource.

Represented by his Special Adviser on Health Matters, Dr. Emmanuel Odu, the minister maintained that if human capital was not in place, every other resource will either be wasted or be translated to nothing.

The minister explained that the Federal University of Health Sciences, Otuokpo was positioned to contribute to the agenda of the federal government by producing quality human resources and also engage in research, information and evidence that will be used for better implementation of health care delivery.

Guest Speaker at the event and Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Health Sciences Otuokpo, Professor Innocent

Minister pledges support for healthcare professionals training

From
TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi

Ujah, who gave a historical background about the institution, said the journey of the institution started like a journey to the unknown and cloud of uncertainty.

He said after securing approval during Dr. Goodluck Jonathan's presidency, the project was however stalemated upon coming on board of President Muhammadu Buhari who later gave a go ahead for the full take off of the institution. Ujah appreciated the efforts of former President of the Senate, David Mark for ensuring that the dream of the university was a reality.

In a lecture titled "Pioneering the first Federal University of Health Sciences in Nigeria: The Excitement, the Expectations and Challenges", the pioneer vice chancellor told the gathering that the announcement of the establishment of the university was made on May 20th, 2015 at the 11th meeting of the Federal Executive Council meeting under President Goodluck Jonathan's presidency.

The vision of the university, the vice chancellor explained, was to be a world-class institution for learning, scientific research and innovation for developing the next generation of healthcare providers.

The mission, the pioneer vice chancellor disclosed, was to build capacity of healthcare

professionals through integrated medical education, professional skills and research providing access to high quality healthcare services.

While lamenting the vacuum the retirement, resignation and death of some lecturers in the institution have created where many courses are without lecturers, Professor Ujah appealed to the federal government to grant a waiver to allow the university to either recruit new staff or replace staff that have left the institution.

In a goodwill message, the Ochi Idoma, His Royal Majesty, Chief Elaigwu Odugbo, pledged unalloyed support of Idoma Traditional Council to the university for it to succeed.

In a remark, the former President of the Senate, Senator David Mark, represented by one of his daughters, Mrs. Oowo Ameh, commended the voice Chancellor, Professor Ujah for nursing the dream to reality.

The former two term Senate President said the university, which started like a joke, has grown within a record time. He presented an award of excellence to the vice chancellor in recognition of his efforts at ensuring thoroughbred healthcare professionals.

AWISD presents dehauling, destoning Acha processing machines

By **JIDAUNA DARING**

AS part of effort to boost Acha production, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Agape Women Initiative for Sustainable Development (AWISD) has presented dehauling and destoning Acha processing machines to WUNATO – BEHA Women of Rahoss, Kwogo – Hoss and Tahoss communities in Riyom Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State.

Chairman, Transition Implementation Committee (TIC) Riyom Local Government Council (LGC) Hon. Sati. Shuwa who commissioned the projects cited at Government Model Primary School premises, Tahoss, last Friday, appreciated AWISD for considered the benefiting communities for the project.

Hon. Shuwa described the project as a laudable one not only to the benefiting communities but to the entire Local Government. He added that the machines would further strengthen unity among his people.

He pointed out that his administration would continue encouraging more Acha production, adding that the commissioned of the project has non put the council on a high gear to bring more in the locality.

The TIC Chairman also described Riyom as a land blessed by God when it comes to Acha production among other agricultural farm produces in the locality. He advised the women who are now in charge of the machines not to disappoint the donor particularly when it comes to the issue of maintenance so as to enable it serve the purpose why it was presented to the group.

Hon. Shuwa promised that

the council on its part would do everything possible to ensure that the machines are given the needed attention when it comes to the issues of sustainability.

He then called on traditional rulers who are the custodians of people not relent in their effort in uniting their subjects. He added that development can only thrive when people are united in whatever they do in their respective communities.

Earlier in her welcome remarks, Executive Director AWISD, Mrs. Chundung Racheal Bature expressed happiness with the large turnout of people who graced the commissioned of the project. She particularly appreciated TIC Chairman of Riyom and some councilors as well traditional rulers for honouring the invitations.

Mrs. Bature said AWISD is an NGO with focused on women and girl – child empowerment. She pointed out that the project is supported by Development Exchange Centre (DEC), funded by Brot, Bread for the World Protestant Development Service, stressing that the gesture was geared towards scaling up Acha production in Riyom district of Riyom LGA, for sustainable livelihood of women in Rahoss, Kwogo – Hoss and Tahoss communities.

She expressed gratitude to God for his faithfulness to the NGO, adding that He has been so gracious to them in whatever step they take when it comes to empowered women and girl – child in their programme. She also thanked their donors for the supports always given them to execute projects embarked upon in any community, adding that they have also empowered 570 women in 6 LGAs.

Mrs. Bature explained that

the reason for empowering women as far as this project was concerned is to open more sources of income for them so as to enable them assist their husbands and family. She described Berom women as very industrious people. Adding that AWISD believes in developing women that would in turn develop the nation.

Reading the over view of the project, AWISD Project Officer, Gotom Hassan said that for possible expertise in promoting Acha production in large quantity, the organization thought it wise to go into partnership with Nigerian Export Promotion Council, and also in collaboration with Nigerian Cereal Research Institute (NCRI) to ensure Acha best farm practice among farmers. He added that their target in this project is to ensure the exportation of Acha from Riyom LGA to other countries.

Hassan maintained that one of project objective is to improve food security in Riyom LGA through increased production of quality Acha for exportation by February 2024. He added that the women need more encouragement

and supports for Acha production in the locality.

Speaking separately, the community leaders all appreciated AWISD for considered the plight of women in their programme. They also described the project as a welcome development to the entire Riyom LGA.

The community leaders also cautioned women against any act that is capable of would tearing them apart, saying that as the custodians of the people they would continue to work on a path of promoting unity amongst the women at all times.

Also speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Rose Davou expressed Joy and equally thanked the donors for making the project a reality for the women in the benefiting communities and assured the donors of their readiness to make good use of the Acha processing machines in order to better their lives.

Our correspondent reports that the epoch-making event featured dance from WUNATO B E H A women, commissioning/testing of the machines and goodwill messages from some LG councilor's as well stakeholders.

BASUG honors 2 prominent indigenes

From
ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

IN recognition of his contributions towards uplifting the education sector in the state since assumption of office in 2019, as Bauchi State Governor, the Bauchi State University Authority, Gadau, has awarded Governor Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed with an honorary Doctorate of Letters of the Instruction.

The university similarly awarded the state's former governor, Malam Isah Yuguda, with an honorary degree in management.

Our correspondent in Bauchi reports that the teaming

supporters of the former governor were appreciative of the award and therefore commended the university management for acknowledging that Mallam Isa Yuguda's administration established the State University in 2011.

The Emir of Bauchi, Dr. Rilwanu Suleiman Adamu, who is the Chancellor of the University, presented the Honors Causa to Governor Bala Mohammed during the maiden convocation of the university recently.

While appreciating his conferment with doctorate degree (Honoris Causa), Doctor of Letters, Governor

Mohammed reaffirmed his commitment to continue with reviving the education sector to meet global standard.

He said, "Pursuant to our determination to restore the educational sector, an education summit will be conducted in Bauchi this month.

"In the area of support for indigenes of the state to acquire higher education, we have since the inception of our administration in 2019, paid a total of N658,539,470:00 as scholarship to 32,987 students undergoing courses at various tertiary institutions," Governor

Mohammed said.

Mohammed called on students of the university to imbibe the culture and spirit of discipline, hard work, respect for lectures, university authority as well as refraining from anti-social behaviors and influence of bad company or peer group.

He employed the management of the institution to come up with ideas on how to overcome the increasing security challenges threatening the state and the nation, especially cyber crimes, kidnapping and other criminal activities.



PROBATE NOTICE

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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Laya Maiwada Sumba late of Plateau State died on the 30th August, 2023 at Rema-Rimi, Bassa LGA Plateau State.	Hannatu Haruna Bawa & Destiny Maiwada of Jengre Rema Rimi Bassa LGA, Plateau State Lawful widow/son of the said	Diyal Zumle Stephanus late of Plateau State died on the 21st August, 2022 at Wase, LGA Plateau State.	Diyal Victor of Quarters Anguldi Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Rume Sabina Karos late of Plateau State died on the 25th June, 2023 at Kufang, Jos South LGA Plateau State.	Emmanuel Rume Lon-Gwa Kufang, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Esther Pwadima Gowal late of Plateau State died on the 28th May, 2023 at Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Nenchadirwe Fwadima Gowal of COCIN Church Tuwan Kabwir Kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	Grace Tasalla Got, Got Grace (Also Known As) Grace T. Got late of Plateau State died on the 26th November, 2023 at BHUTU, Jos Plateau State.	Mafeng Jemima Dudari, Yeipeng Joy Got & Sele Samuel Got. All of No.5. Phase A Latya B. Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughters of the said deceased	Ukwudi Alice Akomaye (Also Known as) Akomaye Alice late of Plateau State died on the 29th July, 2022 at Bedia, Cross River State.	Martha Joan Akomaye & Mary Maria Akomaye. All of Building Material Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful grand children of the said deceased.
Bongs Elisha Dalyop late of Plateau State died on the 24th May, 2023 at Jos, (Barkin Ladi) Riyom LGA, Plateau State.	Dalyop Courage Elisha & Haruna Gloria Tanko, Riyom LGA, Plateau State . Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased	Joseph Isha Ajang late of Plateau State died on the 20th July, 2020, at Angware, Jos East LGA Plateau State.	Daniel Kaze Joseph of ECWA Church Shere Jos East LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Stephen Runtun late of Plateau State died on the 20th September, 2019 at Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA Plateau State.	Stephen Veronica of Kalong Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
David Idoko Onoja late of Plateau State died on the 23rd September, 2019 at Jos, Plateau State.	Idoko Shedrach of Jenta Makeri Jos North LGA, Plateau State . Lawful son of the said deceased	Chuwang Eric Ibrahim late of Plateau State died on the 17th August, 2020 at Rahwol Kanang, Jos South LGA Plateau State.	Chuwang Pam Emmanuel of Shen Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	Tyoden Mark Jacob Dawel late of Plateau State died on the 3rd September, 2023 at Mangu, LGA Plateau State.	Tyoden Rifkatu Mark of Behind Dando GRA Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Barau Sulaiman Abdullahi late of Nassarawa State died on the 1st October, 2023 at Nassarawa State.	Barau Adamu Abdullahi of No.9 Angwang Sarki Pada Nassarawa State . Lawful brother of the said deceased	Ibrahim Doka late of Plateau State died on the 1st August, 2023 at Rema-Rimi, Bassa LGA Plateau State.	Hezekiah Ibrahim Doka of Rimi Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Gofwan Joseph Jongni (Also Known as) Joseph Gofwan Ngolu, late of Plateau State died on the 12th November, 2023 at Seri, Kanke LGA, Plateau State.	Gakka Joseph C/O St. William Catholic Church Seri, Kanke LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Clement Saleh Dabson late of Plateau State died on the 7th July, 2023 at Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA Plateau State.	Bakle Clement Sale of Dungba, Shendam LGA Plateau State . Lawful son of the said deceased	Zi Chuwang Thomas late of Plateau State died on the 22nd July, 2022 at Kwang, Jos South LGA Plateau State.	Timothy Dazi Thomas of Kwang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Gyang Musa Bott late of Plateau State died on the 16th July, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Kim Jonathan Gyang of Behind Building Materials Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Garba Ahmed late of Plateau State, Died on the 22nd March, 2020 at Shiroro Hosp., Minna.	Anna Amos, Keturah Garba Amos of Angwan Bawa Saminaka LGA, Kaduna State, Lawful Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.	Yakubu Agandu Gontu late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th October, 2019, at Cottage Hosp. Bokkos LGA Plateau State.	Mashat Mary Solomon Fakkos, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widom of the said deceased.	Manga Pam late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th December 2022, at Kassa, Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	Manga Gugolo of COCIN Church Kadima Hwolshe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
Maurice Pam Davou late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th June, 2023 at Jos Plateau state.	Veronica Gyang Bott of Behind Building Materials Market, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Dangal Pwajok late of Plateau State. Died on the 22nd July, 2021 at Hwak Kuru Jos South LGA Plateau State.	Chuhwak Pwajok Dangal of Dagwom Hwak Palace Kuru Kuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Williams Ifeanyi Solomon late of Delta State died on the 10th August, 2023 at D.S.S. Clinic Bwari	Nwanyiinnaya Charity Williams & Oliseyenum Edward Williams of Lawhol Chom. Rayfield, Jos South LGA, Plateau State, the lawful widow & son of the said deceased,.
Gotom Major Bala (also known as) Major Bala Joseph Gotom late of Plateau State died on the 22nd June, 2023 at BHUTH, Jos.	Nenrot Bala Gotom of Mazaramk, Little Rayfield, Jos, Plateau State the lawful son of the said said deceased.	<p>Signed (ANDRAWUS MAIKAI) PROBATE REGISTRAR PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS</p>			

PUBLIC NOTICE

HANDS OF VIRTUE INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under the companies and allied matters act CAMA 2020

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Olajide Justin Temitope
2. Sho Roselyn Kpanze - Secretary
3. Ihimoyan Ayoola Joshua - Chairman
4. Sho Rosemary Iji
5. Adeoye Olajumoke Esther
6. Salawu Oluwatobi Richard

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Capacity building and empowerment
2. Giving hope to widows, orphans, less privileged, disabled and the vulnerable

Any Objections to the publication should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, within Twenty Eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed: Secretary

PANGYUGHAI

I, formerly known as **STEPHANIE MARK BI-ALLAH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **STEPHANIE PANGYUGHAI JOSEPH**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DOMCHAK

I, formerly known as **DOMCHAK NANSACK JOHN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DOMCHAK NANSACK LOHNIM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please

FLORENCE

I, formerly known as **DOKRET WAKDET**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FLORENCE YALE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

NAPBUT

I, formerly known as **BAPBUT MANBYEN NANPKAK**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NAPBUT NANGUN NIMFAT**. Correct date of birth is 14/07/2002. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

EMMANUEL

I, formerly known as **FELICIA QUEEN CLEMENT**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FELICIA EMMANUEL**. My correct date of birth is 7/2/1996 not 7/2/1983. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

SABO

I, formerly known as **MAHAMMED YAHUZA SABO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SABO YAHUZA MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the

GONAP

I, formerly known as **GONAP KOPWUNA TOKKIDA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GONAP SIMON**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

JIBRIN

I, formerly known as **YAKUBU HASSAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JIBRIN YAKUBU HASSAN**. Correct date of birth is 20/04/1991 NOT 01/01/1978. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

Food security and poor masses



By CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

BASED on the 1996 World food Summit, food security is defined as when people at all times, have physical economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary need and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Food security in Nigeria in recent times has been ritual.

According to Cadre Harmonies, a government led and United Nations supported food and nutrition analysis that is carried out twice a year, an estimated 25

million Nigerians are likely to be food insecure between June and August this year.

The food security situation in Nigeria is mostly affected by the insecurity situation that has forced most farming communities to abandon their traditional profession of farming.

The violent conflict included the insurgency in the North East, armed banditry in the North West and increase singly across the country, and separatist agitation South East among other.

Other factor like the high rate of inflation, raging poverty and raging unemployment, engendering and compounding cost of living crisis.

Natural in particular of flood when is attributed to climate change, continue to affect food production according to National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, the 2022 flood led to the destruction and washing away of over 675,000 of farmland across Nigeria. The impact of this flooding on the common Nigerian who sees farmer as his only means of survival is unimaginable.

With respect to the poverty rate, the World poverty clock indicate that 71 million Nigerians are currently living in extremes poverty by all standard of the resources that abound in Nigeria the rate of poverty in the country is fast a reflection of our bad leadership and greed that has eaten deep in us as a nation.

The dedication on the 14 of July 2023, Federal Government declaration state of emergency on the food security situation in Nigeria is a welcome development but word must be match with action before any tangible result can come out as it is there are some part of this country that farmers cannot go to their farms to harvest their crops as a result of banditry or insurgency and looking at it.

These farmers are mostly settle in of rural areas who have nothing to depend on but the subsistent farming that they dependent for their means of livelihood.

If expected that the declaration of State of Emergency on food security by the government in July should by this time yield result by tailing inflation but that



seems to be on a very high rate.

As part of the programs land down during the declaration of state of emergency on food security, release of fertilizer and grants to farmers and households irrigation and all year round farming, price assessment and maintenance, security measures, transportation and storage facilities, concessionary capital funding to agricultural sector among others.

However there are concern that are expressed in various situation about the government lack of political will to act well as it is done in some part of the world. As it is now, Nigerians are not finding things easy especially in this area of food security.

As if is now any potential future could compound the current situation for many, and push many vulnerable communities including women, girls and small safe farmers further down the poverty line, as well as food insecurity and malnutrition.

Looking at the rating of Nigeria in 2023 by Global Finger Index. Nigeria ranked 10th out of the 125 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2023 score. With a score of 28.3 in 2023 Global

Hunger Index Nigeria has a level of hunger that is serious.

Despite the fact that Nigeria is endowed with agricultural resource and over 81 million arable and largely fertile hectares with maize, cassava, acorn, yam, beans, millet and rice being the major crops. With the rising demotic production of price is adversely affecting food security conditions.

Rural areas are insularly somewhat from the recent price fugue because of more home production although peripheral areas of the Country have suffered the worst effects in recent years.

As it is now the factors that have affected Nigeria in terms of food security are very obvious that even a child can mention some of them. It is therefore very important that the government should not look at the old days of handling matters related to food security.

A modern approach should be applied and sincerity of purpose and political will should come into play here, if Nigerians are to have a moderate living standard compared with our resources.

The food security situation in Nigeria is mostly affected by the insecurity situation that has force most farming communities to abandon their traditional profession of farming.



By DUMAH RANDONG

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

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

Between affluence and the multidimensional poverty in Nigeria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Considering the increasing high cost of living as a result of

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

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

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

standard.

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

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

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

By JIDAUNA DARING

IT is an established fact that Civil Servants just as the name implies remain the engine room of government at all levels when it comes to office functions that governments are saddled with responsibilities particularly those in leadership. Therefore, the existence of unionism at different levels of government is not a misplacement of idea because the unions exist for the good of the workers and of course the organizations in which they work.

In fact, it has become a very common phenomenon when it comes to violation of workers rights in different ways by the employer. The violation of the rights of the workers by the employer over time as far as this issue is concerned has continued to conscientize the workers particularly on the need for them to come together and defend themselves against the selfish interest of the employer.

This unfortunate practice has indeed given rise to the formation of different labour organizations in most countries of the world. Like in the case of Nigeria, the two labour centres are the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC).

What is also pathetic over the years and even today in Nigeria is the plight of workers. The Nigerian government workers have no doubt come under different kinds of attacks are from the political class who have bend on using unabated term "lack of funds" callously to perpetually suffer or suppress the Nigerian working class who have been placed on an unfulfilled meager minimum wage of N30,000, but because of the selfish interest of the politicians, the politicians have reviewed their salaries upward and scandalously too without any form of regard to the state of the nations economy.

In view of this, it is glaring that the type of environment that the workers in Nigeria operate is not a friendly one, but it is rather a harsh one, compared to that of the early years, particularly after Nigerian Independence, this is because, the present political class have become so united in their collective resolve to do nothing but to ruin the country for their personal interest at the detriment of Nigerian citizens.

It has also become very imperative for the organized labour in the country to remain united so that together they can devise the means or possible ways of coping with those whose stock in trade is to see the backwardness of the labour groups and rop the country of its available resources with "impunity".

Therefore to address some of these wrong practice amongst some leaders, it therefore, behooves on various unions to close ranks and work together in order to fight, protect and defend the rights and welfare of workers at all times.

It was against this background that the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN) an affiliate of Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC), Plateau State branch thought it very expedient to organize a one day seminar with the theme; "The public servant in Nigeria: Prospects and challenges".

This important seminar which drew participants took place at the Conference Hall, Federal Secretariat, Jos, the Plateau State capital, on December 8th, 2023.

In his remarks, Secretary to the Government of the State (SGS), Arc. Samuel N. Jatau who was represented by Commissioner for Youth and Sports, Hon. Bashiri Lawandi Datti, said that Governor Caleb M. Mutfwang led

administration in Plateau State would continue to promote effective social dialogue for industrial relations and harmony within the context of the "The time is now", mantra.

Arc. Jatau commended the organizers of the seminar which he said was apt as far as the theme was concerned. He added that, the Seminar would further motivate the Civil Servants on the Plateau to put in their best despite all challenges

She added that the labour has a responsibility to partner with the state government to train the workforce for effective productivity. "It is our firm belief that the civil service can thrive when the Civil Servants are well educated and enlightened".

Gopar said that the choice of the two topics were to draw the attention of its members to the new trend of challenges and opportunities created therein

Labour union and workers' welfare



Comrade Gopar being faced by them.

He maintained that the aim of the programme as he believes was to provide trade unions an opportunity to share ideas on policies related to the topic of the seminar. He added that the seminar would also examine the multiple challenges faced by trade unions in promoting decent work through job creation, labour standards, social protection, skills acquisition and social dialogue.

Arc Jatau urged the participants to make the best use of the seminar and to know that any labour that uplifts humanity, there is dignity in it.

"As civil servants, we work for wages and salaries relationship within the working environment with all efforts trying to give the best of our ability; we should be mindful of transparency and abide by Civil Service rules".

Earlier in her welcome remarks Chairman, ASCSN Plateau State branch, Barr. Comrade Leah Jina Gopar, expressed delight and thanked the participants for the seminar. She said that the seminar organized annually by the association is to keep its members abreast on current and contemporary happenings nationally particularly at the work place. "This seminar wouldn't have come at a better time than now".

Gopar pointed out that this year's seminar was put together in continuation of the state Branch's commitment to continue with capacity development and improvement of their members in the state which was also in line with the policy of the government on training and retraining of workers.

particularly in the 21st century.

She appreciated the hard work, dedication and the time spent by the organizers to put the seminar together. She also affirmed that the organizers have worked tirelessly to ensure that everything runs smoothly and efficiently.

Gopar urged the participants to give full attention to the presenters of the two papers so as to enable them develop a clear concise action plan for improvement of the civil service, labour movement and ourselves. She equally thanked the National Secretariat of ASCNS for the support given to organize the seminar.

She commended Governor Caleb M. Mutfwang of Plateau State for clearing the backlog of salaries that were left behind by the immediate past administration. She added that the governor has demonstrated his commitment to ensure that the Civil Service functions by personally declaring open a four day retreat organized for government officials and labour leaders in the state.

Gopar then called on government to as a matter of priority ensure that the welfare of workers are catered for adequately and regularly.

"Salaries should be paid as an when due. Government should also make it a policy to respect existing agreements between labour unions and government to ensure industrial peace and harmony in the state".

She implored all Civil Servants to lend support to the efforts of government on the need to be dedicated while discharging their duties at all times.

Presenting the paper title: "Trade union practice in a changing



Participants at the seminar

environment; challenges and opportunity" Associate Professor, Lazarus Luka Maigoro, University of Jos, who was represented by Dr. Jurbe Joseph Mulwus said that, in order to strengthen trade unions and unionism in Nigeria, recommended that the union leaders should ensure the education of its members to remove ignorance and apathetic attitude. This would help them to be well informed and conscious of their rights.

Maigoro maintained that the union leaders should aim at protecting workers interest and shun all social vices that would tarnish the image of the Trade Unions such as corruption, bribery, tribalism and nepotism and also recommended that the Trade Union activities should be given a place of pride at workplace, their propositions should be objectively and judiciously considered" likewise among others.

Also presenting the paper "Economic challenges of a public servant in Nigeria" by CEO, Exit Consultancy Ltd, Mr. Luka Y. Panpe said that the primary responsibility of the public service is to execute government policies and programme that would accelerate the economic development of the people. If those who are expected to do lacked the motivation to work, then the entire public would suffer.

Panpe posited that it was against this backdrop that adequate attention and efforts must be made to care for the economic motivation of the public servants in Nigeria.

He added that serious steps are

thus required by both the government and the representatives of unions and associations of public servants to address the economic challenges in the services and by extension in the country.

In her remarks, Plateau State Head of service, Mrs. Rauta Dakok who was represented by Director, Housing and Assets Management, Mr. Hubert Kwanmen while appreciating the efforts of the organizers of the seminar, urged workers to be patient with the government, saying that the government is not unmindful of the workers challenges in the state.

Mrs. Dakok pointed out that the present administration has given priority to training and retraining of the workforce for more good service delivery.

Also speaking, Chairman, Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Plateau State, Comrade Eugene Manji emphasized the need for unions to be more united so together they can protect the rights of the workers at all times.

Speaking with THE NIGERIAN STANDARD, Mr. Lengkat Yusuf and Daniel Pofi who were both participants described the seminar as a very timely one, looking at the present economic challenges being faced in the country. The duo said that the two papers that were presented were very loaded saying that, if put into use would go a long way in addressing some of the economic hardship faced by the Civil Servants and other, in the state.

IMAGES

MUTFWANG AT NORTHERN GOVERNORS' FORUM MEETING

The Governor of Plateau State, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang recently attended the 19 Northern Governors' Forum (NGF) meeting in Kaduna, Kaduna State chaired by their Chairman and Governor of Gombe State, Alhaji Muhammad Yahaya Inuwa



Governor Muhammad Yahaya Inuwa of Gombe State chairing the Forum's meeting



Governor Inuwa and Governor Mutfwang exchanging greetings during the NGF meeting



Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State (left) putting heads together with SGS Plateau, Arc. Samuel Nanchang Jatau



Members of the Northern States Governors' Forum displaying the cheque of one hundred and eighty million naira to victims of the Tudun Biri drown Kaduna State to Governor Uba Sani

IMAGES

NIPR PLATEAU STATE HOLDS AWARDS AND DINNER

The Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Plateau State Chapter held its 2023 Awards and Dinner recently at the Korrets Hamlet Amusement Park and Events Centre, Jos



Chairman, NIPR, Plateau State Chapter, Bajeh Thomas (MNIPR) delivering his speech



Barr. Haroun Harry Audu, FNIPR Governing Council member (left) receiving his award



Cross section of Awards recipients in a group photograph with the Chairman of the NIPR



Dr. Gideon G. Barde one of the Award recipients responding on behalf of other Awardees

Odd World

Neighbour slammed for calling police about dog pooing outside

A homeowner has been criticised on Reddit for calling law enforcement on their neighbours, who let their pet dog go to the bathroom on their own patio, with people angrily agreeing it's a 'waste of police resources'

A homeowner has been slammed online for "wasting police time" after calling law enforcement on their neighbour's dog who goes to the toilet outside.

Taking to Reddit, the person started a thread explaining that the couple next-door often let their dog go to the bathroom on the patio.

They wrote: "I have some neighbours, a young couple around their 20s. They've lived in the apartment next to mine for two years. They have a dog. A small one.

"I've always noticed them taking the dog on walks but for the past two months, I just see them putting some pads on their patio and letting the dog s**t and pee there.

"I've made complaints to them multiple times, I've called them lazy and told them to give up the dog if they can't care for it properly."

When confronted, the couple defended themselves, explaining that they clean up after their dog at least twice a day and walk it every night.

"The girl also said its none of my business on why she and her boyfriend don't take the dog out on walks and they don't have to answer to me," wrote the user.

"The next morning I called the police on them. Authorities came and inspected

and said that no laws are broken as long as the area is getting cleaned up daily."

When the person spoke to police, they were told that the "couple has their reasons" and it's not the neighbour's business to know.

Other members of the community explained to the homeowner that the couple are expecting a baby and the boyfriend takes the dog out late at night whilst his girlfriend is on bedrest.

"Everyone in the building is now hostile against me," the user finished.

Reddit users were quick to respond and slate the person for thinking it's acceptable to call the police.

"I can't even imagine why anyone would think this was not OK, let alone a police matter," someone said.

"You just made a building full of enemies all because you are nosy and intrusive," another person commented.

One Redditor simply said: "You're a neighbour from hell", whilst a second wrote: "What an absolute waste of police resources."

Many people defended the pregnant woman and suggested they apologise to the couple.

"There are many reasons why people can't walk their dog. The dog may have an injury that's healing, it may have developed arthritis and can't walk as much or as long without pain, or a slew of other reasons that are none of your business," a person slated.

Source: The Mirror



It's a bleak Christmas in Nigeria

IN a few days time, the entire world will be enveloped in another massive merriment but it's on the contrary going to be quite a bleak one in Nigeria. It seems to be a bleak Christmas more so because many people in the country are already overwhelmed by cutthroat transportation costs and worrisome security challenges bedeviling us. Christmas is an epoch making event which is celebrated every December 25th to commemorate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, son of God and saviour of the entire globe. It is a time when Christians check their lifestyle and take stoke of activities of the outgoing year and reflecting on God's salvation for humanity by bringing liberty to all those who have faith in Him.

For the faithful, Christmas is a remarkable festival primarily observed on December 25th as a unique religious celebration. It is also regarded as an event celebrated with all sense of responsibility and spiritual uprightness through the mercy of God.

For many, it is an event worth celebrating thus preparations starts even before this designated day for the religious ritual. Though the origin of Christmas celebrations dates back to ancient times, its significance lingers on the belief that the birth of Christ is a source of light, hope and salvation to many lost souls.

This is further mentioned in the scriptures particularly in Mathew 1:23 that 'Behold, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son and they shall call his name Emmanuel which being interpreted is God with us.' Therefore, Christ is regarded as God's free gift to the world to reconcile man to His creator.

Jesus, the son of God came into this world to give man a second chance. For all who believe, they automatically became the children of the Lord all Mighty. The coming of Christ is worth celebrating considering the fact that we were once in darkness on a broad path to perish but he came to make life worth living for those who accepted him.

In Nigeria, Christmas celebrations is held with all the seriousness it deserves as elsewhere in the world owing to the energy put in anticipation of this celebrations. For some citizens of this country, preparations for Christmas starts from January of each year. Therefore, whether one usually observes financial discipline and or other means of self-restraint, some people think that if one intends to celebrate this joyful event, it must take a long time of planning. For others, Christmas is all about wearing new clothes and drinking irresponsibly which has continued to created problems both before, during and after the celebrations. We however are aware that the ceremony is far beyond these kind of negative meaningless lifestyle.

If for nothing else, people are always encouraged to spend wisely as the month of January always come with many bills to pay. This month is usually a dry one which makes unwise and extravagant people during Christmas celebrations pay through the hard and only way.

For many whose memories have not failed them, Christmas celebrations of last year was not glamorously done following our Federal Government's unthinkable, unthoughtful and premature decision to implement the cashless polity without palliatives to cushion both foreseeable and unforeseeable hiccups. Though many economists attempted to explain that the policy was a good one but ill-timed, this development brought untold hardship and trauma to many vulnerable members of our society. As the situation turned out for the worse; many citizens had to cut down significantly their budget with many others not travelling to see their loved ones.

Despite the unspeakable suffering of last year which perhaps is partially gone with the wind, we are neck deep in preparations for this year's Christmas and it seems there is little hope for a much better celebration

this year. The indices are clear, this Christmas may still not be well celebrated particularly by the common man in Nigeria. Today, things are hard and the means of human survival is diminishing by the day. It takes extra energy to secure three square meals a day not to talk of paying the school fees of our children.

Just last week, a friend confided in me that if care is not taken, many people may face the same traumatizing challenges as was the case last year. As it is, insufficient fuel supply has started roaring its ugly head in the country. Most filling stations cannot dispense fuel and visible the long queues have returned. Though isolated cases of kidnappings and other acts of criminality have been recorded, citizens are still visibly shaken that our government needs to do more to proactively protect Nigerians from falling pray to such dastard acts.

The scarcity of relevant and essential commodities in the likes of petrol is already affecting the transport industry including the prices of other commodities as this year's Christmas celebrations approaches. This equally means that many individuals will still be forced to cut down their budget for the celebrations.

For the wise however, Christmas celebrations may not all be about such unnecessary travelling, excessive spending, show-off and or our women and children making unnecessary demands which cannot be met by their breadwinners. To be modest, we must first of all appreciate God for making it possible for us to witness this year's celebrations alive and in good health.

A few months ago, I had no premonition that my father would pass on to the great beyond and had included him in my Christmas plans for this year. After recording a little economic breakthrough, I had promised him that this year's Christmas celebrations would be much better than those of yester years.

Sad enough, in July this year, my father went to be with our Lord Jesus Christ leaving me in a terrible condition arriving at unexplainable conclusions till date. But it is quite apparent that my Christmas plans would have to change completely. As I look forward to this year's celebrations, I will definitely miss my father who was all there for us during our moments of trials.

In the midst of these strong emotions, I hope not to allow my father's passing overwhelmed and or overshadow the significance of this year's celebrations. As it is however, we all must be comforted as a result of the situations we have found ourselves in. As I write, I am aware of the fact that I may not be the only one grieving and or the only one worried about the unpleasant problems confronting this country.

It's like Nigeria, the giant of Africa has lost its bearing and is heading to only God knows where. Aside the biting realities of economic or crunch, inflation and epileptic power supply have crippled both the small and medium scale entrepreneurship in the country.

Knowing too well that the month of January usually comes with its own huge responsibilities, citizens are already aware that the coming month after Christmas would be quite challenging. This is to say that obviously, more trouble is on the way.

Be this as it may however, the present temporary hiccups will not take away the smile of Christmas on our faces this year. I still with great optimism remain on the strong side of life that even these difficult and unpleasant situations shall pass away when the time comes.

Therefore, that we have found ourselves in the middle of disappointments, self-inflicted pains and sorrow does not mean that we have automatically signed a death warrant. Far from it, I so much believe in the African adage that says, tough people last longer than tough situations even as God has assured us that He knows the plans He has for us which is to bring us all to a comfortable expected end through Christ our Lord and Saviour. We will therefore dance more than ever before to the glory of our redeemer during this Christmas celebrations in the midst of our troubles and difficulties as believers whose God has not and will never forget to protect, care, provide and do us good.

View Point

Karl Kumm varsity's Christmas Carol to remember

Each year and to be more precise on December 25th, Christmas is celebrated by the Christian faithful to commemorate the birth of our saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ the world over. The significance of the celebration of Christmas cannot be overemphasized owing to the fact that the birth of Christ bought salvation to the entire mankind. It is a historic religious tradition which gives hope to the hopeless, creates sound mind for the heartbroken with great assurances for a prospective future. The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is no doubt one of the heartbeats of our salvation. This is certainly not far-fetched as in the book of Isaiah 7:14, the Holy Scripture revealed that "Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call him Emmanuel. Writes BULUS GAMBO.

BUTTER and honey shall he eat that he may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good. The land that thou abhorrent shall be forsaken of both their kings."

In Mathew 1:18-23 it further explains that "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost..." thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, during such an important occasion, Christian faithful all over the world gather wherever they find themselves to reflect on this good thing God did for the salvation of humanity despite our shortcomings as human beings. Before the celebration of the Christmas Day proper, the christian faithful also gather to hold carols intended to resonate the spirit of the anticipated main event to the glory of God.

It was in accordance with the lucrative Biblical philosophy of Christmas that the Karl Kumm University located in Vom, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State organised a Christmas Carol which provided an ample opportunity for the Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof Nanven Audu Gambo, management, staff and students of the institution to fraternise and significantly acknowledge the great gift of God to believers in Christ and humanity by providing his son to die for our sins.

The carol which was held at the school's faculty was not surprising considering the fact that as a faith based institution, which has a sound vision and mission of ensuring the production of God fearing leaders who would in the nearest future contribute to the development of the nation had thought of doing so right from the start. According to the organizers, though this was the first carol of nine lessons hosted by the institution, it was quite imperative towards reshaping the students for the task ahead. The carol was



also held to appreciate the special gift of God for the betterment and salvation of humanity.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof Nanven Audu Gambo called on all to appreciate the birth of Jesus Christ and the reason for the season adding that as Christians, all must imbibe the righteous life of our saviour Jesus Christ for the advancement of the citizens of the nation.

The Vice Chancellor noted that the management of the institution thought it wise to support the Christmas carol so as to encourage the staff and students live a Christ-like lifestyle and help advance collective integration of the University community for the betterment of the institution and the nation at large.

Prof Gambo advised the students of the institution not to mingle with miscreants during the holidays but dedicate themselves to their study even as they are anticipating their exams immediately after the yuletide.

The Vice Chancellor encouraged students to always ensure that they read their books to enable them record success

during the forthcoming examinations and equally stand tall among their peers.

He noted that the desire of the institution remains resolute towards guiding the students to becoming credible leaders and become good ambassadors of the school after their graduation adding that to this end, a conducive environment has been created to enable students read and prepare for their academic pursuits in life.

Prof Gambo who also acknowledged the immense contributions of the organisers of the carol promised that management of the university will ensure that next year's programme supersedes that of this year noting that by next year, we shall improve the standard of the carol much better and fascinating for all to see.

Earlier in his exaltation, the Acting Chaplain of Karl Kumm University, Rev John Duwam who took his text from the book of Matthew 2:1-2 explained that Christ's birth was a significant breakthrough for mankind as salvation was made available to humanity through his remarkable and tremendous sacrifice.

The clergy said everything and

every authority is under the shoulders of our redeemer who is our coming king adding that "this is why Jesus is continuously celebrated all over the world.

Rev Duwam noted the great sacrifice both the committee members and students of the institution made towards ensuring that the programme records a huge success.

He urged the students and Christians to always understand the fundamental meaning of Christmas and it's gains to humanity.

The clergy also advised Christians to continue worshipping God in Spirit and truth which is the only way out of the present problems facing the citizens of Nigeria.

Though the event was the first to be held, the activity passionately resonated the need for all to come together in unity for the progress of the one another in the school and elsewhere. Many students were also encouraged to reconcile themselves to Christ who is the only door opener for their academic success.

The clergy admonished the students urging them to work hard knowing too well that the best way to celebrate Christmas

is to appreciate the gift of God through Christ Jesus who came to salvage humanity from bondage, suffering and captivity and transforming mankind to be blameless before the throne of grace

So far, Karl Kumm University has every reason to thank God for the great things he is doing for the institution. Since the coming to be of both staff and students to the University, the institution has continued to recorded incredible minding blowing successes. This development culminated with the Matriculation of the first set of the students some weeks ago. In the aftermath of the Matriculation ceremony, many stakeholders have opined that the is great prospect for the institution.

As the students continue to study under a friendly atmosphere, efforts are been done to seek for synergy with other stakeholders towards the advancement of excellent educational standard of international standard. To further guarantee success, the management employed credible and experienced staff who are working tirelessly towards helping the university achieve it's set objectives in no distance time.

Beyond this, efforts are also been made to instill the fear of God and need for better understanding of contemporary issues which garrantees good governance and transparent leadership for positive and impactful generational change.

Be that as it may however, the management still feels that all would be put in place to ensure a much better Christmas Carol next year. For this year's carol however, it will surely continue to linger in the memory of both the students and staff for years to come should Christ tarry.



News

Governor Mutfwang calls for continuous prayer

By DUMAH RANDONG

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang wants Christians to continue to pray and have faith in the ability of God to intervene in every situation.

Mutfwang gave the admonition during the Harvest and Thanksgiving service of the Church of Christ in Nations, COCIN, Headquarters, Church, Jos, recently.

Our correspondent reports that the church was full to capacity as it was a great day for celebration and giving gratitude to God Almighty for members of the COCIN Headquarters Church. Members were seen dancing to the altar in thanksgiving with proceeds of God's blessings in their life all through the year.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang, who was represented at the thanksgiving service by the state Deputy Governor, Josephine Piyo, said God deserves their thanksgiving and there is every reason to thank God at all times.

The Governor encouraged the congregation not to be deterred from prayer and thanksgiving despite the



Mutfwang

challenges of the present time.

In a sermon by COCIN General Secretary, Associate Professor, Benjamin Pokol, "Title Let Us Not Become Weary of Doing Good," he said doing good is the path that glorifies God. Advising further, he said believers must give thanksgiving that benefits others rather than self.

The thanksgiving service also had in attendance, the Secretary to the Government of the State, Samuel Jatau, Head of Civil Service, Rauta Dakok, some members of the State Executive Council, Former Governor and Military Governor of the state, Jonah Jang and Admiral Bitrus Atukum among many dignitaries.

NUJ Plateau commended for holding maiden carol

By JIDAUNA DARING & HOSEA NYAMLONG

AS Christian faithful all over the world celebrate this year's Christmas, the leadership of the Nigeria Union of Journalist (NUJ), Plateau State Council has been commended for holding its maiden edition of Christmas Carols in the state.

Senator representing Plateau Central Senatorial District at the National Assembly, Abuja, Sen. Diket Plang, who was represented by Evang Sam Bok, gave the commendation during the council's Christmas Carols, held at the NUJ Press Centre, Jos, the Plateau State capital, on Sunday.

Plang described the theme for the carol: 'O come let us adore him' as very apt given that it was holding during the Yuletide season with Jesus the reason for the season. He called on the good citizens of Plateau State to use the season to spread and share love to humanity and

embrace peaceful coexistence.

The senator maintained that the role of the media in the development of the country cannot be overemphasized. He stressed that he looked forward to a more fruitful, robust and rewarding relationship with the media in future.

Commissioner for Information and Communication, Plateau State, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, showered accolades on the council executives (EXCOs) for the wonderful initiative of organizing a Christmas carol which was the first of its kind in the history of NUJ on the Plateau.

Hon. Ashoms said that bringing together members of the fourth estate of the realm under one umbrella to pray and praise God was a worthy venture of which every journalist on the Plateau should be proud of. He added that prayer and thanksgiving are necessary biblical directive to attract

God's blessings in our lives while on earth.

He implored journalists to pray for the state so as to overcome the numerous challenges that the state is grappling with. And advised them, "Don't be weary of praying for peace and peaceful coexistence on the Plateau".

Hon. Ashoms pointed out that Governor Caleb M. Mutfwang of Plateau State led administration is committed and is working tirelessly to entrench enduring peace in the state. He added that the state government is also determined to build human capital as well as transform the state to a land of milk and honey, particularly in the area of infrastructure, and other sundry matters in the state.

In his goodwill message, Acting General Manager, Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), Publishers of THE NIGERIA STANDARD and SUNDAY STANDARD, Mr. Paul Jatau, called on journalists to embrace the spirit of harmony and appreciation for the invaluable role that every member of the NUJ plays in upholding the principles of integrity and truth in journalism.

Mr. Jatau added that may the melodies of this unique and important season inspire journalists to continue their noble quest for justice, equity and disseminating more information to enlighten the society at all times.

Earlier in her welcome remarks, NUJ Chairman, Plateau State, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo expressed delight and thanked God for making the programme a huge success.

Mrs. Pwaspo said that as

By JIDAUNA DARING

COMMISSIONER of Finance Plateau State, Hon. Grace Shwarta Dongkum has promised to give priority to training and retraining of the staff of the ministry so as to ensure effective service delivery at all times.

Hon. Mrs. Dongkum who was represented by the Director of Admin of the ministry, Mr. Francise Chong, stated this while declaring open a two day in house workshop training for the staff of the ministry on developing administrative competencies, held at the conference hall of the ministry at J. D. Gomwalk secretariat, Jos, on Monday.

She said Governor Caleb M. Mutfwang of Plateau State has directed Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to give premium to training and retraining of workers for more productivity in the state.

The commissioner explained that the mandate of the ministry is to formulate and monitor the implementation of all financial policies of government, and also mobilize as well as manage the financial resources of the state, hence the need for this training and retraining of its workforce.

She advised the participants

Commissioner promises to accord priority to staff training



Dongkum

to take the training serious in order to improve their competence and capacities towards good service delivery.

Presenting a paper during the training workshop on the theme: 'Developing Administrative Competencies for High Productivity and Efficiency in the Work Place,' Mr. Nankus Daa'r said that the importance of administrative competencies in every given organization cannot be overemphasized since it has to do with quality, skills and character of the employees.

Mr. Daa'r pointed out that people should be considered in any given employment based on competencies not their qualifications or backgrounds both in public and private sectors. He added that competent service brings about high productivity.

He explained that competent management is also key as it promotes professionalism. Daa'r added that staff on their

part can key into competencies capacity building or development. This is because a competent person adds value or improves on the organization where he or she works.

One of the participants, Mr. Christopher Rwang who spoke with our correspondent, said that he was elated with in-house training workshop and described it as very timely. He added that the training would go a long way in improving their capacity when it comes to competencies or abilities to discharge their duties effectively.

Mr. Rwang appreciated the commissioner and her management staff for organizing the training workshop and also promised to make good use of what he and other participants have learnt.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that the participants were drawn from Admin, Planning, Stores and Accounts.

Headmistress admonishes teachers on togetherness

By NAMU SANUSI

THE Headmistress Police Children School IV Mrs. Zainab Ado has admonished teachers to stand together irrespective of tribe and faith in defending the school against enemies.

She made the call on Friday during the end of year get together organized by the teachers to celebrate the headmistress' birthday. She commended her teachers for taking special time to thank God for preserving her to this time. She thanked God for seeing them throughout the

calendar year 2023 and urged her colleagues to imbibe the spirit of oneness.

Responding, the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) chairman, Mr. Namu Sanusi, commended the teachers. He said "Let me encourage us, it is not time to be careless, it's time for us to unite as a people. It is time for us to stand shoulder to shoulder with one another. We should continue to pray, for the Bible says 'watch and pray'.

The event took place at Police Inspector's Mess, Ibrahim Taiwo road, Jos, Plateau State.



Pwaspo



Sports

Lahm on how position has changed



Pep Guardiola was one of the first managers to use an 'inverted full-back' with Philipp Lahm at Bayern Munich

By RAJ CHOHAN

THE full-back is arguably the position that has evolved the most in football in the past decade.

Historically, full-backs have been positioned as the widest members of a back four and tasked with being strong in their one-v-one defensive duels against the opposition winger and providing overlapping support to their own winger - an 'up-and-down' type of role.

However, there has been an increasing demand on what full-backs do in possession of the ball, both during build-up play in their own half and also contributing to attacking patterns in the final third.

Look at John Stones, Oleksandr Zinchenko and Trent Alexander-Arnold - the role of full-back has changed unrecognisably from the days of Gary Neville and Ashley Cole marshalling the flanks.

Former Germany and Bayern Munich full-back Philipp Lahm was one of the first players to be used as an 'inverted full-back', as then manager Pep Guardiola pioneered the trend in 2013.

Lahm, who won 21 major trophies at Bayern - including the Champions League - and the World Cup, helps us look at the rise of the modern-day full-back.

'Pep was always trying to create new opportunities'

An inverted full-back refers to coaches altering the positioning of a full-back when their team has possession, so they are playing centrally as part of the midfield unit.

Spaniard Guardiola was a pioneer of this trend at Bayern. He inverted Lahm from right-back into midfield and he even switched him to a midfield role, such as his fluent adaptation to playing in central

areas.

"At the beginning of the 2000s this position was interpreted much differently, in some cases much more defensively," says Lahm.

"In forward play, it was all about orientating yourself on the touchline and crossing. Gradually, this position has changed due to the influence of coaches such as Pep Guardiola. The role of the full-back is now more variable and also more impactful for the team. The role has taken on a new meaning.

"When defending, it's about making as little space as possible for the opponent, taking up a lot of space and occupying it. When attacking, it's about utilising the space, creating as much space and as many opportunities for others as possible. And Pep was always trying to create new opportunities."

These new opportunities arise because it allows coaches to gain numerical superiority over the opposition by providing an extra body in midfield during the build-up. For instance, moving a full-back inside transforms a three-man midfield within a 4-3-3 into a four-man midfield in a shape which resembles a 3-2-2-3. Zinchenko challenged by Arteta

Although the overall positioning is similar, coaches are now employing inverted full-backs with different intentions.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta commonly inverts Zinchenko from left-back next to their defensive midfielder so he can use the Ukrainian's excellent weight and accuracy of passing to progress the ball into the final third with short line-breaking passes.

Zinchenko played 27 Premier League games last season, completing the most passes (64),

most passes in the opposition half (38), playing the most passes into the final third (26) and having the most touches (92) per 90 minutes of any Arsenal player.

"I like Zinchenko very much," says Lahm. "He is a top performer and is very much challenged by Arteta."

"Interestingly, Arteta is a Spanish coach. The Spaniards are ahead of other nations. They have been playing the same football for 30 years. They have a clear philosophy.

"The coaches identify with this and pass it on to their players. As a result, the players benefit from this and continue to develop like Zinchenko."

'Alexander-Arnold can influence in many different ways'

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has inverted Trent Alexander-Arnold from right-back into midfield since April, when they drew 2-2 with Arsenal.

However, the intention of inverting Alexander-Arnold is very different to that of inverting Zinchenko. Klopp's objective is to get his chief creative passer into more central areas so he has a wider range of angles from which to make his trademark long passes.

A striking example of this was when Aston Villa's high defensive line (they have caught the opposition offside more than any other Premier League team since Unai Emery was appointed) malfunctioned in a 3-0 loss at Anfield as Alexander-Arnold moved centrally and launched long passes over the top to quick runners like Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah.

Liverpool have played 27 league games since Alexander-Arnold started inverting into midfield and have racked up 62 points, more than any other team during that period.

Alexander-Arnold is also now Liverpool vice-captain and Lahm says his position change could act as a bonus for him.

"It is an advantage [for leadership] in the centre of midfield because you can follow the action better and influence it in many different ways," says Lahm.

Postecoglou goes one step further

Ange Postecoglou has taken the tactic one step further by inverting both Tottenham full-backs into midfield.

One objective of this is to drag both opposition wingers inside as they attempt to press his full-backs, which subsequently opens up the passing lanes to his own wingers.

The inverted full-backs also provide his defensive midfielder - most commonly Yves Bissouma - with short passing options to play through the opposition's second line of pressure.

Generating this numerical superiority in midfield has allowed Spurs to dominate more of the ball.

They are ranked fourth in the league this season for average possession with 59%, compared to ninth last season with 50% under Antonio Conte, when they played a more counter-attacking style with the wing-backs rigidly positioned on the touchlines in a 3-4-3.

'A mental quickness is required' The often overlooked aspect of

inverting a full-back is how it affects the defensive side of their game.

If the possession sequence breaks down and the opposition regain the ball, the full-back finds themselves having to defend larger central spaces. Performing this role well is key to preventing dangerous counter-attacks.

Lahm says: "A certain amount of mental quickness is required. It's always about anticipating match situations and ball movements. This anticipation is very important.

"It's a permanent process: anticipate, stop, anticipate again. How quickly does he instinctively recognise the situation? At this level, there is almost no time to actually think.

"I played on the left side of defence, then on the right. I was therefore used to re-thinking and acting and reacting quickly. And I certainly had some form of match intelligence. At least that's what Pep said he recognised in me for the role."

Guardiola has made a further tweak this season and is now pushing one of his centre-backs - Manuel Akanji or Stones - into midfield.

The advantage of this compared to inverting a full-back is that it is a shorter sprint for a centre-back to change position between the defensive and build-up phase.

Furthermore, it leaves a more naturally defensive player - a centre-back - to prevent counter-attacks through the middle if the ball is lost.

The era of full-backs being viewed solely as supporting acts is long gone. Now even the elite teams are shaping their tactical identities around them.

Sports

Governor's Cup tournament kicks off

By ANDRE D. BISYIT

GOVERNOR Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State has reaffirmed his determination and commitments in promoting sporting activities that will be beneficial to teaming youths of the state to enable them fend for themselves in the future.

The Governor revealed that during the opening ceremony of Governor's Cup Football Tournament, held at the Wase Local Government Area, Mini Stadium recently, adding that in a tournament like this many hidden talents that will one day represent the state will be discovered.

Represented by Professor Ezra Gunen, Director of Sports, Plateau State Sports Council, through Irimiah Maikarfi, emphasized that sports is a unifying factor in every society, urging that the teams and the official should play according to the rules of the game in order to avoid any form of cheating in the tournament.

Earlier, Hon. Suleiman Kwande, Chairman Plateau State Football Association, appreciated the seventeen Local Government Chairmen for making it possible for the tournament to hold.

"I want to appreciate the seventeen Local Government Chairmen for making it possible to have a smooth Governor's Cup tournament this year. In fact, out of the seventeen Local Government Council that we have in the



Mutfwang

State, sixteen had registered to participate in the tournament.

"The purpose of this tournament is to promote the grassroot football and as you all know football is a symbol of unity. All of us that are seated here have different tribe and religions, but the round ladder have joined us together," he concluded.

Also, Alhaji Hamisu Anani Mohamad, TIC Chairman of Wase Local Government Council, through, Hon. Saliu Hamman, PDP Chairman, Wase LGC, said that sports is an integral part of human being.

"You will agree with me that sports is an integral part of human being and football is the

mother of all sporting activities which our dear state is well known for.

"I call on the Plateau youths to make use of this opportunity to showcase their God giving talents and embrace the spirit of sportsmanship, before, during and after the tournament," he emphasized.

The Chairman advised the participating teams to put it at back of their minds that in every competition, there must be a winner and a loser.

"You are all aware that in a contest of this nature, there must be a winner and a loser. I wish you all the best of luck during the tournament which at the end we shall have the best talents from the State," he ended.

Mutfwang commends Jets, financial prudence

By ANDRE D BISYIT

THE Plateau State Governor, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has commended the good financial prudence of the Mighty Jets Football Club of Jos, which resulted to the purchase of a thirty seater Coaster Bus for the Club.

Governor Mutfwang gave commendation while presenting the Bus to the management of the club yesterday at the old Government House, Rayfield.

He expressed happiness with the club towards judicious use of the fund allocated to them.

"I'm delighted to present this Bus to the club today. Particularly, I'll like to salute the management of the club for its resourcefulness, because we didn't particularly allocated the money for the

bus, but out of the savings they made, they were able to procure this Bus. This shows prudence in financial management, which we intend to pursue and make it a culture on the Plateau," he said.

"We have always made commitment to our people, that we'll manage their resources effectively and this is the demonstration by this club. So I'm particularly delighted because this has gone a long way in fulfilling my desire in ensuring that sports is resituated on the Plateau".

"Mighty Jets is a club with history and we'll not allow it to die but to ensure that it is giving it's rightful place in the anal of soccer in Nigeria. So I want to encourage you to continue to do your best", he concluded.

Earlier, Hon. Lawadi Dati,

Commissioner of Sports, described the gesture as timely.

"This intervention will go a long way in reducing the stress experienced by the club in the past and it will also impact positively on both the management, officials and players. It will spur them to put in their best in the league," he said.

He urged the management of the club to develop a good maintenance culture in order for the Bus to be in good shape.

On his part, Ferdinand Mbum,

FEDERAL government of Nigeria has pledged to support private investments in sports.

Sports development minister, Senator John Owan Enoh, made the commitment during his visit to the headquarters of Remo Stars Football Club In Ikenne, Ogun State on Saturday.

Leadership said that, he expressed his admiration for the impressive infrastructure and facilities at Remo Stars, highlighting the club's dedication to providing a world-class environment for its players and staff.

Senator Enoh commended the club president, Kunle Soname and the entire management team for their commitment to the development of football in Nigeria, saying private investment is crucial to the growth and sustainability of sports in the country.

He described the Remo Stars as a shining example of a privately-owned sports entity that is making significant strides in elevating the standards of football in Nigeria.

"The government alone cannot carry the weight of sports development, and that is why we need more private investors like Remo

Tinubu pledges support to private investment in sports

Stars Football Club.

"I am impressed by the commitment of Hon. Kunle Soname and his team, and I assure you that the Ministry of Sports Development will actively encourage and support private investment in sports across the nation," Enoh said in press statement issued by his media aide Kola Daniel.

Hon. Kunle Soname expressed gratitude for the Minister's visit and reiterated the club's commitment to contributing to the overall development of sports in Nigeria. Our facilities are open to junior National teams for camping of players anytime the football federation feel we can be of help. lauded Senator Enoh for being the first minister

to visit the club's facilities since it was launched.

The visit concluded with both parties engaging in a fruitful discussion about potential collaborations, initiatives, and policy frameworks that could further enhance the sports landscape in Nigeria.

The Honourable Minister's visit to Remo Stars Football Club reflects the government's recognition of the vital role played by private entities in advancing sports development.

As the Ministry of Sports Development continues its commitment to fostering partnerships, such visits serve as a catalyst for a more robust and inclusive sports ecosystem in Nigeria.



Enoh

Dovbyk score to send minnows top of La Liga

ARTEM Dovbyk headed in their opener after Yan Couto's shot was parried by Alaves keeper Antonio Sivera.

Portu doubled their lead with a strike from near the edge of the area following a cross by Couto.

Manchester City loanee Couto then won a penalty, which Ukraine striker Dovbyk converted for his 10th La Liga goal of the season.

Dovbyk is thought to be the club's record signing, having

joined for a reported £6m from Dnipro in the summer.

Michel's Girona, who are co-owned by the City Football Group that also includes Manchester City, are two points above Real Madrid.

The Catalan side, who have never won a major trophy, are nine points above neighbours Barcelona in third place.

Girona could seal top spot at Christmas - and the halfway point of the season - if they win at Real Betis on Thursday.

Dennis in, as Peseiro releases squad

SUPER Eagles tactician, Jose Peseiro has released a 40-man provisional squad ahead of the 2024 AFCON tournament that will be held in the Ivory Coast, Soccernet.ng reports.

The final squad list is to have a maximum of 27 players, meaning thirteen players from the current list will be dropped when the final list is released.

The Portuguese included three home-based players in the team, with all three being goalkeepers. Enyimba's Olorunleke Ojo, Sporting Lagos's Christian Nwoke, and Bendel Insurance's Amas Obasogie, who has ten clean sheets to his name in the NPFL this season.

Gent's Gift Orban missed out on the list, with Istanbul Başakşehir's Emmanuel Dennis being a surprise inclusion. Taiwo Awoniyi misses out after having surgery on a persistent groin injury. The full squad is revealed here.

Fans from home and abroad anticipate a great outing from



The Super Eagles have adopted the "Let's do it again" motto for the AFCON 2024 tournament in a bid to motivate the players to bring the trophy home next year.

the Nigerian national team, especially with the country's attacking firepower.

Super Eagles' strikers like Victor Osimhen, Victor Okoh

Boniface, and Paul Onuachu are enjoying a great run of form with their club side, and Nigerians hope Peseiro can galvanise their club form to give the nation a great outing

in the Ivory Coast. Nigeria last won the AFCON in 2013, after defeating Burkina Faso via a Sunday Mbah stunner that made all the difference.



Sports



Liverpool had 69% possession and attempted 34 shots without scoring on Sunday

Dijk denies Keane claim of 'arrogance'

LIVERPOOL'S Virgil van Dijk has denied Roy Keane's claim he was being arrogant in his comments about Manchester United after their goalless draw.

After Sunday's match at Anfield, Reds captain Van Dijk said "there was only one team trying to win the game".

Former United midfielder Keane, working as a Sky Sports pundit, said there was "arrogance coming out of him [Van Dijk], dissing United like that".

"I like Roy Keane, if he said that then it's fine," said Van Dijk.

"He is Manchester United throughout and I understand he could react like that but I felt what I said and there is absolutely no arrogance in that.

"Everyone who watched the game probably felt the same. We move on. We had the opportunity and we couldn't score and that's the frustrating part."

Liverpool had 69% possession and attempted 34 shots without managing to score against a United side that adopted a defensive approach to the game.

It was the first home game Liverpool had failed to win this

season and meant the Merseysiders dropped a point and a place behind Premier League leaders Arsenal, who beat Brighton, after 17 games.

"Maybe [we were] trying to force it a little bit at times and we could have made a better decision but it was hard to break the low block down," added Netherlands international Van Dijk.

"You push, you push, you push and try to do everything in your power but it was one of those days we couldn't find the right decision to score a goal.

"At times - I won't say every time - we forced it too much to find a solution which wasn't there but that's football."

Joshua doesn't have the heart to fight me

Deontay Wilder believes Anthony Joshua does not "have the heart" to fight him, but says a bout between the former heavyweight world champions is closer than it ever has been.

The pair are on the same bill in Saudi Arabia on Saturday and could fight each other in 2024 if they both win.

"I don't want to say he's 100% afraid, but I think he's 75%," said Wilder.

Joshua told BBC Sport he would "love to fight" Wilder, but said he would prefer to fight for the IBF title first.

Wilder is one of the greatest knockout punchers in heavyweight history and, while not convinced about Joshua's intentions, remains hopeful of getting him in the ring.

"I've learned over the years especially dealing in boxing that nothing is for sure, until it's for sure. And I know that's a little bit confusing, but what's

understood doesn't have to be explained," the American told BBC Sport in the build-up to Saturday's event in Riyadh.

"We'll see what happens. The future is bright and we are farther [in talks] than we've ever been in history. I can say that with certainty."

"Even on a bad day I'll smoke him" - Joshua on Wallin

On a stacked card in Saudi Arabia, Britain's Joshua tops the bill against Sweden's Wallin after Wilder takes on former champion Joseph Parker.

Both Joshua and Wilder are on the comeback trail after losing world titles in the past three years to Oleksandr Usyk and Tyson Fury respectively.

Joshua, 34, is a two-time world champion - having unified the WBA, WBO and IBF divisions - with a record of 26 wins and three defeats.

Wilder, 38, held the WBC belt

from 2015 to 2020 until he lost to Fury and 42 of his 43 victories have come by knockout.

Joshua is promoted by Matchroom Boxing and Eddie Hearn, while Wilder has spent most of his career with Premier Boxing Champions and adviser Al Haymon, as well as being managed by Shelly Finkel.

On why the pair have not yet met, Wilder said: "Money hasn't been the issue. It comes with not having the heart, the will, the courage to step in the ring.

"I don't really just blame it on Joshua. I blame it on his handlers, on his promotion and his management."

"Not only do I feel Joshua is intimidated of me, but I feel his promoter is as well," he added. "That's why the fight hasn't happened." Joshua motivated by 'dangling carrots'

Leicester City turned up the heat at the top of the Championship - looking breathtaking at times as they beat Birmingham City at St Andrew's.

In a lightning start, Stephy Mavididi fired Leicester ahead at one end, just 13 seconds after Foxes defender James Justin had hit his own post, then Jordan James quickly levelled for Blues, but Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall finished off another rapid counter-attack to quickly restore the Foxes' lead.

Mavididi, booked for over-celebrating his first goal, then curled in a deflected killer third goal five minutes into the second half.

Wales midfielder James gave Blues hope with his second goal of the night, a right-foot chip that also took a crucial deflection - but the Foxes were never threatened again as they stretched their lead to three points over second-placed Ipswich Town.

They are also now 13 points clear of third-placed Leeds United, having picked up 55 out of a possible 66 - and that is the highest amount at this stage of a Championship season in two decades.

Blues started at a great pace, as Jordan James, Siriki Dembele and Krystian Bielik, with a near-post header brilliantly tipped over, all tested Foxes keeper Mads Hermansen.

But the hosts then got stung in the cruellest manner when from their own corner, after a panicking Justin crashed an

Mavididi double helps Foxes

attempted clearance against his own upright, Leicester broke with blistering speed and Abdul Fatawu slipped in Mavididi, who clipped a cool finish over the advancing John Ruddy.

Mavididi then rather overdid the celebration, upsetting the locals by sitting on the front wall of the home Tilton Road End.

Blues players offered their own more fitting response four minutes later, when highly regarded midfielder James

latched on to Ivan Sunjic's pass to guide home a beautifully angled shot inside the left upright.

But Blues were back on level terms for just seven minutes, with Fatawu again the supply line as Leicester ran from their own box to stun Blues for a second time with the sheer speed of their counter-attacks.

Dewsbury-Hall was the scorer - his seventh strike of the season, four of which have now come

against Midlands opposition, having also scored twice against Coventry on the opening day of the season and also in last month's win at West Brom.

Mavididi looked to have sealed the points when, on another rapid break, he cut in from the left and unleashed a right-foot curler which went in with the help of a deflection off Emanuel Aiwu.

Inspirational teenager James then gave Blues hope when his own deflected effort got it back to 3-2, with still time to grab a point. But, despite the introduction of substitutes Scott Hogan and Lukas Jutkiewicz, Blues were never really allowed to threaten again - and it was Leicester sub Cesare Casadei who should have added a fourth on the break, but fired just wide.



Mavididi

'NFF, clubs agree on early release of players'

THE Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has reached an agreement with the European clubs of Super Eagles players to release invited

players on time for the final camping in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), ahead of the 2023 African Cup of Nations billed to hold from January 12 to February 11, 2024.

The Guardian said that, there were fears that some of the clubs were not disposed to allowing their stars to leave for training camps in the middle of their leagues, especially when the days do not fall under the FIFA open window.

But such fears have been dispelled by NFF's Media Director, Ademola Olajire, who told The Guardian, yesterday, that Nigerian players would be released by the clubs on time for the camp, which opens on January 2.

Olajire said the NFF was still expecting Coach Jose Peseiro to send his final list of players for the competition, to communicate such to the various clubs. He said: "The Super Eagles' list is not yet out. I don't know when, but the

players will definitely be released as from January 1."

The Confederation of African Football (CAF), at the weekend, announced that all the 24 nations for the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament have submitted their provisional squads, as directed by the football body.

According to the tournament's regulations, each member association that qualified for the final tournament are to submit a provisional list of not more than 55 players not later than December 14, 2023.

CAF said the final squads for the tournament will comprise 27 players, up from the 23 in previous events. But the registration of the four additional players on the final list is only an option and not an obligation.

The deadline for the submission of the final squads for the tournament is January 3, 2023, exactly 10 days to the opening match.

'We want to deliver'

CHELSEA boss Mauricio Pochettino has urged his Chelsea players to "fight" and be "aggressive" as he looks to mark his first season with a trophy.

The Blues will secure a Carabao Cup semi-final if they defeat Newcastle in an all-Premier League tie on Tuesday.

"We want to deliver for the club and for the fans," said Pochettino, who took charge last summer.

"It's a priority when you're at Chelsea to win a title, it's important so it's in our mind and objectives."

Chelsea have struggled for consistency under Pochettino and sit 10th in the Premier League, 12 points off the top four.

Pochettino failed to deliver a major trophy during five years

in charge of Tottenham.

His side will have to overcome last season's runners-up if they are to take a step closer to the EFL Cup final.

"Of course I want to win a trophy here in England, and win one with Chelsea if we have the opportunity," added the Argentine.

"My wish and desire is to win and it's possible.

"We need to respect our opponents, Newcastle are going to be tough, we need to deserve to go through." 100 up for Howe

Newcastle have endured a terrible time with injuries, with defender Fabian Schar and midfielder Joelinton set for scans after both were injured during the win against Fulham last Saturday.



Wilder



In view of these and other such questionable rulings, he pointed out that "A number of respected senior members of the bar... claim that decisions of even the apex court have become unpredictable. It is difficult to understand how and where, by these decisions, the judicial pendulum swings. It was not so before, they contend."

CHRIS GYANG

Quest



writer

CHRIS GYANG

Before judgement day

AS the entire country anxiously waits for the landmark and potentially epochal verdicts of Nigeria's Supreme Court on the Kano, Zamfara and Plateau states gubernatorial elections, this is the big question on the lips of most Nigerians: Can Nigeria's top court yet redeem the image of Nigeria's judiciary?

This time around, the judiciary is in the dock. This grim milestone is set to further test its integrity in a way that will determine its place in the country's jurisprudence and in our larger democratic space.

This is because, all over the country, the judgements of some of the elections tribunals and the subsequent ones at the appellate courts have generated considerable ill-feelings and controversies.

But that of Plateau State has attracted more attention because of the contradictory verdicts the tribunals gave on the same matter of whether or not the issue of the Peoples Democratic Party's possession of a structure should form the basis for litigation at all.

Notwithstanding, 11 and 4 PDP members in the state and national parliaments respectively have been sacked by the Appeal Court. The negative tremours of this judicial earthquake shall continue to be felt on the political and many other spheres of the lives of the people of the state and the country at large for a long time to come.

But before judgement day in the gubernatorial elections disputes presently before the Supreme Court, is there anything more to say about the issues related to these verdicts than what the Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN, Ebus-Olu Adegboruwa, has already said?

In an article he penned for SAHARA REPORTERS (September 26, 2023), the legal luminary lamented, "Increasingly but alarmingly, it is gaining ground that Nigerians now believe that justice is for sale."

While elucidating on the pestiferous phenomenon of 'Transactional Justice', which he regretted was fast gaining ground in the country's judicial eco-system, especially in matters relating to elections litigations, he rhetorically asked if it is indeed possible for politicians to purchase justice. He also inquired whether there were judges that had been earmarked to give pre-arranged judgements to the satisfaction of certain individuals and finally admitted, "I am worried and worried" at the frightening prospects.

This is because, "The ugly side of this is that once it is possible to



Ariwoola

influence a judge in a particular judicial transaction, then the door is open permanently for other subsequent influences, for instance, once you can sway a judge to tilt the even scale of justice in an election petition, then that judge becomes a permanent customer even in other regular cases, whenever the need arises."

He appeared to obliquely refer to the controversial judgements in the Plateau cases that have exceedingly vexed and perplexed Nigerians and thrown many distinguished lawyers into great quandary when he submitted: "How does it sound that judgement is no longer based on law or precedent? The law that has become totally unpredictable, even for the same set of facts... as we now have different decisions, even of the Supreme Court, in the same set of facts and circumstances."

He argued that even though judges can sometimes err because they are also human, transactional

justice must be stoutly resisted and publicly shamed by all lovers of justice. If not, he warned, we shall all "become helpless victims of injustice, because when judgement is procured by any means whatsoever and howsoever, it ceases to wear the noble garment of justice."

Going forward, and before that looming judgement day, is there anything more we can say that will surpass the shocking revelations the retired Supreme Court juror, Hon. Justice Musa Dattijo Muhammadu, made in his valedictory speech at the Supreme Court on October 22, 2023?

Having served in the Nigerian judicial system for close to five decades and in the Supreme Court for eleven years (where he rose to become the second-in-command), we must concede that anything he says about it will be no fluke. So it must be taken with all the seriousness it deserves.

He noted with nostalgia that, once upon a time, appointments to

the bench were strictly based on merit, with sound knowledge of the law, integrity, honour and hard work as the benchmarks for elevation. "Lobbying was unheard of," he insisted.

However, he moaned, "That can no longer be said about the appointments to the bench [today]." Because he strongly believes that the judiciary must always strive to be distinctly above board, "Appointments should not be polluted by political, selfish, and sectional interests."

He sadly underscored the skepticisms of many Nigerians about the calling that had been his passion for close to half a century: "Public perceptions of the judiciary have over the years become witheringly scornful and monstrously critical. It has been in the public space that court officials and judges are easily bribed by litigants to obviate delays and or obtain favourable judgements."

This perfectly rhymes with Adegboruwa's notion of transactional justice referenced above. To support his position, Justice Mohammad quoted a fellow legal icon, Justice Adefope-Okojie JCA, who had likewise raised a red flag:

"Pleas are expressed every day by the generality of the public begging the judiciary to be just, to be truthful; and to save the country from collapse.... What is it that qualifies any person to bear that exalted name 'Honourable Justice'?... Unfortunately, it has been severely vilified, with the Apex Court so denigrated and called by a social commentator as a voter gaggle of useless, purchasable judicial bandits.

"How did the judiciary get to this level? Why is the whole country on edge for fear of what the public regards as unpredictable judicial pronouncements?" Again, this nicely dovetailed with this assertion of Adegboruwa's: "The law that has become totally unpredictable, even for the same set of facts...."

Finally, Adefope-Okojie appealed to the judiciary to do a deep soul-searching towards retracing its steps. Otherwise, there will certainly be dire repercussions: "If the people we have sworn to defend have lost confidence, there is a problem that must be addressed."

"Recently," Justice Mohammad proceeded, "fresh allegations have been made that children and other relatives of serving and retired judges and justices are being appointed into judicial offices at the expense of more qualified

candidates lacking in such privilege and backing."

He disclosed that this trend had reached such preposterously scandalous levels that even the concubines of these judges were being given undue advantage over their more qualified, but less 'connected', colleagues.

Furthermore, he revealed, "At the Court of Appeal, it is also asserted, presiding Justices are now being appointed out of turn. And there is the further issue of the unpredictable nature of recent decisions of the courts as well." Once more, the nagging problem of the uncertainty of court judgements, as enunciated by both Enogoruwa and Adefope-Ojo, rears its ugly head.

To buttress this fact, Justice Mohammed cited the controversial cases of Senator Ahamed Lawal, the immediate past Senate President (whom the country's top court affirmed on February 6, 2023, as the candidate for the Yobe North Senatorial District without contesting the party primaries), and the January 14, 2020, Imo State Supreme Court judgement in favour of Hope Uzodinma.

In view of these and other such questionable rulings, he pointed out that "A number of respected senior members of the bar... claim that decisions of even the apex court have become unpredictable. It is difficult to understand how and where, by these decisions, the judicial pendulum swings. It was not so before, they contend."

In fact, the European Union Election Observation Mission in Nigeria took serious exception to what happened: "The Nigerian Supreme Court continues to maintain a negative perception after reinstating Senator Ahmed Lawal, who never participated in primaries for the Senate. The high court and appeal court judgements were against this."

Chidi Odinkalu, a professor of law and human rights activist, also picked holes in the two judgements and took a swipe at the apex court. He said: "What judges cannot do does not exist: they can make the 4th come 1st. And those who withdrew from a primary to become winners. There is breakfast everywhere."

"Something very interesting is happening in Nigeria's Supreme Court.... A senior Nigerian lawyer called me tonight to lament that he felt trapped in a 'scene of profound judicial hooliganism'. His turn of phrase captured the situation in cold relief. Sadly, I was unable to provide him with much comfort. Judges have bastardized election season" (SAHARA REPORTERS, February 7, 2023).

Aghast, Professor Farooq Kperogi's biting rebuke dripped

Continue on page 14