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# Sunday Standard



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## Supreme Court verdict:

# Battle for Plateau House of Assembly

The aftermath of the recent Supreme Court judgment is not only causing anxiety in Plateau State, it has also sent political gladiators of the ruling People's Democratic Party [PDP], in the state and their major foe, the All Progressives Congress [APC], back to the trenches to fight over the control of the Plateau State House of Assembly. KENNETH DARENG, examines the ripple effects of this unfolding drama and how it is likely going to play out at the end. Turn to pages 10, 31

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### The rising insecurity in Nigeria

**THE** security situation in Nigeria has become imperative and a cause for concern. It has confronted several conundrums ranging from armed banditry, kidnappings, killings, maiming, cattle rustling etc, which have disrupted socio economic activities in regions affected.

**THE** breakdown of insecurity in and around Nigeria, has become worrisome to its citizens. People are conscious of the challenges faced and the means of averting it than even the challenges of inflation and the ills.

**WITHIN** the last one month, Plateau state has suffered and is still suffering from multiple attacks by terrorists or whatever guise they operate under.

**THE** recent attacks on Bokkos, Mangu, and Barkin Ladi, killing over 400 persons and destroying homes and properties, have affected the socio economic activities of the region. This situation is incomprehensible. While answers are being sought for the unprovoked attacks, and solutions being proffered, Mangu has recently witnessed another dastardly attack on its communities due to ethno-religious crisis. That made the state government impose a dusk to dawn curfew in the local government.

**UNFORTUNATELY**, while reasons and explanations as to why it happened and who was responsible remain unanswered, the restiveness amongst Nigerians has reached a crescendo. Only recently, a community in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja was invaded by kidnappers who took captives until ransom was paid. This shows that nowhere is safe if the activities of these marauders is gradually creeping into the seat of power.

**SUFFICE** to say that the government keeps giving assurances of ending insurgencies, terrorism, herder/farmer clashes, banditry and eradicating acts of ethno-religious crisis. But the reality on ground says otherwise.

**SADLY**, the security agencies responsible for curbing these acts and protecting Nigerians have been accused of being part of the problem with evidence of some found carrying out certain activities seen to aid in fueling the crisis by taking sides.

**THOUGH** policies and programmes have been put in place to tackle security issues through recruiting and training personnel, increase in budget allocation for defense and military hardware, establishing platforms for both kinetic and non-kinetic approaches etc, to keep the nation safe and yet why the porosity in implementation of policies?

**UNFORTUNATELY** this has affected the economy of the nation with many foreign companies folding up, many Nigerians leaving the country because it's becoming more unsafe by the day.

**WE** call on the Tinubu led administration to wake-up and move beyond just talking and begin to walk the talk regarding insecurity in the country. It must take any actions or statements made by anybody seriously that would threaten the peace of the nation and persecute those found wanting. Government must ensure that incentives are adequately given to security personnel to encourage them to go the extra mile in their sacrificial service to the nation. That way, they will not be enticed by bribes or compromise for personal gain.

**THE** Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy should be up and doing to trace any kind of communication that will affect the peace of the nation.

**GOVERNMENT**, on the other hand, must invest in the training and retraining of our security agents to move with the technological changes and time. It has to commit to equipping them with sophisticated weapons and gadgets to face any security challenges to enable them to protect the people.

**ALL** Nigerians should be treated equally regardless of religion or ethnic differences. No one must be seen as a sacred cow. Every perpetrator of violence must be punished. Justice has to prevail to pave the way for peace to reign.

### Power outage due to shortage of Gas

— FG

**T**he Federal Government through the Ministry of Power on Friday said it has taken prompt action to resolve the current nationwide blackout caused by the insufficient supply of gas to power generating companies.

Bolaji Tunji, the Special Adviser for Strategic Communication and Media Relations to the Minister of Power, Adebayo Adedun, said the Minis are working to resolve the problem quickly.

"In the past couple of weeks, there has been a significant downturn in the level of power supply to Nigerians. This is mainly due to a decreased level of gas supply to generation companies.

This situation has led to a lower level of energy supplied to load centres, which has affected the supply of electricity to distribution companies," he said.

He further stated that the Federal Government was looking into ensuring that outstanding payments are made to power generation companies to resolve

the problem.

"Efforts are on the way by the Federal Government to ensure outstanding payments are made to generation companies, to ensure improved gas supply and increased power generation."

This will also enable distribution companies to supply more electricity to Nigerians. We acknowledge the current unsustainable situation, and we expect a turnaround immediately," he added.

According to the EEDC, the drop in power supply availability in the Southeast region is attributed to low power generation. The company is taking measures to address the situation and ensure that customers within its network receive a steady and reliable power supply.

Emeka Eze, the Head of Communications at EEDC, confidently asserts that the reduction in daily megawatt hour (MWH) of energy allocated to distribution companies nationwide is a direct result of the gas constraints being faced by the

thermal generating companies. "Consequently, the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), which is our primary source of power supply is constrained, as they only transmit what is generated and have resorted to System Load-shedding to forestall possible system collapse.

"This situation has equally impacted the quality of service to our customers, as we are contending with very low energy allocation wheeled to us by the TCN for distribution to our customers. A situation that has left us load-shedding available power to ensure it goes around.

We seek the understanding of our esteemed customers on the fact that we can only distribute what is allocated to us, that this situation is beyond us, and that it is not peculiar to EEDC," Eze explained.

He expressed optimism that the situation would soon be addressed so that normal distribution would return.

### Housing: FG allocates affordable houses to Nigerians

**T**HE Federal Government (FG) has commenced allocation of affordable houses to Nigerians, an official has confirmed.

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Mr. Martin Gyado, the Federal Controller of Housing in charge of Adamawa, disclosed this in an interview with our reporter on Friday in Yola.

He said that President Bola Tinubu has improved the National Housing Programme and introduced renewed hope cities and estates.

These renewed hope cities and estates were introduced to make the houses more affordable to common Nigerians.

"To that effect, the Federal

Ministry of Housing has written a request to all state governments to provide 50 hectares of land for that purpose," Gyado said.

According to him, the correspondence for Adamawa has already reached Gov. Umaru Fintiri and is awaiting his approval.

He disclosed that currently, allocation of those houses that were built under the previous administration, have reduced housing deficit in the country.

Moreso, the controller noted that application forms are available at the offices of all controllers across the country at no cost.

"In Adamawa the housing projects is in three phases; two phases of 190 units have been completed and fully serviced with infrastructural roads, electricity

and water

The applicants should be rest assured that due process will be employed as long as they qualify and meet the awarding criteria.

"People have a chance of getting the houses although the number of subscribers surpassed the available houses," he said.



Tinubu

### Mutfwang visits Mangu, Bokkos to assess situation

By PETER TITLE, Mangu

**F**OLLOWING the recent attacks on several villages of Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State which resulted in the loss of lives, and destruction of property, Governor Caleb Mutfwang on Friday, undertook an on the spot assessment of the affected areas.

The governor promised to put an end to the carnage as well as prayed for the repose of the souls of those killed.

The first port of call of the Governor was Kwahaslalek, a village where 27 persons were killed. He comforted the people amidst hues and cries from women and children.

Our correspondent reported that Kwahaslalek village was a shadow of itself when the governor and his team visited. The majority of the people had deserted the village, taking shelter at the NYSC Orientation Camp and elsewhere.

Governor Mutfwang expressed his profound sadness to the remaining population. He told them that the government was

with them and would provide all the necessary assistance to cushion the effect of the hardship.

The community leader of the village, Elder Enough Auta, thanked Governor Mutfwang for coming to identify with them at this trying time despite his tied schedule.

According to him, the terrorists came in the wee hours and murdered 27 of their innocent people. He pointed out that it was the Hunters Association that came to their rescue. If not so, the casualties would have been more.

In Mangu town also, a theatre of the crisis, it was a ghost of itself as people remained indoors as a result of the curfew imposed by the government. Only animals such as goats and pigs were seen roaming the streets.

Decomposed pigs were seen littered at the Muslims dominated areas and Churches brought down, business shops looted.

At the Mwaghavul Palace, Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang appealed for calm,

describing the crisis as callous and uncalled for.


According to him, several complaints were received from the people, but he called on the constituted authorities for proper investigations to punish all those found wanting.

He further called for synergy between security agencies as well as sharing information among themselves to enable them get to the root of the matter.

The Miskaham Mwaghavul, Da John Putmang Hirse, thanked Governor Mutfwang for the visit saying that he never invited the governor but out of his concern for the people, he found it expedient to visit the crisis areas.


Da Hirse called for immediate assistance to the affected person's, stressing that they were in a very sorry condition.

Our Government House correspondent reports that the visit also took him to Bkkos where he commiserated with the people over the attacks they suffered, promising government's assistance to help reduce the hardship.



With  
**Katdappa  
Y. Gobum**  
On Sunday

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**"The Plateau man appears to be an orphan in circumstances such as this one. We have been painted in the worst of colours, even though the world knows that Plateau people have never been the predators, the culprits, rather we have always been the victims. For instance, when scores of members of the COCIN Yelwa were forced to the pulpit and murdered in the church, the case never saw the light of day; it was as if some goats had been slaughtered for the pot."**

**L**ET me enter this caveat: You may find this article referring to several things in the past. Not many are aware that, the material you are reading was written for public consumption some 16 years ago on the Jos crisis of November 2008.

It is interesting that several years after, I found it in many more ways fitting for narrative of the events that have continued to take place around in some local government areas of the state. Again, on January 17, 2010, and given the myriad of comments by Nigerians who know the details and even those who heard it from a third party, it had to be republished.

I may have only edited a few details, but you will find that the narratives give details on the sad developments Plateau State has found itself. I would have asked you to enjoy it; however, given the precarious situation the state finds itself, it is intended to be used for the reader to ask questions on why we have long remain in one spot.

Several Nigerians and indeed the whole world, know better that innocent lives were lost as a result of the mindless and unprofessional reports of some exuberant Nigerian journalists; who in the wake of the senseless orgy that visited Jos during the weekend of November 28-30, 2008, chose to feed their enthusiastic readers/listeners with falsehood at the detriment of setting an agenda for the way forward for the people and the state government.

Some of us had thought that sad as the episode is, it should have afforded us the big opportunity at debating what should be done by the state and indeed the communities that make up the local government area to arrive at the much sought 'inconvenient truth'.

Against this backdrop, any sensible Nigerian should have had cause to ask questions in many areas, and particularly so, that a number of those reports didn't represent at best what actually took place. Some were mere conjectures, ostensibly meant to satisfy some interest. I have met a lot of people who have sought to be educated if those who went to journalism schools (or rather journalists generally) are taught to write lies. Some of them would want to know if there is the possibility of been objective without having first hand information than resorting to conjectures.

Again, some of these people would want to know if some of the reporters that covered the event deliberately chose to report what they wanted. I have felt diminished as a Nigerian in these circumstances, even as I have tried to seek for some explanations on the dilatoriness of some of the reports the world was fed with.

As one who has closely enjoyed some of the services of journalists in the state, I have watched with keen interest and enthusiasm the manner with which they report; yet what some of us have read leaves a sore taste in our mouths. It does appear that some of the reports are constantly being doctored to suit some particular interest, or how

## Plateau: We, who are without a voice



can we explain why most of the reports that were published and read could be collaborated, while a few were dangerously disingenuous. Such are the ones all sane people of this world should rise against, that is if we must change our world of the continuous misconceptions we have had about other people.

The truth, we know is the fact that there is no one that does not abhor what took place. I have read and listened to several reports in the last couple of weeks and some of them are, at best, insensate, unsavory and lack respect to the feelings of the people. They had been treated and despised even when there are incontrovertible evidences to the contrary.

The Plateau man appears to be an orphan in circumstances such as this one. We have been painted in the worst of colours, even though the world knows that Plateau people have never been the predators, the culprits, rather we have always been the victims. For instance, when scores of members of the COCIN Yelwa were forced to the pulpit and murdered in the church, the case never saw the light of day; it was as if some goats had been slaughtered for the pot, but as soon as there were reprisal attacks on the Muslims, a section of the media rose in condemnation of the act by throwing themselves into the fray as if their lives depended on the story. What the state got was a state of emergency, after the former president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo visited the area. All lives should matter; Christians or Muslims, they mean a lot and must not be at the detriment of another.

The amount of involvement of personalities in condemning the crisis across the land was magnanimous, to say the least; but let us point out quickly for purposes of emphasis that some did so for the sentiments often attached to anything coming out of Plateau. The media, local and foreign joined

the fray to fulfill the dream of killing Plateau State, and indeed its people and their progressive aspirations; which has never gone down well with certain political interests. The double standards so brazenly exhibited by the Presidency and the National Assembly in the Jos civil disturbances should be reason enough to ask questions.

The people of Plateau State are not animalistic, I dare say; given its history. If they have changed (but have they?), it is because they have been made to; which is why when a bad situation such as the one under review occurs, the victim, in this circumstance is often seen as the culprit. The people are lacking a voice to be heard.

The other side of the story is not heard by the world and indeed those who have other media that readily serve their purposes and are used for cheap propaganda are quickly conscripted to serve such interest. It is a bad precedent that has continued to sow a dangerous seed of discord, since the people of Plateau do not have a voice that can readily be said to be on their side. This is reason why often times the victim becomes the culprit, the initiator of aggression.

Those of us who read the stories and listened to some of the broadcast have reason to believe that we have continuously been taken for a ride, knowing full well that 'the people will not do anything, no matter how they are derided'. Using the BBC, VOA, Aljazeera and other local media as always, they turned truth on its head, making the world believe that the people do not like cohabitating with others. But, can this be real? I know that the world knows better.

However, these are different times given the magnitude of the bloodbath and the dimensions that have come to characterize the events in Plateau. Right from the onset, it was apparent that there wasn't going to be a change in the attitude of the media on the events

that just broke out in Jos. I have since wondered why some of the journalists' reports Nigerians and indeed the world read came in the colours they were presented.

One should be lost, but I am consoled by the fact that no one can become a hero by causing the death of another person through the kinds of reports that are churned out from the gory of situation we have continued to witness. The situation, as bad as it was; presented for some journalists and commentators an opportunity to become bad religious and ethnic champions to the detriment of serving and setting an agenda to find lasting solutions to the crisis.

In all of these circumstances, some people have rightly observed that no one has been told the story of the manner several corpses belonging to Igbo, Yoruba and indigenous people were allegedly and shamelessly ferried away for prayers not by family members of the dead. They were ostensibly done perhaps to swell the number of their dead and later given burial. This is not right.

Perhaps no one wants to hear about that because they were not involved. Didn't the Igbo people cry to the world that the corpses of their kinsmen were taken away by the adherents of a different religion? Didn't other tribes lose their people? How come the dead from the other tribes were not mentioned as loss? How were the figures of the dead of the other tribes appropriated and made to look as if they suffered more casualties than the rest of the tribes?

It should be noted that our people (whether they are Christians or Muslims) have gone through so much pain in the last couple of years. Those who know are quick to point out that there are some out there who have continuously benefited from the ethno-religious

crises. It is because we lack a voice that the house owner is being looked at as a tenant. If the attackers want Jos at all cost, why must they turn history to suit their purposes?

We cannot continue in the circumstances that we find ourselves into. If only the government can muster enough muscles at its disposal to implement the outcome of the judicial commission at the end, we could be said to have solved the issues. Lack of political will by government in the past is responsible for what happened in November 2008 in Jos; and I dare say, in the last twenty two years, it has been one sad episode after another.

Government must show the way by not treating any one found to have a hand in the crisis with kid gloves. Those who have alleged sponsors in foreign lands and have continuously punctured the peace of the state had better be told in clear terms, God willing, through the outcome of the commission that we cannot continue to use the blood of innocent people simply because there are pecuniary gains to be made from such a dangerous initiative.

Sane people amongst us should be discouraged in any attempt at turning crisis situation into a commodity for commerce. Those who reap partisan advantage in any crisis situation do not deserve a line in the chapter of our history. Sacred cows, in this age should not have a place among sane members of the community. It is a time to 'heal and reconcile'.

Presently, parents, the clergy, and I dare say, politicians; all of us have a duty to perform. We have a duty to give meaning to mutual co-existence. At these perilous times, the natural question to ask is: What do we teach our children? And to the politician: What better legacy can you bequeath to your followers? If the youths can be educated and to have descent jobs, they cannot be easily manipulated by the politicians with little money to fight a cause they cannot even offer an explanation on.

If we had a voice, the world will listen to us. If we had a voice, they will offer us some respect. If indeed we have a voice, we certainly cannot be treated the way and manner the world has had in the past few weeks. If we had a voice, the people of the world will get to know who we are and the values we represent. If we had a voice, we cannot be seen as trouble makers, who, at the slightest provocation will take up arms and demand to get the heads of all the Hausa-Fulani people living in the city of Jos.

But we are not and the world knows about it, yet the world has been brainwashed, particularly by the foreign media (and some of the local ones) into believing that Plateau peoples hate to live with other people. How possible is it that we could be an island without others? The world has got to hear us, because hearing us enables whoever is listening to appreciate our position. This, the people demand

NEWS



Experience is the best teacher

THOSE of us that experienced the Jos crises from 2001 through to 2009, hate to hear of crisis or anything similar to that. Prior to that, it was very common to hear the youth carelessly saying: 'The security operatives should step aside and allow us to raba reini (fight until a winner emerges) between the adherents of the two major religions- Muslims and Christians.'

When it happened, it caught all of us unawares. I went to see my mother-in-law in town with my 2 kids, ages 3 and 1. Everything was moving well, the market was booming and adherents of the major religions were sitting side by side, buying and selling and even cracking jokes when suddenly everything changed.

First, we were told there was fighting at Congo Russia around Nasarawa Gwom. We were all at unease, anxious. The fear in the air was palpable. I looked at my toddlers and almost cried when I imagined what it would cost me to run away with these two. To make matters worse, people started closing up their shops, and heading home. Fortunately for my mother in law, she had gone home before the town was turned upside down. I was in a state of confusion with my mother in law's sales girl.

At that point, Terminus, Ahmadu Bello Way were in a state of confusion. People were running for their lives, leaving their goods and services at the mercy of thieves. We thought of locking ourselves in my mother in law's shop but thought better of it, when we saw that there was no ventilation and anything could happen. Arsonists could burn us to death since there was no way to escape. I asked the sales girl to run to safety, but she refused. She insisted that she would only go if my husband came to take us home.

In the midst of this confusion, some people were enriching themselves. They were stealing grains, food items, clothing, anything left unattended. They did not lend a helping hand to children who were roaming around, crying at the top of their voices, searching for their parents.

Holding tied to my boys, I prayed desperately, as we tried to hide ourselves from view because we were advised to lock the shop and find a safe place to wait for my husband. My heart was in my mouth. The commotion in the air, the palpable fear, sudden hatred on faces of excited youths going around maiming their neighbours who profess different faith from their's, shouts for help everywhere and smoke rising from the axis of Nasarawa, were all horrible. Even my kids were literally shaking with fear.

My husband finally arrived. He risked his life to get us out of the danger zone. I thought it was the end of an ugly time. It was just the beginning of the worst time of my life. By the time we met at home with our neighbours and were discussing how close we all came to death, it became crystal clear that there was more to the crisis than we thought.

Night time approached with so much more than we imagined. We could not sleep at all because our neighbours at Nasarawa Gwom had a very terrible night. Sounds of gunshots rent the air. It was as if one was at the warfront. Anytime there was a break, hues and cries of people in pain pierced through the air. Helplessly, I prayed and cried through the night. One could only imagine the casualties.

My whole family gathered in one room. We dressed completely with shoes, winter coats, warm caps and boots, in case we had to take off to safety in the night. I sat on a chair like a mother hen, over my kids, praying and crying intermittently. The night was the longest night of my life. Thankfully, there was no fighting in my area, Rikkos but all around us, the fight was fierce and casualties were high.

By morning, those who survived, from our neighbourhood, waited until security operatives arrived before they came out of hiding and headed for National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, which was situated adjacent my house. Some of these people were wounded and bleeding. Several of them had machet or knife wounds. They were attended to, immediately by

the medical team sent there by the government. Those whose wounds were severe were referred to JUTH, Plateau Specialist Hospital, or Bingham Hospital, formerly Evangel or Jankwano Hospital. Dead bodies were also deposited there in their numbers. There were several cases of dead bodies which were thrown into different streams along Nasarawa, washed to the shore at a different point in town.

On this same day, due to the number of casualties and destruction of property and livelihood, the government declared a dusk to dawn curfew. Instead of the killings reducing, it was escalating. Everywhere, it was celebrated, especially by the media that all around Jos North, there were attacks against minority faiths, except Rikkos where Christians and Muslims were still living in harmony. That was their undoing. When I heard it, I knew that the media just dangled us before Satan as bait. That day, I just fed a multitude since our house was a stone's throw from NDLEA and most people had gathered there to be guarded by security operatives. Heavy rain was about to fall, and I said to myself, at last, I can sleep for the duration of the rain. As I lay down, my husband reminded me that if he has learnt any lesson from films, it is that the enemy launches attacks when it is raining. Because at such times, people let down their guard. As if on cue, my husband's friend ran into our compound crying out that there is an attack at Anguwan Miango, a street before ours. He grabbed my eldest son, while I went for my youngest, grapping his thick overall and blanket as I ran out at the speed of lightning. All roads led all of us to NDLEA. In no time, the place was filled to capacity.

Hungry children were crying everywhere. In front of NDLEA, there was a heap of weapons, hefty sticks, matches, knives, etc, that people were forced to drop before entering. Unfortunately, before security operatives could arrive Anguwan Miango, the elderly who refused to run out, were killed. I remember that day very well. It was America's 9/11. I and my kids and hundreds of people, slept outside the compound of NDLEA on bare mats. At least we could cover ourselves with blankets. (And luckily, rain didn't fall through the night, nor during the day, for the building afterwards. For the building couldn't contain us). Some people didn't have that luxury. They hugged themselves in a sitting position till morning.

All the men and male youth did not sleep but guarded the women and children. I remember those people that insisted to go back home to get something, who never came back. The tears of the bereaved family members, how it tore my heart.

NDLEA was smelling badly because children were defecating at every corner and also urinating everywhere. But we had to be sleeping there in the open to save our lives.

Hunger, thirst, became the order of the day. Even if one had the money, where was the market or shop to purchase food items. It was so unfortunate for those who were breeding chickens. Every business came to a stop. Schools were all closed. The only places that were vibrant were the hospitals.

Even when finally, security operatives restored a semblance of normalcy, the economy slowly came back to life. There was no trust between the Christians and Muslims. They were not even buying goods from each other.

'An fara ' which simply means: they have started, referring to trouble makers attacking people, became a phrase that could cause confusion anywhere in Jos. People would just begin to run, closing up shop, schools close up for the day and children would be left in a state of confusion. The market was the worst place to be at such times.

We are still trying not to remember, then this Mangu, Barkin Ladi, and Bokkos attacks. May the Lord contend with our contenders. Amen. Let peace reign, please. Lack of peace costs too much!

Mutfwang condemns security breach in Mangu

By PETER TITLE

PLATEAU State Governor, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has strongly denounced the recent security breach that claimed lives in Kwahaslalek community and various parts of Mangu Local Government Area of the state.

Expressing profound sorrow in a statement in Jos, signed by the Director of Press and Public Affairs (DOPPA) and made available to SUNDAY STANDARD, he indicated that Governor Mutfwang decried the escalating security challenges that resulted in the destruction of homes and livelihoods by suspected hoodlums.

He extended heartfelt condolences to the grieving families, the affected communities, and those injured in the unfortunate incidents and further conveyed sympathy to the residents of Mangu Local Government Area and other affected communities. He urged them to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious activities for swift intervention.

However, Governor Mutfwang implored the communities involved to refrain from taking the law into their own hands,



Mutfwang

and restated the state government's unwavering commitment to ensuring the security of all citizens.

The governor also acknowledged the crucial role played by security agencies in restoring calm and called for continued collaboration between them and the government to provide maximum protection to all citizens.

In a stern warning, Governor Mutfwang asserted that his

administration would not tolerate any further breakdown of law and order in any part of the state, urging security agencies to intensify their efforts to guarantee absolute peace across the state.

While appealing for calm and patience from citizens of the state, he assured that the government was taking proactive measures to halt further destruction of lives and property.

NIPSS promises to partner with PLSG

By PETER TITLE

THE National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru has indicated interest to partner with the Plateau State Government for the overall development of the state.

Professor Ayo Omotayo, the Director General of the Institute, made this known when the management of NIPSS paid Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang a solidarity visit at the New Governor's Office, Little Rayfield, recently in Jos.

According to the DG, the crowd that came out to welcome the governor after the Supreme Court judgment and the thanksgiving service held at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, was a

testament of people's confidence in his administration.

Professor Omotayo posited that the Institute, situated in the state was in the best position to offer their services to the state, most especially in the area of environmental posture.

He enumerated some of the challenges bedeviling the Institute to include security, most especially around the Presidential Lodge as well as the safety of their participants.

The DG pleaded with the governor to passionately look into the issue of compensation to the locals because he said they were always on their heads for payment.

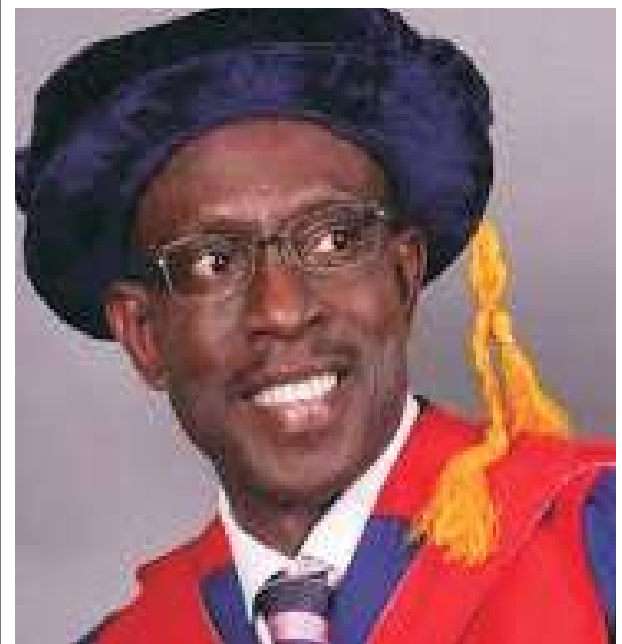
Governor Mutfwang who

was full of appreciation for the visit, said they would continue to collaborate with NIPSS for the general good of the state.

According to him, the government which promised to revamp the civil service, can only achieve it with the engagement of the Institute.

He solicited for more slots of the Executive Courses to be allocated to the state as well as prioritising employment of youths in the Institute.

Mutfwang promised to look into the issue of security and compensation as soon as possible.



Omotayo

Pursue peace earnestly for the good of Plateau

POLITICS

# PDP National Chair condoles PLSG over killings

By PETER TITLE

**T**HE National Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Umar Iliya Damagum, has condoled the government and people of Plateau State following the recent security challenges leading to loss of lives and property, particularly in Mangu, Bokkos, and Barkin-Ladi Local Government Areas.

He expressed these sadness recently during a condolence visit to the State Governor, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, at the New Government House, Little Rayfield. He also congratulated him on his resounding victory at the Supreme Court.

Alh Damagum noted with sadness the challenges Plateau State had faced since the election period, including legal tussles, the Christmas Eve attack, and the recent security breach in Mangu Local Government Area where innocent people were killed.

The PDP National Chairman affirmed his confidence in Governor Mutfwang's leadership, saying that the governor possesses the capability to guide the state back to its former glory as the "Home of Peace and Tourism."

"We came here for two reasons: To mourn with you and the good people of Plateau State over the pains you have suffered due to



Damagum

insecurity and to congratulate you on your situation in the state. He victory at the Supreme Court. I pray that God will use you to bring back the sweet memories of the past good days of Plateau State," he stated.

While commending Governor Mutfwang's electoral victory, Damagum said it is a demonstration that the governor is truly the chosen leader in Plateau. He also conveyed gratitude to the late Chief Solomon Lar, the pioneer National Chairman of the party, for establishing a solid foundation for PDP.

Responding, Governor Mutfwang expressed appreciation to the National Chairman and the members of the National Working Committee (NWC) for their visit and acknowledged the

unfortunate security situation in the state. He however, reassured of his commitment to address the challenges, making Plateau State a secure haven for all citizens and investors.

Governor Mutfwang thanked the National Working Committee for their support during the legal tussle and upcoming election in Plateau North, saying that the claims of lack of structure within PDP in the state has been addressed by the Supreme Court and emphasized the party's commitment to doing the right thing at all times.

## 'Why we removed Oluomo as speaker'

**D**AMILOLA Soneye, an Ogun State House of Assembly member, has provided reasons for

removing the embattled former speaker, Kunle Oluomo.

Soneye, an All Progressives Congress (APC) legislator representing Obafemi Owode State Constituency, stated that Oluomo was removed due to alleged gross misconduct.

He emphasised that the speaker's office is expected to be first among equals but observed that Oluomo behaved as if his colleagues were lesser lawmakers until his removal.

Soneye outlined the reasons for Oluomo's removal, saying, "Oluomo was removed due to gross misconduct, which borders on high handedness, lack of focus and transparency, arrogance and poor leadership style, financial misappropriation and inciting members against one another."

18 lawmaker removed Oluomo during plenary in the 26-member Ogun State Assembly. It remains unclear if Oluomo's supporters were present

# Governor's inauguration: Technocrat urges Governor-elect, on welfare

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**A** Kogi State born technocrat and plant geneticist, Dr. Patrick Adebola has urged Governor-elect, Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo to make people's welfare the centre of his administration.

Adebola, in a goodwill message, made available to journalists in Lokoja, also congratulated the outgoing governor, Yahaya Bello for completing his tenure in the service of the state and fellow citizens for witnessing the birth of a new dawn.

He singled out the establishment of the Kogi State University, Kabba, as an enduring legacy of Governor Bello, commending him for the bold initiative.

The world acclaimed scientist and Executive Director, ED, Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria, CRIN, Ibadan noted that Ododo's election at a relatively young age, is a confirmation of the 'not too young' to run mantra. He urged him to shun the temptations of the enormous powers of his office but instead concentrate on building love and inclusiveness.

"To say the least, your election is a paradigm shift and elicits fresh hope in the youth demography. I urge



Ododo

you to rise above narrow cleavage and the acrimonies that characterised the campaigns. Elections are over, and our state must heal rapidly from its wounds. Let justice, fairness, and equity define your service to the people.

"I have been impressed by your efforts at consulting with a broad spectrum of society in order to get their support. You must keep it up and leave your doors open for suggestions as you go into governance properly.

"Our modest expectations are the promotion of peace, food security, and industrialization. You must tap into our huge solid

mineral deposits and vast potentials in agriculture and its value chains to lift the economy of our dear state out of the woods.

"Chart a course for yourself as you build on the foundation laid by your predecessors. Inspire hope and help them to get back their lives by being an accountable leader committed to their welfare. As you know, the beginning of a thing is not as important as its end. Kindly keep your eyes fixed on the target of taking our state to the next level of growth.

"May God give you the wisdom, courage, and skills to be the leader we need. I wish you a successful tenure," he concluded.

## NASS sets to amend constitution over VAT, others

THE National Assembly is set for a fresh amendment to the constitution – an exercise that has routinely cost the country an average of N1 billion yearly.

The review has been consistent in the last 24 years, with at least 30 alterations made to the 1999 Constitution and at the cumulative cost of N24.85 billion. in line with the tradition, both the Senate and House of Representatives will soon resume further amendments to the

Constitution, with emphasis on State police, Value Added Tax (VAT), and electoral reforms.

The urgency of another amendment is not unconnected with the issue of VAT collection that has been generating a legal battle between the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and some state governments.

Specifically, Rivers and Lagos state governments had enacted laws and called for decentralisation of collection,

while some states pushed for centralised pool. The case is still pending at the Supreme Court.

The two chambers would inaugurate separate committees to be led by deputy President of the Senate, Jibrin Barau and the deputy speaker, Benjamin Kalu, when they resume legislative activities from their three weeks Christmas and end of the year recess.

Although efforts to commence amendment to the 1999 Constitution began in the 4th National Assembly (1999 to 2003), actual exercise began in the 5th National Assembly (2003 to 2007) led by the then deputy president of the Senate, late Ibrahim Mantu. It was marred by reports of a third term agenda by the then administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

To date, every tenure of the National Assembly has initiated a fresh constitution amendment project for which some N4 billion is approved, to be appropriated and released based on N1 billion per year. This is in addition to some extra funds released to the committee for unforeseen expenditure.



Oluomo

during the session.

The plenary, presided over by Deputy Speaker Bolanle Ajayi (APC Yewa South), saw Oludaisi Elemide, a member representing Odeda Constituency, representing Ifo 1 State Constituency.

Adegoke Adeyanju (APC-Yewa North 1) moved the motion for the speaker's removal, which was seconded by Ademola Adeniran (APC-Sagamu

11).

After being elected as the new speaker, Elemide assured citizens they should expect the best from him.

He emphasised the law-abiding nature of the legislators, stating that the change in leadership is aimed at supporting Governor Dapo Abiodun.

Elemide clarified that the governor had no involvement in the speaker's removal.



Akpabio

## Politics

### Bello signs Social Investment bill, others into law

From **AMEDU JOSEPH,**  
Lokoja

**K**OGI State Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello has signed a bill for the establishment of the State Social Investment Programme agency and 14 other bills into law.

The bills had been diligently passed by the Kogi State House of Assembly.

Among other notable bills signed into law by Governor Bello, is the repeal of the Kogi State Internal Revenue Administration, Harmonization of Taxes, Duties, Levies Rates, Fees, and Charges due to the State and Revenue Appeal Tribunal Law 2017. This has been re-enacted as the Revenue Administration and Other Matters Connected Therewith Law, 2024,

Kogi State Free Examination Registration Fees Bill, and a bill for the establishment of the Kogi State Senior Secondary Education Board, among others.

Governor Bello, while putting his signature to these legislative measures, took a moment to commend the State Assembly for their invaluable contributions to the overall development of Kogi State.

Recognizing the importance of a robust legislative framework, the governor praised the Assembly for their dedication to the betterment of the state.

Earlier in his remarks, the Speaker of the Kogi State House of Assembly, Rt Hon Aliyu Umar, extended heartfelt congratulations to Governor Bello for the successful completion of his terms in office.

While acknowledging the lasting impact of the governor's administration over the last eight years, Aliyu lauded Governor Bello for leaving behind indelible marks of progress.

Expressing his feeling, Aliyu noted that these bills, being the last to be signed by Governor Yahaya Bello, mark the end of an era. The Speaker emphasized the state's gratitude for the governor's invaluable guidance, profound wisdom, and deep vision that have played pivotal roles in steering the state towards growth.

Looking to the future, Aliyu expressed confidence in the leadership of Governor-elect, Ahmed Usman Ododo. He believes that Ododo will not only consolidate but also continue the legacy of good governance established by Governor Yahaya Bello.

It was gathered that, a total of 89 bills have been assented to by the Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, between January 27, 2016 and January 24, 2024

Speaking on this development, the Kogi State Focal Person of National Social Investment Programme (NSIP),



**Bello**

Abdulkereem Onyekihi disclosed that this legislative milestone signifies a pivotal moment in the governance of Kogi State, setting the stage for the continued development and progress.

According to him, the new agency that was established will create many job opportunities, sustain the school feeding programme initiated by the Federal Government, including the Conditional Cash Transfer, Alternative School Programme and Grant for Vulnerable Group among others.

"Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State has again written his name in gold by signing these important bills before leaving office. No doubt our digital governor has done well in the last eight years. Even the blind could feel his impact in their lives. Just to say little about the newly signed law to establish Kogi

State Social Investment Programme Agency.

"It will no doubt create massive job opportunities for Kogites, alleviate poverty, ensure that our children are fully encouraged to go back to school at the basic level.

"Also, this agency will ensure that grants are given to the vulnerable groups in our society to enable them earn a living.

"Like I said earlier, Governor Yahaya Bello has set a good footprint for the incoming administration. I am highly elated that our Governor elect, Alhaji Usman Ahmed Ododo is a technocrat who is highly experienced to deliver good governance in Kogi State. We are very optimistic that he will not only succeed but will also ensure that he sustains the legacies of our ever dependable Governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello".

### Aiyedatiwa nominates ex-NASS Clerk Adelami as Deputy

**A**DELAMI, who hails from Owo, the hometown of the late Governor Rotimi Akeredolu, is a former Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly.

, who hails from Owo, the hometown of the late Governor Rotimi Akeredolu, is a former Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly.

A combo of Gov Lucky Aiyedatiwa and Nominated Ondo Deputy Governor Olayide Owolabi Adelami.

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, has announced the selection of Olayide Owolabi Adelami for the position of Deputy Governor.

Adelami, who hails from Owo, the hometown of the late Governor Rotimi Akeredolu, is a former Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly.

The name of the deputy governor nominee has been transmitted to the Ondo State House of Assembly for approval.

Earlier Wednesday, the governor sacked all commissioners, senior special assistants (SSAs) and special assistants (SAs) appointed by Akeredolu and directed them to immediately hand over to the Permanent Secretaries or the most senior administrative officers in their respective offices.

Aiyedatiwa, 59, formerly Ondo deputy governor, was sworn in as the substantive

governor of the South-West state on December 27, 2023, following the death of Akeredolu.

The former deputy governor survived an impeachment plot by some Akeredolu's allies in the Ondo State House of Assembly when the ex-governor was ill.

There are three senatorial districts in the state and the politics of rotation of power also operates locally. While the new governor, from the Ilaje Local Government Area, is from Ondo South, the late governor was from the Owo Local Government Area in Ondo North.

Many had thought the new governor would pick his deputy from Ondo Central but Aiyedatiwa, a former commissioner of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDCC), settled for Akeredolu's kinsman in Owo, from Ondo North.

**Adelami's Profile**  
Chief Olayide Owolabi Adelami, mni hails from Owo, Ondo state. He was born over 6 decades ago to the family of Oluka Oribokun by Pa and Mrs Amos Adelami. Adelami graduated from the prestigious Imade College in Owo before proceeding to the Polytechnic, Ibadan for his GCE A level and University of Lagos for his Bachelors of Science in Business

**T**HE Supreme Court has affirmed the election of Siminalayi Fubara as Governor of Rivers State.

In the Rivers matter, Partick Tonye Cole, the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress, APC challenged the election of Governor Siminalayi Fubara on grounds that he wasn't qualified to run for governor as he was still in the employ of the Rivers State government as Accountant General as at the time of the election.

Fubara of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was declared winner of the governorship election after he scored 302,614 votes to defeat his closest challenger, Cole, who polled 95,274 votes.

Both the Tribunal and Appeal Court had in concurrent judgments dismissed Mr Cole's case for lacking merit, for failing to provide credible evidence to prove his case of non-qualification, corrupt

### Aiyedatiwa: Ondo Assembly pledges support, confirms Deputy Governor

**T**HE Speaker of the Ondo State House of Assembly, Mr Olamide Oladiji, on Thursday pledged the support of the legislature for Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa "for the people to enjoy more dividends of democracy."

Oladiji made the declaration shortly after the Assembly confirmed Aiyedatiwa's deputy governor-nominee, Mr Olayide Adelami, on the floor of the House.

Aiyedatiwa had on Wednesday forwarded

### Supreme court affirms Fubara as Rivers state governor



**Fubara**

practices and non-compliance, thus affirming Fubara's electoral victory.

The Supreme Court, also in its judgment Thursday also upheld the decision of the Appellate Court on grounds that the APC governorship candidate failed to prove his

allegations of over-voting and non-compliance levelled against the Rivers State governor.

The five-member Apex Court panel headed by Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, in effect, dismissed the appeal of Patrick Tonye-Cole for lacking in merit.



**Aiyedatiwa**

delivered during Adelami's service period.

His sterling performances, years of experience and reputation as an astute manager of resources with enviable integrity saw Adelami being recalled to the National Assembly in 2000 to strengthen the Finance Department. Three years later, he was made the Head of the Finance and Accounts Department. He remained in this position till 2007 when he was confirmed as a Director. The following year, he was nominated for a one year senior management course at the prestigious National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Jos.

After the completion of his course at the Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies in 2008, he was assigned a bigger task of pioneering the newly created Department of Procurement and Supplies. Without a single trained staff in procurement processes, Adelami embarked on the rigorous process of staff training and nurtured the department to an enviable position. In 2014, he was promoted to the position of Secretary (Permanent Secretary), Directorate of Procurement, Estate and Works. A position he held until he was appointed as the Deputy Clerk to the National

Assembly for screening and confirmation as deputy governor.

At the plenary session presided over by the Speaker, the nominee was confirmed after the consideration of a report by the House Selection Committee.

During the plenary, the Clerk of the House, Mr Jaiyeola Benjamin, read the letter sent to the House by Aiyedatiwa for the consideration of the nominee.

After the submission of the report, the Deputy Speaker of the House, Mr Abayomi Akinruntan, recommended the confirmation of the nominee, affirming that Adelami had been properly screened.

The Majority Leader of the House, Mr Oluwole Ogunmolayuyi, moved the motion for the report to be considered and the nominee to be confirmed. The motion was seconded by Mr Felix Afe representing Akoko North West 2 Constituency.

## SUNDAY POLITICS

# Our conversation should begin at having real political parties

*How political parties recruit, socialise people and mobilise the whole populace to focus on this idea of how progress comes to everybody and that then leads to the true progress of the country., IWOK INIOBONG writes.*

I have spoken very frequently about the simple difference between a Nigerian political party and the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa because the Nigerian state is still in a developmental stage. It is just a coalition of politicians trying to share spoils of office and because of that they neglect development in Nigeria.

Look at how South Asia has now emerged, overtaking even Southeast Asia in terms of economic development and growth.

How do you analyse the administration of your very good friend, President Bola Tinubu and do you still speak to the President?

I have not spoken with him in five years and that is my perception of many things including the way the All Progressives Congress (APC) evolved. The truth of the matter is that what is happening in Nigeria is inevitable because the Nigerian state is not constructed to serve the Nigerian people.

It is constructed to serve politicians looking to share the spoils and because that is what it is, you will have all these corruption cases. It is like you have taken your own and you don't want me to take mine and the Nigerian people don't matter in these conversations.

It is easy for you to say that we put all these together and we lost the election but I still completely reject the idea that we lost the election because that is not true.

But Nigeria is what it is. There is a legitimacy crisis in Nigeria and I know what the world thinks of what happens in Nigeria and that is not a disputable matter. I have cited continuously what the European Union Mission said about the election and I don't want us to go back into the 2023 election because that is not the issue for now.

I'm just trying to make the point that the last election, talking about Peter Obi, the Nigerian people have become so frustrated with the nature and way Nigerian politicians carry out that when Peter Obi said the right things it resonated with them and drove the emergence of a movement that generally got called the Obidient Movement.

Nigerians in Diaspora rallied very strongly around the fact that this gentleman is saying a few things right and a campaign like Nigerians have not seen for a long time happened and it was deliberately sabotaged. The point remains, how do you go forward



Utomi

when you know this? We have to realise and take advantage in trying to save Nigeria because the majority of this country's

population is young.

They didn't show me any politics and by the way that story going round is not actually true. The correct story was that there was a

meeting called and one retired general was chairing the meeting and it was a premeditated scam and I said it to them. I literally walked away

from there. We have been to the venue and it is not a question of changing the venue.

I was even going to go back there but some people said I should not make a fool of myself by going back to the place. The retired general was a disgrace to the meeting and I will say it in public and that was what happened. There was no plan to have an election and I wrote letters to the party to show what happened even Adams Oshiomhole said he would tell me one day the truth of what happened.

But you see, Nigerian politicians don't believe in democracy. That is what I prove and I need to prove it. Once I proved it, I just walked away completely and I wrote a book about it.

In the event that the proposed merger to form a strong political party works out, who should be leading the party?

I think it is too early to be talking about who will lead the party. Let's talk about how and what we can do to make Nigeria work. When the time comes, the people and that is why it is called democrac, will determine who.

## 2027: PDP needs no merger

Dr Adetokunbo Pearse, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chieftain in Lagos and former member, Atiku Abubakar 2023 presidential campaign council, says the party does not need any merger ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Pearse who said this on Friday in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos, ruled out the possibility of any merger because, according to him, there had not been a genuine history of merger in the country.

He noted that the party was not finished but only needed to close ranks and put its house in order to win elections.

"PDP cannot be running away. Let us forget merger. Are you talking about PDP merging with some of these political parties which do not have offices?"

"We should look inward, reposition ourselves and improve the party, that is what we need to do."

"PDP is not finished if we do right thing. President Tinubu will be gone in 2027 if we do the right thing," the chieftain said.

According to him, there is nobody PDP can merge with: "PDP needs to stand on its own and build what it has. If we build what we have we will defeat anybody."

"We have 13 governors now, we have 40 per cent of the national

assembly, what do we need merger for and with who? What can merger bring to PDP?"

On the outcome of the 2023 Presidential Election, Pearse said PDP's presidential candidate, Alhaji Abubakar Atiku's failure to reconcile with ex-Rivers Gov. Nyesom Wike and others, paved way for President Bola Tinubu to

win the election.

"It was Atiku that failed to do his job. He didn't do what he needed to do. He should not have fought against Wike, even if he didn't want to use him as his vice, he could have promised to make him minister of petroleum."

"Wike will do the work and release money to prosecute the

election and ensure victory for the party. He didn't do it," he said.

NAN reports that some politicians and opinion molders' have been advocating merger of opposition political parties ahead of the 2027 general election. (NAN

PDP Govs congratulate Fubara, Kefas over Supreme Court victory



Damagum

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## NGAS NATIONS PAYS THANK YOU VISIT TO THE GOVERNOR

The Ngolong Ngas, HRH Nde Jika Golit, National President of Ngas Development Association, Chairmen of Pankshin and Kanke LGCs and the Chairman, Ngas Elders Council recently paid thank you and congratulatory visit to the Governor of Plateau State, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang and Deputy, Hon. Josephine Piyo on Supreme Court victory at the Governor's official residence Rayfield, Jos



Governor Mutfwang (left) welcoming the Ngolong Ngas, HRH Nde Jika Golit



Hon. Timothy Golu (right) with the Ngolong Ngas, HRH Nde Jika Golit



HRH Da Yusuf Walle, Miskom Mupun (2nd left) flanked by other members of delegation during the visit



Wife of the Ngolong, Maran Esther Juka Golit (left) exchanging greetings with Barr. Mrs. Olivia Dazyam and Mrs. Rotmwa Bonga



Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, Deputy Chief of Staff, office of the Deputy Governor and others



HoS, Barr. Rauta Dakok and CoS Government House, Engr. Jeremiah Satmak



From left are, Commissioners of Health, Dr. Cletus Shurkuk, Agric. Hon. Samson Ishaku Bugamma and Secondary Education, Malam Nyalun Salihu



From left are Kanke TIC Chairman, Hon. Shikir Pankshin, Hon. Go'ar, Ngas Elders Council chairman, Nde Dr. Gideon Barde and the National President, Ngas Development Association, Engr. Gonen Gofwen

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



**I**T is said that when two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers the most. The constant crises at the Plateau State House of Assembly is a testament to this. From the many leadership tussles to now jostling for seats between lawmakers. With all of the happenings, the state assembly which seems to be nonexistent for some time now has been unable to perform its legislative functions. Of course, it is the people that are made to bear the brunt.

The issue took a different turn with the recent Supreme Court verdict declaring Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang as the duly elected governor of Plateau State, thus overturning the Court of Appeal judgement and bringing to question the issue of structure, nomination and sponsorship by the PDP.

You would recall that following the resignation of the former Speaker, Rt. Hon. Moses Thomas Sule and his Deputy Rt. Hon. Gwotson Fom Dalyop in November 2023, a new Speaker emerged in the person of Rt. Hon. Gabriel Kudengbena Dewan under the platform of Young Progressive Party (YPP).

It was expected that the new speaker would call for plenary and swear in the new members from the APC following the PDP's loss of sixteen seats in the House. But instead, Rt. Hon. Dewan in his acceptance speech declared that the House had been adjourned to the 23rd of January, 2024.

However, as the date for readjournalment drew close, the sixteen sacked PDP lawmakers in a press briefing held, threatened to resume plenary on the same date despite the nullification of their election by the Court of Appeal. To make good their threat, the sixteen members stormed the Old Government House Rayfield, temporary venue for plenary sessions since the assembly complex was under renovation.

Meanwhile, ahead of the resumption last Tuesday, armed security personnel had been deployed to the venue at Old Government House to forestall any potential disruption of sitting. Before then, the eight elected lawmakers including the speaker had already arrived and were having an executive session preparatory for the day's legislative activity. A little chaos ensued as the PDP members attempted to gain entrance into the premises, prompting the Police stationed at the gate to act by stopping them.

After a while, the situation was brought under control and

eventually, the PDP lawmakers were allowed access into the premises. The spokesman for the group, Hon. Ishaku Maren who is the former Majority Leader and member representing Bokkos constituency while speaking to journalists said the Supreme Court judgement which affirmed Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang as the duly elected governor of the state should also be applicable to the lawmakers that were sacked by the appellate court.

Earlier, the Speaker Rt. Hon. Gabriel K. Dewan had in an



## Plateau assembly in the eye of the storm



**Dewan**



**The eight duly elected members, including the speaker.**



**Former Majority Leader, Maren**

address to the sixteen PDP members cautioned on the need for them to be patient as they await the interpretation of the court process already instituted. He was quick to appeal to both the APC and PDP supposed members of the Plateau State House of Assembly to maintain status quo pending the outcome of

the court process. In his words, "Honourable members, I am in receipt of a court process that restrains me from doing anything contrary to the court process already initiated. As you know, we as an institution are responsible for making laws and not interpreting the law. For now, I am pleading that

we maintain the status quo until the interpretation of the law by those responsible, that is the judiciary, after which the next line of action would be taken".

While reacting to the sixteen PDP members press briefing, spokesman for the APC in Plateau State, Mr. Sylvanus Namang described their planned resumption as an

assault to democracy and contempt of court order. According to him, the Appeal Court judgement which sacked the sixteen PDP members and all its National Assembly members has a stamp of finality which cannot be overturned by any court in the land, in line with Section 246 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

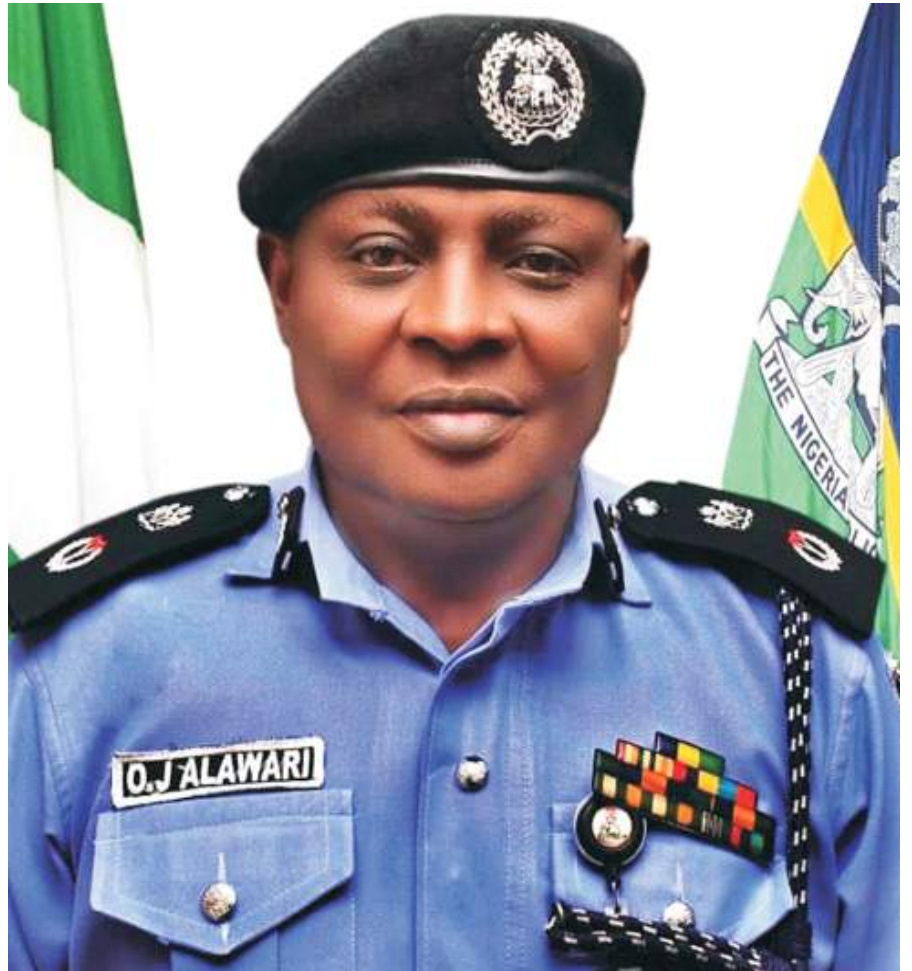


**Members of the PDP, briefing journalists.**

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



Dewan



Alawari

## Supreme Court verdict: Battle for Plateau H/Assembly

*The aftermath of the recent Supreme Court judgment is not only causing anxiety in Plateau State, it has also sent political gladiators of the ruling People's Democratic Party [PDP], in the state and their major foe, the All Progressives Congress [APC], back to the trenches to fight over the control of the Plateau State House of Assembly. KENNETH DARENG, examines the ripple effects of this unfolding drama and how it is likely going to play out at the end.*

**T**HE Supreme Court Judgment affirming the election of Governor Caleb Mutfwang, as Governor of Plateau State, was greeted by PDP politicians with wild jubilation sending their supporters into frenzy across the state.

The most excite were politicians who where sacked by the Court of Appeal which comprised all Senators elected on the PDP platform as well as, 16 of the members of the Plateau State House of Assembly whose election were invalidated by the same Court for lack of structure.

The Supreme Court's condemnation the Appeal Court's decision to fault the state's PDP Primaries and even entertain the case that was purely an intra-party affair was seen by the apex court as a miscarriage of Justice and subsequently affirmed the appeal of the Governor.

In effect, the Supreme Court pronouncement also showed that the removal from office of all PDP members of the National Assembly including the 16 members of the state legislature was a miscarriage of Justice. Unfortunately, the case of the victims of such judicial injury only terminates at the Appeal Court.

The apex court's verdict therefore beamed a light of hope for the sacked politicians. It became a hypothesis for Senior Advocates of Nigeria as well as talking point for public commentators both within the

conventional and social media space. The contestation was whether with the kind of pronouncements coming from the Supreme Court which faulted the judgments of the lower Courts, these sacked officers can be able to seek remedy as a way forward.

Although some of the lawyers including Mike Ozokomeh, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria [SAN], have expressed their views on the matter by stating that since the case of the Plateau National and State Assembly members ends at the Court of Appeal, it can be considered a fait- accompli with no other option.

But other Senior lawyers also argued that all hope is not lost for these victims of injustice because the Supreme Court had in the past, intervened in some similar cases citing the case of Agah Vs Dangana which had been terminated at the Court of Appeal

but was heard by the Supreme Court.

**SUNDAY STANDARD** gathered that, based on that premise and other factors, the People's Democratic Party [PDP], in the state have approached the Supreme Court to look into the matter, while it has also written to the National Judicial Council [NJC], asking it to sanction those Justices that delivered the Judgment at the lower courts.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere in Jos the state capital was highly charged on Tuesday as the 16 sacked Plateau PDP lawmakers in company of hundreds of their constituents marched to the old Government House Rayfield, vowing to resume sitting as the authentic members of the legislative arm of the state.

The scene almost got to a boiling point if not for the timely intervention of the Nigerian Police who averted a free for all fight, when supporters of the yet

to be inaugurated members of the All Progressives Congress [APC], who had collected Certificate of Return from the Independent Electoral Commission [INEC], as was directed by the Appeal Court judgment also showed up at the old Government House insisting that the 16 PDP members remain sacked and that their plan to resume was an invitation to anarchy.

Explaining the rationale behind their decision to resume plenary; one of the sacked 16 members, and former Majority Leader, Hon. Yobo Ishaku, who spoke on behalf of his colleagues during a press conference a day earlier, said since the Supreme Court, which upheld the election of Governor Caleb Mutfwang on the same issue had ruled that the PDP had a valid structure to nominate them as candidates, the verdict of the Appeal Court sacking them as lawmakers had become a

nullity.

According to him. " Our recess ends today Monday, and we want to inform you that we the PDP family are in high spirits and are willing to go back to our legislative duties willingly given to us by our various constituencies. So we are ready to resume work tomorrow, Tuesday."

Speaking further, Hon. Ishaku said, " While we were on recess, there were two Judgments passed regarding the Plateau State House of Assembly. The first one was the one given by the Court of Appeal of which the presiding judge said, one could not put something on nothing, PDP on the Plateau had no structure and it was on that basis and premise that they sacked all the 16 PDP House of Assembly members.

"And while we were still on recess, the Supreme Court gave its verdict regarding the same issue and in the same Judgment, the Supreme Court where it said, the case that was brought before the Court of Appeal was fraudulent and that the Court lacked the jurisdiction to entertain the matter in the first place. And by that, it shows that by referring to their submission, you cannot build something on nothing. By implication, the verdict of the Court of Appeal is a nullity and we are disregarding that judgment in its entirety."

Ishaku maintained that they are products of democracy who were

**"National and State Assembly members ends at the Court of Appeal, it can be considered a fait- accompli with no other option. But other Senior lawyers also argued that all hope is not lost for these victims of injustice because the Supreme Court had in the past, intervened in some similar cases citing the case of Agah Vs Dangana which had been terminated at the Court of Appeal but was heard by the Supreme Court."**

*Continued on page 31*

NEWS

# Benue security adviser expresses zero tolerance for crime

From **TERESE TUHWA Makurdi**

**D**ETERMINED to do away with rising cases of crime in Benue State, the state government has given a matching order to criminals to relocate out of the state or face dire consequences.

The Governor, Rev Father Dr Hyacinth Alia, who gave the order through his adviser on security and strategic liaison, Col Alexander Igbaya Ashungu in Makurdi recently, disclosed that the state government would not spare anyone found perpetrating criminal activities.

"Any member of the public who suspects any false movement, gathering and unauthorized persons bearing arms, particularly in our rural forest, should report immediately for investigation and further actions," he said.

He added that the state government has been working round the clock to ensure that the state was safe for inhabitants and businesses.

"As we speak, a number of kidnapped victims have been rescued and we are going after those perpetrating the crime

in the state.

He commended the state Governor, Dr Hyacinth Iormem Alia for placing security of lives and property on his priority list and acknowledged the good work the police and Armed Forces were doing to maintain security and peace in the state.

The security adviser who lamented the upsurge in kidnapping and herdsmen attacks in the country, said the state government has released telephone numbers to the public to give information to the office of the Special Adviser to the Governor on Security if such cases occurred.

The phone numbers as released by the adviser are 08115780499, 09021991445 and 08132111854.

It could be recalled that Governor Hyacinth Alia recently appealed for the release of the Caretaker Chairman of Ukum Local Government Council, Rev. Gideon Haanongon and three others who have been kidnapped.

Rev. Haanongon was kidnapped with his orderly, driver and personal assistant



Alia

on their way to attend the burial of a traditional ruler, Chief Fezanga Wombo who passed on recently.

Speaking hours after the incident, Governor Alia called for immediate unconditional release of the trio and decried the killings and kidnappings in the area.

The governor called on both serving and former lawmakers as well as other prominent persons from the area known as Sankara to proffer lasting solutions to insecurity in their area with a promise to

implement their recommendations.

Governor Alia also urged traditional leaders in the area to join in seeking solutions into security challenges. He said his administration was determined to return peace not only to Logo, Ukum and Katsina-Ala LGAs but to the entire state. Either way, the Air Component of Operation Delta Safe will continue to carry out its assigned duties until the activities of these saboteurs are completely halted or reduced to the

## NUJ commends Governor Aliyu for infrastructural development

From **ANENE AIKE, Sokoto**

**T**HE Nigeria Union of Journalists NUJ, Sokoto State Council, has commended the state Governor, Dr. Ahmed Aliyu Sokoto for the Infrastructure Development Projects in the state carried out by his administration.

The body also called for increased support for the state civil servants following the fuel subsidy removal that has been the bane of a serious transportation problem to the workers.

The state council also commended the governor for the ongoing roads construction in Ramen Kura Kara and Tudun Wada areas of Sokoto North Local Government. They described it as a crucial step towards alleviating the challenges

being faced by the people especially during the rainy season.

The council which is headed by Alhaji Magore, also appreciated the Sokoto State government's intervention, believing that these projects will significantly improve the poor conditions of the affected areas' and enhance their socio-economic prospects when completed.

While calling on the state government to address the economic hardship faced by the state and local government civil servants, said their monthly salaries are becoming inadequate amidst the high cost of living.

As the union acknowledged the ongoing beautification efforts in Sokoto metropolis, it also suggested that the state government should consider providing assorted sacks of grains to civil



Aliyu

servants, similar to the initiatives in other states as these will alleviate their financial constraints.

The council also appealed to the state government to

join other states in implementing the N35,000 wage award for state civil servants, to mitigate the impact of fuel subsidy removal, especially on junior civil servants.

## Environment minister pays familiarization visit on colleagues

From **DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja**

**T**HE Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal has paid a



Lawal

familiarization visit to his colleagues in the Ministry of Works, Sen. David Nweze Umahi and the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Arc. Ahmed Musa Dangiwarzo and the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Abdullahi Tijjani Garza in their offices, Mabushi, Abuja.

The minister described his visit as necessary because this will further strengthen the existing collaboration between the three ministries. He added that "partnership and collaboration between the three ministries would enable the ministries to achieve

their mandates as stipulated during the Presidential retreat."

According to him, the area of collaborations would include environmental impact assessment, planting of trees, erosion control, pollution control and climate change among others.

He assured his colleagues that the Ministry of Environment would achieve the mandate given to it by Mr. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) on six (6) key priority areas related to the environment as contained in eight (8) points Economic Agenda of the present administration.

Earlier, the three ministers commended the Minister of

Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal and assured him that their ministries will always be ready to comply with environmental regulations.

It would be recalled that the newly deployed Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Works, Dr. Yakubu Kofar Matan, paid a similar working visit to his counterpart in the Federal Ministry of Environment, Mahmud Adam Kambari, who was also recently deployed to the ministry.

The visit was to further strengthen collaboration and cordial working relationships between the ministries.



## SERAP, 20 others sue Akpabio, Abbas, others for increasing budget

Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and 20 concerned Nigerians have filed a lawsuit against the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas.

### Sacked 16 Plateau lawmakers move to resume duties

The 16 members of the Plateau State House of Assembly sacked by the Court of Appeal in November last year have resolved to resume legislative duties on Tuesday.

### Court nullifies Rivers 2024 budget passed by four factional lawmakers

The Federal High Court in Abuja on Monday nullified the N800 billion 2024 budget passed by the Rivers State House of Assembly and signed into law by Governor Simi Fubara. Read more

### Tinubu orders expansion of student loan to cover those interested in skill growth

President Bola Tinubu has ordered the management of the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) to extend interest-free loans to students interested in skill-development programmes. Read more

### Presidency rejects rumour of planned relocation of Nigeria's capital to Lagos

The presidency has dismissed a rumour on the planned restoration of Lagos as Nigeria's capital. Re

### CBN working to bring down inflation — CBN boss, Cardoso

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Olayemi Cardoso, has disclosed that the apex bank was working to reduce the headline inflation rate to 21.4 per cent this year. Read more

### Nigerian govt says it'll hold talks with labour over new minimum wage in March

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, made the disclosure, on Thursday, when he spoke at a dialogue themed: 'Tinubu's Economic Reforms: Gainers and Losers', organised by the Media Trust Group

### APC tackles Adeleke over the sack of Osun monarchs

The All Progressives Congress (APC) in Osun State has opposed the sack of two traditional rulers in the state by Governor Ademola Adeleke. Read more

### Police arrests local council chairman over alleged plot to assassinate Benue Assembly speaker

Police operatives in Benue have arrested a chairman of one of the local council areas in the state and one other person over an alleged attempt to assassinate the Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Aondona Dajoh. Read more

### Tinubu to Nigerians: Don't make money your god

President Bola Tinubu on Monday assured Nigerians his administration would not relent in addressing corruption and other vices in the country

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP: Shell sells SPDC for \$2.4bn; Nigerian govt to continue electricity subsidy; Other stories

Dutch oil giant, Shell has assured workers that their jobs are safe as it reaches an agreement to sell its Nigerian onshore subsidiary, the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC), to Renaissance For \$2.4bn

### Police confirm rescue of Abuja sisters, others from kidnappers' den

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Command of the Nigeria Police Force has confirmed the rescue of several persons abducted from the Zuma 1 area of Bwari Area Council on January 2, 2024 on Saturday night. R

### Three security operatives killed, others wounded while foiling attack on Benue communities

The Force Commander of Operation Whirl Stroke, Major General Sunday Igbiniwahia, on Saturday, said that three security personnel lost their lives during an attack on some communities in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State on Thursday.

### Dangote Cement becomes first Nigerian company to hit N10tr in market capitalization

Dangote Cement Plc became the first Nigerian quoted company to cross the N10 trillion threshold in the country's capital market

### Tinubu meets US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, in Abuja

President Bola Tinubu on Tuesday met with the United States Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja. Read more

### Ogun State Assembly Speaker, Oluomo, impeached

Hon. Olakunle Oluomo has been impeached as the Speaker of the Ogun State House of Assembly by 18 lawmakers out of the 26 members of the assembly, during plenary presided over by the Deputy Speaker, Mrs Bolanle Ajayi. Read more

### Plateau govt seeks probe into Mangu killings amid accusations against Army

Following the tragic death of 30 people in Mangu Local Government Area on Wednesday, the Plateau State Government has called for a thorough investigation into the incident, particularly addressing accusations of bias levelled against military personnel

### NLC President, Ajaero criticizes Tinubu's economic policies, calls for measures to ease hardship

President of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Joe Ajaero, has delivered a sharp critique of President Bola Tinubu's economic policies, alleging they have exacerbated hardship for Nigerians rather than delivering promised gains. Read more

### Plateau killings: Gov Mutfwang relaxes curfew in Mangu LGA

The Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, has relaxed the curfew imposed on the Mangu local government area of the state.

### INEC charges military, police, others on security for February 3 by-election

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on Tuesday tasked the military and other security agencies to ensure a secure environment for the conduct of the February 3 bye-election across the country. Read more

### FG, states, LGAs share N1.12tr as revenue allocation for December 2023

The three tiers of government shared N1.127 trillion as revenue allocation for December 2023. Read more

### Dangote retains position as Africa's richest person as Otedola moves up in ranking (See list)

Nigeria's industrialist and Chairman of Dangote Industries Limited, Chief Aliko Dangote has kept his place as Africa's richest man, latest data by American business magazine, Forbes has shown. Read more

### Super Eagles to face Cameroon in AFCON round of 16

The Super Eagles of Nigeria will face the Indomitable Lions of Cameroon in the round of 16 of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). Read more **COMPILED BY LOIS DADUUT**

## SUNDAY FEATURE

**Insecurity: Tinubu, NSA and need for new approach**

**President Bola Tinubu's pledge in the "Renewed Hope" document to secure Nigeria and his subsequent actions have been met with both hope and concern. While some point to progress, others remain skeptical in the wake of fresh attacks like the Mangu attack and the recent upsurge of kidnappings in the nation's capital, FCT, GIDADO IBRAHIM.**

**E**XPLORING Tinubu's efforts so far and the remaining challenges provide a clearer picture of his approach to tackling insecurity. Tinubu outlined his security vision in "Renewed Hope," stressing the mobilisation of national security assets, technology improvement, personnel recruitment, and strengthening existing agencies.

He cited his success in combating crime while he was Lagos state governor as a model for the nation. Notably, he recently approved emergency procurement of digital tracking devices to locate kidnappers in Abuja, acknowledging the lack of existing equipment.

Initial steps like tackling Boko Haram's territorial claims and facilitating displaced persons' return are credited to the previous administration, laying the groundwork for further action. However, the Mangu attack and ongoing criminal activities like kidnappings raise questions about the effectiveness of current strategies. The lack of proper equipment for security agencies, as acknowledged by President Tinubu, highlights a crucial area needing immediate attention. Good enough, the Federal Capital Territory Administration, FCTA, has acknowledged the president's directive to purchase hi-tech tracking equipment. That is a major step in the right direction.

The gall of insecurity casts a long shadow over Nigeria, stretching from the bustling streets of Abuja to the serene hills of Plateau and other states like Katsina, Niger, Nasarawa and Zamfara. Despite President Tinubu's recent efforts to quell the flames, the past few weeks have witnessed a worrying escalation, culminating in the desperate imposition of a 24-hour curfew on the Plateau. While fingers of blame readily point towards fifth columnists and political machinations, the reality is far more intricate, a Gordian knot woven from economic woes, social fissures and the dark tendrils of criminal networks.

At the heart of the insecurity lies a potent cocktail of economic and social issues. Widespread poverty, fueled by decades of mismanagement and dwindling resource distribution, has fostered desperation, breeding grounds for criminal activities. Youth unemployment soars, leaving young minds vulnerable to the siren song of quick financial gains through violent means. Inequality reigns supreme, breeding resentment and stoking the flames of ethnic and religious tension.

Access to quality education remains a distant dream for many, perpetuating cycles of ignorance and fueling the flames of intolerance. The cracks in the social fabric exacerbated by historical grievances and a palpable sense of disenfranchisement amongst various communities run deep. This combustible mix creates a fertile ground for exploitation by vested interests, both internal and external.

Amidst this societal disarray, criminal syndicates weave their clandestine webs. Armed with ill-gotten wealth, often pilfered from



Tinubu

the public purse, these shadowy figures grease the wheels of violence. Their vast networks, stretching across the porous borders of the ECOWAS region and linked to international criminal organisations, facilitate the flow of illegal weapons, finance terrorism, and orchestrate criminal enterprises that bleed the nation dry.

The illicit proceeds from these nefarious activities fuel further instability. Kidnapping for ransom has become a lucrative industry, targeting not just the wealthy but ordinary citizens caught in the crossfire. Resource theft, whether it be crude oil in the Niger Delta or minerals in the North, enriches criminals while impoverishing the nation. The cycle perpetuates a self-serving ecosystem that thrives on chaos and despair.

But there are certain steps that the country's security apparatus overseen by the National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, must take. While the immediate focus understandably falls on curbing the overt violence, the battle against insecurity demands a holistic approach. Addressing the root causes is crucial. Tackling poverty requires not just handouts but also investment in education, infrastructure, and sustainable economic development.

Bridging the inequality gap will necessitate equitable resource distribution and dismantling the systems that perpetuate privilege for the few. Fostering social cohesion demands open dialogue, reconciliation efforts and addressing historical injustices.

The NSA must understand that disrupting the criminal networks is equally vital. This is where President Tinubu's position as chairman of heads of state of the

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) comes into play. Robust border security, increased transparency in financial transactions, and effective law enforcement with zero tolerance for corruption are essential first steps.

Cracking down on illegal trade in weapons and resources and dismantling financial havens that launder ill-gotten gains must be prioritised. International cooperation is key, requiring robust intelligence sharing and coordinated efforts to counter cross-border criminality.

Beyond these broad strokes, the path forward demands nuanced understanding of the local context. Plateau state's herder-farmer clashes require specific solutions tailored to the region's unique dynamics. The insurgency in the North-east necessitates a complex counter-terrorism strategy that addresses ideological motivations, while providing alternative pathways for disaffected youth.

The task ahead is undoubtedly daunting – a marathon requiring resilience and unwavering commitment. Yet, within the depth

of despair, flickers of hope remain. The resilience of the Nigerian people, their unwavering spirit in the face of adversity offers a powerful foundation for change. Civil society organisations are already working tirelessly to bridge divides and empower communities. A vibrant, vocal media landscape shines a light on injustices and demands accountability.

President Tinubu's recent vow to "conquer the evil of insecurity" might face skepticism, but the seeds of change have been sown. Recognising the complex tapestry of economic, social, and criminal elements at play is the first step. Investing in solutions that address the root causes, dismantling criminal networks, and empowering communities are the threads needed to weave a safer future for Nigeria. This is not just a battle for peace and security; it is a fight for the soul of a nation, a fight that demands commitment from every citizen, every leader, and every stakeholder. Only then can Nigeria break free from the web of insecurity and claim its rightful place as a prosperous and peaceful

nation.

While the Mangu attack serves as a stark reminder of the distance to travel, Tinubu's proactive approach, his emphasis on technology, and his willingness to acknowledge shortcomings offer cautious optimism.

NSA Ribadu must note that measuring success will require not just a decline in major attacks but also a sustained reduction in criminal activity, enhanced security for ordinary citizens, and a tangible improvement in the overall sense of safety across the nation.

It is high time the renewed hope administration exposed the involvement of top military brass and political mafias within the insiders' circle of terrorism financing before they change techniques and devise fresh means of causing social unrest. These syndicates which have extensive network in the country are associated with international criminal network that facilitates successful transaction in financing terrorism and other crimes against the peace of the nation.

Oil theft is another source of financing terrorism and must be curbed at all cost. The NSA should detect the whereabouts of these criminals, including illegal smugglers of petroleum products through our borders to neighbouring countries. He can achieve this by summoning an emergency meeting with heads of African Intelligence chiefs, including African heads of anti-corruption agencies to come up with a blueprint on shared intelligence in tackling the situation head on.

Also, an investigation into the release of public funds for the purchase of security equipment over the years without positive result like the arms gate under the Goodluck Jonathan administration should also be revisited, with a view to subjecting the culprits to prosecution to avoid future damages is critical under the renewed hope administration. This will serve as deterrent now that President Tinubu is in charge and is showing the political will as demonstrated by his actions.

Ultimately, tackling Nigeria's complex security challenges demands continued commitment, unwavering resolve, and a willingness to adapt and innovate. Whether Tinubu's "Renewed Hope" translates into lasting security will depend on his ability to address not just the symptoms but also the deep-rooted causes of the nation's vulnerabilities.

**"The illicit proceeds from these nefarious activities fuel further instability. Kidnapping for ransom has become a lucrative industry, targeting not just the wealthy but ordinary citizens caught in the crossfire. Resource theft, whether it be crude oil in the Niger Delta or minerals in the North, enriches criminals while impoverishing the nation. The cycle perpetuates a self-serving ecosystem that thrives on chaos and despair. But there are certain steps that the country's security apparatus overseen by the National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, must take. While the immediate focus understandably falls on curbing the overt violence, the battle against insecurity demands a holistic approach. Addressing the root causes is crucial. Tackling poverty requires not just handouts but also investment in education, infrastructure, and sustainable economic development."**

## SUNDAY FEATURE

## The case of cannibalism still being rampant in Nigeria

**I**N the common world, when one utters the word cannibalism, it is often understood to be the consumption of human flesh by another human. It is considered to be a taboo and therefore, many hesitate to talk about it. Cannibalism, eating of human flesh by humans. The term is derived from the Spanish name (Caríbalos, or Caníbales) for the Carib, a west Indies tribe well known for its practice of cannibalism.

It is surprising to know that there are still cases of cannibalism in Nigeria till this day. There was a case of a suspected 57 year old cannibal arrested for selling human parts he confessed that he usually ate the body parts and identified the throat as the most delicious part. He also sold some of the human parts to his customers. Exhibits recovered from the suspect included intestines, oesophagus, penis and two eyes."

Another case of some rescued victims of the ransacked kidnapers' and cannibals' den in Udah community at Orsu local government area of Imo State and Uli community in Ihiala local government area of Anambra State have said that victims of the kidnap gang were converted, molested, assaulted, raped, killed and roasted as the case may be.

The Nigerian media sources report on the killing of a "hunchbacked" person in four separate incidents: in the capital of Ondo State in 2012, in the south of the country in 2011, in Kogi State in 2010, and in Osun State in 2009. The "hunch" of the victims was removed, reportedly for use in money-making rituals.

In Kogi State, a convicted serial killer and former soldier killed a 22-year-old female student, intending to dismember her body for ritual purposes, before being arrested by police. The killer had reportedly been convicted of murder and sentenced to death in 2003 but had later been acquitted and released (ibid.; APA 19 May 2012). Two men from Nasawara State confessed to killing a seven-year-old boy, the child of neighbours, and severing his head for a man who had promised them 250,000 Nigerian Naira.

All these can be traced to the result of the first Nigerian cannibal Clifford Orji. Clifford Nwa Orji was the first documented Nigerian cannibal who was also indicted in serial killings, kidnappings, and sale of human body parts and was arrested in 1999.

Orji died on August 12, 2012 in Nigeria's only super-maximum penitentiary where he spent 13 years

Clifford Orji is originally from Enugu State but lived in Lagos state, where he started as a razor-blade merchant. He later abandoned the trade and proclaimed himself to be a shaman advertising himself as "native doctor Chinneyelu" and on multiple occasions would feign temporary insanity to dissuade people from coming close to the part of the bridge where he lived. He didn't have a house so he lived under a bridge in Oshodi-Isolo In what could be well described as a lair and would later be commonly referred to as Clifford's kitchen.

He was arraigned at a Magistrate court in Ebute-Meta in Lagos state and was remanded in Kirikiri Prison which is Nigeria's only super-maximum prison.

After his arrest, a thorough search of his hideout was made which revealed multiple decaying corpses and fresh human body parts, coupled with those was a Cheque of ₦80,000 and a mobile phone was discovered, and this was suspicious because in 1999 the G.S.M hadn't been fully introduced to the

**WHY do people enjoy eating the flesh of a human being? There are so many bad things in the world but according to many, cannibalism is considered just about the worst. Depending on your point of view, it rises above even such criminal abominations as, rape and genocide. Then again, we live in a culture, in which people would run vomiting to the bathroom if they saw what went into making their shawarma or meat pie, ONAKPO-FURE VANESSA writes.**



Nigerian market & possession and ownership of a mobile phone then was reserved for the opulent Nigerian elite upper-class which Orji definitely wasn't.

Orji confessed to kidnaping and cannibalism. He confessed that him and his accomplice named Tahiru had been kidnaping unsuspecting individuals and eating them since 1992. Orji who had shown no remorse throughout the course of his arrest stated that even if he were to be released he would continue kidnaping and indulging in cannibalism.

Orji also made a very controversial claim and stated he either ate his victims or sold their body parts to high ranking Nigerian politicians who rewarded him financially hence his ability to afford and own a mobile phone.

His statements were however not substantiated with any cogent evidence.

While in Nigeria's Kirikiri maximum prison alongside his accomplice Tairu Aliyu in Apapa, Clifford Orji began to suffer from full blown psychosis. He was remanded there for 13 years and died on August 12, 2012 while some there were Unconfirmed reports that he might have been shipped abroad by his patrons and sponsors. But Evident about that Clifford Orji might be dead.

In Nigeria there is a discreet trade in body parts for religious, medicinal Or Voodoo ceremonies. The case of Clifford Orji has disturbing echoes of earlier killings when a man called Innocent Ikeanyanwu was discovered with the head of a 10-year-old boy in 1990s. While Innocent was in police detention, he confessed to have been regularly shipping severed heads to some highly placed Nigerians for money and ancient rituals. But before he could mention their names,

Innocent Ikeanyanwu died of "cardiac arrest".

Ritual killings in Nigeria are performed to obtain human body parts for use in rituals, potions, and charms. Ritualists, also known as headhunters, go in search of human parts at the request of herbalists, who require them for sacrifices or for the preparation of various magical potions human body parts are brought to herbalists who perform the rituals. Such rituals are reportedly motivated by the belief that they can bring power and wealth to an individual. Sources also indicate that charms are believed to make a person invincible and protect them from business failure, illness, accidents, and "spiritual attacks".

According to the Criminal Code (1990) of Nigeria, a person who commits a murder will be sentenced to death (Nigeria 1990, Sec. 319(1)). Similarly, subjecting a person to a "trial by ordeal" that results in death is also punishable by the death sentence (ibid., Sec. 208). A person found in possession of a human head or skull within six months of its removal from a body or skeleton can be sentenced to five years in prison (ibid., Sec. 329A(1)). The Criminal Code also states that: Any person who s in possession of or has control over any human remains which are used or are intended to be used in connection with the worship of invocation of any juju; or makes or uses or assists in making or using, or has in his possession anything whatsoever the making, use or possession of which has been prohibited by an order as being or believed to be associated with human sacrifice or other unlawful practice; is guilty of a misdemeanour, and is liable to

imprisonment for two years. (ibid., Sec. 210). Sources indicate that the Criminal Code is applicable to the southern states of Nigeria

In the 19 northern states of the country, the Penal Code of Nigeria applies. According to an article in the 2007 and 2008 volume of the University of Ilorin Law Journal, the Penal Code criminalizes the act of representing oneself as a witch, accusing another person of witchcraft, possessing any juju, drug or charm for use in witchcraft rituals, and invoking "unlawful" juju (Etudaiye 2007 and 2008, 4, note 14). It also reportedly criminalizes trial by ordeal, cannibalism, and the u According to Leadership, the number of unsolved cases of ritual murder is "troubling" (30 Apr. 2012). The Punch indicates that many victims of ritual killings disappear and are never found (10 Aug. 2012). Newspapers report that, in December 2011, a man was sentenced to death in Kano for killing and beheading a woman in 1992 (Nigerian Tribune 7 Dec. 2011; Vanguard 7 Dec. 2011). The murder was reportedly performed for ritual purposes (ibid.).

Sources report that a former information commissioner of Jigawa State was convicted in January 2010 of the ritual killing of two children and sentenced to life imprisonment. However, he was reportedly acquitted in 2012 due to "lack of direct evidence or proof" unlawful possession of a human head (ibid. 5-6).

The Nigerian government ought to make the law and order guiding the punishment of cannibals and ritualists more efficient and enforced as there would be no mercy for a murderer or human eater.

**Onakpo-fure Vanessa, Veritas university, Abuja**

By FRANCES STEWART

THE Government has expressed its political will to revamp the economy. This is heartwarming for many Nigerians. However, the problem of insecurity continues to be a clog in the wheel of this economic progress. As such, the journey of economic development must start from restoring and safeguarding security across Nigeria. This also means that insecurity should be stopped dead in its tracks, no questions asked. This is very important because of the correlation between security and economic growth and development. It is in view of the sensitivity of his subject matter that I am drawing on the expert research of Frances Stewart this week. Let us study together and understand that unless all hands are on deck to eradicate insecurity and its seedlings, there will be no economic growth in Nigeria. I give you Frances Stewart:

This paper considers some of the connections between development and security, both nationally and globally. Three types of connection will be distinguished: The immediate impact of security/insecurity on well-being and consequently development achievements (or the ways in which security forms part of the definition of development) – i.e., security's role as part of our objectives. The way that insecurity affects (non-security) elements of development and economic growth, or the security instrumental role. The way development affects security, or the development instrumental role. To the extent that these three-way connections exist, policies towards security may become one part of development policy because in so far as they enhance security, they will contribute to development; and policies towards development may become part of security policies because enhanced development increases security. Hence the connections suggest a quite radical revision of both security and development policies.

The aim of this paper is to consider the three connections in developing countries and also globally – in more depth vis-à-vis developing country experience and policies, since I have been working on these issues for the last ten years, but also exploring the global connections at a more superficial level. Acknowledging these three-way connections and consequently the generic policy implications just noted for the multiple roles of development and security policies is not sufficient to identify the actual development or security policies appropriate in specific cases. These depend on precisely how the three-way connections work, as well as the political economy of policy-making in particular contexts.

The paper will make some suggestions here, but this is an area where more research is needed. The paper is organized as follows. The next three sections consider each of the three connections described separately, in the order presented above, for developing countries. Section V will explore whether the connections identified at a national developing country level can be translated to the international level. 2. Security as an Intrinsic Aspect of Development.

Development, which signifies progress in human well-being, used to be equated with economic growth, but it is now widely acknowledged that this is a very inadequate characterization. As long noted, average per capita incomes are one important means to achieve such progress, but not the only one. Not only does average income fail to capture distribution across households, but it also may not be a good indicator of many important aspects of human well-being, such as people's health, education or their security. A series of alternative objectives have been put forward, one of the earliest being the PQLI (Physical Quality of Life Index). Sen has suggested that the development objective should be the enhancement of people's capabilities, or the opportunities open to people of being and doing a variety of things. UNDP's Human Development Report defined the objective succinctly as enlarging people's choices in a way which enables them to lead longer, healthier and fuller lives.

These are important advances, but do not explicitly incorporate security as an aspect of development. People may have the potential to do and be many things, yet this potential may be cut off, or people's sense of well-being may be seriously adversely affected with high levels of insecurity. Such insecurity includes the possibility of economic vicissitudes, health crises, and injury or death as a result of criminal or political violence. Sustained political violence may lead to the break-up of communities and families, forced migration and the need to re-establish lives in strange and alien environments, or even a suspended existence in refugee camps. There is no question that if such events are widespread, they have a serious negative impact on many people's lives, and therefore adversely affect the achievement of development.

The UNDP developed the concept of 'human security' to encompass not just the achievement of minimal levels of material needs, but also the absence of severe threats to them of an

economic or political kind: 'Job security, income security, health security, environmental security, security from crime – these are the emerging concerns of security all over the world'. According to Sen (1999), 'Human security is concerned with reducing and – when possible – removing the insecurities that plague human lives' (p. 8). The definition has been expanded by the Commission on Human Security: Human security in its broadest sense embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care, and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfil his or her own potential...Freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom of the future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment – these are the interrelated building blocks of human, and therefore national security (CHS 2003, p. 4).

# Development and Security



This definition of security is too extensive for my purposes because it covers much of what is normally included in human development, i.e., levels of achievement as well as risks, and also includes economic sources of insecurity as well as those arising from violence. For the purpose of this paper, I shall interpret security more narrowly, as occurring where there are low levels of insecurity, where insecurity consists in inter-personal violence or the risk of it. Interpersonal violence may have criminal or political objectives (or both). I am defining such insecurity as arising at the individual, or community level. Hence it is not the same as national insecurity, since it is experienced at the level of the individual, community, or group, rather than that of the nation. However, national insecurity (invasion from outside, or a high risk of it) can be an important source of such individual or community insecurity, as the current Iraq situation demonstrates.

Achievement of the development objective defined as the enlargement of human choices is adversely affected by such individual/community insecurity because it cuts life short and thwarts the use of human potential. Moreover, if we take a more utilitarian approach to the definition of development – that it furthers human happiness – insecurity has severe adverse effects. In consultations with poor people, the need for security comes up as one of their foremost priorities, even in peaceful societies (e.g., Narayan-Parker and Patel 2000). No such consultations have taken place during high-levels of conflict, but retrospective analysis produces similar answers, as one would expect.

Thus, individual and community security are an important dimension of development. Their absence – even if progress is being made on all other aspects of development, then seriously detracts from development achievements. Development and security are therefore linked in themselves, even in the absence of the causal connections between them to be discussed below.

The Development Costs of Insecurity: Some development costs are obvious. People who join the fighting forces, who are killed or flee, can no longer work productively; schools, power stations and/or roads that are destroyed reduce the productive capacity of the economy. There are also more complex interactions between events associated directly with war (fighting, movement of people, deaths, physical destruction, international embargoes, military expenditures) and developments in the macro, meso and microeconomy which mostly lead to adverse changes in individual entitlements, both



serious, irrespective of the method adopted.

Exploring the economic behaviour of the twenty-five countries worst affected by conflict from 1960 to 1995 (a list of these countries is appended) led to the following general findings about economic behaviour during wars: Economic growth was almost always negatively affected, sometimes dramatically so, such as in Mozambique and Nicaragua; but aggregate output was least affected where the conflict was confined to one geographic region, as in Sri Lanka. The agricultural sector was usually particularly badly hit, especially if people were forced to move in the course of the conflict. This evidence is borne out by econometric estimates which suggest that economies in conflict on average grow 1-2 per cent more slowly than peacetime economies. Exports were invariably negatively affected. This resulted from the general fall in production, a shift towards domestic markets, and disruptions in international markets. Nonetheless, import capacity often held up, financed by aid and private credit, with the result that foreign debt spiraled. Foreign exchange, however, tended to be diverted towards military expenditure and essential consumption goods, leading to a shortage of foreign exchange for economic inputs. In Nicaragua, this was one of the main causes of a collapse in production.

There were sectoral shifts with a switch to subsistence and informal activities, including simple manufacturing production, production of previously outlawed commodities (notably drugs) and trading (particularly smuggling). Consumption per head inevitably fell with per capita GDP, though generally not proportionately. Government revenue as a share of GDP mostly fell among countries in conflict, but contrary to expectations, not always. In Nicaragua and Mozambique, it rose quite sharply, yet in other cases government revenue raising was totally undermined – for example in Uganda. This difference was critical in determining whether the government could sustain public services. Government expenditure invariably rose more than revenue, and budget deficits widened, financed by a combination of foreign and domestic borrowing, and increased money supply. But despite the rising budget deficit, inflation was mostly quite moderate, and hyperinflation was rare.

The share of government expenditure going to the military invariably rose (Figure One), and mostly the share of social expenditure fell. Public provision of social services fell in most cases, dramatically in those cases where government revenue collapsed, for example in Uganda and Afghanistan. Yet both Nicaragua and Mozambique gave increased priority to social expenditure compared with the pre-war situation. There were invariably heavy development costs as each type of capital was subject to destruction (including physical plant, land, human resources, social and organizational capital), and new investment was reduced. Government investment and large-scale foreign and private investment fell quite sharply, although in general aggregate investment did not fall by as much as domestic savings, owing to increased foreign savings. Investment has been found to decline especially sharply when the conflict is extensive. Some new forms of capital emerged, however, including social and organisational, with informal systems of banking and quasi-government structures developing in rebel-held areas.

One way of analyzing the effects of conflicts on human well-being is in terms of entitlement failures, adopting and extending Sen's concept. Entitlements represent people's command over resources. Extreme human suffering results when household (or individual) entitlements fall below what is needed for subsistence. The complex economic effects of war can change each of these types of entitlement quite dramatically.

**To be continued**

economic and social. To take one example, movement of manpower may reduce the production of exports, thereby reducing foreign exchange earnings, import potential and consequently further constraining output, leading to a decline in employment and earnings. However, we should note that there can be positive indirect effects as resources are used more fully and efficiently. These positive effects seem to have occurred in some countries in the Second World War

The extent of the effects and their distribution depend on the nature of the conflict. More serious conflict (involving many deaths and prolonged over a long period) may, obviously, be expected to have a worse impact than smaller, shorter wars; while conflicts confined to the periphery of the country appear to be less adverse than those that range over the heartland of the economy. Conflicts that occur in rather rigid economies are likely to have more negative impact than those that occur where the economy is flexible and resources can readily be redeployed. Moreover, the social impact of conflict depends greatly on the nature of the government. When governments are strong and relatively benign, they can sustain social services (e.g., Mozambique and Nicaragua), while weak governments that are further undermined by conflict are unable to do so (Uganda in the 1970s and mid-1980s). Meanwhile, governments that lean heavily to one side may deliberately withhold services from part of the population (Sudan).

There are serious methodological problems in identifying precise effects, including huge data deficiencies, and the difficult question of the counterfactual, or what would have happened in the absence of war. The latter issue is a particularly relevant one because many countries at war have previously been doing badly both economically and with respect to social indicators, and continued weak performance is not necessarily due to the conflict. Moreover, the debt crisis hit many poor developing countries simultaneously with some recent wars, with some similar effects to those of conflict.

A variety of methods can be used to try and separate the consequences of conflict from those of other developments. Probably the most reliable is to compare the performance of war-affected countries with similar countries not affected by war in the same region (though, because of spillover effects, these countries too are typically adversely affected so that this method will understate the costs). The problem of inadequate data however remains very

**I**t's always a privilege to share God's Word with God's people. I believe that the Lord has been manifesting Himself to you as you continually feast on His Word. To begin today's message, I prophesy to you once again that as 'sheep of His pasture', your wanting days are over forever, in Jesus' Name!

Now, a pasture is a quiet place where you come to your full potential, praise the name of the Lord. That pasture is your place in life. **"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.** Verse 4 says, **"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me,** (Psalms 23:1-4, KJV).

Death's shadow is "Fear" and fear is the forerunner of death- any kind of death at all; whether spiritual death or natural death. So what we have to understand is that Psalms 23 is a prophetic picture. David, in his office as a Prophet, has captured these words, and it is actually a prophetic picture of the believer's work upon the face of the earth. As you are going through the face of the earth sometimes, you might walk through some dark places; but know this, that you are *just* going through, that place is not your final destination. You are only anointed to pass through, not to remain there. So do not unpack your bags yet. It is not your permanent address, it is not your permanent residence; in fact, where you are now is just actually the least that you would ever be. For me, I am only going through, because my path is like a shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day!

I will fear no evil. I will not be afraid of the outcome of my life because You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, Your Word and Your Spirit, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies. Right now, God is constantly in the process of preparing something for His people. There is a table He is preparing for you, a place of victory, a place of favour, praise the name of the Lord.

Another way to describe this life of "I shall not want" is the word, "overflow". Verse 5 of Psalms 23 **"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."** He said, my cup

runneth over- that is overflow! I said that is overflow.

I like the way a man of God said it- let's imagine you have a cup on the table, because it is assumed that cups are part of your dining. Let's say the cup is on the table, and the table has a table cloth. Anybody in his right mind that is pouring water into a cup, or pouring a

the Lord. Not just as a figment of our imagination, not just a kind of euphoria because Psalms 23 is a Psalm that is targeted with the Christian's walk on this earth.

I tell you again, there is a place in this life that you can get to, and that is the 'overflow'. It exists. Let me tell you the truth - do not ever, do not ever factor in your experience of God's Word



## I shall not want (11) *Abundance is His nature*



fluid into a cup would have the sense enough to stop, at least as the fluid gets to the brim of the top level of the cup. Is that not right? But God said, my cup runs over. That means He will keep pouring until it overflows. He said, why doesn't God stop pouring? God knows that the cup can get full. He keeps on pouring because *abundance* is His nature. You say, God! Stop pouring, you are messing the table cloth! God says, I know, I want the table cloth messed up; I want the content of your life to be so full; I want you to have so much joy that you cannot help but spread it around; I want you to be so consumed with peace so that anybody that comes around you, gets the peace that you have. I want you so blessed, so that anybody that comes within your vicinity picks up a blessing as well. That is God's life- Overflow, hallelujah!

So, there is a place like that. It exists because He said my cup runneth over, so you can call this the 'I shall not want life,' a 'running over life' a 'more than enough life'; a 'too much life', praise the name of the Lord! I reassure you that such a place exists, hallelujah. It exists, praise the name of

based on your experience. You may not have gotten there yet, but I tell you, that place exists and you are heading there. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Know that that place exists; and do not let anybody talk you out of it.

We are still talking about a life where you want nothing, hallelujah; and I am telling you the truth, one of the greatest things you are going to contend with as you navigate God's Word in your life, is that God's Word will constantly bring you to a place of decision, what you are going to believe, Amen. God's Word, often times, will come face to face with your religion; God's Word often times will come face to face with your schooling and your doctrine; God's Word often times will come face to face

with a head on collision with your experience in life or even with your preferences. That is why the Bible says in Psalms 138 vs 2- **"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name"**. (KJV).

Psalms 138 makes us to understand that God has exalted His Word above my Name. What that means is that one of the greatest decisions that God has made, if you want to walk with God, is that you got to put yourself in a place of 'neutral' and tell yourself, God, if you show me something and I see it, that is going to be the reality I am going to pursue from that moment. Praise the name of

the Lord! Has He said? Have you read it in the Scripture? Then, He is committed to doing it. Praise the name of the Lord forevermore!

Some people have said all kinds of things and you cannot go through this life by merely believing what the people say against what the Lord says in His Word. For example, some people have said, that you know, it is not possible for you to win in this life all the time. Have you heard that? We win some, and we lose some. Praise the name of the Lord. But just because that has been man's common experience does not mean that it can negate God's Word. Why? because the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 2:14 that, **"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."** (KJV). It does not say that He removes us from the battle scene, but it says He always causes us to triumph.

I am not saying there is no adversity, but He says we can win all the time! It depends on your mental stands, praise the name of the Lord. Your back may be on the floor now, but that does not mean you are losing. Losing is a function of your decision. You are not out of the game until you decide you are out. Listen, God will not; will not count you out. Satan cannot count you out; only you can count yourself out. So just because you are in a place in life now, does not mean that it is the reality. It is not the end of the story, praise the name of the Lord. Listen to me, God has not counted you out, so do not count yourself out.

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**"We are still talking about a life where you want nothing, hallelujah; and I am telling you the truth, one of the greatest things you are going to contend with as you navigate God's Word in your life, is that God's Word will constantly bring you to a place of decision, what you are going to believe, Amen. God's Word, often times, will come face to face with your religion; God's Word often times will come face to face with your schooling and your doctrine; God's Word often times will come face to face with a head on collision with your experience in life or even with your preferences. That is why the Bible says in Psalms 138 vs 2- "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name". (KJV).**

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# INTERNATIONAL

## Kenya court blocks police deployment to Haiti

**T**HE Kenyan High Court has blocked the government from deploying police officers to fight gangs in Haiti.

The judge argued that the deployment would be illegal as the National Security Council lacks the legal authority to send police outside Kenya.

He added that the council can only deploy military, not police, for peacekeeping missions such as Haiti.

Last year, Kenya had volunteered to lead a multinational security force in Haiti to quell gang violence.

The judge further explained that Kenyan law only allows the government to deploy police officers to another country if a reciprocal agreement exists between Kenya and the host nation.

Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry last year asked the UN to urgently deploy a multinational force.

He said his government had been overwhelmed by gangs who controlled 80% of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The UN Security Council backed Kenya's offer to lead the force and Kenyan lawmakers went on to approve the deployment.

In Haiti, the possible deployment had received mixed reactions from community members who have suffered at the hands of gangs.

Laurent Uwumuremyi, the country director of Mercy Corp, told the BBC the mission had the potential to facilitate access to public infrastructure and address the humanitarian crisis.

He added though that some community members said Haiti did not need external interventions and that they saw it as a waste of money and time.

Ekuru Aukot, the Kenyan opposition leader who brought the case, said the court ruling was a win for the country, which could not afford to spare officers before tackling its own security



Ruto

challenges.

Mr Aukot added that President William Ruto was only using the deployment to prop up his international image and seek favour with Western countries like the US.

President Ruto said Kenya has an "impressive record" of participating in peace support missions around the world.

He added that the deployment would enable officers to improve and sharpen their skills and experience in providing security.

However, the suitability of Kenyan police for the deployment had raised concerns over possible human rights violations.

Nicole Widdersheim, deputy Washington director at Human Rights Watch, told the BBC they had documented Kenyan police violence, including murders, going back to 2013.

She added that there has been a long history of international

armed intervention in Haiti really doing "a lot of terrible things".

The Kenyan government has denied any allegations of human rights violations by its officers.

One police officer who had already received two months of intensive training said he was "demoralised" by the ruling.

"I was prepared to go. I wanted to see how other police officers are doing their work and to add on to my experience."

But he said he would use the training "to serve here in Kenya".

This is the second major court ruling to go against Kenya's government on the same day. The High Court also rejected a government attempt to overturn a block on a controversial housing levy.

It comes after Mr Ruto had recently criticised judges he said were corrupt for blocking government policy.

**F**RANCE'S Constitutional Council on Thursday rejected several measures in a divisive new immigration law that critics call inhumane, in a new blow to President Emmanuel Macron and his government.

The council said in a statement that it threw out all or part of 32 of the law's 86 articles, saying they were contrary to the constitution. Macron and lawmakers had sought the body's assessment of the law, passed last year after a torturous debate.

Among measures rejected were those making it harder for immigrants to bring their families to France, and limiting their access to social welfare. The bill also strengthens France's ability to deport foreigners considered undesirable.

Groups who see the law as contrary to French values — and as a gift to the increasingly influential far right — protested ahead of the ruling outside the Constitutional Council across from the Louvre Museum in central Paris. Other protests were also planned, and Paris police deployed special security measures for the day.

The demonstrators accused the government of caving into pressure from Marine Le Pen's

## France's court rejects measures in controversial immigration law

far-right National Rally party around migration and as anti-immigration parties on the far right are rising in popularity ahead of European Parliament elections in June.

Macron has moved increasingly to the right, notably on security and immigration issues, since rising to office on a pro-business, centrist platform.

The dispute comes amid tensions across Europe



## Republicans may declare Trump as the 'presumptive 2024 nominee'

**T**HE Republican National Committee has pulled a resolution to consider declaring Donald Trump the party's "presumptive 2024 nominee" before he formally clinches the requisite number of delegates, a person familiar with the decision said Thursday.

News of the withdrawal came shortly after Trump posted on his Truth Social site that, while he "greatly" appreciated the notion, he felt, "for the sake of PARTY UNITY, that they should NOT go forward with this plan, but that I should do it the 'Old

Fashioned' way, and finish the process off AT THE BALLOT BOX."

The measure, according to a draft obtained Thursday by The Associated Press, had said it "declares President Trump as our presumptive 2024 nominee for the office of President of the United States and from this moment forward moves into full general election mode welcoming supporters of all candidates as valued members of Team Trump 2024." The withdrawal was confirmed by a person familiar with the decision who was not authorized to publicly discuss the proposal and spoke on

condition of anonymity Thursday night.

If approved, the measure would have further solidified Trump's control of the party and its operation at a time when former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is still competing against Trump for the GOP nomination.

RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel had earlier signaled her approval for the resolution. On Tuesday, after Haley finished second to Trump in New Hampshire, McDaniel said that while she felt the former ambassador had "run a great campaign," Republicans "need to unite around our eventual nominee, which is going to be Donald Trump."

The resolution had been expected to be discussed at the RNC's winter meeting in Las Vegas next week, even though only two states have voted and the former president had nowhere near the requisite number of delegates to secure the nomination.

Haley's camp said Thursday that it wasn't up to the RNC to decide who the GOP nominee would be.

"Who cares what the RNC says? We'll let millions of Republican voters across the country decide who should be our party's nominee, not a bunch of Washington insiders," said campaign spokesperson Olivia Perez-Cubas.

The AP has a policy to not refer to any candidate as the "presumptive nominee" until he or she has captured the number of delegates needed to win a majority vote at the national party conventions this summer. The earliest that could happen is March.

But there were no party rules prohibiting the RNC from making such a move. If it had been adopted, it could have given the Republican Party a jump-start on planning a general election matchup with Democratic President Joe Biden, who has begun framing his reelection campaign as a 2020 rematch against Trump.

## Qatar 'appalled' by reported criticism from Israel's Netanyahu

**Q**ATAR has said it is "appalled" by remarks attributed to Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in which he apparently called its role as a mediator in the Gaza war "problematic".

Israeli TV broadcast what it said was a recording of Mr Netanyahu telling the families of hostages held by Hamas

that "you don't hear me thanking Qatar".

"They have leverage... because they finance [Hamas]," he reportedly adds.

Qatar said the comments, if true, were "irresponsible" but "not surprising".

The tiny Gulf emirate has had high-level contacts with Israel since the 1990s, but they have never officially established

diplomatic relations.

Qatar has long championed the Palestinian cause and hosts political leaders of Hamas, which is proscribed as a terrorist organisation by Israel, the UK, the US and other countries.

It is has also provided hundreds of millions of dollars of aid for Gaza, which has been subject to a crippling blockade by Israel and Egypt since 2006, when Hamas won legislative elections. The blockade was tightened the following year when Hamas reinforced its power in Gaza by violently ousting Palestinian Authority (PA) forces.

Since 2018, Israeli governments have allowed Qatar to pay the wages of tens of thousands of civil servants in Gaza's Hamas-run government, financially support the poorest families, and fund fuel deliveries for the territory's sole power plant. Qatar insists the funding was only for civilian and humanitarian purposes.

The policy sparked controversy within Israel, with critics warning it was helping Hamas to stay in power and fund its military activities.

Mr Netanyahu - who has been re-elected to office for all but one of the past 15 years - said

it was a way to dissuade attacks on Israel and prevent a humanitarian disaster in Gaza.

Following the cross-border attacks on southern Israel on 7 October, in which about 1,300 people were killed and 250 others were taken back to Gaza as hostages, he dismissed as a "big lie" accusations that he had also encouraged the payments in order to strengthen Hamas at the expense of the PA.

Israel responded to the attacks by launching a large-scale military campaign in Gaza with the aim of destroying Hamas. More than 25,000 people have been killed in the fighting, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

Qatar used its ties with Hamas to help broker a week-long pause in the fighting in late November, during which 105 Israeli and foreign hostages were freed in exchange for some 240 Palestinians held in Israeli jails.

The emirate has for weeks been trying to broker a new ceasefire, with Gaza's humanitarian crisis worsening and with the Israeli government coming under mounting domestic pressure to secure the release of the remaining hostages.

On Tuesday, Israel's Channel 12 TV released what it said was a recording of Mr Netanyahu telling hostages' families: "You don't hear me thanking Qatar. Have you noticed?"

"Why? Because for me it is essentially no different from the UN or Red Cross, and in a certain sense is even more problematic - I have no illusions about them."

"But I'm ready to use any actor right now that helps me bring [the hostages] home," he added.

Israel has accused the UN and Red Cross of not doing enough to support the hostages or to help get them freed.

The prime minister purportedly said the reason Qatar could help was because of "leverage" over Hamas.

"Why do they have leverage? Because they finance them."

On Wednesday night, Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari wrote on X, formerly Twitter: "These remarks if validated, are irresponsible and destructive to the efforts to save innocent lives, but are





## INTERNATIONAL

# Who could Donald Trump pick for VP?

Donald Trump hasn't won the Republican presidential nomination quite yet, but competition is already heating up for the number two spot on his ticket. HOLLY HONDERICH writes.



**A**LLIES and even some former rivals of the ex-president have started making regular appearances on the campaign trail, rallying support, pledging their loyalty and - seemingly - offering Mr Trump their auditions for vice-president.

Mr Trump himself has kept fairly quiet about his preferred candidate, saying on Fox News on Saturday there was "no rush" on his selection. "It won't have any impact at all," he said.

"The person that I think I like is a very good person, pretty standard. I think people won't be that surprised, but I would say there's probably a 25% chance it would be that person," Mr Trump said.

While Mr Trump leaves us in the dark, here's a look at the possible Republicans who may be on the

shortlist.

Once a moderate, Trump-hesitant Republican, Ms Stefanik, 39, has drifted closer to the right wing of her party in recent years, growing into one of Mr Trump's most loyal defenders.

Now the highest-ranking woman among House Republicans, Ms Stefanik has also risen to modest conservative fame - first for her work on Mr Trump's first impeachment defence team in 2020 and, more recently, for her viral take-down of two Ivy League college presidents.

"Elise became very famous," Mr Trump told supporters last week of her contentious questioning of the college leaders. "Wasn't it beautiful?"

Ms Stefanik certainly seems open to it, telling reports last weekend she would be

"honoured" to serve in the Trump administration "in any capacity".

Tim Scott, an erstwhile competitor for the Republican nomination, is a senator and one of the most prominent black Republicans in the US.

He pitched himself as an optimistic conservative but his campaign failed to gain traction with voters. In November, after three lacklustre debate performances, he made a surprise exit from the race.

Mr Scott, 58, seemed to throw his hat in the vice-president (VP) ring this past weekend with his endorsement of Mr Trump - giving the cold shoulder to his fellow South Carolinian Nikki Haley, the woman who appointed him to the Senate in the first place.

"I just love you," Tim Scott told Donald Trump on Tuesday night

But it was Mr Scott's rousing the Senate for a second term. But remarks at a Trump campaign doesn't seem to have ruled out a name firmly into the VP help him however I can," he said.

conversation. "We need Donald Trump," Mr Scott told voters.

He then appeared on stage with Mr Trump during his New Hampshire victory speech on Tuesday evening, standing directly behind him in the Trump's unfounded claims of election fraud in the 2020 election. "I just love you."

The former president Ms Lake, 54, lost her election - a defeat she has refused to acknowledge - as well as a series of legal battles seeking to overturn the results of the Hampshire this past weekend, Arizona race.

JD Vance, 39, the junior senator from Ohio, was also in New Hampshire this past weekend, rallying support on behalf of Mr Trump.

A former venture capitalist, the Yale-educated Mr Vance first made headlines for his best-selling book *Hillbilly Elegy*, a memoir that followed his working class upbringing in the rust-belt Midwest.

JD Vance, a senator from Ohio, said he wants to help Trump "however I can".

Mr Vance, once a self-identified "never-Trumper", refashioned himself as a loyal disciple of Mr Trump when he launched his 2022 Senate bid. It paid off: Mr Trump's endorsement of Mr Vance gave his campaign a critical boost in both the crowded Republican primary and the general election.

Now in office, he has championed the hard-right issues that animate Mr Trump's base. Mr Vance told reporters last week that he thought he could be better use to Mr Trump serving in

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**"Now the highest-ranking woman among House Republicans, Ms Stefanik has also risen to modest conservative fame - first for her work on Mr Trump's first impeachment defence team in 2020 and, more recently, for her viral take-down of two Ivy League college presidents. "Elise became very famous," Mr Trump told supporters last week of her contentious questioning of the college leaders. "Wasn't it beautiful?"**

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# I love modelling

- Tagbarha, Ex Miss Nollywood Nigeria

Gwendolyn Elohor Tagbarha, who hails from Amukpe in Sepele Local Government Area, Delta State, is a commercial model and ex Beauty Queen, Miss Nollywood Nigeria. In this interview with Fourwall Magazine, she spoke about her journey as a beauty queen, challenges in the modeling industry and her brand.



**How did you start modeling?**

I have always loved modeling since I was 10 years old. This made me to always fancy ladies in beautiful attires, either on screen or in magazines. I ventured into pageantry in 2004 when I contested for Miss Galaxy Damsel. And I finished as a finalist (top5). I then took a long break and came back in 2013 for the Face of Niger Delta pageant where I won.

**What was your first big break in the modeling industry?**

My first big break was winning the Face of Niger Delta 2013/14 title.

**What have been your challenges getting this far?**

As face of Niger Delta 2013 and as my first crown, sourcing for sponsors to fund my pet project at that time, was really challenging, but

somehow with God on my side and my personal drive, I was able to scale through successfully.

**You won Face of Niger Delta 2013, how did that prepare you for Miss Nollywood Nigeria contest?**

There was no too much preparations though, because with my experience from the Face of Niger Delta Pageant, I already knew the basis and all that was needed for the Miss Nollywood Pageant because we were properly groomed. The only difference between both pageants is that one is a regional pageant and the other is a national pageant.

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**'I'll never be desperate again' - Jim Iyke vows**



Popular Nollywood actor, Jim Iyke, has vowed never to be desperate again in his life.

Jim Iyke stated this in a viral video on the internet,

while narrating his encounter with the late founder of the Synagogue Church of All Nations (SCOAN), Prophet TB Joshua.

It was reported that the actor was captured in a widely spread video in 2013 undergoing deliverance at SCOAN.

Speaking in his latest interview with Teju Babyface, the actor insisted that he was forced to take his sick mother to the prophet for healing out of desperation.

Regretting taking such a step out of desperation, he said, "I will never be desperate again in my life. Desperation was what took me there—to take my mother there, hoping that a man of God would heal her. If she were to live, twenty TB Joshuas would not stop her.

"It was her time, nobody would have made me enter that space; he was not the only one I went to; I have been to five or six men of God; is it because I do not want to mention names? How they drove me the money they took from me."

**'DNA test must be done in my presence' -Mohbad's father.**

Mr Joseph Aloba, father of late Nigerian rapper, Ilerioluwa Olademeji Aloba, aka Mohbad, has said a DNA test on his grandson must be conducted in his presence.



It was recalled that Nigerians have been torn apart over calls for a DNA test on the late singer's son, Liam, to ascertain his true paternity.

Speaking in a recent interview with Stams TV, elder Aloba said a DNA test on his grandson is a must, stressing that it has become a national concern

On the rumours that a DNA test has been done, he said a DNA test can't be conducted without his consent.

He insisted that he has to be present or send a representative before the DNA test can be done.

Aloba said even at that, it would be conducted at two different hospitals to be sure of the result.

He said, "Concerning the DNA test, it's a must they do it. Nigerians are demanding for it. I heard rumours that they did it but no matter what, I'm Mohbad's father so I'll give consent on the DNA test or send anyone who can represent me during the test if I'm not there to know how they'll do it. And even when they want to do it, it should be done in two different places so we can be very sure and know the truth.

Also, where I am from in Ikere Ekiti, even Olu Ikere just left my side now after paying me a visit. We don't accept bastards where I'm from, but it will be a thing of joy for me if this child is Mohbad's because this is the only child he said he left for me. Three days before his death, I was with him, he even served me food and he put Liam on my hands and he was taking pictures.

So I'll be very happy if Liam is Mohbad's son because I love the child. But if it turns out that Liam is not his son, it won't be good if we don't find out now because of the future so that even late Mohbad shouldn't be blaming me that I accepted something like this in. So the DNA is very necessary."

Continued on page 26

# EVER'S WORLD

with Palang Kasmi

## Recipies

# How to create one-on-one with kids

**O**NE-ON-ONE time with kids is something that most parents wish for.

Unfortunately, even this becomes a challenge.

Parents often grapple with daily life's demands in today's fast-paced world, from work commitments to household chores.

Amidst this whirlwind of responsibilities, one crucial aspect often takes a backseat – spending quality one-on-one time with your children.

But what exactly is one-on-one time with kids, and why is it vital for their development and your relationship with them?

How do you define one-on-one time with kids?

Defining one-on-one time with your children is more than just allocating a few minutes in your day for them.

Quality time with kiddos means a lot, not just for the kids but also for us.

It's a deliberate and uninterrupted period when you focus solely on one child, excluding all distractions.

During this time, you engage in activities or conversations that cater to their unique interests and needs.

It's about creating a safe space for your child to express themselves and to feel genuinely heard and understood.

One-on-one time with kids is a beautiful art, like a mosaic where you piece together moments of connection, building a deeper understanding of your child's inner world.

The canvas for this art is your child's heart and mind, and the medium is the time and attention you dedicate to them.

Why is one-on-one time important for your kids?

Giving one-on-one attention to your kids isn't just an obligation.

It's how we show love to them.

It is a way to nurture them



physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Aside from those, here are some main benefits of one-on-one attention to your kids.

1. It nurtures their individuality  
One-on-one time with kids lets you know each child's unique personality, strengths, and weaknesses.

Acknowledging their individuality empowers them to develop a strong sense of self.

In these moments, you're the curator of their development, recognizing that each child is a masterpiece of their own, with different hues, textures, and patterns. Your attention is the

spotlight that accentuates the nuances of their personalities.

2. Helps your children build trust

Quality time with your child fosters a deep sense of trust. When they see that you value your time together, it instills confidence and reassures them that you're always there for them.

Trust is the foundation on which the relationship with your child is built. One-on-one time is the mortar that binds this foundation, ensuring it stands solid and unwavering.

3. Helps with their emotional

development

These moments offer an ideal platform for your child to express their emotions, concerns, and fears, aiding their emotional development and resilience.

Your child's emotions are like colors on a palette; one-on-one time is the canvas where they can mix, blend, and express these emotions freely.

4. Enhances their communication skills

One-on-one interactions promote effective communication, teaching your child to express themselves clearly and listen attentively.

Communication is the brush that paints the canvas of understanding. Each stroke, word, or gesture adds depth to the connection you share with your child.

5. Fosters parent-child bond  
It strengthens the parent-child bond, ensuring your relationship is rooted in love, trust, and understanding.

This bond is the masterpiece in the gallery of your life. Each moment of one-on-one time is a stroke that adds to the magnificence of this artwork.

What are the challenges of creating one-on-one time with kids?

Spending time with kiddos is challenging nowadays.

You may even struggle to make time if you have more than one child.

Aside from that, making one-on-one time with kids may become a hassle if you're faced with the following challenges:

1. Time constraints  
Juggling work, household chores, and the demands of multiple children can make it challenging to set aside dedicated one-on-one time for each child.

In a world where time seems

as elusive as a rare gem, finding that moment for each child can be akin to treasure hunting. But remember, treasures are always worth the effort.

2. Guilt  
Parents may feel guilty for not spending enough time with their kids, further complicating the issue.

Guilt can be the shadow that follows parents. Remembering parenting is a balance; sometimes, you need to cast aside the shadow and bask in the sunlight of your child's presence.

3. Scheduling conflicts  
The conflicting schedules of children, especially if they are involved in extracurricular activities or have varying school timings, can make coordinating one-on-one time a logistical puzzle.

These schedules may seem like the Rubik's Cube of parenting, but with patience and creativity, you can unravel them to fit in those special moments.

4. Siblings' jealousy  
Sibling rivalry can rear its head when one child perceives another as getting more attention, leading to resentment.

Sibling rivalry is like a storm cloud that can overshadow the sunny moments. But by being transparent and involving siblings in the process, you can help them understand and appreciate the value of one-on-one time.

5. Distractions  
The pervasive influence of screens and digital devices can pull parents and children away from meaningful interactions.

These screens are like sirens that lure you away from the shores of connection. Establishing boundaries and ensuring that the digital waves do not engulf the precious moments with your child is vital.



# EVERYBODY'S WORLD

with Palang Kasmi

## Relationships

### Troubling signs of emotional distance in relationships

**W**HETHER it is feeling physical attraction towards your spouse or partner or simply relating to them on an emotional level, you know the value of these emotions. Therefore, you know something is amiss if even the slightest of these emotions is lost.

Emotional connection is of great importance in any successful relationship. People tend to value emotional attachment in romantic relationships.

Feeling distant in a relationship is often the lack of this understanding that people are unable to provide what many partners are looking for. In the absence of an emotional bond, partners may sometimes feel disconnected.

It is due to this that relationships lose the spark that was there when the couple got together for the first time.

In this article, we will look at the various signs of emotional distance in a relationship and creative ways to overcome it.

#### What is the emotional distance in a relationship?

Emotional distance in a relationship refers to how the two partners start to drift apart from each other.

This drifting apart may not be immediately noticed by the two people. However, when they start recognizing the signs of this distancing, they must quickly work towards reducing this gap.

Emotional distance in a relationship can lead to the couple feeling as if they've lost the passion that they once felt for each other. It is this emotional drifting that makes the two feel as if they don't really have much to say to each other other than the day-to-day updates regarding their general activities.

As a result, the two people often find it difficult to make casual conversation. They may find themselves making serious efforts to talk to each other, whereas this may never have been the case before.

#### Why does emotional distance happen in relationships?

Emotional distance can occur in relationships due to various factors. One common reason is a **breakdown in communication**. When partners struggle to express their feelings, thoughts or needs effectively, it can create a sense of disconnect and emotional distance.

**Past hurts, or unresolved conflicts** can also contribute to emotional distance, as they can erode trust and create barriers to emotional intimacy. **Incompatibility or differences** in values, goals, or expectations can further



strain the emotional connection.

**External stressors**, such as work pressure or personal challenges, can also impact emotional availability.

Ultimately, emotional distance often arises when the **emotional needs of one or both partners are not adequately met or understood**, highlighting the importance of open communication, empathy, and mutual support in nurturing healthy relationships.

#### 11 signs of emotional distance in relationships

Such a distance in any relationship, particularly romantic ones, means that the two people are not connecting with each other on a deep level. This emotional distancing can make partners feel isolated.

As a result, the partners may even feel the need to spend

some time alone. Know the signs of emotional distance in relationships:

#### 1. Decreased communication

When there is emotional distance in a relationship, partners may experience a significant decline in meaningful communication. They may avoid discussing deeper emotions or important issues, leading to a sense of disconnect and a lack of shared understanding.

#### 2. Lack of intimacy

One of the signs of emotional distance in a relationship is that there may be a reduction in physical and emotional intimacy.

Partners may avoid or become uncomfortable with displays of affection, sexual intimacy, or engaging in deeper emotional conversations. This can leave one or both individuals feeling

unfulfilled and emotionally distant.

#### 3. Increased conflict avoidance

Rather than addressing conflicts and working towards a resolution, emotionally distant partners may choose to avoid or dismiss issues altogether. They may shy away from engaging in healthy conflict resolution, which leads to unresolved tension and further emotional disconnection.

#### 4. Being unhappy in the relationship

One of the signs of emotional distance in relationships is that you both feel unhappy in the relationship. Despite the fact that the relationship is meant to be your source of contentment and happiness, you both are not able to connect and feel happy when you both are together.

#### Related reading

#### 20 Useful Tips to Repair an Unhappy Relationship

#### 5. Differences in emotional needs

What you expect from your partner is not exactly what they could be expecting from you. So, there is a mismatch in the expectations. The difference between both can lead to emotional distance, especially when it is not clearly communicated.

#### 6. Absence of emotional support

Emotional distance in a relationship often results in a lack of emotional support. Partners may become less responsive to each other's emotional needs, failing to provide comfort, empathy, or understanding. This can leave individuals feeling isolated and unsupported in times of stress or vulnerability.

#### 7. Excessive need for alone time

Being distant in a relationship can make you spend time with yourself.

When you don't enjoy spending quality time with your partner but prefer being alone, and this gives you bliss, this is a sign of emotional distance in a relationship.

#### 8. Decreased quality time together

When emotional distance is present, partners may spend less quality time together.

The partners may prioritize individual activities over shared experiences or make excuses to avoid spending time with one another. This withdrawal from shared experiences reinforces the emotional distance and can lead to feelings of loneliness and detachment.

#### 9. Huge amount of stress

There is always an extreme amount of stress that you struggle with, and on diving deep, you figure out that it's your relationship that you are worried about. Since the relationship is not satisfactory, you tend to be stressed all the time, and this affects your other aspects of life

#### 10. Repression

Wondering what are the effects of emotional distance in a relationship?

You tend to repress your feelings and not share them with your partner. If you feel such a lack of communication from your end exists and you just pretend that everything is fine, this is a sign of emotional distance in the relationship.

#### 11. Projection

Feeling distant from a partner can lead to a lack of empathy. So, if you keep projecting your problems on your partner or someone else rather than owning up to them and talking about them, this is another.

Watch this video to learn more about projection as a defense mechanism:





# Reality Bites

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## What to do when you have no motivation

**W**HETHER you can't get motivated to clean your house or you just aren't feeling motivated to lose weight, a lack of motivation can be the biggest obstacle to reaching your goals.

When you have no motivation to complete a task (or even start one), consider the possible reasons why you're struggling. Then, develop a plan to help motivate yourself to get going.

Keep in mind that not every strategy works for everyone—or in every situation. Perform some behavioral experiments to see which strategies best help you reach your goals.

### Act as If You Feel Motivated

You may be able to trick yourself into feeling motivated by changing your behavior. Act as if you felt motivated, and your actions may change your emotions.

For example, rather than sit on the couch in your pajamas all day waiting for motivation to strike, get dressed and get moving. You might find that taking action will increase your motivation, which makes it easier to keep going.

### Argue the Opposite

When you're struggling with motivation, you'll likely come up with a long list of reasons why you shouldn't take any action. You might think, "It'll be too hard," or, "I'll never get it done anyway." These types of thoughts will keep you stuck.

Try arguing the opposite. When you think you're going to fail, argue all the reasons why you might succeed. Or when you think you can't finish a job, list all the evidence that shows you'll be able to complete the task.

Arguing the opposite can help you see both ends of the spectrum. It can also remind you that an overly pessimistic outcome isn't completely accurate.

There's a chance that things might work out better than you expect. And you might find that developing a more balanced outlook will help you feel more motivated to try.

### Practice Self-Compassion

You might think being hard on yourself is the key to getting motivated. But harsh self-criticism doesn't work.

Research shows that self-compassion is actually much more motivating, especially when you are struggling with adversity.

A 2011 study conducted by researchers at the University of California found that self-compassion increases the motivation to recover from failure.<sup>1</sup> After failing a test, students spent more time studying when they spoke to themselves kindly. Additionally, they reported greater motivation to change their weaknesses when they practiced self-acceptance (a key component of self-compassion).

Self-compassion may also improve mental health (which can increase motivation). A 2012 study<sup>2</sup> published in *Clinical Psychology Review* discovered that self-compassion decreases psychological distress, reduces the symptoms of anxiety and depression, and reduces the harmful effects of stress.

So rather than beat yourself up for mistakes or call yourself names,



create a kinder inner dialogue. This doesn't mean you need to repeat exaggeratedly positive affirmations like, "I'm the best person in the world," however.

Instead, healthy self-compassion balances self-acceptance with self-improvement. Acknowledge your flaws, mistakes, and failures with honesty. But don't indulge in a pity party.

Speak to yourself like a trusted friend. Ask yourself, "What would I say to a friend who had this problem?" You'd likely be much kinder to someone else than you are toward yourself. So start treating yourself like a good friend.

Additionally, coach yourself in a helpful manner. Practice using self-talk that encourages you and helps you recover from setbacks.

### Use the 10-Minute Rule

When you dread doing something—like walking on the treadmill for three miles—you'll lack motivation to do it. You can reduce your feelings of dread, however, by proving to yourself that the task isn't as bad as you think or that you have the strength to tolerate it better than you envision.

The 10-minute rule can help you get started. Give yourself permission to quit a task after 10 minutes. When you reach the 10-minute mark, ask yourself if you want to keep going or quit. You'll likely find that you have enough motivation to keep going.

So whether you lack motivation to start working on a boring report, or

you can't seem to get yourself off the couch to start a to-do list, use the 10-minute rule to motivate yourself to take action.

Getting started on a task is usually the hardest part. Once you get going, however, it's much easier to keep going.

### Go For a Walk in Nature

Fresh air, a change of scenery, and a little exercise can do wonders for your motivation. Walking in nature—as opposed to a busy urban street—can be especially beneficial.

A 2013 study<sup>3</sup> published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* found that walking half a mile through a park reduces brain fatigue.<sup>3</sup> Being in nature offers a calming effect that rejuvenates the brain—which can help motivate you to tackle a tough task.

So rather than walk down a crowded street, go to the park or a botanical garden instead. Being surrounded by nature can provide the mental escape you need to return to your project feeling more motivated than before.

### Pair a Dreaded Task With Something You Enjoy

Your emotions play a major role in your motivation level. If you're sad, bored, lonely, or anxious, your desire to tackle a tough challenge or complete a tedious task will suffer.

Boost your mood by adding a little fun to something you're not motivated to do. You'll feel happier

and you might even look forward to doing the task when it's regularly paired with something fun.

Here are some examples:

- Listen to music while you run.

- Call a friend, and talk while you're cleaning the house.

- Light a scented candle while you're working on your computer.

- Rent a luxury vehicle when you travel for business.

- Invite a friend to run errands with you.

- Turn on your favorite show while you're folding laundry.

- Just make sure that your fun doesn't impair your performance. For example, watching TV while writing a paper might distract you and slow you down even more. Or talking to a friend while you're cleaning the house might be so distracting that you can't pay attention to what you're doing.

It's tough to feel motivated when your to-do list is overwhelming. If you feel like there's no hope in getting everything done, you might not try to do anything.

Keep in mind that most people underestimate how long something will take them. And when they don't get it done on time, they might view themselves as lazy or inefficient. This can backfire by causing them to lose motivation—which makes it even harder to get more things done.

Take a look at your to-do list, and determine if it's too long. If so, get rid of tasks that aren't essential.

See if other tasks can be moved to a

different day. Prioritize the most important things on the list, and move those to the top.

You might find a slight change in your to-do list—or the way you view your to-do list—will help you to see your tasks as more manageable. As a result, you might feel more motivated to get to work.

You'll struggle with motivation as long as you aren't caring for yourself. Sleep-deprivation, a poor diet, and lack of leisure time are just a few things that can make trudging through the day more difficult than ever.

Create a healthy self-care plan that allows you to take care of your mind and body:

- Exercise regularly.

- Get plenty of sleep.

- Drink water, and eat a healthy diet.

- Make time for leisure and fun.

Use healthy coping skills to deal with stress.

Avoid unhealthy habits, like binge eating and drinking too much alcohol.

### Reward Yourself for Working

Create a small reward for yourself that you can earn for your hard work. You might find focusing on the reward helps you stay motivated to reach your goals.

For example, if you have a long paper to write for class, you might tackle it in several different ways:

- Write 500 words, and then take a 10-minute break.

- Eat one piece of chocolate after 30 minutes of work.

- Write one page a day, and then remind yourself that when you're done, you'll have free time to do whatever you want.

- Work for 20 minutes, and then spend 5 minutes checking social media.

When you complete the paper, allow yourself to go out with friends.

Consider whether you are likely to be more motivated by smaller, more frequent rewards or a bigger reward for a complete job. You may want to experiment with a few different strategies until you discover an approach that works best for you.

Make sure your rewards don't sabotage your efforts, however. Rewarding your hard work at the gym with a sugary treat might be counterproductive. And counterproductive bad habits will decrease your motivation in the long term.

### Seek Professional Help

If your motivation remains low for two or more weeks, seek professional help. You may also want to seek help if your lack of motivation is affecting your daily functioning. For example, if you aren't able to go to work, your performance at work is suffering, or if you can't get motivated to leave the house, this could be a sign of something more serious.

Schedule an appointment with your physician. Your doctor may want to rule out physical health conditions that may be affecting your energy or mood.

Your doctor may also refer you to a mental health professional to determine if your lack of motivation might be related to a mental illness, like depression. If so, treatment may include therapy, medication, or a combination of both. You may also want to consider an online therapy program to address any underlying issues and tackle your lack of motivation.

# THEY'RE SOWING THE SEEDS OF THE WORLD

with Palang Kasmi

## Living

# Tips for developing and practicing self-regulation

**I**S the ability to control one's behavior, emotions, and thoughts in the pursuit of long-term goals.<sup>1</sup> More specifically, emotional self-regulation refers to the ability to manage disruptive emotions and impulses—in other words, to think before acting.

Self-regulation also involves the ability to rebound from disappointment and to act in a way consistent with your values. It is one of the five key components of emotional intelligence.

This article discusses how self-regulation develops and the important impact it can have. It also covers some common problems you may face and what you can do to self-regulate more effectively.

### How self-regulation develops

Your ability to self-regulate as an adult has roots in your childhood.<sup>2</sup> Learning how to self-regulate is an important skill that children learn both for emotional maturity and, later, for social connections.

In an ideal situation, a toddler who throws tantrums grows into a child who learns how to tolerate uncomfortable feelings without throwing a fit, and later into an adult who is able to control impulses to act based on uncomfortable feelings.

In essence, maturity reflects the ability to face emotional, social, and cognitive threats in the environment with patience and thoughtfulness. If this description reminds you of mindfulness, that's no accident—mindfulness does indeed relate to the ability to self-regulate.<sup>3</sup>

### Why self-regulation is important

Self-regulation involves taking a pause between a feeling and an action—taking the time to think things through, make a plan, wait patiently. Children often struggle with these behaviors, and adults may as well.

It's easy to see how a lack of self-regulation will cause problems in life. A child who yells or hits other children out of frustration will not be popular among peers and may face discipline at school.

An adult with poor self-regulation skills may lack self-confidence and self-esteem and have trouble handling stress and frustration. Often, this might result in anger or anxiety. In more severe cases, it can even lead to being diagnosed with a mental health condition.

### Qualities of self-regulators

In general, people who are adept at self-regulating tend to be able to:<sup>4</sup>

- Act in accordance with their values
- Calm themselves when upset



Cheer themselves when feeling down

Maintain open communication

Persist through difficult times

Put forth their best effort

Remain flexible and adapting to situations

See the good in others

Stay clear about their intentions

Take control of situations when necessary

View challenges as opportunities

Self-regulation allows you to act in accordance with your deeply held values or social conscience and to express yourself appropriately. If you value academic achievement, it will allow you to study instead of slack off before a test. If you value helping others, it will allow you to help a coworker with a project, even if you are on a tight deadline yourself.

In its most basic form, self-regulation allows us to be more resilient and bounce back from failure while also staying calm under pressure. Researchers have found that self-regulation skills are tied to a range of positive health outcomes. This includes better resilience to stress, increased happiness, and better overall well-being.<sup>5</sup>

### Common self-regulation Problems

How do problems with self-regulation develop? It could start early, such as an infant being neglected. A child who does not feel safe and secure, or who is unsure whether their needs will be met, may have trouble self-soothing and self-regulating.<sup>6</sup>

Later, a child, teen, or adult may struggle with self-regulation, either because this ability was not developed during childhood, or because of a lack of strategies for managing difficult feelings. When left unchecked, over time this could lead to more serious issues such

as mental health disorders and risky behaviors such as substance use.

### Effective Skills for Self-Regulation

If self-regulation is so important, why were most of us never taught strategies for using this skill? Most often, parents, teachers, and other adults expect that children will "grow out of" the tantrum phase. While this is true for the most part, all children and adults can benefit from learning concrete strategies for self-regulation.

### Mindfulness

According to Jon Kabat-Zinn, PhD, founder of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), mindfulness is "the awareness that arises from paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgmentally."

By engaging in skills such as focused breathing and gratitude, mindfulness enables us to put some space between ourselves and our reactions, leading to better focus and feelings of calmness and relaxation.

In a 2019 review of 27 research studies, mindfulness was shown to improve attention, which in turn helped with regulating negative emotions and improving executive function.<sup>7</sup>

### Cognitive Reappraisal

Cognitive reappraisal, or cognitive reframing, is another strategy that can be used to improve self-regulation abilities. This strategy involves changing thought patterns. Specifically, cognitive reappraisal involves reinterpreting a situation in order to change the emotional response to it.

For example, imagine a friend did not return your calls or texts for several days. Rather than thinking that this reflected

something about yourself, such as "my friend hates me," you might instead think, "my friend must be really busy." Research has shown that using cognitive reappraisal in everyday life is related to experiencing more positive and fewer negative emotions.

In a 2016 study examining the link between self-regulation strategies (i.e., mindfulness, cognitive reappraisal, and emotion suppression) and emotional well-being, researchers found cognitive reappraisal to be associated with daily positive emotions, including feelings of enthusiasm, happiness, satisfaction, and excitement.<sup>8</sup>

Some other useful strategies for self-regulation include acceptance and problem-solving. In contrast, unhelpful strategies that people sometimes use include avoidance, distraction, suppression, and worrying.

### How do you practice self-regulation?

If you or your child needs help with self-regulation, there are strategies you can use to improve skills in this area.

### Helping Kids With Self-Regulation

In children, parents can help develop self-regulation through routines (e.g., regular mealtimes and consistent bedtime routines). Routines help children learn what to expect, which makes it easier for them to feel comfortable.

When children act in ways that don't demonstrate self-regulation, ignore their requests. For example, if they interrupt a conversation, don't stop your discussion to attend to their needs. Tell that that they will need to wait.

### Self-Regulation Tips for Adults

The first step to practicing self-regulation is to recognize

that everyone has a choice in how to react to situations. While you may feel like life has dealt you a bad hand, it's not the hand you are dealt, but how you react to it that matters most.

Recognize that in every situation you have three options: approach, avoidance, and attack.<sup>9</sup> While it may feel as though your choice of behavior is out of your control, it's not. Your feelings may sway you more toward one path, but you are more than those feelings.

Become aware of your emotions. Do you feel like running away from a difficult situation? Do you feel like lashing out in anger at someone who has hurt you?

Monitor your body to get clues about how you are feeling if it is not immediately obvious to you. For example, a rapidly increasing heart rate may be a sign that you are entering a state of rage or even experiencing a panic attack.

Start to restore balance by focusing on your deeply held values, rather than those transient emotions. Look beyond momentary discomfort to the larger picture.

Once you've learned this delicate balancing act, you will begin to self-regulate more often, and it will become a way of life for you. Developing self-regulation skills will improve your resilience and ability to face difficult circumstances in life.

However, if you find you are unable to teach yourself to self-regulate, consider consulting a mental health professional. A trained therapist can help you learn and implement strategies and skills specific to your situation. Therapy can also be a great place to practice those skills for use in your everyday life.

## BUSINESS WORLD

# Navigating financial landscape in 2024

*As we step into 2024, the financial world is brimming with opportunities and challenges that demand our attention and strategic thinking. In a landscape where change is the only constant, it becomes imperative to anticipate and adapt to emerging trends. A recent white paper on Personal Finance Trends for 2024, sheds light on key insights that promise to reshape the way we approach our financial well-being. Writes LOUIS AKPOVESO.*



The first noteworthy insufficient. The white paper trend highlighted in advocates for a more holistic the white paper is approach, delving into the increasing acceptance of personal goals, limiting cryptocurrencies by both the beliefs, and earning Federal Government and opportunities. The non-tech investors. The rise of Bitcoin (BTC) to financial literacy is expected unprecedented heights has to drive the demand for prompted regulatory bodies qualified Financial Advisors such as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to reconsider their stance on investments in Nigerian crypto transactions. This not only marks a significant shift in regulatory attitudes but also underscores the potential impact of cryptocurrencies on the country's foreign exchange. One cannot ignore the call for increased financial education, a rallying cry for the millennial and younger generations. Beige Africa rightly points out that merely discussing stock picks and estimated ROIs is

and Fast Moving Consumer Goods.

For millennials, the future holds promise in the form of emerging opportunities, despite economic uncertainties. The rise of technology, e-commerce, and the gig economy provides a fertile ground for income generation. The report rightly credits the adaptability and tech-savvy nature of millennials, predicting that they will leverage digital platforms to create new income streams.

The white paper also draws attention to the integration of robo-advisory services by investment banks in Nigeria. This technological shift is aligned with the global trend towards digitization in financial services, enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of investment opportunities for a wider audience. A notable development in

the financial landscape is the democratisation of access to previously exclusive financial instruments. Retail outlets are expanding to offer instruments like government bonds, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds to the general public. This trend aligns with the broader goal of fostering financial inclusion.

However, amidst the optimism, caution is warranted, especially concerning the increasing availability of debt options. The white paper emphasises the importance of responsible borrowing and understanding the rates and potential risks associated with different debt instruments.

Finally, the report highlights the recognition of real estate as a bona fide asset class. The concept of land banking is gaining

traction, reshaping how investors view and leverage land for future development or appreciation. Collaborative investment clubs and products that democratise access to real estate are expected to proliferate.

In conclusion, Beige Africa's comprehensive white paper serves as a compass for navigating the intricate terrain of personal finance in 2024. As we embark on this journey, embracing change, staying informed, and leveraging these trends will be key to not only surviving but thriving in the dynamic financial landscape of the coming year.

Louis Akpoveso is an Investment Analyst and Financial Planning Expert with a sterling reputation in the world of Finance.

# BUSINESS WORLD

## Nigeria's Central Bank to replace external MPC members

**N**IGERIA'S central bank plans to replace the external members of its monetary policy committee, who say they've been sidelined ahead of a meeting next month, amid an ongoing shakeup of the institution.

Four of the five external members of the 12-seat MPC, who spoke to Bloomberg on the condition of anonymity, said they have not been paid since August, last heard from the central bank in September and have been excluded from the usual planning ahead of the Feb. 26-27 gathering. The fifth member did not respond to requests for comment.

A central bank spokeswoman said the appointment of new independent MPC members was in the pipeline, but gave no further details.

The monetary authority is crucial to President Bola Tinubu's efforts to boost growth and attract foreign investment to Nigeria's lethargic economy. Soon after taking office in May, he suspended the bank's then-governor Godwin Emefiele, who was arrested weeks later on charges including fraud. Emefiele denies wrongdoing and his trial is ongoing.

Tinubu then installed new leadership under ex-Citibank executive Olayemi Cardoso, who has pledged a return to orthodox central banking with a focus on tackling inflation and stabilizing the country's free-falling naira currency.

"We are committed to rebuilding an institution that is trusted and respected and promoting confidence in the economy," Cardoso said on Wednesday.



Cardoso

The MPC consists of the governor, four deputies and two bank directors, plus five outsiders appointed by the president and the governor. The current five external members were picked by former head of state Muhammadu Buhari, and Emefiele.

The MPC needs six of the 12 to be present to constitute a quorum, so there's no risk that next month's meeting won't be properly constituted, even if new external members have not been named by then. The current external members who spoke to Bloomberg said that they've not been invited to the meeting and don't anticipate being there.

Economists expect Cardoso to raise interest rates sharply in what will be the first gathering of the MPC since

July, when it lifted the policy benchmark to 18.75%. Inflation has subsequently surged and stood near a three-decade high of 28.9% in December.

But if no external members of the committee are present, it will leave question marks over the policy process.

## Atiku asks Tinubu to explain NNPC's \$3.3bn loan

**F**ORMER Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, has asked President Bola Tinubu to explain the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) \$3.3 billion emergency crude repayment loan.

NNPCL had on 16 August last year said it would secure a \$3.3 billion loan to give support to the Naira and stabilise the foreign exchange market.

Atiku, in a statement he personally signed recently in Abuja, said the curious thing about the transaction is that the federal government has not been speaking about it.

He said the only information available to the public on the transaction is coming through unofficial sources from the NNPCL.

"In what appears to be a landmark economic decision of the Bola Tinubu-led administration, the federal government last year, precisely on August 16, 2023, through the Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPCL) secured a \$3.3 billion emergency crude repayment loan, which according to the

NNPC, was to help give support to the Naira and stabilize the Foreign Exchange market.

"The curious thing about this transaction is that up till now, the federal government continues to keep mum about it, and the only information available to the public on the mega-deal is coming only through unofficial sources from the NNPC," he said.

Atiku, who was the candidate of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2023 presidential election, said what is more confounding about the deal is that the federal government would register a company in the Bahamas despite the recent scandal of the Paradise Papers that involved the country.

"What is even more confounding about this deal is why the Federal Government would register a company in the Bahamas, knowing full well the recent scandal of the Paradise Papers that involved that country," he said.

He noted that "it is inconceivable that the federal government will lead the country to take a loan of \$3.3b

with an interest rate that is not more than 12 per cent but with estimated repayment amounting to \$12bn."

Atiku said there are questions to be answered on the integrity of the deal and asked the government to provide them.

He said, "We, therefore, demand, on behalf of the ordinary people of Nigeria, that the Federal Government provides answers to the following questions.

1. Has the Federal Government accessed the loan?
2. Is the loan in the government's borrowing plan as approved by the National Assembly?
3. Who are the parties to the loan, and what specific roles are they expected to play?
4. What are the conditions of the loan, including tenor, repayment terms, the collateral, and the interest rate?
5. And, lastly, why register an SPV in the Bahamas knowing the recent scandal of the country's notoriety for warehousing unclean assets?"

**T**HE Nigerian government has intensified discussions with the Kingdom of Morocco to fast-track the Final Investment Decision, FID, on the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline.

A statement signed by the Corporate Communications Officer, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, Olufemi Soneye disclosed that the recent talks were held on the sidelines of a meeting between the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Gas, Ekperikpe Ekpo, and the Moroccan Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Leila Benali.

He informed that the discussions focused on accelerating the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project in line with agreements reached by both countries in 2022.

Soneye noted that both countries emphasised the relevance of the project to their economies and the need to expeditiously stem the energy poverty on the African continent.

Economic Confidential recalls that the NNPC had signed an agreement for a 48" x 5,300Km pipeline from Nigeria to Dhakia, Morocco,

## Nigeria, Morocco to expedite \$425bn gas pipeline project

and 1,700km from Dhakia to Northern Morocco in 2017.

The gas pipeline according to design will have a capacity of 30 billion cubic meters, bcm, per year, which is equivalent to 3.0 billion standard cubic feet of gas per day.

The pipeline is expected to traverse the Republic of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania, and terminate in Morocco with a spur to Spain.

The statement read, "Due to the international nature of the

project, the ECOWAS Commission is saddled with the responsibility to, among other things, facilitate inter-governmental treaty and host government agreements, the establishment of Pipeline Higher Authority, and alignment with AU, UN and other relevant international bodies.

"The project, among other things, will help drive the monetisation of Nigeria's gas resources, maintain NNPC Ltd.'s energy leadership in Africa, and promote economic and regional cooperation among African Countries".



Ekpo

## Amidst hike in tariff, power generation crashes

**T**HE recent increase in electricity tariff by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, has failed to translate to improvement in power supply as on-grid generation fell to 3,383 Mega Watts as at 3pm yesterday.

According to the National Grid data posted on the System Operator's Grid Data Portal, it showed that as at 3pm 19 power generation plants were on the grid. Significantly, Azura Power

was off-grid despite beginning the day at 434MW. Egbin Power, the nation's largest power plant was at 325MW far below its daily average supply to the grid of about 600MW.

The NERC had in the new Multi-Year Tariff Order, MYTO 2024, which took effect on January 1, said though the tariff has been raised consumers would continue to pay the old rate while the government would pay for the gap as a subsidy amounting to N1.6 trillion in 2024.

With improved revenue, NERC ordered electricity distribution companies to off-take 3,963MW as part of their obligations for the new tariff regime.

According to the Commission, from January 1, 2024, DisCos were to "secure adequate bilateral contracts to facilitate a seamless exit from NBET's vesting contract regime", adding that through bilateral contracts DisCos were "required to mitigate exposures to volumetric energy risk".

NERC stated that effective January 2024, DisCos shall have no recourse to claims revenue shortfall arising from generation shortfall, adding that DisCos are "required to continually procure additional energy volumes to serve their customers and ensure steady migration of customers to higher service bands on account of improved power

supply". However, despite this directive, a check on DisCos' grid energy off-take showed that the eleven DisCos had a load allocation of 3,134MW compared to the 3,963MW ordered by NERC.

Specifically, as at 3pm on Thursday, Abuja Electricity Distribution Company was allocated 501MW compared to 611MW in the new MYTO, while Ikeja Electric was allocated 533MW compared to 603MW in the new MYTO with Port Harcourt DisCo on 219MW compared to 287MW in the new tariff regime.

Reacting to the drop in power generation, the Transmission Company of Nigeria, TCN, blamed lack of gas supply to power generation companies for the situation.

A statement by TCN General Manager, Public Affairs, Ndidi Mbah stated: "There has been a gradual decrease in available generation into the grid due to gas constraints to the thermal generating companies, which has impacted the quantum of bulk power available on the transmission grid for onward transmission to the distribution load centers nationwide.

Consequent upon the current load on the grid, load distributed to the distribution load centres has also reduced, as TCN can only transmit what is generated. TCN is committed to ensuring a gradual increase in electricity supply to load centers as gas improves to power available thermal plants."



Adelabu



# ENTREPRENEUR WATCH

WITH CELESTINE D. ATTSAR

## Nigeria's cost-of-living crisis and supply chain

**Inflation in Nigeria has risen to its highest in 27 years as the headline inflation rate for December 2023 rose by 0.72 percent to 28.92 percent year-on-year from 28.20 percent in November, marking the twelfth consecutive increase in inflation rate. Inflation in Africa's biggest economy and the most populous nation has not climbed this high since mid-1996. Today, food prices have surged, exacerbating a cost-of-living crisis that gravely affects consumers and businesses while mounting pressure on the central bank to raise interest rates further. ADEBAYO ADELEKE.**

**T**HIS persistent increase in the prices of goods and services poses an enormous challenge to the supply chain web. As the cost of raw materials continues to soar, businesses grapple with escalating operational and production expenses, significantly affecting their bottom line.

Businesses find themselves in a delicate balance of managing inventory to prevent shortages and address surplus challenges. Additionally, inflation reverberates through contractual agreements, making it necessary to renegotiate terms with suppliers and partners, thereby impacting long-term business relationships. The dynamics of supply chains are further complicated, as inflation influences international trade, contributes to currency fluctuations, and challenges cross-border supply chain operations.

As the cost of raw materials continues to soar, businesses grapple with escalating operational and production expenses, significantly affecting their bottom line.

Economic crisis affects supply chains directly.

In Nigeria, transportation costs are a critical component of supply chain expenses. Inadequate capacity and fluctuating fuel prices heavily affect the country's reliance on road transport, which accounts for a significant portion of cargo movement. Transportation costs surge when fuel prices rise, primarily because of global oil market trends or local subsidy policies. This increase is often passed on to the end consumer, affecting demand patterns.

Also, Nigeria's heavy dependence on imports for raw materials and



machinery exacerbates port congestion, and or high inventory holding price increases. For underdeveloped rail and air costs. This situation is particularly problematic for substantial amount of its inefficiency leads to delays, perishable goods and can manufacturing inputs, increased vehicle wear and lead to significant losses.

Because of the inefficiency in the transportation infrastructure which directly affects the distribution of everything from food and energy to the free fall of the currency in the FX market, which is making importing more expensive, has leading to either stockouts

costs for businesses.

This is due to increased transportation and raw material prices and disruptions in logistics because of infrastructural challenges, all of which create a complex environment for supply chains. These factors lead to increased costs, reduced efficiency, and potential delays, significantly worsening the overall economic landscape.

**As the cost of raw materials continues to soar, businesses grapple with escalating operational and production expenses, significantly affecting their bottom line. Economic crisis affects supply chains directly. In Nigeria, transportation costs are a critical component of supply chain expenses. Inadequate capacity and fluctuating fuel prices heavily affect the country's reliance on road transport, which accounts for a significant portion of cargo movement. Transportation costs surge when fuel prices rise, primarily because of global oil market trends or local subsidy policies. This increase is often passed on to the end consumer, affecting demand patterns. Also, Nigeria's heavy dependence on imports for raw materials and machinery exacerbates price increases. For instance, Nigeria imports a substantial amount of its manufacturing inputs, making it vulnerable to global supply chain disruptions and currency fluctuations. When the global prices of these raw materials rise, it directly inflates operational costs for Nigerian businesses. The Naira's volatility, which also increases the cost of imported materials, further compounds this.**



# I love modelling

- Tagbarha, Ex Miss Nollywood Nigeria

Continued from page 18

### Take us through your experience during Miss Nollywood Nigeria pageant?

It was an awesome experience, a time I won't forget so soon. During the Miss Nollywood Pageant, the organizers gave us their best, ranging from camp, grooming, online voting and so on, and even after winning the Miss Nollywood Nigeria 2014/15 title, there were lots of opportunities for me to explore. I was featured on top national dailies, blogs, and radio stations. I even got movie roles. I met with high profile personalities, and my pet project cut across the length and breath of Nigeria. I also got so many awards and recognitions, the list is endless.

### How was your reign and the experience?

My reign was awesome, and I feel proud to say since 2014 till date, no beauty queen has surpassed my records. You can ask Google for clarifications.

### Where do you see your brand 5 years from now?

Right now, we are the biggest, brightest, honest and fairest teenage pageant in Nigeria. And in 5 years, we would have become the biggest teen pageant



in Africa, if not the world at large.

### If you had to advise upcoming models, what would you tell them?

Do not ever compromise your integrity for any pageant organizer, the day you do so, you automatically lose your voice forever. Always stay true to yourself, do what is right at all times and be very free to decline any form of abuse from any pageant organizer. Also, before you apply for any pageant, please do a research for background checks. Ask questions, find out who their past winners are, because a large number of pageants in Nigeria today, are well packaged but fraudulent. Open your eyes.

## If you want to stay relevant, emulate Wizkid - Shallipopi

Continued from page 18



CROWN Uzama, professionally known as Shallipopi, a popular Nigerian musician, has offered some helpful career advice with fellow entertainers.

The Elon Musk crooner stated that if his colleagues want to stay relevant in the industry, they must mimic Afrobeats superstar Wizkid's social media decorum.

Shallipopi expressed this in a recent interview with 78 Factory, explaining that overworked musicians frequently forget their ideals.

He said: "To stay relevant, you stay silent. When you talk too much, you lose value. Let your music and your success speak for you like Wizkid."

The Edo-born singer also disclosed during the interview that his genre of music isn't afrobeats but afro-pluto.

Meanwhile.....

Zlatan gave my career life - Shallipopi

Crown Uzama, also known as Shallipopi, a rising Nigerian artist, has underlined the importance of rapper Zlatan Ibile in his success.

According to the "Elon Musk" singer, Zlatan gave his music career "life" without receiving any monetary compensation.

The TikTok sensation, 23, revealed this via his Instagram story while giving a tribute to the Lagos Anthem hitmaker.

Shallipopi wrote; "Big shoutout to Zlatan Ibile. Bro literally gave my career life. He didn't ask for anything in return."

He became an internet sensation after his song 'Elon Musk' went viral. He later remixed the song with Zlatan Ibile and Fireboy DML which solidified his stardom.

## Lupita Nyong'o and Boyfriend Selema Masekela Break up

LUPITA Nyong'o and boyfriend Selema Masekela have ended their romance less than a year after going Instagram official. Read her powerful message on her "heartbreak" and "pain"

There is no more "us" for Lupita Nyong'o and Selema Masekela.

The Oscar winner and her boyfriend have broken up after about one year together, she shared on Instagram Oct. 19 without naming her ex.

"It is necessary for me to share a personal truth and publicly dissociate myself from someone I can no longer trust," Lupita wrote. "I find myself in a season of heartbreak because of a love suddenly and devastatingly extinguished by deception."

The Black Panther star shared why she decided to reveal the news publicly in spite of the heartache she's currently feeling.

"I am tempted to run into the shadows and hide, only to return to the light when I have regained my strength enough for me to say, 'Whatever, my life is better this way,'" she continued. "But I am reminded that the magnitude of the pain I am feeling is equal to the measure of my capacity for love. And so, I am choosing to face the pain, cultivating the courage to meet my life exactly as it is, and trusting that this too shall pass."



## SUNDAY FEATURE

## Security outfits: A threat to Nigeria's stability

**According to Section 214 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, no other police force shall be established for the federation or any part of it. There shall be a police force for Nigeria, which shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force. The section categorically forbids the creation of any additional police for the federation or any portion of it. Proponents of the creation of state police have voiced their support for it, citing aspects of federalism as their justification. SANI DANAUDI MOHAMMED writes.**

**N**IGERIA has recently faced unheard-of security threats, including attacks by Boko Haram terrorists (BHTs), militancy, armed robbery, banditry, kidnapping for ransom, conflicts between farmers and herders, cultism, and other social vices. The formation of these ethnic and regional security groups has been attributed to the federal and state governments' failure to discharge their fundamental duty of defending the lives and property of the populace.

From 1999 till now, there has been a greater call for state police due to the wave of violent killings by armed bandits and robbers, armed ethnic militias, and the persistent threat posed by Boko Haram. Many people, including state governors, believe that the only way to address Nigeria's alarming level of insecurity is to deploy regional security forces.

However, these security outfits have implicitly or explicitly introduced federalism into policing. Notable examples include the Ebubeagu in the South-east and Amotekun in the South-west. The Benue Guards and Operation Rainbow in Plateau in the North-central zone, Kano Hisbah, the civilian Joint Task Force in Borno state, and most recently, the Katsina state government's Community Watch Corps are a few, among others. The assigned roles and mandates of these security outfits remain a source of great concern. The peaceful coexistence of Nigeria is being threatened by numerous individuals who are directly targeting a specific group or tribe.

Regional security networks are designed to safeguard locals because, frequently, assistance has not arrived from the federal government's center when it was most needed. Since most, if not all, of these outfits are classified as ethnic and regional security outfits rather than wearing a national outlook, the outcry that accompanied their creation is the major issue that needs to be addressed.

As of now, it seems the Nigerian federation is losing ground. The Nigerian federation has always been funded by royalties from the sale of oil resources. This goes against the traditional principles of federalism, which provide that the component units with fiscal autonomy and direct revenue flow to the center. As a result, the survival of the states in Nigeria has become nearly entirely dependent on the federally distributable revenues. According to



available reports, this makes it difficult for state governments to implement these initiatives.

States and other federating units lost their autonomy over their state's policing system as a result of this fiscal centralisation frenzy. Other groups have emerged in response to the mandates of the aforementioned outfits, as many of them have been accused of unfairly arresting other tribes.

The emergence of tribal vigilante groups is a worrying issue that I feel is imperative to address as a citizen of Nigeria. Nigeria, a nation endowed with abundant natural resources and a diverse population, is facing an increasingly serious crisis that could jeopardise its stability. The Nigerian crisis is a multifaceted problem involving a number of socio-political, economic, and ethnic elements. Tribal vigilante groups may be formed with the intention of safeguarding and protecting their communities, but it is important to understand that these organisations may unintentionally make the situation in Nigeria worse.

Here are some explanations for the potential harm that tribal vigilante groups could cause: Tribal-based vigilante groups have the potential to escalate already-existing conflicts or spark brand-new ones. These organisations have the potential to exacerbate existing divisions and hostility, which could escalate violence, rather than fostering peace and unity.

The interests of their own ethnic group may take

precedence over those of other ethnic communities, which could lead to discrimination against them. In this case, Plateau state Operation Rainbow, Amotekun, Ebebeagu, and Benue Security Guards are accused of siding with their own rather than defending the communities. The Yan Banga in Zamfara and Katsina states have also been charged with the savage murder of Fulani people, and Amotekun and Ebebeagu are said to be local security groups defending the rights of Yoruba and Igbo miners.

Recently, the leadership of Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore, led by Bello Bodejo, oversaw over 2000 Fulani Vigilantes in Lafia, Nasarawa state. Even though they stood and advocated similar outfits in middle belt states, the Middle Belt Elders Forum countered the Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore a day after their inauguration. Tribal vigilante groups can erode the trust between different communities and undermine the social fabric that binds us together as Nigerians. There are no proper oversight and regulation, tribal vigilante groups may operate outside the confines of the law. This can lead to human rights abuses, vigilantism, and the lack of due process.

It is essential to ensure accountability and adherence to legal frameworks to protect the rights and safety of all individuals, irrespective of tribe, religion or regional identities. Nigerians have been victims of political manipulation due to exploitation and

weaponisation of poverty by politicians for their own gain. Political elite often use these groups to secure power, influence elections, or advance their political agenda to the detriment of the peace and unity of the Nigerian State.

Also, perceived wise people who serve or call themselves national tribal leaders use these groups to scavenge funds from state and federal governments in the name of peace. Weak governance and security forces are a major cause. The inability of the government to effectively address security challenges and maintain law and order pave the way for the emergence of ethnic militias to thrive. Lack of good governance, corruption, and the lack of a strong security apparatus have continued to give room for the advancement of this evil.

To address this effectively, addressing the root causes of ethnic tensions is paramount. Tribal not profiling tribes as terrorist. There should be a focus on promoting peacebuilding initiatives, fostering inter-ethnic dialogue, and addressing socio-economic disparities. Investing in education, job creation, and infrastructural development are key in bringing back the lost glory of Nigeria. Government must ensure accountability and justice for victims of ethnic violence. Perpetrators of crimes should be prosecuted in a fair and transparent manner, sending a clear message that such actions will not be tolerated.

In addition, fostering national unity and promoting a sense of

shared identity among diverse ethnic groups is crucial. Encouraging cultural exchanges, promoting diversity in public institutions, and celebrating national events that showcase Nigeria's rich heritage can help bridge the gaps between different communities and foster a sense of belonging. The international community should support Nigeria in its efforts to address the dangers of ethnic militia through diplomatic engagement, capacity-building initiatives, and providing financial assistance for peace building programmes. The federal government needs to build a strong security team that will restore the confidence of Nigerians that their lives and properties will be safeguarded henceforth.

We must prioritise dialogue, understanding, and collaboration across ethnic lines. By fostering inclusivity, promoting justice, and working towards national unity, we can build a stronger and more peaceful future for our beloved country, Nigeria. Mangu and Bokkos local government areas of Plateau state are both victims of political manipulation, injustice and power-play by certain vested interest groups. Nigerians must learn to accept it each other as no Nigerian is more Nigerian than any other Nigerian.

**Danaudi, public affairs analyst, writes from Bauchi**  
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## NEWS

## Oando Plc commended for giving back to society

By PETER TITLE

**O**ANDO Plc has been described as a corporate giant that has been giving back to the society. They were urged to sustain the feat.

Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang stated this when the management of Oando Foundation paid him a courtesy visit recently at the New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos.

According to him, the state government accords education a special place in this dispensation and called for training and retraining of staff for maximum output.

The Executive Governor also solicited for NEEDS Assessment of the sector so that the challenges bedeviling the sector would be adequately addressed.

While describing the partnership as valuable, he urged the Foundation to extend their gestures to secondary as well as tertiary institutions in the state.

Earlier, the head of the delegation, Adekunle Adedoke, congratulated Governor Mutfwang over his



Mutfwang

victory at the Supreme Court. He noted that his brief stay in office has brought tremendous achievements.

According to her, the Foundation was set up by their strategic partner, Oando Plc with a mandate of transforming the lives of children across the country.

Mrs. Adedoke told the

governor that the Foundation has identified communities that are vulnerable even as she said they were working in synergy with relevant authorities like the SUBEB.

She noted that the Foundation was out to support 20 schools in Plateau State while they had equally supported six schools in the past.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

**S**ONS and daughters of Ebira land, both at home and in the diaspora gathered in Okene, Central Senatorial District of Kogi State to witness the official Installation and presentation of Staff of Office to the New Ohinoyi of Ebiraland, Alh. Ahmed Tinaji Anaje.

Tijani Anaje was appointed to replace late Dr. Ado Ibrahim who died on the 29th of October 2023 at the age of 95.

The event which took place at the Central Palace of the Ohinoyi of Ebira land, was well attended by prominent sons and daughters of Ebiraland as well as top officials of Kogi State government.

Gov. Yahaya Bello of Kogi State reiterated his commitment to the traditional institution in Kogi State and assured the traditional rulers of continuous support from the incoming administration of Alh. Usman Ahmed Ododo.

He said "I want to call on all the sons and daughters of Ebiraland that we should all come together and rally round our Ohinoyi of Ebiraland for the greatness, development and security of our land".

Gov. Bello appreciated all the contestants for the Stool of

## Ebiraland jubilates as monarch gets Staff of Office



Bello

Ohinoyi of Ebira land, for the spirit of sportsmanship they displayed.

His words : "God Almighty has enthroned Alh. Dr. Ahmed Tijani Anaje out of the seventy eminently qualified contestants. I appreciate statesmanship and the display of maturity through the process of selecting the Ohinoyi of Ebiraland".

Born on 29th June, 1974 into the family of Late Alhaji Muhammed Anaje Aliyu of Asuwe clan, Dr. Tijani Anaje attended Seifudeen Primary School, Okengwe where he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate in 1983.

He attended Ebira Muslim Community College, Okengwe (EMCCO) in Okene

LGA of Kogi State where he obtained his West African School Certificate (WASC) in 1993. After his secondary school education, he started his Islamic studies at the Sharafudeen Madrasat, Okengwe under the leadership of Mukadam Alhaji Yakubu Ta'aba.

He later acquired a Diploma in Applied Psychology from University of Jos.

Alhaji (Dr.) Ahmed Tijani Muhammed Anaje was enlisted into the Nigerian Army in the year 1995 as 39 Regular intake, where he rose to, and was decorated as Warrant Officer on the 13th of October, 2021 shortly before his ascension to the stool Ohi of Okengwe/Okene.

## Troops rescue abducted LGC chair

From TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi

**T**ROOPS of 72 Special Force Battalion under 401 Special Brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. A. Rabi, have rescued the kidnapped Caretaker Chairman of Ukum Local Government Council, Rev. Gideon Haanongon.

The council chairman and his personal assistant who have been in the kidnappers' den for about two weeks in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area.

Brig. Gen. A. Rabi said they acted on a distress call, carried out a rescue mission and in the process, destroyed three (3) camps of the kidnappers.

"When we recovered him, we brought him down to our barracks in Makurdi. We administered first aid to him and also gave him food to eat. He is in good condition".

While narrating his ordeal to reporters, Rev. Gideon Haanongon said on that fateful day, he was on his way to attend the burial of late Ter Katsina-Ala and around Anyagba, he came in contact with some strange boys who

were shooting sporadically and even killed someone.

"At that point, I told my driver to stop the car and they took us straight into the bush.

"They covered my face throughout the period of my captivity. I did not know when it was daytime or night. They kept us inside a thatched house without air.

"Each day, the soldiers will come shooting but they manoeuvred their way through a bush path and hid us inside a river. The soldiers destroyed their camps and they kept moving us to another place.

"At a point, they told me that these soldiers are disturbing them because of me and that the Governor had appealed to them to release me and he would forgive them. They said I should tell the governor to keep to his words and get them out of the bush. So, at 8pm on Wednesday, we crossed a stream and trekked a very long distance almost like from Makurdi to Abinsi and they removed the blindfold and asked me to take a path that leads to Zaki-Biam.

"But I recognized the village which is Tse Wombo because my daughter is married there. I must appreciate the effort of the military because it was their persistent pressure that made the kidnappers release me.

Also, the Special Adviser to Governor Hyacinth Alia on Security, Lt. Col. Alexander Igbaya Ashungu (rtd) played a significant role in my release.

In a reaction, the security adviser, Alexander Igbaya Ashungu (rtd) commended the military for its determination in ensuring the release of the council chairman.

He assured that Governor Hyacinth Alia was working hard to see that criminals do not have their ways in the state.

He said the government was meeting with stakeholders to find solution to criminality and other vices.

The security adviser equally disclosed that the military authority has rescued over 13 kidnapped victims recently.

It will be recalled that the Caretaker Chairman of Ukum Local Government Council,

Rev. Gideon Haanongon, was kidnapped by unknown gunmen about three weeks ago on his way to attend the burial of a traditional ruler, the Ter Katsina-Ala, late Chief Fezanga Wombo.

## Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline: Project in FID stage

From DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**I**N a bid to fast-track the process of achieving the Final Investment Decision (FID) on the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline, the Federal Government has intensified discussions with the Kingdom of Morocco.

A statement by the Chief Corporate Olufemi O. Sonya Communications Officer, NNPC Ltd said they had a discussion recently, on the side-lines of a meeting between the Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas), Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo, and the Moroccan Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Ms.

Leila Benali, anchored by the NNPC Ltd's Executive Vice President, Gas, Power & New Energy, Mr. Olalekan Ogunleye, and the Director General of the Morocco National Office of Hydrocarbons and Mines (ONHYM), Mme Amina Benkhadra.

The talks focused on how to drive the partnership between the two countries to accelerate the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project in line with the series of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the two countries in Abuja in 2022.

Both parties emphasised the strategic importance of the

project to the two countries and the entire African continent and the need to drive it to completion expeditiously in line with the objective of stemming energy poverty on the African continent.

It would be recalled that the Cooperation Agreement for the 48" x 5,300km pipeline from Nigeria to Dhakia (Morocco) and 1,700km from Dhakia to Northern Morocco was signed in 2017 with a capacity of 30 billion cubic meter (bcm) per year (equivalent of 3.0 billion standard cubic feet of gas per day).

The pipeline would traverse Republic of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania, and terminate in Morocco with a spur to Spain.

Due to the international nature of the project, the ECOWAS Commission is saddled with the responsibility to, among other things, facilitate inter-governmental treaty and host government agreements, establishment of Pipeline Higher Authority, and alignment with AU, UN and other relevant international bodies.

The project, among other things, will help drive the monetisation of Nigeria's gas resources, maintain NNPC Ltd.'s energy leadership in Africa, and promote economic and regional cooperation among African countries.

## Scholars eulogise Benue varsity at 30

From TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi

**E**MINENT scholars and dignitaries at the event marking thirty (30) years of existence of the Benue State University, Makurdi (BSU), have poured out encomiums at the institution for the landmark achievements it has recorded within the past thirty years.

One of the former Vice Chancellors of the university, Prof. Akase Sorkaa called on the Benue State Government to help protect the lands and other property of the institution.

In a public lecture to mark the institution's three decades of

existence, the retired Don observed that the issue of encroaching and taking over the institution's lands was a very disturbing and big challenge.

He said the phenomenal growth of the university into a centre of excellence was attributable to the kind of choices made by the political leadership based on their vision and mission of satisfying the yearnings and aspirations of the people for university education.

The Political Science scholar stated that the future of BSU has much to do with the choices that are to be made by the present administration of Fr. Hyacinth Alia for the good of the people of the state.

Earlier, chairperson of the occasion and first female vice chancellor of the university, Professor Charity Angya, said that the state university was celebrating excellence, quality, productivity and higher heights.

Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Joe Tor Iorapuu, in his remarks acknowledged the quality of graduates being churned out by the school whom he noted, have made the institution proud across the world.

Commissioner for education and Knowledge Management, Dr. Frederick Ikyaan, who was the distinguished guest at the occasion, expressed Governor Alia's commitment to ensure that BSU attains greater heights in academic excellence.



Ekpo

News

# FG will support establishment of fertilizer companies -Bawa

From **JIDAUNA DARING, Heipang**

**M**INISTER for Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari has said that Federal Government would continue to support the establishment of more fertilizer companies so as to increase food production in the country.

Sen. Kyari who was represented by the Director, Inputs Support Service Department of the ministry, Alhaji Abana Waziri Abba, disclosed this while commissioning Plateau Duncan Fertilizer Blending Plant Company, held at Larwin Heipang, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State recently.

The minister said that he was very delighted with the contribution of the Chairman/CEO Plateau Duncan Fertilizer Company Ltd, Dr. Godfrey Bawa Shitgurum. He added that such gesture was aimed at increasing local production of fertilizer for the farmers in the country.

Sen. Kyari maintained that Nigeria is now having sharp increase of fertilizer blending plant companies in different locations of the country. He urged the fertilizer companies to uphold high level of quality in production, saying that substandard production would not be tolerated.

He congratulated the Chairman, CEO for his investment in the fertilizer industry, and also urged him to sustain such efforts for the betterment of the agriculture sector in the country.

Governor Caleb M. Mutfwang of Plateau State, who was represented by Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Samson Bugama, commended Dr. Bawa for establishing the fertilizer company. He described it as a welcome development as well as very apt.



Dr Bawa

Barr. Mutfwang also described the Chairman/CEO of the company as someone who believes in the Plateau dreams. He equally promised his administration's readiness to support the company, so as to increase food production in the state.

Chairman of the occasion, Sen Rochas Okorocho, described Dr. Bawa as a round peg in a round hole, hence the need for Plateau people to support the establishment of the company which is now at their door-step. He prays God to bless him for such a wonderful and remarkable gesture.

Sen. Okorocho also thanked the host community for giving their land to build the company which from now henceforth would bring employment and development to the community.

He advised the community to support and cooperate with the management and staff of the company so that it would continue to progress in its production at all times.

Former Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development, Dame Pauline Tallen, said that Dr. Bawa has done the state proud for making a choice of fertilizer company. She told the workers of the company to remain

committed to their work, and pray that the company would be one of the best, particularly in the area of quality production.

Tallen while showering accolades on the Chairman/CEO, explained that he had keyed into humanitarian service for long. She added that the CEO has touched the lives of people in different ways as far as his contributions are concerned.

Earlier in his remarks, Chairman/CEO, Dr. Godfrey Bawa Shitgurum, expressed optimism with the programme and said that the facility was going to be managed by a skilled and dedicated team of highly qualified professionals.

Dr. Bawa maintained that "Plateau Duncan Fertilizer" is also poised to be the delight of farmers across the country and the pride of the state.

He revealed that their blended NPK formulations include NPK 15-15-15, NPK 20-20-20 and NPK 12-12-17 among others.

Also speaking, Gwom Rwei of Heipang, Da Paul Taddy, assured the management and staff of the company of the host community's readiness to support and protect the entire company.

Our correspondent reports that the event featured inspection and commissioning, traditional dance and goodwill messages among others.

From **TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi**

**A**S unprovoked attacks and killings of innocent Nigerians have continued unabated, the Immediate past chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Benue State chapter, Rev. Dr. Akpen Leva has called on the federal government to strengthen her security architecture to effectively fight criminal elements in the country.

In an exclusive chat with **SUNDAY STANDARD** in his office in MAKURDI recently, the immediate past CAN chairman noted that the Tinubu led federal government needs to sit up and work harder to be able to protect lives and property which is the primary responsibility of any government.

The Cleric, who lamented the abduction on the highways, railways and other public places which have made people scared of traveling, as no one knows what would happen the next moment, urged all security agencies to redouble their efforts to save lives and property.

He described as disturbing and inexplicable the massacre of about two hundred people on Christmas eve in Plateau State among other places, in recent times and wondered what the federal government has been doing to bring the culprits to book.

According to him, when criminals operate and they go unhurt, they feel they would do it anytime and nothing would happen. But when they are arrested and prosecuted, it

# Cleric tasks Tinubu on Benue's worsening insecurity

serves as a deterrent even to others.

On the pockets of killings in parts of Benue State, Dr. Leva called on people of the state to be vigilant in their various communities and report any suspicious movement to the law enforcement agents so that actions would be taken immediately to ensure safety of lives and property.

Dr. Leva, who appealed to the people to support the Secretary to Government of the Federation, SGF, Senator

George Akume and Tinubu led government in general, expressed the belief that their support would enable the federal government to achieve maximally for the people.

The immediate past CAN chairman, while appreciating the Alia led government of Benue state, also sued for prayers for the government and people of the state, believing that with relentless prayers, the governor would continue to attract dividends of democracy to people of the state.



Leva

# WAEC payment: Principals include 7000 ghost students

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

**N**O fewer than 27 principals of public secondary schools have smuggled 7,702 ghost students into the register for payment of West African Examination Council (WAEC) fees by Kogi State Government.

The Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Wemi Jones, FCIB, disclosed this at a press conference in Lokoja, while responding to some misconceptions being circulated in some sections of the media.

Jones said that the principals of the affected schools deliberately imported the fictitious names with the intention to defraud the State Government, and vowed to make them the 'scapegoat'.

He recalled that the governor had in 2023 declared free education from primary one to SSS3 in Kogi, and one of its ingredients is the payment for all internal and external

examinations' for pupils and students in public schools in the state.

The commissioner stressed that the Kogi Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, would vehemently resist attempts to sabotage the free education policy of the state government by any individual or group.

He said the ministry uncovered 7,702 ghost students after the erring school principals failed to partake in the verification exercise for 2024 WAEC fees payment conducted recently by the ministry.

He explained that the authentic register verified by the ministry which was initially submitted by the public schools' principals across the state, was 15,033 students to benefit from the free WAEC registration fees initiated by Governor Yahaya Bello.

"It would be recalled that His Excellency, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello in November 2023 approved and released over N497 million to cover 15,033 students for the payment of 2024 WAEC examination fees for public schools in the state.

"The 15,033 students were arrived at by requesting the principals of public secondary schools in the state to submit the registers of students in their various schools, which they did.

"After the release of the fund by His Excellency, the governor, we decided to conduct a physical process of ensuring

programmes.

"With this feat achieved by Salem University, interested candidates are free to apply to undertake any of the programmes from this moment.

"This is because Salem University, Lokoja has tremendously grown and enlarged its academic standard, which has placed it among the best universities in the country.

"Our mission and vision, as a citadel of learning, is to train and raise change agents who are "mentally alert, spiritually alive and intellectually developed to change their world," the VC said.

that 15,033 students were duly registered to undertake WAEC through capture.

"At the end of the capturing, we discovered that we had captured over 22,735 students far higher than the registered 15,033 students, and we decided to investigate what happened.

"After investigation, we discovered that some school principals had inflated the figures with some fictitious names, even to the extent of getting names from private schools and imported those names into their registers," he said.

The commissioner further said that the ministry also discovered that the erring principals had also imputed names of students who had written and failed WAEC in the past into the generated list.

He added: "So, we decided to physically verify those students using their 2021 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) which is JSS3 examination results for authentication.

"We then held meetings with all the principals separately in each of the three senatorial zones in Kabba, Okene and Anyigba, to conduct the physical verification exercise.

"As of today, we have cleared over 14,400 out of the total number of 15,033 students which is about 95% of the students that Kogi State Government has paid for.

"The people making the noise and peddling falsehoods are the principals of schools that have refused to come for this physical verification".

According to him, a total of 27 school principals from six local government areas of Ankpa, Dekina, Igalamela-Odolu, Omala, Oru and Olamaboro, all in the Eastern Senatorial district have failed to come for verification.

"Apparently these principals are the major culprits that attempted to defraud the system. I am assuring you that the principals of these schools will be made the scapegoat;

"They are the ones that will bear the brunt for all the ills and malicious statements perpetrated against the ministry on the issue of WAEC payment," the commissioner vowed.

# Bauchi Governor wears new cap

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

**T**HE Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Senator Bala Mohammed, has been conferred with a traditional little as Sadaukin Jama'are, by the Jama'are Emirate Council.

This was communicated in a letter presented to the governor by a powerful delegation sent by the Emir of Jama'are Alh. Nuhu Ahmad Wabi mini.

Our correspondent in Bauchi

reports that the conferment letter of the traditional title on Governor Bala Mohammed, reads that it was in recognition of his commitment to reposition the state's traditional institutions to enable them compete favourably with their counterparts across the country.

Also in the letter, the Emirate congratulated the governor for his recent victory at the

Supreme Court, saying it was a success for the entire people of the state.

Receiving the letter at Government House, Bauchi, Governor Bala Mohammed expressed appreciation and gratitude for the honour and pledged to do more in his efforts to restore the lost glory of the state's traditional institutions.

# Salem university gets approval to run PhD, others

From **AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

**T**HE National Universities Commission (NUC) has granted approval to Salem University, Lokoja to run PhD and other post graduate programmes.

The university's Vice Chancellor (VC), Prof. Alewo Johnson-Akubo, made the disclosure while speaking with journalists in Lokoja at the weekend.

Johnson-Akubo said that the approval was communicated to the management of the university via a letter, which he described as "an answered prayer."

He said that approval was



Bala

NEWS

# Mutfwang relaxes curfew in Mangu

By PETER TITLE

**T**HE Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang has relaxed the curfew earlier imposed on Mangu Local Government Area following the upheaval that rocked the area. The curfew is now to be observed from 4pm to 8:00am daily until further notice.

The review followed an improvement in the security situation in Mangu Local Government Area, after strategic engagements with community leaders across faiths and ethnic groups within the council area.

A statement signed and made available to journalists in Jos, by the Director of Press and Public Affairs (DOPPA), Gyang Bere indicated that the governor relaxed the curfew following remarkable improvement in the security situation and after due consultation with the State Security Council.

He encouraged residents of Mangu Local Government Area to strictly observe the curfew and refrain from taking the law into their hands. He also urged



Mutfwang

security personnel to enforce the curfew to avoid breakdown of law and order.

Expressing gratitude for the cooperation received so far, Governor Mutfwang urged the community to maintain collaboration with security agencies to ensure the complete restoration of peace and order in the Local Government Area. He cautioned against

complacency, emphasizing that the State Government remains resolute in preventing any act capable of disrupting public tranquility.

He encouraged citizens to actively contribute to the security efforts by providing credible intelligence to the relevant security agencies and concluded that the government was working round the clock to restore permanent peace in the state.

# Miskaham Mihship Jos-North goes home

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

**T**HE remains of Nda Miskaham Mihship of Jos-North Local Government Area, Plateau State, Baba Fridtjof Shangvip Sharsohot, has been put to rest in his family compound Jenta-Adamu off JD Gomwalk Road Jos, the State capital last Friday.

Born March 15, 1948, to the family of Nda Sharsohot Fwangwen and Nna Nikhohol Sharsohot (nee Putme) of Jepmidiyel Village in Chip District, Pankshin Local Government Area, Nda Miskaham, grew up to know Christ and became a committed Christian.

He cherished Church activities while growing up and was later baptized October 17, 1964 when he relocated from Jepmidiyel to Kaduna at the HEKAN Church, Angwan Television (Angwan Mai Chibi) Kaduna State.

Being the first surviving child of the family which attracted him the name Shangvip in reference to how he luckily survived, Nda Fridtjof, started his Primary Education at the famous Ekas Trans. School in Kwallah, Chip from 1960 to 1966.

His quest for education did not end there as he later proceeded to College of Administration and

Business Studies (CABS) Kaduna Polytechnic for Certificate Studies in Library Sciences and bagged a Certificate in Library Science from 1981 to 1982.

Again, he did not rest, but enroll for a Diploma in Library Science (DLS) 1989 and completed 1991 in the same institution as he also enrolled in other programmes like: Certificate in Labour Studies from the National Institute for Labour studies (NILS) and Certificate in Industrial Relations all in Ilorin, Kwara State respectively.

While in Kaduna where he joined his elder brother, Late Ignatius Sharsohot, Late Fridtjof, took a job with the defunct Kaduna Textile Limited, as an Operator in 1977 and later with the Plateau State Ministry of Information (Library Board) as Library Attendant in 1982 shortly after obtaining his Certificate Studies and rose to the rank of Assistant Library Officer in 2000 where he retired.

Considering his unrelenting desire for community development and the quest for unity of purpose, Baba, was found worthy to serve the Mihship Community in Jos-North and was selected to head as

Miskaham Mihship as he was installed by Late Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Victor Pam (rtd DIG) on November 24, 2006 and was graced by the then Long Mihship, Late Wesley Mulak III in that regard.

However, Nda Miskaham Fridtjof Shangvip Sharsohot, died on Monday January 22, 2024 after being struck down by stroke on June 11, 2023 and ever since, he has been struggling with it off and on through hospitals until his demise and was buried last Friday.

He is survived by his wife, Nna

# Peace clubs in schools will curb farmer/herder clashes

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

**A** non governmental organization known as Pastoralists Development and Conservation Society of Nigeria (PADECS) has challenged stakeholders in education to form peace clubs in Nomadic schools across the country in order to curb the perennial bloody clashes between farmers and herders.

The organization stated this in a press release in which a copy was made available to our correspondent in Bauchi, along with other media representatives recently. This was as a result of the NGO joining millions of scholars, students, researchers and pastoralists globally to celebrate the International Day of Education with a view to addressing farmers and herders disputes.

The Executive Director of the NGO, Mr Shuaibu Aliyu Kobi, said that the call became necessary in view of the rising conflict between farmers and herders in Nigeria which has resulted in loss of lives and properties worth billions of naira.

He added that PADECS, as a non-governmental organization, is committed to sustainable developments and conservation of pastoralists,

From **JOHN FWAH Kaduna**

**T**HE Kaduna State Police Command has arrested a suspected kidnapper in Tarfa, Kagarko Local Government Area of Kaduna State and recovered over N2.35 million believed to be proceeds from ransom payment.

Kaduna State Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mansir Hassan, who disclosed this in a statement recently, said the Tarfa Divisional Police Officer (DPO) rejected a bribe of N1 million offered to him to compromise the case and release the suspect.

The PPRO added that the state Commissioner of Police, CP Ali Dabigi, warned owners and managers of hotels, recreation and leisure service centres to always scrutinise their clients carefully.

The police statement said, "Following the directives of the Commissioner of Police, Kaduna State Command, CP A.D. Ali to personnel to be proactive in their operation using intelligence based policing approach, operatives attached to Police Divisional Headquarters, Tarfa, Kaduna have arrested a suspected kidnapper and recovered a shared ransom."

"On the 19th January, 2024 at about 2200 hours, the said Divisional Headquarters was in

# DPO rejects N1m bribe from arrested suspected kidnapper

receipt of a credible information regarding the presence of a suspicious person in Easyway Hotel in Tarfa town.

"Operatives led by the Divisional Police Officer, stormed the hotel and arrested a certain 28-year-old Bello Muhammad from Zamfara State and recovered the sum of N2,350,000:00 suspected to be proceeds of kidnapping."

"During the course of investigation, the suspect admitted to being a kidnapper who operates with his gang around Kagarko Forest in Kaduna. The aforementioned sum is his own share of a ransom collected. Moreover, a check of his mobile phone corroborated the suspect's confession as pictures of him brandishing an AK47 rifle in a forest were retrieved."

"The said suspect, Bello Muhammad thus offered a million naira backhand to the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) to stop him furthering the investigation which the police officer forthwith rejected. Investigation is still ongoing as the suspect is assisting the police with vital information."

"The Commissioner of Police Kaduna State Command, CP Ali Dabigi while praising the Tafa Division's Operatives, urged them and others not to dwindle but to increase the tempo until crimes and criminality are reduced minimally. Equally, the CP tasked hoteliers, recreation and leisure service operators in the state to always scrutinise the identity of their customers to avoid providing criminals with safe haven."



Sani



Nda Sharsohot



Kobi

of school children, poor enrollment and retention, youth restiveness and drug abuse", Kobi lamented.

The NGO suggested that the establishment of peace clubs in nomadic schools will create good morals, change attitudes toward peaceful coexistence as well as improve skills of the pupils on conflict prevention and mitigation.

PADECS further observed that the migration of pastoralists has resulted to poor nutrition to their children, hence affecting their learning process, as hunger-related ailments opened avenue for

stunted growth. "Poor enrollment of pastoralists' children into schools has impeded the aspirations, dreams and educational ambitions of young-minded ones, as such they end up becoming nuisance to communities", the PADECS said.

The NGO said that the year 2024 is the sixth International Day of Education, themed: "learning for lasting peace". According to the NGO, in Nigeria, herders-farmers conflict also contributes in compelling pastoralists to relocate to safer places not minding whether learning institutions are there or not.

The organization therefore appealed to governments at all levels, to install grazing reserves where pastoralists could take their animals to feed, as such, their children would have free time to go to schools. The Executive Director further urged the governments to engage pastoralist into other business ventures than heavily relying on dairy milk or rearing animals, build modern educational centers in pastoralists settlements, provide free teaching and learning materials as well as strengthening the school feeding programme to attract them.

## SUNDAY MAGAZINE



## Supreme Court verdict: Battle for Plateau H/Assembly

*Continued from page 10*

validly elected by their various constituents, also said, "Our constituents are ready and willing to accompany us to our sitting tomorrow because they voted for us and they are not ready to compromise that."

The PDP lawmakers called on President Bola Tinubu as well as the NJC, to sanction the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Monica Dongbam, under whose watch they were sacked.

In a swift reaction, the APC in the state described the planned resumption of the sacked members as an assault on democracy and invitation to anarchy. In a statement issued by its Publicity Secretary, Sylvanus Namang, the Plateau APC insisted that the sacked PDP law makers remained sacked under the law.

Part of the statement said, "According to information at our disposal, the sacked members would be accompanied by members of their constituencies to confuse the state into

unimaginable proportion. The press conference, which was laced with threats, warned APC members of the House not to go near the House of Assembly Complex because the Supreme Court had invalidated the judgment of the Appeal Court which sacked them.

"What began last week as a threat by former Speaker of Plateau State House of Assembly, Istifanus Mwansat, during his infamous interview with AIT is fast becoming a reality.

"The APC and all peace loving citizens of Plateau State had expected that he ought not be walking on the streets as a free citizen following his inflammatory outbursts. The APC accepted for the sake of democracy and peaceful coexistence, the judgment of the Supreme Court in good fate and appealed to our members not to embark on anything to the contrary." Namang noted.

Meanwhile, lawyers have advised the sacked Plateau

lawmakers to get another job or wait till 2027 to contest another election to represent their constituencies. According to them, the threat to resume plenary will amount to contempt of court.

Mr. Abdul Balogun, SAN, said the Court of Appeal remains the final court in election cases as regards National and States' Assembly election matters. According to him, the only option available to the sacked lawmakers is to abide by the decision of the court.

Another lawyer, Mr Edward Omaha, advised the aggrieved to consider the fact that the judgment is binding on all parties saying that they will resume thus committing contempt of court. "Parties that suited themselves to court must abide by the judgment and doing otherwise is dangerous because they could end up in jail." Omaha said.

Similarly, Kunle Adegoke, SAN, said, the decision to resume legislative duties by the sacked members is unlawful because the

judgment of the Supreme Court cannot automatically overturn the decision of the Court of Appeal which for these cases, is the highest court recognized by the Constitution. He also stated that, it would therefore, be illegitimate for the former lawmakers to resume their duties because the court has recognized other persons to take over their seats. Another Senior advocate of Nigeria, SAN, Wahap Shittu, who agreed with his colleagues said that the PDP lawmakers cannot resort to self-help and cannot contemplate resuming their legislative duties as this would be equivalent to descent into anarchy where the law of the jungle reigns.

"The right of appeal for National and State House of Assembly elections terminates at the Court of Appeal. This is the position until our laws are amended. A pronouncement has been made and that is final. Shittu added.

**SUNDAY STANDARD** investigation however revealed that the Speaker Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Dewan, though from the Young People's Party [ypp], who surprisingly emerged the presiding officer of the legislative arm with the full support of the PDP members shortly before the Appeal Court judgment that eventually sacked, seem to be out sight to even call for any plenary.

It will be recalled, Speaker Dewan had sparked another tension when he was quoted to have said in a media interview that he was going to recognize only 8 lawmakers as members of the House of Assembly.

Meanwhile, as the political game of hide and seek continues the game plan is that, the Speaker is to remain on that seat pending the final outcome of the matter as presented to the Supreme Court for possible remedy.

**SUNDAY STANDARD** visited the State House of Assembly building along Old Bukuru road and met the place almost deserted with only few staff sitting idle, while the entrance and parts of the front view are dotted with heaps of sand and gravels which suggests renovation work may still be ongoing.

And as the situation plays on, non of the two political parties is leaving anything to chance. On its part, the PDP is making sure it retains the majority in the house by all means and with the victory for Governor Caleb Mutfwang at the Supreme Court, the implication of leaving the State House of Assembly in the hands of the APC leadership would mean signing his own death warrant.

The APC members on the other hand, are well perceived as strange bed fellows with the PDP who will leave no stone unturned and may likely use its majority of lawmakers from Day-one of their inauguration to frustrate any attempt by the Executive in the dispensation of smooth democratic dividends within the entire lifespan of the administration in the state.

The next few weeks may likely provide a clearer picture of what kind of government the people of Plateau should expect at the state legislative arm.

***"And as the situation plays on, non of the two political parties is leaving anything to chance. On its part, the PDP is making sure it retains the majority in the house by all means and with the victory for Governor Caleb Mutfwang at the Supreme Court, the implication of leaving the State House of Assembly in the hands of the APC leadership would mean signing his own death warrant."***

# METRO-FOCUS

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

## Jos and the case of exorbitant rent

**S**HELTER is an essential aspect of a man's life which provides personal safety, security, protection from the weather, and survival in the case of any natural disasters, etc

The importance of shelter cannot be overemphasized because of its efficiency and efficacy in providing privacy, encouraging self-independence from the community, reducing the vulnerability of man to harm. There is no gainsaying, having shelter, generally improves a person's quality of life.

Recently, Jos metropolis has witnessed a shortage of affordable houses, and the exorbitant rent drives high demand for accommodation, leaving citizens who need houses at the mercy of the landlords.

On this note, **METRO FOCUS** correspondent went around Jos and Bukuru metropolis to sample the opinions of tenants and landlords on the effect of the high increase in rent and other contributing factors.

It was gathered that the unprecedented rapid growth in population has made urban areas in Jos to encroach into some of the rural areas as a result of rural-urban migration. As a consequence, business opportunities, educational development, new development areas, economic growth, good weather conditions, tourist attractions, and transportation routes have become commonplace in the state. This is because the state is the gateway to the northern part of the country.

Meanwhile, the influx of people into the Jos metropolis has also led to a high pressure on basic needs and other social amenities which is beyond the reach of an average citizen.

**METRO FOCUS** engaged an expert in property development who refuses his name to be in print. He said that there are many contributory factors that are responsible for the increase of rent within the Jos metropolis and environs. This includes the balkanization of the Jos city centre, depending on where properties are located and areas that are closer to the city and many others.

According to the expert, properties that have good location with social amenities like water, good roads, electricity, security, tend to have higher charges of rent compared to areas that have less of the social amenities.

He added that recently, the increase was as a result of the removal of fuel subsidy by the present government of President Ahmed Bola Tinubu, last year during his inaugural speech, on May 29th, 2023. Prices of goods and services skyrocketed as a result of the subsidy removal, adversely affecting the livelihood of the citizens.

As a result of that, many landlords had to increase their rent to enable them to meet up with the current economic realities. Explaining further, he said new houses, apartments that are built recently are charging higher rent due to the current prices of building materials in the market.

It is noteworthy that not only building materials are on the



increase, everything in Nigeria has no stable price in the market.

Over the years, settlement in Jos had been stratified between the rich class, middle class or safe zones for Christians, Muslims and slums.

Categorically, there are no government layout, where citizens can leverage on. Usually, these are cheaper compared to the private individuals or organizations that deal with the buying and selling of land within the city and environs.

Another factor is the population rate that is on the increase because of the peaceful nature of the state and the clement weather that attracts a lot of people across the country into the state.

Due to the influx of people into the state, demand for accommodation has become the order of the day either in the high brow areas or slums. While some citizens don't mind the exorbitant rent, due to their status, some cannot afford to pay for the high rent because their current economic reality cannot meet up with the challenge.

An unfortunate situation is that landlords of old buildings that have seen better days in some locations within the city centre, jack up their rent fee, due to high demand from residents that are mostly not from the state but are here for business purposes.

The worst case scenario is the case of landlords who eject their old tenants from their apartment to enable them to get new tenants who will pay more for their houses to get more money from the new

tenants coming to occupy their property.

It was also gathered that the economic hardship in the country has made many landlords or property owners to increase their rent to enable them meet up with the economic reality and their daily needs.

Tenants on the other hand, are complaining that the means of getting money nowadays is very difficult. Civil servants, federal, state and local government are complaining that the government is yet to increase their salary but they have to deal with the high cost of basic necessities of life. They said that the take home pay cannot take them home any longer.

The expert alluded to the fact that property owners or landlords should know that property investment is a long term investment that one does not expect to reap the benefits or profit within a short period of time. The value of a property depends on the finished work on the property with good facilities.

Furthermore, investigations revealed that there are some properties within the metropolis that are being rented out to people without having good facilities like toilets, bathrooms, car park, security fence, gates and door, etc.

Similarly, with the rate of development taking place within the city and environs on a daily basis, it is noticeable within these areas like Rikkos, Lamingo, Rayfield, Jenta Adamu, Bauchi

Ring Road by pass, Farin-Gada, Anguldi Zawan, Kwata-Zawan, Dadin Kowa-Kangang, Dong, Tudun-Wada, Rantya and Dura, buildings are seen springing up on a daily basis.

**METRO FOCUS** engaged Deborah Akila, Auwalu Kabir, Mutapha Sani, Abiodun Tawio, Olufemi Tunde, Botsha Amos, Alheri Johnson, Isaiah Obi in a chat. They said that the sudden exorbitant rent is worrisome, considering the economic hardship being experienced. They pointed out that most of the houses that the landlords are demanding an increase in rent are not up to standard. Some of the apartments don't have good toilets and bathrooms facilities and yet such a huge amount of money is charged.

Properties within the city centre have experienced an increase in demand due to the influx of people in search of a better life in Jos as a result of the inflation in the economy of the country.

It was observed that most of the residences within the metropolis are being sold out to business merchants, who at the end of the day, convert such buildings to shopping malls and shops, taking the place of residence.

However, it was suggested that the government should look into the state of the economy, because at the moment, houses or apartment are no longer seen as shelter, but as a symbol of economic wealth and power among others.

Sadly, a large number of citizens today don't have the financial

strength to own a decent apartment or to rent a good house. The situation is alarming and is getting worse day by day.

**METRO FOCUS** gathered that the increase in rent depends on the location where properties are situated within the metropolis. And the gap between the rich and poor continues to widen.

The expert appealed to landlords to consider their tenants, especially at this critical time. He believes that with time, they would surely get what they have invested in the property business.

He called on landlords to ensure that all the necessary facilities needed are provided for the tenants to enjoy their stay. Tenants on the other hand, should also ensure they take good care of such facilities and maintenance should be their top priority.

Government agencies that are saddled with the responsibility of supervising buildings and environment should ensure that approvals are made before commencement of any construction work.

On a final note, tenants should report to the relevant authorities where landlords fail to provide the necessary facilities for their convenience. Government should ensure any development within the metropolis has good facilities in order to have healthy people and be environmentally friendly.



# SUNDAY PEOPLE

## GOVERNOR MUTFWANG ASSESS MANGU/BOKKOS SITUATION

*Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, GOC 3 Armoured Division NA/Commander Operation Safe Haven, DIG incharge of zone 4, NAF 551 Station, Jos and other security Chiefs on Friday visited the attacked villages and Mangu Township to see for themselves carnaged done in Mangu LGA and Bokkos IDP camp*



**Governor Mutfwang and representative of the GOC on arrival at the Kwashaslalek village of Mangu LGA**



**One of the burnt houses inspected by the Governor and entourage**



**Plateau State Governor, Barr. Mutfwang (right) flanked by members of the State Security Chiefs inspecting burnt houses**



**Burnt house at Kwashaslalek, Mangu LGA**



**HRH Da John Putmang Hirse JP, mni, CON, Miskhaham Mwaghavul (left) welcoming Governor Mutfwang to the Palace**



**Governor Mutfwang commiserating with the Kwashaslalek community**



**Governor Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang waving at the IDPs in Bokkos**



**Cross section of stakeholders during the visit by Governor Mutfwang in Bokkos**

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

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1. You wish to reverse around a corner into a side road. What should you do?  
**Check carefully all around before and during the reverse.**
  2. You want to reverse your vehicle on a busy street. What should you do?  
**Reverse slowly, checking all around for other road users**
  3. You cannot see clearly when reversing, what should you do?  
**Ask someone to direct you**
  4. What should you do when reversing with a trailer?  
**Look all around and use the rear-view mirrors as you reverse.**
- Observance of Safe Distance And Driving In Various Weather/road Conditions Roadholding**
5. On a wet and slippery road, when should you drive your tractor with the right-side wheels up on the grass verge in order to improve road-holding?  
**This practice should be avoided completely**
  6. Why should you drive a trailer more slowly on uneven roads?  
**To avoid severe bouncing**
  7. Should the handbrake be used to bring a vehicle to a halt?  
**No, never.**
  8. What is likely to result when you apply the handbrake while the vehicle is moving at speed?  
**The rear wheels could lock resulting in the vehicle skidding.**
- Driving risk factors related to various road conditions, in particular as they change with the weather and time of day or night Driving At Night**
9. You are driving at night and the left-hand headlight bulb has blown. What should you do?  
**Stop, get it replaced before proceeding. Never attempt to continue driving in such situation as oncoming traffic may mistake you for a motorcycle.**
  10. What should do if you are dazzled by headlights reflecting in your rear-view mirror?  
**Adjust the night-driving mode on your mirror.**
  11. What effect could driving with a single headlight have on oncoming traffic at night?  
**Oncoming traffic could mistake your vehicle for a motorcycle.**
  12. Generally, what lighting must a car, tractor or works vehicle have when driving at night?

**Headlights, side lights, front and rear lights, rear number plate light, red rear reflectors, brake lights and indicators.**

13. What lights must show when parking your car, tractor or work vehicle at night on an unlit highway?

**At least one-sided lamp front and rear on the side nearest the centre of the road. Characteristics of various types of roads humpback bridge**

14. What should you be aware of when driving a tractor over a humpback bridge while towing a trailer?

**The trailer could become detached upon driving across a severe bump at speed.**

**TUNNELS**

15. Before driving through a tunnel, you should...?

**Check that the height of your vehicle is suitable for the tunnel**

16. What other precaution must you take in tunnel?

**Drive at slower speed that you would on regular roads**

**LEVEL CROSSING CRASH**

17. You have stalled in the middle of an unguarded level crossing and cannot restart the engine. The warning bell is ringing. You should...?

**Walk a reasonable distance away from the crossing and phone the railway signal operator to stop trains from passing in that location.**

**SAFETY FACTORS RELATING TO VEHICLE AND PASSENGERS**

18. What is the greatest danger in allowing children to stand in the space between the front seats of a vehicle?

**They could be thrown forward and even over the dashboard if the brakes are applied suddenly.**

19. When should you allow children to stand with their heads up through an open sun roof?

**Never ever.**

**CARRYING OF PASSENGERS**

20. When may a category W provisional license holder carry a passenger on a tractor or works vehicle?

**When there is a proper passenger seating and the passenger holds a full category W license.**

21. When should children be left unattended in a vehicle?

**At no time at all. A capital NO to such practice.**

22. Your vehicle has broken down on an automatic railway level crossing. What should you do first?

**Get the passengers clear of the crossing and phone the rail authority signal operator so that trains can be stopped.**

# NEWS

## Mutfwang holds security meeting

By PETER TITLE

**F**OLLOWING the escalating security challenges which resulted in loss of lives and property in Mangu Local Government Area, Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, recently convened a State Security Council meeting.

The meeting, which took place at the New Government House in Little Rayfield, Jos, had in attendance, heads of security agencies in the state.

The primary focus of the meeting was to comprehensively review the security situation, with special attention given to the affected communities for swift and effective intervention.

Governor Mutfwang reiterated his administration's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the lives and



Mutfwang

property of citizens of the state. He pledged to pursue justice for all citizens affected by the recent incidents.

## Troops engage bandits in shootout, recover arms

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

**T**ROOPS of the 6th Brigade Jalingo, Taraba State, had in a Friday night operation engaged some bandits in a shootout in Wukari LGA where they discovered two dead bodies and a large cache of arms and ammunition.

A statement made available to **SUNDAY STANDARD** by the Brigade spokesman, Lt. O. Oni, said troops of the 93 Battalion, under the 6th Brigade were mobilized to the scene after gunshots were heard and later discovered two corpses believed to have been killed by the bandits.

The statement read: The troops of 6 Brigade, Jalingo yesterday night 26 January 2024, engaged in a fierce battle with bandits in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. The clash occurred following the sound of gunshots near a disputed land along Tsukundi Road.

"Upon receiving the information, the troops of 93 Battalion, under 6 Brigade, swiftly mobilized to the scene. They discovered two individuals already lying dead, presumably shot by unknown persons. Additionally, one person sustained a gunshot wound and was immediately given medical attention.

"In a display of bravery and professionalism, the gallant troops combed the surrounding bushes near the incident area. Upon encountering the armed groups, the troops effectively deployed their superior firepower, compelling the militias to abandon their positions and flee the scene. Exploiting the general area, the troops successfully recovered a cache of weapons, including 2 AK 47 rifles with 36 rounds of 7.62 MM special ammunition, 10 empty cases of 7.62 MM, 1 Double Barrel rifle and 1 Single Barrel rifle with 14 live cartridges".

While restating their commitment to maintaining peace and security in the state, the Brigade assured

residents and the general public that they "will not relent in their efforts until all criminal elements within the state have been flushed out from their enclaves".

## PSC promotes officers to next rank

FROM DORCAS PANKYES, Abuja

**T**HE Police Service Commission has promoted quite a number of Police officers to the next level in their career.

This was contained in a statement by Ikechukwu Ani, Head, Press and Public Relations and was issued to pressmen.

The statement noted that the Commission approved the appointment of AIG Dasuki Galadanci, AIG incharge of Zone 12 Bauchi as a Deputy Inspector General of Police to represent the North West Geopolitical zone of the country. He will replace DIG Ibrahim Sani Ka'oje who is expected to retire 2nd of February this year.

The Commission also approved the promotion of 1897 senior police officers to their next substantive ranks.

The Commission elevated 14 Commissioners of Police to the next rank of Assistant Inspectors General of Police. However, one of the Commissioners for promotion to AIG was stepped down to enable the Commission review the pending disciplinary matters against the officer which was sent to the Commission by the Nigeria Police Force.

The new AIGs are: Yetunde O. Longe, CP Eastern Ports, Portharcourt; Haruna Gabriel Garba, CP Federal Capital Territory; Tajudeen Akinwale Abass, CP Delta State; Rex Dundun, CP General Investigation, FCID Annex Kaduna; Durosinmi Olatoye, CP Akwa Ibom State; Afolabi Babatola Adeniyi, CP Adamawa State; Abiodun Oladimeji Asabi, CP Ondo State; CP Julius Alawari Okoro; CP Plateau State; George Chijioko Chuku, CP



Ani

Benue State; Paul Alifa Omata, CP K9 Force Headquarters; Yusuf Adesina Akeem, CP Research and Development, Force Headquarters; Bzigu Yakabu Kwazhi Dali, CP Osun State; Idris Nagoyo, Police Mounted troop Squadron and CP Ogundare Dare Emmanuel, CP Ekiti State.

The Commission also promoted 21 Deputy Commissioners of Police to the substantive rank of Commissioners; 20 Assistant Commissioners to Deputy Commissioners, 109 Chief Superintendents to Assistant Commissioners and 184 Superintendents to Chief Superintendents.

It also considered and approved the promotion of 1549 Assistant Superintendents to Deputy Superintendents.

The Commission Chairman, Dr. Solomon Arase, CFR, retired Inspector General of Police who presided over the management meeting of the Commission has accordingly given anticipatory approval for the appointment of one DIG and promotion of 1897 senior Police Officers recommended to the Commission by the Inspector General of Police.



## SUNDAY FEATURE

## Quality education – Why essential?

***"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul." -Joseph Addison, 1711. "Often slow and unseen, there is a crisis in education – one of equity and inclusion, quality and relevance – which is having a devastating impact on the futures of children and youth worldwide. In the face of escalating climate change, democratic erosion, persistent inequalities, growing discrimination, hate speech, violence, and conflict on a global scale, education emerges as a powerful tool to both address and prevent these challenges in the future. Moreover, when effectively shaped and implemented, education becomes a long-term investment with increasing returns." – United Nations website. DANIEL IGHAKPE writes.***



**A** good education is very important. In the Holy Scriptures, for example, we are strongly encouraged to acquire wisdom. In Proverbs Chapter 3, Verse 21 [b] we read: "Safeguard practical wisdom and thinking ability." Also, Proverbs 4:7 says: "Wisdom is the most important thing, so acquire wisdom, and with all you acquire, acquire understanding."

Wisdom implies a breadth of knowledge and a depth of understanding. Understanding adds strength to wisdom, contributing greatly to a person's discretion and foresight, which are also notable characteristics of wisdom. The Biblical sense of wisdom lays emphasis on sound judgement, based on knowledge and understanding; the ability to use knowledge and understanding successfully to solve problems, avoid or avert dangers, attain certain goals, or counsel others in doing so.

Education, intertwined with wisdom and understanding, is a gradual acquisition of knowledge crucial for a better life. It equips individuals with academic skills, fostering successful coping in today's complex society. Beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic, it influences interpersonal interactions and shapes moral standards. In an increasingly intricate human society, a good education is paramount, ensuring everyone is adequately skilled to function effectively in the world.

In ancient societies, family served as the primary unit for education, with fathers overseeing household learning. Today, parents, particularly fathers, remain key in early education. However, in some regions, girls may be excluded due to perceived expenses or societal roles. This perspective is challenged by studies, like UNICEF's, emphasizing that educating girls is pivotal in breaking the poverty cycle. Well-educated girls contribute to family welfare by making informed decisions, highlighting the broader benefits of female education.

In some other places children are deprived of formal education, and then handed over to someone to learn a trade. Sometimes these children are exploited. Learning a trade is a good thing, but they would be more likely to avoid exploitation if they first received a basic education and then learned a trade.

But where can people get a quality education that encourages individual participation, expands their knowledge of the world, and helps them achieve a better life? While government efforts are crucial, other societal sectors – including the private sector, media, and communities – can also play a

significant role in improving access to quality education.

This can be achieved through various means, such as providing financial aid and grants, building new classrooms in public schools, donating educational resources like furniture, textbooks, and libraries, or even identifying and sponsoring underprivileged out-of-school children.

Furthermore, a key component of a good education is often the presence of a caring adult, ideally one or both parents, who is actively supportive and involved in the child's learning journey.

In conclusion, here are some tips for parents and children that can help a child succeed in school (Sourced from: Awake! magazine, December 22, 1995,

page 10, accessible on [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org) or [wol.jw.org](http://wol.jw.org)):

- What Parents Can Do:
- Get to know your child's school, its aims, and its attitude toward the values and beliefs you hold.
  - Become acquainted with your child's teachers, and try to build a good working relationship with them.
  - Take a deep interest in your child's homework. Read with him frequently.
  - Control what your child watches on TV and how much he watches.
  - Watch your child's eating habits. Junk food can have adverse effects on his/her ability to concentrate.
  - Make sure your child has sufficient sleep. Tired children

do not learn well.

- Try to help your child choose wholesome friends.
- Be your child's best friend. He needs all the mature friends he can get.
- Select your friends wisely; they can help or hinder your progress at school.
- Do your homework and assignments as well as you can, give them quality time and ask your parents or another mature adult for help if you need it.

Education is one of the greatest assets that we can ever invest in for our future. So, let us all join hands together to ensure quality education for all.

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**"In some other places children are deprived of formal education, and then handed over to someone to learn a trade. Sometimes these children are exploited. Learning a trade is a good thing, but they would be more likely to avoid exploitation if they first received a basic education and then learned a trade."**

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## Guardiola documentary: A study in football idealism

BY CIARAN VARLEY

**T**HERE are few superlatives left to describe 53-year-old Guardiola. In four years at Barcelona he won 14 trophies, including three La Liga, two Champions League and two Copa del Rey titles.

At Manchester City, he has won five Premier League trophies in six years and last season he became only the second manager in the English game to wrap up the Treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League.

His brand of possession-based football has influenced the way the game is played all over Europe.

Chasing Perfection is an hour-long study into a footballing idealist. We hear from players he has coached, such as Carles Puyol, Manuel Neuer, Robert Lewandowski, Rodri and Kyle Walker.

We also get insights from top journalists and prominent figures in his coaching team past and present - such as Manchester City director of football Txiki Begiristain and former assistant manager Domènec Torrent.

It may seem hard to imagine now, but Barcelona's decision in 2008 to appoint a relatively untested 37-year-old represented a considerable gamble at the time. At that point, Guardiola only had a year's experience managing in Spain's third division with Barcelona B.

The other candidate for the job was Jose Mourinho, who had recently won two Premier League titles for Chelsea, after conquering the Champions League with Porto in 2004.

Barcelona treasurer Xavier Sala-i-Martin says that "unfortunately, Jose Mourinho doesn't fit what we call Barcelona DNA".

Guardiola enjoyed a fierce rivalry with Mourinho while the Portuguese manager was at Real Madrid. His record record against



### Guardiola and Mourinho

Mourinho is 12 wins, six draws and seven losses

Mourinho had Barca history - he was an assistant manager to Louis van Gaal and Sir Bobby Robson at the Nou Camp in the late 1990s.

Meanwhile, Guardiola was a graduate of La Masia Academy and, as a player, won the 1992 European Cup with Johan Cruyff's Dream Team.

Under Frank Rijkaard, Lionel Messi had been deployed with some success as a playmaking number 10 and on the right wing.

However, it was Guardiola who arguably unlocked the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner's potential when he first decided to use him as a false nine in a match against Real Madrid in May 2009.

"Pep was watching Real Madrid games and he realised when the midfielders put pressure on the

midfielders of the other team, the defenders stayed behind, therefore opening up a space of about 30 metres," reveals Sala-i-Martin, explaining that Guardiola then had the idea to play Messi "not in the centre-forward role" but, rather, "in the midfield, with 30 metres to run".

Ex-assistant coach Torrent remembers wondering "why on earth" his boss wanted to mess with things in such a crucial game.

On the day, Barcelona recorded a historic 6-2 win over their most fierce rivals, Messi scoring twice. That season, they completed a historic sweep of La Liga, the Champions League and the Copa del Rey.

"That day I think changed the history of football, the history of

Barcelona and the history of Messi," says Sala-i-Martin.

In April 2014, having taken the head coach job at Bayern Munich, Guardiola faced his old foe Real Madrid in the Champions League semi-final. The German champions had won the trophy the previous year under Jupp Heynckes and there was pressure on Guardiola to do the same.

Bayern dominated possession during the first leg at the Bernabeu, but went on to lose 1

M-0. Munich captain Neuer reveals that Guardiola had an uncharacteristic wobble and decided to canvas his players' thoughts on how they should approach the second leg.

The team fed back that they would like to go all out in attack. They ended up losing 4-0 at home.

"We strayed from the philosophy we'd had all year," says Neuer. "But then we realised we shouldn't have done it. He didn't listen to himself and asked us too much."

Sala-i-Martin believes this was a turning point, when Guardiola decided he would from then on trust in his own footballing ideas.

In 2021, Guardiola steered Manchester City to the club's first Champions League final.

Guardiola had not got his hands on that trophy since he won it with Barcelona in 2011. Eyebrows were raised, then, when he gambled by opting not to field either of his outstanding holding midfielders, Rodri or Fernandinho.

Rodri reveals his manager "didn't explain" why he was being left out, saying that he had already decided his team "two or three days before the final".

Rodri was the player of the match during City's 2023 Champions League final win

After Chelsea won via a goal from Kai Havertz, critics accused Guardiola of having overthought things.

Ex-City defender Ilkay Gundogan defends his former boss, though.

"He was always like that," says the German, adding: "I don't think it was something he was doing especially for the Champions League or big games."

In 2023, City made it to another Champions League final. Rodri played this time. He scored the only goal of the match.



Manuel Neuer believes that he and his fellow players should not have convinced Guardiola to stray from his principles

# SUNDAY SPORTS

## I know what to do with my career -Osimhen

**N**IGERIA striker Victor Osimhen claims he has already made up his mind regarding his future as speculations continue to swirl over a potential move to the English Premier League.

Newsnow said that, the 25-year-old who plies trade with Serie A side Napoli, is currently with the Super Eagles at the Africa Cup of Nations on Cote d'Ivoire.

Osimhen who has scored one goal so far at the Afcon, was a driving force in Napoli's historic third Scudetto win last season and emerged as one of the finest attacking talents in Europe.



Osimhen

Several European teams are searching for a potent attacking firepower.

Despite extending his contract with Napoli to end a possible January exit, he remains a target for most teams including Arsenal

and Chelsea in the summer.

Ahead of his country's round of 16 clash with perennial rivals Cameroon on Saturday, Osimhen was asked about his future and he said.

"A rumour is going around about me linked with the Premier League," Osimhen said as quoted by the Daily Mail. "When you are one of the hottest strikers in the globe, you expect this kind of thing.

"Of course, EPL is one of the biggest and best leagues in the whole world," he added.

## We'll host the best NUGA Games -Prof Tanko

BY ANDRE D BISYIT

**T**HE Vice Chancellor University of Jos, Professor Ishaya Tanko has assured that the Institution will be hosting the best Nigeria University Games (NUGA) ever in the country which is slated in December.

He disclosed that during the handing over of site to the contractors to construct a Multi-purpose Indoor Sports Hall and a Sports Pavilion funded by TETFund special and normal intervention, held at the Permanent Site of the Institution, recently.

"We are here to hand over some infrastructural projects that were designed for the purpose of hosting the NUGA Games which we got the hosting right and we promise the world that we'll be having the best NUGA Games hosted here," he said.

The Vice Chancellor maintained that the Institution is prepared to host the tournament.

"We are prepared to host the tournament, what we have done today is just to demonstrate to the world and the country that we are prepared to the NUGA 2024."

"These two projects that we handed to the contractors are

some of the biggest and fundamental projects that we needed to organize and have on ground to enable us host the games. Like I said, as an Institution we are in collaboration with the State Government."

Professor Tanko emphasized that they are hosting to win the championship.

"I think there is no country or Institution that will want to host a tournament just for hosting seek. I can assure you that we are hosting to win. We have already put in the appropriate teams that are training in preparation to make sure that we win the competition and we have the talents, we have demonstrated that in Lagos by winning the most contested events," ended.

Also, Professor Ishaya Pam, Chairman, Sports Committee, University of Jos, highlighted that the Institution is well prepared to host and win the championship.

"This is the first of many activities that will be done in order to host NUGA Games here in Jos. As you can see these infrastructural projects are significant part of infrastructures that is required and very soon we'll

hand over the track and the pitch to the contractors," he said.

"The State Government is part of our Local Organizing Committee and when the committee was inaugurated the Commissioner of Sports was here. So we're partnering with the State Government because there are areas we require the will participate, such as security, transportation and accommodations, because we're expecting nine thousand athletes," he concluded.

On his part, Professor Bawa Mohammed, acting NUGA President opined that the duration of the projects will not hamper with the quality of the work.

"Let me talk from the point of knowledge. Today we have building materials that if resources are available the projects can be constructed within two months, we have materials, like the cement that is self curing, ones it's put in place within one hour it's cure, so time limit is not going to be a predicament to the projects," he said.

He further stated that with the take off of the projects and the support from the

**M**AJOR General Bolaji Salami (retd) has emerged the overall best net winner of the 2024 Armed Forces Celebration and Remembrance Day (AFCRD) Golf Tournament in Abuja.

Sporting Tribune said that, Salami beat others to the trophy at the tournament played at the I.E. IBAS Golf Club, Karshi which was organised by the Defence Headquarters in collaboration with the Nigeria Golf Federation (NGF).

Salami playing off handicap 23 with a gross score of 77 and 54 net won the overall best net prize in the retirees category for handicap 19 to 28. Anebi E.O. playing off handicap 16 with 86 gross and 67 net emerged best gross in the category.

Sporting Tribune reports that Ayanbode A.O. playing off handicap 17 with a gross score of 81 and 64 net finished tops in the serving men category, while Ayomanor D.A. with 64 gross, emerged as best gross in the category.

## Salami emerges winner of Golf tournament

While Deborah John won the over best net prize in the Guest Ladies' category after she played off handicap 36 with a gross score of 99 and 63 net to beat Tessy Johnson on countback, Rose Nyam playing off handicap 20 with a gross score of 85 and 65 net emerged as best gross in the Guest Ladies' category.

Also, Rebecca Danladi, playing off handicap 25 with a gross score of 87 and 62 net, took home the top prize in the Serving Ladies category and so is Hauwa A. playing off handicap 16 with a gross score of 83 and 67 net emerged as best gross in the category.

Salami who was speaking with media after being presented with his prize and trophy thanked the organisers for coming up with an event to honour heroes who laid down their lives for others to live.

"I feel highly elated because the game of golf is life itself. I want to use this opportunity to thank the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the Service Chiefs for putting this together to honour our departed troops.

"I also use this opportunity to encourage the populace to continue to lend their support to the troops, so that they will be able to achieve their goal of securing the lives of citizens in the country."

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Lt Gen Christopher Musa, who was represented by Air Vice Marshal (AVM)

Nkem Aguiyi said the Armed Forces Celebration and Remembrance Day was a special event to celebrate the country's fallen heroes as well as living veterans and serving personnel.

"The Armed Forces Celebration and Remembrance Day is an annual event to celebrate the nation's fallen heroes who lost their lives in active service as well as honour Veterans of World War and the civil war. It is also to celebrate the living veterans and serving personnel who work tirelessly to safeguard the sovereignty of the nation while ensuring peace and security for social and economic activities to thrive.

"Globally, the Armed Forces Celebration and Remembrance Day is celebrated on Nov. 11, known as the "Armistice Day. However, with the surrendering of Biafra on January 15, 1970, which marked the end of the Nigerian Civil War, the Armed Forces Celebration and Remembrance Day is now celebrated in Nigeria on January 15 annually.

"It is for this reason that a golf tournament is included as part of activities to mark the year 2024 Armed Forces Celebration and Remembrance Day. Golfing as a game also promotes social interactions, thereby building teamwork and esprit de corps," the CDS stated.



Salami

## Peseiro makes revelation about rejecting contract renewal

**J**OSE Peseiro has made a stunning revelation about his future as coach of the Super Eagles, claiming that he turned down a contract renewal offer from the Nigeria Football Federation.

Minister of Sports Development, John Enoh confirmed in December that Peseiro's future will be determined only after the end of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations.

It has been suggested that Peseiro would be rewarded with a new deal if the Super Eagles achieve their minimum target of reaching the semifinals of the Africa Cup of Nations but the Portuguese has insisted that no target was set for him when he signed on the dotted line to become Nigeria coach.

In September 2023, Peseiro extended his stay as coach of the national team

after negotiating a salary cut that would see him earn around US\$50,000.00 every month, US\$20,000 less than he was being paid when he was initially hired by the Nigerian Federation.

Nse Essien, a Board Member of the Nigeria Football Federation, revealed after the Super Eagles' 1-1 draw with Zimbabwe in November 2023 that Peseiro was not capable of leading the national team and only a lack of resources was preventing the Portuguese from being fired.

Peseiro highlighted that there are several misleading information circulating in Nigeria about his departure from the national team.

"There are many

difficulties, but I have never exposed them and I will not expose them. There is so much misleading information. Someone who they mentioned that he's not even the leader of the Federation, someone I've never seen here," Peseiro told SportTV+, via Record.

"The Nigerian press, which is a crazy thing, spread this and then (Portugal) picked up on it.

"Am I going to continue leading the team? I have a contract until the end of the AFCON, they already proposed renewal, but I didn't want it".

Peseiro has been coaching the Super Eagles since May 2022 and his record stands at eight wins, four draws and six losses in his eighteen games in charge.



Tanko

## SUNDAY SPORTS



Owen

## 'I'd swap eyes with him if I could'

**F**ORMER England striker Michael Owen says he would "swap eyes" with his son if it was possible to help the teenager see again.

James Owen, 17, who hoped to follow in his father's footsteps, was diagnosed with Stargardt disease, a degenerative eye condition, when he was eight.

Speaking on the BBC [Access All podcast](#), Michael said: "If I could give him my eyes... I would."

"I would pay every cent I've got to make James see again."

James is from a family of top footballers. Michael played as striker for clubs including Liverpool and Real Madrid, and somewhat controversially went on to play for Liverpool's big north-west rivals Manchester United. His father Terry Owen started his own footballing career at Everton in 1966.

The beautiful game was very much in James's blood, but it slowly dawned on the Owens something unusual was going on with their young son.

James was a good player when he was on the ball, but he often failed to track passes or notice player movements further down the field.

It became more concerning when he struggled to compete on bigger pitches and it was all getting too fast-paced, James admits.

At home or on holiday, Michael says he often got frustrated when trying to take family photographs as his young son always seemed to look to the side of

the camera rather than at it.

Even so, Michael says it came as a "hammer blow" when he and wife Louise were referred to an eye specialist and were informed of James's

## Boban quits UEFA over proposed rule change

**U**EFA's technical director Zvonimir Boban has quit in protest at Aleksander Ceferin's intention to stay on for a further term as president.

BBC SPORT said that, Ceferin was elected in 2016, replacing Michel Platini, and one of the reforms he put in place was a three-term limit for all executive appointments.

However, he is trying to change the rule to remain in power until 2031.

Former Croatia midfielder Boban called the move "beyond comprehension".

When Ceferin was elected, he campaigned on a reform ticket and insisted no president should serve more than three terms in office.

He is due to step down in 2027 but the Slovenian's supporters are working on a plan to amend the three-term limit rule.

If successful, Ceferin, who was unopposed when he was re-elected last year, could stand again in 2027.

The amendment, which his supporters want as Ceferin took over part-way through Platini's four-year term in office, would mean any appointment before 2017 would not be counted as part of the allowable three terms.

diagnosis.

James told Access All presenter Emma Tracey, who herself has no sight,

that his "central vision is blurry" and that "I struggle with seeing different colours and different lights" although

diagnosis.

James told Access All presenter Emma Tracey, who herself has no sight, that his "central vision is blurry" and that "I struggle with seeing different colours and different lights" although

However, it appears it will be ratified at next month's congress in Paris.

Boban, who chaired Uefa's new Football Board which comprised of an array of star names, including Jose Mourinho, Carlos Ancelotti and Gareth Southgate, and was intended to bring an independent voice to some of the game's biggest issues, believes this is unacceptable.

"Despite having expressed my deepest

concern and total disapproval, the Uefa president does not consider there to be any legal issues with the proposed changes, let alone any moral or ethical ones, and he intends to move forward regardless in pursuit of his personal aspirations," he said.

"Ironically, it was the Uefa president himself that proposed and launched a set of reforms in 2017 which were introduced to prevent such a possibility.

"These rules were designed to protect Uefa and European football from the 'bad governance' which for years had unfortunately been the 'modus operandi' of what is often referred to as the 'old system' of football governance.

"The reforms were to football's great credit, and that of the Uefa president.

"I think the club is going to grow in these type of moments, and the players as well."

Boban



Boban

**L**IVERPOOL "can never take these things for granted" after they saw off Fulham to set up a Carabao Cup final with Chelsea, says manager Jurgen Klopp.

The Reds led 2-1 from the first leg and their draw at Craven Cottage was enough to get the job done and set up a Wembley final on 25 February.

Luis Diaz gave Liverpool an early lead, chesting down Jarell Quansah's diagonal ball, cutting inside and beating Bernd Leno at his near post too easily, albeit with the help of a deflection.

Marco Silva's hosts had good spells and deserved their equaliser on the night when Issa Diop bundled in Harry Wilson's deflected ball.

Another Fulham goal would have sent the tie to extra time and Wilson's long-range strike was saved by Caoimhin Kelleher.

But the Cottagers could not find a second goal despite pushing for one and their wait for a first EFL Cup final goes on.

"You should have seen the dressing room - they are over the moon, the young kids," Klopp told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"The stadium [Wembley] will be full blue and red - it is a good one.

"Coming here tonight and then going through is special. You can never take these things for granted.

## Diaz goal sends Reds to Carabao Cup final



Klopp

"After half an hour our foot slipped off the gas and it was more open. We had to bring it over the line and we are really looking forward to Wembley."

Both sides are in FA Cup fourth-round action this weekend, with Fulham hosting Newcastle on Saturday and Liverpool at home to Norwich on Sunday.

Chelsea booked their place at Wembley on Tuesday with a **6-1 win** over Championship club Middlesbrough, who won the first leg 1-0.

Despite some good Fulham play, Liverpool were looking comfortable until the 75th minute and could have led by more - but got over the line despite a nervy finale.

Liverpool are into a record 14th League Cup final and only 90 minutes away from getting back to lifting silverware after a trophyless 2022-23.

Klopp has built an excellent new-look team, and the Premier League leaders' hopes of a domestic treble go on. They have only lost once domestically all season, at Tottenham in the Premier League on 30 September.

They have strength in depth too, making 191 changes to their starting 11 in all competitions this season, 56 more than any other Premier League club.

Diaz's early strike settled any immediate nerves and Liverpool had several chances to put the tie to bed, with Darwin Nunez going close on several occasions.

Colombia's Diaz had the ball in the net a second time but the goal was ruled out with Nunez flagged offside.

Andy Robertson was an unused substitute as the Liverpool left-back was involved in a squad for the first time since injuring a shoulder in October.

It was a big night for Fulham, bidding to reach the final of this competition for the first time. Fans were given flags to wave as the players came out and there was a feeling it could be a special night at Craven Cottage.

Andreas Pereira went desperately close when he hit the post from a tight angle after Tosin Adarabioyo had beaten Kelleher to the ball with his head.

When substitute Wilson picked out Diop, who nudged the ball home with his thigh for his first goal since October 2022, it gave the hosts renewed hope.

But in the end they failed to create a clear-cut chance to send the game to an extra 30 minutes.

"I felt like they were much calmer than us and to them it was just another game," said Silva.

"With most of our players it is new to them to play in a semi-final of this competition.

"I think the club is going to grow in these type of moments, and the players as well."

## SUNDAY SPORTS

## History of Emirate FA Cup



1978: Ipswich Town captain, Mick Mills (left) holding the FA Cup with Roger Osbourne

THE FA Cup was the first of football's great competitions, providing the blueprint for structuring the game in more formal fashion and has proved to be, both at home and abroad, organised football's founding father.

More than simply the showpiece occasion to bring down the curtain on an English season, it became the world's cup final, the best loved and most watched domestic game on earth, the fixture that people all over the planet would do anything they could to catch.

It is the competition that fostered professionalism, created and fuelled the rivalry between clubs great and small, instigated the game's global television market and yet still reminds us that, be they ever so mighty, the biggest and the best in the world can still be brought down to earth by a committed bunch of journeymen, hurling themselves around on a mud heap on a biting cold January day.

It's the competition that began by drawing together the elite of Victorian society and those from its humblest strata, and one which still, despite the league pyramid that followed, is the only way in which a team of postmen, office clerks and production line workers might get the chance of walking out at Old Trafford, Anfield or Stamford Bridge.

The FA Cup. All human life is here. Following the formation of the Football Association in 1863 and the early work done in codifying the game by producing its first set of laws, it was that vision of bringing the nation's teams together - the public schools of the south and the team's forged from industry, church and philanthropy in the north - that formed The FA's next guiding task, one ideally suited to a competitive arena.

The burgeoning game was still in its infancy as we entered the 1870s, teams playing in a patchwork of local friendlies for the most part, few venturing beyond the most parochial of boundaries to play games. As the national association, it was incumbent upon The FA to show leadership and draw all these disparate clubs into a cohesive whole

and a countrywide competition seemed the best method of doing so.

Charles W. Alcock, the Secretary of The FA, had already been a prime mover in trying to get international football off the ground by arranging a controversial first meeting between England and Scotland in 1870.

Clearly a forward thinker, on 20 July 1871, at a meeting of The FA committee at the offices of The Sportsman newspaper, he drew on memories of his schooldays and the inter-house matches at Harrow, concluding that with the growth of the railways in particular making national travel possible, there was now no longer any impediment to teams from all over the nation meeting one another on the sporting field.

So it was that at that committee meeting, Alcock proposed, "That it is desirable that a Challenge Cup should be established in connection with the Association for which all clubs belonging to the Association should be invited to compete".

The motion was swiftly carried, the rules of the knock-out competition agreed and invitations issued to The FA's 50 member clubs of the time, just 15 of whom responded - Alcock was clearly ahead of his time. Following further withdrawals around a dozen clubs ultimately took part over a competition that spanned just 13 fixtures, the first round of games taking place on 11 November 1871.

The competition culminated in a final at Kennington Oval on 16 March 1872, the Royal Engineers taking on Wanderers FC, a side drawn largely from old boys of the public schools, notably Harrow, and including one Charles W. Alcock in their side. It was fitting that the man who did so much to bring the Challenge Cup into being was on the winning side and became one of the first to lift it. The cup was actually presented almost a month later at Wanderers' annual dinner at the Pall Mall Restaurant, The FA issuing each player with a silk badge to commemorate the victory, the club presenting each player with a gold medal. The only known medal still in existence was bought by the PFA at auction in 2010 for £70,500. As a consequence of that win,

Wanderers received a bye to the following year's final, the original concept of "challenge cup" competition, although this was to be the only year in which that rule applied. They retained the trophy with a 2-0 win over Oxford University, going on to win five of the first seven finals, Oxford University and Royal Engineers winning the other two.

But as Wanderers were busily underlining the fact that the cup had been born from the great amateur bastions of the nation, the spread of The FA's influence via its county and district satellites would spawn the next great change in the game - the arrival of professionalism, legalised in 1885.

By that time, the provinces had started to show their mettle, Blackburn Olympic carrying off the trophy in 1883 before Blackburn Rovers began the roll call of winners familiar to us today, winning a hat-trick of cups before triumphs for the likes of Aston Villa, West Bromwich Albion and Preston North End. By the mid-1880s, winning The FA Cup had already become the holy grail for the rapidly organizing football clubs, and they weren't shy of spending the money required to do it, Rovers forking out some £615 on wages in the cup winning season of 1885/86.

Professionalism contributed to a shift in the game's axis, the new clubs of the north with their players dedicated to the game quickly usurping the amateur sides typically from the south. That led to the creation of the Football League in 1888, but it was still The FA Cup Final that was the showpiece occasion of the season, even after it moved to the Crystal Palace in 1895, the year in which the original trophy was stolen from a Birmingham shop window, displayed there after Aston Villa had won it. A replica was made to replace it and that survived until 1910 when it was replaced by the trophy that we know today.

By then, the cup was not only the most desirable piece of silverware in the English, and perhaps the world game, but the competition was a byword for the unexpected, the heroic, the romantic - the idea of the "magic of the cup" had taken hold in

popular culture, the concept of "giant-killing" central to it all. Notts County became the first winners from the Second Division in 1894, beating Bolton of the top flight, while Tottenham won the competition as a Southern League outfit in 1901, the first final to be filmed by Pathe News, defeating Sheffield United in a replay.

The competition's hold on the national consciousness took another great leap forward in 1923 when the final was hosted by the Empire Stadium at Wembley, a purpose built stadium, designed, in part, to accommodate the growing appetite for attending The FA Cup final. Completed only four days before Bolton Wanderers were to play West Ham United in the final, demand for entrance overwhelmed even this new "cathedral of football" as Pele would later call it. With an announced crowd of 126,047 - although many believe that perhaps more than twice that many might have been inside the stadium - spectators spilled onto the field, eventually only cleared by the intervention of mounted police and, in particular, George Scorey and his horse, Billy, gradually eased them back into the surrounds, to allow the game to go ahead. The "White Horse" final remains one of the most iconic moments in world sporting history.

Wembley and The FA Cup Final went hand in hand thereafter, each adding to the other's lustre. Cardiff City became the first - and so far, only - club to take the cup out of England when they defeated Arsenal in 1927, the first final to be transmitted live on national radio. Television arrived in 1938, broadcasting the Preston versus Huddersfield final in full, though there had already been limited coverage of the previous year's final between Sunderland and Preston.

But it wasn't all happening at the national stadium, the 1933 FA Cup tie between Walsall and Arsenal, the archetypal giant-killing feat as the Gunners, well on the way to the first of their hat-trick of First Division wins, were humbled by the Saddlers of the Third Division (North), manager Herbert Chapman so angry that he sacked one of his defenders on the train home from Fellows Park.

When football returned after the war, the appetite for the game was greater yet and The FA Cup duly stepped up to the plate. 1949 saw another huge upset as Yeovil of the Southern League defeated big spending Sunderland, the "Bank of England" club as they were known, in the fourth round.

Even so, it was the final that really caught the imagination and in 1953, with the nation newly equipping itself with grainy black and white sets to watch the Queen's coronation, came the game with everything. The nation's favourite footballer, Stanley Matthews, seemed to be nearing the end of his career at 38 and still had never won an FA Cup winner's medal. This appeared to be his last chance but Bolton had other ideas and, with just over 20 minutes to go, they led 3-1. Matthews conjured up a cross for Mortensen to reduce the deficit but as the game entered its final minute, Bolton were still in front, only for Mortensen to score direct from a free-kick. Impossibly, Matthews then conjured up the fairytale finish, the "wizard of the dribble" crossing for Perry to score the winner in injury time.

That began a run of extraordinary finals - former prisoner-of-war Bert Trautmann playing on to win with Manchester City in 1956 despite a broken neck, Manchester United dragging themselves from the wreckage of Munich to contest an emotionally exhausting final in '58, Spurs completing the 20th century's first double in '61. Year after year, The FA Cup Final threw up indelible memories that will last as long as the game is played - a delirious Everton fan invading the pitch and slipping off his jacket to avoid the attentions of a policeman in '66, the conflict of 1970 as Chelsea and Leeds declared war on each other over two games, Charlie George slumping to the ground, overcome as he sealed Arsenal's 'Double' in 1971.

And yet there was more to come. In January 1972 came perhaps the most memorable FA Cup tie of all-time, played on the unpromising mudheap of Hereford United's Edgar Street as the non-leaguers prepared to replay against top flight Newcastle United. When the Magpies took the lead, the game seemed up, but then came one of the greatest FA Cup goals, Ronnie Radford defying the conditions to smash the ball across 35 yards, searing into the top corner to level matters before Ricky George twisted and turned his way to the winner in extra-time.

As if desperate to live up to that early round magic, The FA Cup Final of '73 provided a shock of almost similarly seismic proportions as second tier Sunderland beat Leeds United, as good a team as there was in Europe, courtesy of an Ian Porterfield goal and a double save from Jim Montgomery that's almost as legendary as Radford's rocket from the previous season.

Hard on its heels, we had the seeming impossibility of Second Division Southampton defeating the might of Manchester United in 1976, the similarly unlikely climax to the 1979 final between Arsenal and Manchester United as the last five minutes saw United salvage a draw from 2-0 down, only to lose it again in the final seconds.

There was Ricky Villa dancing through the City of Manchester to win the final replay of 1981, just days after trudging away, disconsolate and alone, after being substituted in the first game. Coventry won a first trophy in 1987 courtesy of the horizontal Keith Houchen, the "Crazy Gang beat the culture club" a year later, Dave Beasant saving a penalty and lifting the cup for Wimbledon.



# Nigeria to beat Indomitable Lions once again

**O**UR betting expert provides Nigeria vs Cameroon predictions for this AFCON knockout clash. The Super Eagles have been dominant in recent meetings. They will be confident against the Indomitable Lions who only made it out of the group in dramatic fashion.

Our betting expert has prepared predictions for this fixture, including a likely win for the Super Eagles, GG, and other combined markets.

Nigeria have not lost a competitive game to Cameroon since the AFCON final in 2000.

Under Jose Peseiro, the Super Eagles have struggled a lot to secure impressive results before the start of this tournament. However, their recent displays against Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau have been commendable.

Looking at the head-to-head, Nigeria have been great against their rivals in recent meetings. The last meeting was at the 2019 AFCON in Egypt, which the Super Eagles won 3-2.

At this stage of the competition, both teams focus on the outcome, as a winner must emerge.

Given the current dynamics, the Super Eagles are favourites in this Nigeria vs Cameroon predictions piece. We expect them to get one over Rigobert Song's poor side.

Nigeria meet Cameroon today in a blockbuster Africa Cup of Nations knockout clash. The Super Eagles rather sailed through the group stage, much as they did in 2022, but now must prove they can deal with the pressure of a last-16 game up against an Indomitable Lions side who have flattered to deceive thus far. Beaten by Tunisia two years ago, it is a chance to make a mark against a rival on the grandest of AFCON stages.

Where Nigeria made reasonably light work of their opening games, Cameroon toiled. They progressed only thanks to two late goals against Gambia amid suggestions of unhappiness in the camp. Still, they boast huge quality and anything can happen at this stage of the tournament.

Their last meeting at this stage saw Nigeria come out on top way back in 2019 as Cameroon seek fresh revenge. Follow all the action LIVE with Standard Sport's dedicated match blog!

Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis has confirmed Chelsea transfer target Victor Osimhen will leave the club this summer.

Osimhen only signed a new deal at Napoli last month, which reportedly includes a release clause of around £112million, but earlier this week confirmed he was



Super Eagles in action with Cameroon

planning a "next step" and name-checked the Premier League.

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He told CBS Sports: "I have already made my decision on the next step to do at the end of the season. I already made up my mind. I already have my plan, I know what I want to do, the next step I want to take."

Chelsea have made new a striker their top transfer priority, with Osimhen and Ivan Toney key targets but any move is far more likely for the summer.

Earlier this month, Osimhen hit out at claims he would move to Saudi Arabia this summer and recently revealed that he "definitely" wants to play in the Premier League before the end of his career.

Now De Laurentiis has named Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain or a "top" Premier League club as the Nigerian international's likely destination, adding that the striker has "already made decision" on his future.

He said: "This was already known since this summer, our negotiations [over the new

contract] were friendly, otherwise it would not have been so long. We knew he would go to Real Madrid, PSG or a top English club."

The Africa Cup of Nations has been a mesmerising and unpredictable affair so far, with shock results, no shortage of controversy and heavyweights crashing out -- and that's just the group stage.

89 goals were scored in this year's opening round 68 more than last time and expect the excitement to continue as the knockouts begin.

One of two standout ties of

the round, these two have a combined eight Nations Cup titles between them, but both are a shadow of the great generations of the past.

Nigeria performed above expectations in the group stage -- overcoming an underwhelming draw with Equatorial Guinea to beat the Ivory Coast -- while Cameroon left it late against Gambia, booking progression with two goals in the last three minutes.

Neither of these two are particularly well coached, with neither Jose Peseiro nor Rigobert Song seemingly

able to get the best out of the talented individuals at their disposal, and don't expect too much tactical innovation here.

There's hope that Nigeria's awesome offensive options -- including Victor Osimhen -- will click, but they required an own goal to defeat Guinea-Bissau, and have been disjointed going forward.

Cameroon, meanwhile, axed Andre Onana after a crushing 3-1 defeat by Senegal, with the likes of Karl Toko Ekambi and -- particularly -- Georges-Kevin N'koudou proving lively as

Gambia were eliminated.

That 'indomitable' spirit that saw Cameroon past Algeria in World Cup qualification, and past Brazil in Qatar, may be enough to give this Lions side the edge, particularly with Vincent Aboubakar -- Golden Boot winner at the last AFCON -- in contention to return.

Equatorial Guinea's run in the tournament has been billed as a surprise, although observers of the National Thunder may not be as surprised considering their immense progress in recent years.

## Heavyweights and hopefuls prepare for Afcon last 16

**A**FTER some unexpected results in the group stage, there will be some heavyweight ties to look forward to when the last-16 stage at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) starts on Saturday.

Hosts Ivory Coast snuck through as a third-placed side and will now come up against holders Senegal, who were the only team to progress with maximum points.

Meanwhile, five-time continental champions Cameroon will face three-time winners Nigeria in another mouth-watering encounter.

Both of those games will be televised by the BBC (UK only) but the other six knockout matches hold strong potential for more unpredictable drama. BBC Sport Africa previews what could be about to unfold in eight games from Bouake to



Yamoussoukro.

The first last-16 match feels a fitting opener, pitting the two lowest-ranked teams remaining against each other as Angola meet Namibia (Saturday, 17:00 GMT). Both confounded expectations, with Angola topping Group D unbeaten

and Namibia qualifying as one of the best third-placed teams.

That was largely by virtue of their sensational opening victory over Tunisia, which was the Brave Warriors' first win in their 10th game at the finals.

"Everything happening on

that field is not a surprise. Maybe for everybody else, but I am the orchestra with my team," Namibia coach Collin Benjamin said.

Namibia boast dangerous forward pairing of Deon Hotto and Peter Shalulile, while Mabululu and Gelson Dala both have two goals for