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## FG rolls out plans to tackle food inflation

**The Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation has rolled out strategic plans to tackle the rising cost of food in the country.**

Permanent Secretary of FMWRS, Shehu Aliyu in his address at the 30th meeting of the National Technical Committee on Water Resources and Sanitation, (NTCWRs) expressed concerns over issues bedeviling water resources and food security.

Shehu recalled that the Federal Government recently declared a State of Emergency on Food Security to tackle food inflation in line with the Renewed Hope of the present administration.

The Perm Sec stated that all matters relating to food and water availability and affordability as essential livelihood items, be included within the purview of the National Security Council.

According to him: "There is need for an urgent synergy between the Federal Ministry of

Agriculture and Food Security with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation to ensure adequate irrigation of farmland and to guarantee that food is produced all year round.

Engage our security architecture to protect the farms and the farmers so that farmers can return to the farmlands without fear of being attacked.

"The twelve (12) River Basin Development

Authority (RBDAs) ensure the planting of crops during the dry season with irrigation schemes that will guarantee continuous farming production all year to stem the seasonal glut and scarcity.

"The need to cultivate 500,000 hectares of farmland nationwide to grow maize, rice, wheat and other staple crops."

He said the Ministry has introduced the three flagship programmes

namely: Water for Expanded Irrigation Agriculture Programme (WEIRPRO), Partnership for Expanded Irrigation Programme (PEIRPRO) and River Basin Strategy for Poverty Alleviation. (RS-SPA).

Shehu explained that the above-named programmes have kick-started with the launch of the dry season farming covering a total of 120,000 hectares of land in

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**Over 42,000 Nigerian Nurses migrate Abroad in three years – Nursing Council Registrar, Abubakar gives reasons for new guidelines**

## Nigeria is very poor; our wealth is overestimated -Onanuga

**THE** President Bola Tinubu-led administration has stated that Nigeria "is a very very poor country, to be honest and our wealth is overestimated."

The Special Adviser on Information and Strategy

to the President, Mr Bayo Onanuga, stated this on Monday when he appeared on Arise News TV's programme.

Meanwhile, some workers in different federal establishments across the country had lamented the

delay in the payment of their January salary, describing the action of the government as insensitive considering the current economic situation in the country.

However, Onanuga also denied the claim.

He explained that there was a challenge with the platform being used to disburse the salaries.

Onanuga described Nigeria as a "very very poor" country, given its low per capita income, compared to other African

nations. He said; "The office of the AGF has said there is a challenge with the platform being used to disburse the salaries."

"According to a briefing I got this morning, yes, salaries were delayed, but

all federal workers have been paid," he stated.

"Nigeria is a very very poor country, to be honest. I think our wealth is overestimated,"

"I think we have a poor estimation of the wealth of

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## News

### You can't prevent us from relocating

NURSES under the aegis of the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), Abuja and Lagos chapters, protested the new circular on certificate verification by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) recently.

One of the nurses protesting the revised guidelines and requirements for certificate verification by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) has said the Council lacks the power to hold them in Nigeria.

The nurse who identified herself as Margaret said nurses in the country get their certificates with exorbitant money and as such cannot be held with hostile policies by the Council, which works for the federal government.

The nurses converged on the NMCN's offices in Abuja and Lagos to express their dissatisfaction and threatened a nationwide strike, describing the new guidelines as an effort to hamper their freedom.

NMCN, in its revised guidelines, stated that applicants seeking verification of certificates from foreign nursing boards and councils must possess two years of post-qualification experience from the date of issuance of the permanent practicing license.

This was revealed in a

### CBN sells dollars for first time in 5 months

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) sold up to \$86 million in the spot FX market on Tuesday, its first sale of dollars in the market since September 2023.

It is the apex bank's latest attempt to stabilise the naira, one of the world's worst-performing currencies, in 2024.

Sources familiar with the matter told BusinessDay that the CBN sold the dollars at a rate as low as N1490 per dollar, with each bank securing between \$2-5 million.

"Rather than fix rates, the CBN called banks to bid freely, and that's good for the market," a source told BusinessDay.

The CBN had frozen dollar sales at the spot market in order to deal with a foreign exchange demand backlog that was undermining investor confidence in the apex bank's latest currency reforms.

CBN being back in the market is highly commendable, as its presence will boost trading liquidity," another source familiar with the matter said.

Analysts, however, say the CBN needs to conduct the sale professionally and consistently in order to reap the full gains of the latest move.

"This is step one; the next step is to establish a pattern

memo dated 7th February and signed by the NMCN Chief Executive Officer and Registrar, Faruk Abubakar.

Speaking, Margaret vented her frustration, "From nursing education to graduation to working, you struggle in Nigeria as a nurse. You pay exorbitant fees to study nursing at Nigerian universities after paying exorbitant fees. Even where we go for practical experience, our institutions still pay for it because it's not free.

"We don't benefit from the Nigerian government. So why would they want to hold us for three years after graduation? We are not under a bond or any contract. We did not enjoy any subsidised fees or free education in Nigeria because we paid from our pockets. So we should be allowed to stay in Nigeria or work elsewhere because of freedom of movement, speech, and human rights.

"We are not going to stay six months before we verify; we want a verification process within 24 hours. We want it to be free because we already paid for the licence, and we pay to renew licence every time. In fact, why do we need to get a letter of good standing from the CEO or even the head of office?"

"The individuals asking for verification are asking you to verify if I'm truly a registered and licensed

for the sales, and then the exchange rate trajectory will begin to change," one of the sources said.

The naira on Monday fell to a record low of 1,534.39 per dollar at the official foreign exchange market as demand trumped supply.



Cardoso

### Zulum awards cash, food to volunteers fighting B/Haram

BORNO State Governor Babagana Zulum has doled out cash and food items to 810 volunteers fighting Boko Haram alongside the military and other security agencies in Bama Local Government Area of the state.

Mr Zulum gave out the package on Tuesday at the Palace of the Shehu of Bama, Umar Shehu-Kyari.

The governor extolled the volunteers for their sacrifices and commitment to defending the state and

### - Nurses protests

nurse in Nigeria, and the question goes to you as a regulatory body, not to my employer, not to my CEO. So why would you be waiting for a letter of good standing from a CEO who employed me after you licensed me first before you can verify me?

This is like pushing us into the hands of some group that wants to return us against our will. If you return us against our will to Nigeria, what will become of the public? Do you want us to be working against our will?"

There are nurses out there studying and growing, and they're doing better. That's the only way they can bring better initiative and information into the Nigerian nursing system. We don't want to remain stagnant or go back into the past. We want to evolve and meet international standards in Nigeria."

### 'Do something before situation gets out of hand'

GOVERNORS under the umbrella of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), have called on the All Progressives Congress, APC-led Federal Government, to take urgent steps to address the current economic hardship in the country before it gets out of hand.

The Governors spoke on Monday, after their meeting in Abuja, the Governors, said

The CBN was also urged not to lose sight of completely clearing the backlog. Governor Olayemi Cardoso put the dollars owed by the CBN in forward contracts alone at \$2.2 billion in an interview this month.

A Pan-African Credit Rating Agency, Agosto & Co. has identified three major economic variables that are likely to have far-reaching impacts on Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in 2024.

The leading provider of industry research and knowledge in Nigeria & Sub-Saharan Africa made this revelation at the bi-monthly forum of the Finance Correspondents Association of Nigeria (FICAN) held in Lagos, through its Head, Financial Institutions Ratings, Mr. Ayokunle Olubunmi.

According to Mr Olubunmi, the level of interest rate, inflation rate and the rate of foreign exchange will drive Nigeria's GDP growth to 2.6 percent in severe case scenario, 3 percent as a base case scenario, but at best, will not exceed 5 percent this year.

Specifically, Olubunmi noted that interest rate is a very good tool that the monetary policy authorities use to monitor and fight inflation and even exchange rates.

the hardship was occasioned by economic and security challenges in the country.

Reading the communique of the meeting, the chairman of the PDP Governors' Forum, Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State, reiterated the governors' calls for the establishment of multi-level police.

"The meeting reviewed the State of the Nation and noted the hardship being faced by Nigerians as a result of the economic and security challenges facing the nation.

"The forum consequently urges the federal government to as a matter of urgency embark on initiatives involving all the sub-national governments to bring a lasting solution to the crises."

Assuring the people that the PDP Governors would continue to play their part in the effort to bring security and succour to the people, he said, "To this end, we reiterate our call for state police with appropriate safeguards to avoid any abuse or overreach by any tier of government.

"The Forum decried the falling value of the Naira and requested the monetary and fiscal authorities to find appropriate solutions.

"The meeting further reviewed recent developments in the Peoples Democratic Party and committed to leading efforts to revamp and reposition the party to serve as an effective opposition to the ruling Party in Nigeria.

"Furthermore, the Forum passed a vote of confidence in the Iliya Damagum-led National Working Committee (NWC), of the Party and urged it to put in motion the machinery for convening meetings of the appropriate organs of the party from Caucus to National Executive Committee (NEC), as soon as possible," he said.

Mohammed decried the high cost of living in the

### Experts reveal factors to shape economic growth in 2024

He said that everything in Nigeria today is pointing towards higher interest rates because one of the reasons why there is a lot of pressure on the naira is that there is a low interest rate environment, stressing that high rates moderate economic activities.

"That is why there are high expectations that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the CBN will increase interest rate by about 500 basis point at the forthcoming MPC meeting this month", he said.

However, the Nigerian government is borrowing massively and if interest rate is high, the cost of government services will also be high, he noted.

"This might discourage the MPC from raising the rates too high", he said, adding that the average interest rate for the year might hover around 16



Mohammed

country, and the value of the naira, saying, 'We are almost on the road to Venezuela', a country facing extreme economic and security hardship."

He however noted that the rising cost of living is not only under the purview of the federal government, saying "We have been partnering to make sure that we don't bring any distraction but the monetary and economic policies rests squarely with the federal government."

On the question that the PDP has lost its voice as an opposition party, Mohammed said, "PDP is the most democratic party, the most experienced party in the country. We have been at the seat of governance and Nigerians took a decision to bring APC at the centre and we respect their sensibilities and sense of judgement of Nigerians."

Speaking on the Edo State governorship election, he said, "We are 100 per cent behind Edo and you can see that there is no rancour, there is no division and we are very much behind the National Working Committee, the state chapter of the party and indeed the governor to make sure that we go together in unison to produce a successor for the most respected eldest governor in the governors forum."

and 18 percent. Meanwhile, the 364-day treasury bills stop rate increased to 19 percent per annum on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

The 182-day and 91-day bills also rose to 18 percent and 12.2 percent respectively, and some analysts said the rates will likely continue to rise in the coming weeks as the CBN intensifies efforts to combat exchange rate depreciation.

On inflation, he said "Insecurity is one of the major drivers for inflation. Unfortunately, insurgency, kidnapping and general insecurity are rife in the middle belt where they produce a lot of things that we consume."

Nigeria's inflation rate has been on the rise for 11 consecutive months, reaching a new high in December 2023, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The annual inflation rate rose to 28.92 per cent in December from 28.20 per cent in November.

According to Olubunmi, aside from insecurity, the increase in exchange rate is also going to affect inflation. And because Nigeria is an import dependent country, rising cost of importation will have effects on the inflationary situation which will invariably affect growth.

He said Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings this year will depend majorly on oil revenue and that the price of crude oil which averaged \$80pbl in 2023, will likely settle around \$70 to \$75pbl in 2024 and that Nigeria's crude oil production cannot exceed 1.5 barrels per day in 2024.

### FG rolls out plans to tackle food inflation

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Jigawa State in November 2023 by the Federal Government in collaboration with Jigawa State under the National Wheat Development Programme.

He expressed confidence in the expected outcome from the various interventions which is to create 5 to 10 million jobs for our teeming youths within the agricultural value chain.

### Nigeria is very poor; our wealth is overestimated

*Continued from page 1*

the country, we are a very poor country."

The presidential aide asserted that with the removal of subsidies on petrol and the unification of the exchange rate, the administration "is hoping that the pressure on our finances will reduce."



# Business & Economy

## Issues in Nigeria's Economic downturn

**Nigeria and Nigerians are currently passing through increasingly difficult times. The country's economic downturn has become a recurrent decimal that has left the country's citizens with worst living conditions. However, it is unfortunate that economic experts and public affairs commentators have often underestimate the problem. Ours has been a case of diagnosing and treating malaria when the problems at hand is a near cancerous one, maybe, because of cheap political expediency or patronage. AYUBA YILGAK'HA; writes.**

HISTORY has shown clearly that Nigerians have high capacity to adapt even to harsh situations. The citizens adapt to situations with relative ease when such conditions get bad and cannot be tolerated in other climes. Perhaps, this is part of the explanation for why the country's citizens are rated the happiest people on planet earth.

Truth be told, times are real hard for Nigerians. Our situation is that of a people that are 'smiling in tears'. The ironic smiling spree is a function of false sense of hope occasioned by religious passion and encouragements. No wonder, Karl Marx postulated that religion is the opium of the people - meaning, religious is a soothing embalmment that brings emotional relief when situations got haywire (confused or disorderly)!

These are not the best of times for Nigerians. The situation of the country is what economic experts regard as stagflation. Any statistic that suggest Nigeria is out of recession in the light of current realities can only confirm one of the three (3) lies Mark Twain talked about. According to Twain, there are 3 types of lies in the world: "Lies, damned lies, and statistics". Stagflation is the real name of Nigeria's current economic problem!

Stagflation is an unwanted economic condition of an economy where the three economic evils: Very weak and slow growth, high unemployment and hyper inflation are dangerously moving in the same direction. It is an advanced situation of recession where a economy experienced negative economic growth in two successive quarters of a year. This on its own a problem enough for an economy, not to talk of advancing into a stagflationary situation!

It is necessary to note that stagflation is a very dangerous economic situation because, under Phillip's curve theory, there is a trade-off relationship between unemployment and inflation. In other words, when inflation increases; unemployment is expected to decrease correspondingly. Where this trade-off does not occur, the economy is said to be in a state of lock jam (stagflation).

Stagnation is an indication of failure of a country's stabilisation policy which covers both the fiscal and monetary policy structures of the economy. When the fiscal and monetary policy instruments of an economy failed to moderate or fix the tendencies of an economy, the economy suffers greatly.

Fiscal policy is a policy that has to do with government revenue, government expenditure and public debt. It is a budget centred responsibility of government which determines the sources of revenue to be explored (tax and/or debt), type of budget to be adopted and the debt opportunities and obligations to be relied upon. Fiscal policy is an executive function of government which is subject to the



scrutiny and passage by the legislature. It Monetary policy, on the the other hand, deals with the determination of control interest rate, exchange rate, money supply, reserve ratio of banks as well of exchange rate by the central bank of a country.

The interplay of the fiscal and monetary policies of an economy will determine the growth and stability of an economy. This implies that the mix of these policies in Nigeria, has not yielded the expected output that will place the country on the path of stability let alone sustainable development.

The reality of the presence of stagflation in Nigeria is evident in the poor performance of the country's economic indicators (economic growth, unemployment, inflation, poverty, exchange rate, etc). In the country, the most current economic growth statistic stood at 2.3% after running into recession in 2016 and 2020; poverty, 40%; unemployment, 33.3%; inflation, 28.9% inequality rated at 35.1 while exchange rate is N1580 to \$1 (reports of Jonathan Lain & Pape UTZ, 2023; Nation Bureau of Statistics, 2023; PWC, 2023). There is gross deficit in infrastructure and human capital development. These statistics are harvested in the face of enormous natural resource endowment in the country. It is a classical case of 'suffering in the midst of plenty'. They have compromised the overall economic development of the country with far reaching implications on the living conditions (wellbeing or welfare of) of the citizenry.

Just as political scientist could describe a failed state in terms of rampaging insecurity, absence of national consensus, etc.; economists described a failed economy as a composite function of Stagflation. The cumulative effect of stagflation is surely part of the potential threat or trigger of the wide scale insecurity or glaring unrest Nigeria is suffocating

from and, gasping for fresh air of peace and social stability.

Security problems like Boko Haram insurgency in the Northern East; banditry and kidnappings in the Northern West, north Central and parts of South West, the activities of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and oil bunkering, illegal refineries and bombing oil installations are cases in point of security problems that cannot be de-linked from poverty related contradictions.

Nigeria has since become the poverty capital of the world. It has continued to deny the country of its national pride. Worse still, poverty and insecurity have continued to cause countless lives in Nigeria more than even the fatality figures that were recorded during the 30 months (1967-1970) civil war!

In view of the bad economic situation in Nigeria, the rich are hamming and the poor are dying. Only a few privileged ones who have direct access to public resources or collateral to borrow that are relatively smiling, at least, in the short-run. Even the privileges these ones are enjoying will ultimately be translated into a trans-generational national or state financial liability for present and succeeding generations.

Our political culture is built on greed and sustained by prebendal political motivations. Unfortunately, any political culture that is built around these tendencies will have no regards for meritocracy. The reward system here is cash and carry with no due regards for objectivity at all. The reward system is nothing but illicit patronage. Character, competence and capacity which are the hallmark of credible Leadership have no place in a prebendal political equation or order such as the one we operate in Nigeria.

It is important to add that the present economic downturn in Nigeria is further compounded by

the reality of the post election hangover too. What post election hangover means is the effect of the extravagant expenses of the political class during electioneering campaigns. The huge monies spent during these campaigns will always trigger inflationary problems after the poll. Where hard currencies like the US dollars, pound sterling, Euros were used, exchange rate problems will be complicated. This is, perhaps, part of those potent explanations to the present Nigerian economic hemorrhage or diarrhea.

All said, it is sad to announce that the solution to these complex socio-economic problems cannot be immediate. There are no quick fixes. In the short run, palliatives or even social safety nets will be necessary but, ultimately, massive production to meet up with the shortfall in output in the country. No economy that is caught in the web of conspicuous consumption can come out of stagflation without rejigging and upgrading its productivity quotient!

Ordinarily, the current depreciation of the naira should attract patronage of local products in the international market. This is simple law of demand and supply. This demand-induced explanation in respect of trade advantage is not for a country that is deficient in productivity and, grossly dependent on importation to survive like Nigeria. For such an economy like ours, the current exchange rate disequilibrium is a serious challenge that requires frontal austerity measures. Our monetary policy regulators must look inward to regulate the exchange rate as an interim measure to adjust before relaxing the proposed exchange rate policy.

It is important to state that the sudden removal of fuel subsidy and the deregulation of the exchange rate at the same time without any provision for robust palliative arrangements to cushion the effect

of such decision on the citizens was ill-timed. Agreed, the successive subsidy regimes that have been in the country were more or less scams. Nigerians were not reaping the full benefits of the subsidy.

Perhaps some of the reasons Nigerians are suffering excessively have a lot to do with increasing debt servicing, increasing tax, especially, Value Added Tax (VAT) as well as the absence of price control in the system. Exposing the citizenry to a completely deregulated economic system without any robust security and safety (welfare) nets is a recipe for hardship and misery for the people. The adverse effect of these capitalist orientation is worst with fixed income earners who have to battle to survive under highly inflationary economic conditions.

It is important to note that the issues confronting the Nigerian economy are extraordinary ones which requires extraordinary solution. The application of mere economic laws and conventions may not work. Our policy makers will have to think outside the box to find solutions that will ameliorate the excruciating pains and frustrations the citizens are going through. No policy excuses will be excused, no plea for extended citizens' patience can be tolerated for too long. The resumption of hunger demonstrate across states is a clear warning sign that Nigerians are running out of patience. This is even so as the the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) issued fourteen (14) days ultimatum to the federal government to fix the economy.

These labour and trade unions - NLC and TUC must not be hypocritical in the push for solutions; the government must not indifferent in their response either. There has to be frontal political will to make this Nigeria work in all its ramifications; nothing matter anymore but to make this happen within the shortest possible time. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria and its citizens!



# Business & Economy

## FG to probe disCos over non-performance

THE Federal Government has declared recently that the power distribution companies will lose 50 per cent of their operating expenditures over non-performance after a careful probe.

It made this known through the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) at the 1st NESI Stakeholders Meeting of 2024 in Lagos, stressing that the individual performances of the Discos shall be examined on a case by case basis going forward.

Officially, Nigeria has 11 power distribution companies that supply electricity to over 12 million registered power users across the country.

The successor Discos were privatised in November 2013, alongside the power generation companies that produce the electricity supplied to the national grid.

The Transmission Company of Nigeria transmits the power produced by the Gencos to the Discos for onward distribution to users nationwide.

But the sector has been plagued by series of concerns, top among which is the issue of poor liquidity, and complains around the inability of Discos to make adequate financial remittances to the industry to guarantee power production.

But in series of posts on the power sector regulator's official X handle on Monday, it was stated that the Vice Chairman, NERC, Musiliu Useni, urged Discos to improve their performance or suffer consequence.

He was quoted as saying, "NERC will look at performance on a case by case basis. Sanctions and actions will not be the same. Ensure that you (Discos) improve your efficiency."

"If your efficiency is at the level expected, you will get your full OPEX (operating expenditure). If you don't perform, you will only get 50 per cent of your admin OPEX."

NERC, as the regulator of the power sector, has the power to approve the operating expenditures of Discos and other key operators in the industry, and it has been doing this over the years.

Speaking on the operationalisation of Ministries Departments and Agencies centralised billing platform, Useni told his audience that this was being handled by the finance ministry.

"A payment system was put in place for critical MDAs, with an agreement for the central settlement of their electricity consumption by the Ministry of Finance, which would have access to their meter readings," he stated.

He further noted that the



**Tinubu**

sector must be run sustainably in terms of payment obligations by various operators.

"We need to ensure that sustainable payment going forward is in place. Market rules are clear, but they don't envisage there would be tariff shortfall or subsidy," Useni stated.

The commission stated that the meeting was expected to provide strategic direction for the NESI, review compliance since the last meeting, and give licensees a platform to discuss issues.

Also speaking at the meeting, the Commissioner, Engineering, Performance and Monitoring, NERC, Chidi Ike, said the responsibilities of licensees in the NESI shall be examined.

"We are planning to organise a comprehensive workshop for licensees to examine their responsibilities. The workshop will cover the legal framework, grid code, HSE (health, safety and environment), and everything they need to know, following which there will be sanctions

for non-compliance," he stated.

He expressed worry over the construction of houses under transmission lines and warned Discos to desist from supplying such structures with power.

"You see swathes of communities under transmission lines. Discos supply power to them despite them being in clear contravention of the Right of Way of TCN. We are going to focus on those areas and make sure that Discos aren't going to benefit from any form of illegality," Ike stated.

On his part, the Assistant General Manager, Engineering, Performance and Monitoring, NERC, John Joseph, highlighted the leading cause of accidents during his presentation on the Health and Safety Performance of the NESI in 2022 and 2023.

"38 per cent of accidents in 2023 were caused by unsafe conditions. There are safety guidelines that should be followed but are jettisoned instead, leading to accidents," he stated.

## \$4.5bn in foreign reserves unaccounted for during COVID

THE sum of \$4.5 billion cannot be accounted for in Nigeria's Foreign Reserves between 2018 and 2019, an audit report of the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation (OAUFG) has revealed.

The infraction happened in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, under Godwin Emezie, former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), who is currently facing corruption charges.

The annual audit report details the expenditures and finances of the government's ministries, departments, and agencies within a financial year.

According to the report, Foreign Reserves, which stood at US\$42,594,842,852.75 in December 2018, decreased to US\$38,092,720,200.72 in 2019. By a simple calculation, US\$4,502,122,652.03 could

not be accounted for.

The infraction happened in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, under Godwin Emezie, former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), who is currently facing corruption charges.

Shaakaa Chira, the Auditor-General of the Federation, called on the CBN to provide justification for the 'missing funds' noting that CBN's ability to maintain a stable exchange rate is at risk.

"This violates Section 25 of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, 2007 mandating the Bank to endeavour to maintain external reserves at levels considered to be appropriate for the economy and the monetary system of Nigeria."

The report also revealed an 'unsubstantiated' decline of over \$8 billion in foreign reserves between 2019 and 2020. According to the

GOVERNOR Babagana Umara Zulum of Borno state recently in Bama distributed palliatives to vulnerable households in Bama to cushion the effect of hike in food prices in the country.

The governor also disbursed N5,000 cash to the vulnerable women after he paid homage to the Shehu of Bama, Alhaji Kyari Ibn Ibrahim Kyari Umar El Kanemi at his palace.

Speaking to newsmen after the food distribution exercise, he stated that 25,000 men benefitted as each man received 25kg of rice and 25kg bag of maize, while 45,000 women benefitted as each received a wrapper and ₦5,000 cash.

Zulum also said he will convene a stakeholders meeting in the state to tackle food crisis in the state as the situation is becoming alarming and worrisome.

He also thanked the federal government for their

## Hike in food prices: Zulum distributes food items



**Zulum**

continued support to the people and government of Borno state from the

beginning the insurgency to date.

## EU account for over 130,000 jobs in Nigeria

ACCORDING to a recent study by Commercium Africa, more than 230 European Union (EU) companies currently operating in Nigeria account for over 130,000 jobs in the country.

The study commissioned by the EU also showed that 42 per cent of the companies arrived in Nigeria in the last decade, underlining the country's economic potential and the increasing tempo of investment from the European Union in Nigeria's economy in recent years.

In addition to Nigeria being a major destination of choice for European investments, the EU is the country's largest trading partner by a wide margin, with notable balance of trade in favour of Nigeria, the new report showed.

It, for the first time, mapped out the presence of EU companies in Nigeria. It showed that EU companies invested over €2 billion in the Nigerian economy in the last fiscal year, reaching a turnover of about €4

billion during the period.

According to the report, four in every five or 80 per cent of the EU companies are headquartered in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, with manufacturing being the largest individual sector, accounting for 19 per cent of the over 230 firms.

European companies are also contributing to the pool of skills in the Nigerian economy, having provided 6,000 of their employees with professional training opportunities, the report stated.

Welcoming the findings, the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms. Samuela Isopi, hailed the footprints of EU businesses in the country.

Isopi said, "As we delve into the extensive presence and contributions of the EU companies in Nigeria, it becomes evident that the European Union's partnership with Nigeria goes beyond trade figures."

"Our commitment to Nigeria's growth is reflected in the investments, job opportunities, and economic contributions

made by the EU companies.

"This first mapping highlights the importance of our relationship and the potential for further collaboration in various sectors. We remain dedicated to working hand in hand with Nigeria for mutual prosperity."

President of the European Business Chamber Nigeria (EuroCham), Mr. Yann Gilbert, expressed delight with the findings of the study, which he described as impactful.

Gilbert said, "The results illustrate the substantial and consistent contribution of EU companies to the Nigerian economy over the years, underlining the important role played in fostering economic growth, job creation, human capital development, circular economy and innovation spread all over the Federal Republic of Nigeria."

He added, "Moreover, the results confirm the consistent strengthening of our bilateral ties, emphasising the positive collaborative spirit that defines EU-Nigeria relations."



**Gilbert**



## Business & Economy

# Climate change and future of water security

**Water security is the unavailability of quality water needed to sustain life, support economic activities, and fend off diseases or disasters. Every year, 1.4 million people die from a lack of access to clean water, sanitary conditions, and good hygiene, with developing countries accounting for almost 90% of these deaths. Although an average of 67% of the Nigerian population has access to a basic water supply, 30% of Nigerians living in the North do not have access to adequate sanitation and clean drinking water. ANGELICA UWAEZUOKE writes.**

UNICEF estimates that developing countries will need about 114 billion dollars annually to meet targets linked to Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) by 2030. Particularly in rural areas, a lot of families use the water from streams and rivers for household chores like cooking, washing and cleaning. Water bodies in industrial locations are contaminated by heavy metals and chemicals like lead, arsenic, and fluoride, as well as oil spills and non-biodegradable microplastics, endangering aquatic and human life.

Unsafe water can lead to diarrheal diseases, acute respiratory infections, protein-energy malnutrition, and health risks from pollutants and chemicals. In schools, hospitals, and public spaces, water is used to maintain hygiene and stop the spread of infections. Climate change worsens the incidence and mortality of vector-borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, and malnutrition, particularly in children, thereby reducing school attendance.

Declining water quality as a result of climate change, which has also increased the frequency and intensity of droughts, flooding, and extreme weather, Urbanisation, indiscriminate waste disposal, rapid population growth, and poor recycling practices make the dire situation worse. Some communities continue to practice open defecation because they either lack water or the resources to build a basic sewage disposal system. This poses a colossal problem



for their health and safety as it promotes the spread of intestinal worms that live in the soil, which are disease vectors, and autoinfection, which leads to an increase in the number of illnesses and expensive medical bills.

Lack of adequate water for farming and processing raw materials and the destruction of farms by floods and other

devastating climate events contribute to the scarcity of agricultural products, the high cost of food, and other locally manufactured commodities. The bipolar nature of this problem is such that desertification in northern regions and heat waves, wildfires, floods, and heavy storms in riverine areas are

posing a threat to food and livelihood.

Given that hydroelectric power plants provide a considerable amount of our electricity, producing energy will eventually suffer if precautions are not taken. Exploring alternative sources of electricity like solar, wind turbines, and biomass is imperative to prevent an unexpected blackout.

We may not have contributed much to climate change, yet its repercussions nevertheless affect us more severely. Strengthening health systems, clean and renewable energy grids, a circular economy for all UN member states, and cross-sectoral collaborations as prioritised in the COP28 Global Climate Action are integral to maintaining health standards in the face of water insecurity and other climate-related challenges.

Integrating and using WASH facilities in educational, health, and public facilities will certainly reduce the

transmission of infectious diseases and their death toll. Long-term public and private investments are required to enable the sector to withstand the risks imposed by climate change. For example, more boreholes should be drilled, irrigation systems and water recycling facilities should be designed, and trees should be planted in drought-prone areas.

The rainforest and swampy areas will benefit from good drainage systems, the protection of water bodies from contamination, a stop to deforestation, and the destruction of natural barriers against flooding and erosion. For us to achieve a secure and sustainable water resource profile by 2030, government agencies and ministries must monitor the implementation and coverage of these policies, establish a conservation fund, and address challenges swiftly.

**Angelica Uwaezuoke (MBBS; Nig) is a medical doctor, health business manager and climate advocate.**

***"Declining water quality as a result of climate change, which has also increased the frequency and intensity of droughts, flooding, and extreme weather, Urbanisation, indiscriminate waste disposal, rapid population growth, and poor recycling practices make the dire situation worse. Some communities continue to practice open defecation because they either lack water or the resources to build a basic sewage disposal system. This poses a colossal problem for their health and safety as it promotes the spread of intestinal worms that live in the soil, which are disease vectors, and autoinfection, which leads to an increase in the number of illnesses and expensive medical bills. Lack of adequate water for farming and processing raw materials and the destruction of farms by floods and other devastating climate events contribute to the scarcity of agricultural products, the high cost of food, and other locally manufactured commodities. The bipolar nature of this problem is such that desertification in northern regions and heat waves, wildfires, floods, and heavy storms in riverine areas are posing a threat to food and livelihood."***

## Politics

### Explain disbursement of N100bn PCNG fund - Senate

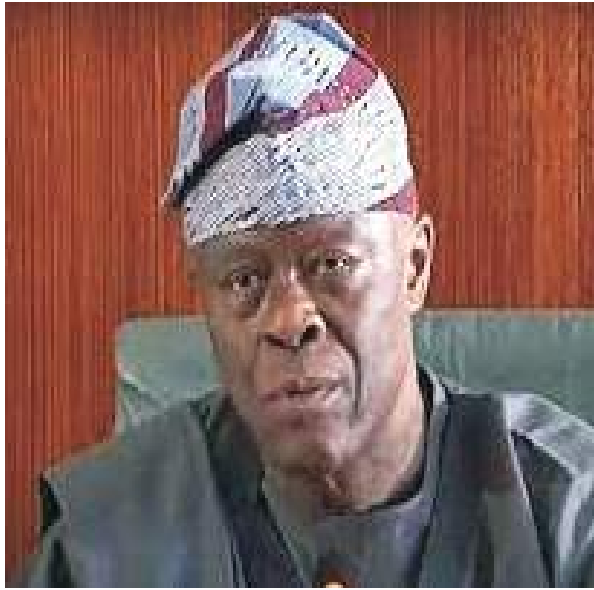
From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE Senate has given the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun seven days within which to give details of the award and disbursement of over N100 billion to companies engaged in the handling of the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas, PCNG, project allegedly done in breach of the public procurement Act 2017.

This is coming on the heels of fresh plan by the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas to release another 130 billion to the unspecified number of companies.

It alluded to ignoring an earlier warning by the gas committee, the minister was reminded that spending taxpayers money on the said gas infrastructure development projects without National Assembly approval would amount to extra budgetary expenditure and gross violation of the Public Procurement Act.

Chairman, Senate Committee on Gas Resources, Senator Jarigba Agom, (PDP Cross River North), in a letter asked the Finance Minister to forward to the committee, comprehensive records of the award and disbursement of over N100 million and list of companies engaged in the



Edun

handling of the project.

The committee had earlier commended President Bola Tinubu for the CNG initiatives but asked him to urgently send a supplementary budget to the National Assembly to cover such spending.

The committee, in the letter asking the Finance Minister to furnish it with details of the award and disbursement of the over N100 million sequel to a fresh petition by a group known as Good Governance and Transparency Front, which accused the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Presidential CNG Initiative of approving the disbursement of the funds to

panies without following due process and the public procurement Act 2007.

The group also in the letter to the committee, said PCNG had not made any progress, even with the disbursement of the N100 billion because the PCNG refused to engage experts in gas development in the execution of the project.

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE Senate has kicked against extractive operational model executed in Nigeria by Chevron, Exxon and other oil companies without manufacturing content as obtained in other countries.

The red chamber particularly, lamented that Chevron, apart from crude oil exploration in Saudi Arabia, was also manufacturing polypropylene, one of the waste products from gas, to produce syringes which fetched Saudi Arabia \$6 billion annually.

Chairman, Senate Committee on Local Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Senator Natasha Akpoti uduaghan (PDP Kogi central) while speaking at a meeting with management of the National Content Development and Monitoring Board in Abuja, noted that Exxon Oil does same in United States of America by making the country the third largest producer of polypropylene.

In the same vein, the

### Senate kicks against Nigeria turning to extractive zone

National Content Development and Monitoring Board has asked the committee to summon the oil companies for explanations on their extractive mode of operation without manufacturing content. Senator Uduaghan wondered why the same international oil companies exploring crude oil in Nigeria didn't go the extra mile of using waste products from crude oil to manufacture the needed products in the country. According to the chairman of the committee, the gap in the operational model of the international oil companies led to the collapse of the Jubilee Syringe plant in Bayelsa due to lack of the needed raw material (polypropylene).



Uduaghan

### Party chairman sponsors JAMB for 400 under-privileged

From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

NO fewer than 400 less privileged students aspiring to further their

education beyond secondary school level in Gombe State have been offered free JAMB forms to achieve their dreams.

A former state legislator and current chairman of the New Nigeria Peoples' Party (NNPP), Rambi Ibrahim Ayala, in conjunction with Rahab Azi Inspire Initiative, organised the enrollment of the aspiring students from Billiri and Balanga Local Government Areas.

According to Ayala, who is into mentoring, social influencing and philanthropy, it is another way of giving educational support to the less privileged in the society out of his numerous programmes.

He said, "We are giving free Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) forms to less privileged children who could not afford to buy it and this is in collaboration with Rahab Azi Inspire Initiative, an Abuja based NGO.

We will also monitor and ensure they get admission. We're desirous of giving them fully funded scholarships. This is just the beginning! We hope to have more by next year".

Rambi also said, "I came to the realisation

that hundreds of children with excellent results who would have loved to write JAMB, get admission into a tertiary institution, could not afford it because of the current biting economic hardship across the country.

"People are struggling to feed themselves, as such, most parents are not even thinking about the education of their children", he decried.

He said, having himself gone through poverty, he feels it should not become a limitation from attaining the highest level of education.

"I'm a testimony of someone from this community who has seen, tasted, touched poverty, but that didn't become a limitation to the height I've attained educationally.

"I rose from primary school to a PhD level and so I want to encourage other youths that poverty should not be a limitation to attaining the highest level of education. We want to inspire people to pursue education to whatever level, to better our society. It will also reduce social vices," he stated.

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Rahab Azi Inspire Initiative, Rahab Azi, told our correspondent that most of the recipients of the

free JAMB forms distribution are girls on the ratio of 60 to 40% in favour of the girls.

Few of the admission seekers who spoke to our correspondent expressed their joy over the development and immensely thanked Rambi Ayala for the intervention.

Debo Kabiru, 19 years, from Balanga and Kaladi Moses, 18 years from Billiri who both completed their secondary schools in 2023 with flying colours, said they had lost hope as regard writing the JAMB examination but for the timely intervention of Rambi Ayala.

They both told our correspondent that their parents could not afford the prices for the JAMB forms which goes between N6,500 and N7,000.

The event also witnessed a paper presentation by Dr. Mohammed Bello, History Department, Gombe State University (GSU), who encouraged the young men and women to pursue education. He spoke on the topic, "Educational Development in Gombe South, Problems and Prospects".

### Taraba by-election: Group lambasts CAN over interference

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

THE Concerned Mumuye Youth and the Mumuye Youth Cultural Development Association (MYCDA), has frowned at the role played by the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) during the recently held by-election for Jalingo/Yorro/Zing Federal Constituency.

The two groups barred their minds during a world press conference recently in Jalingo where they criticised CAN for double standards.

According to the spokesman of the group, Alison Lazere, CAN deliberately switched their support for Innocent Jabayang of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) for the PDP candidate, Sadiq Tafida after initially endorsing him.

The group therefore warned the association to "steer clear" of the February 14 re-run elections in some polling units.

The group stated: "The by-election had among the leading candidates, a hardworking and well-loved Mumuye son, Hon. Innocent Umar Jabayang (a candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP). In line with his competence,

capacity, and character, he became a household name in the constituency and the favorite for the seat.

This attracted the admiration and endorsement of several individuals, groups, and associations for him, typical is the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Taraba State Chapter. This became a great boost for his movement and we still appreciate them for that.

"A few hours to the election, a new twist dawned in which appeals were made to Hon. Innocent Umar Jabayang to step down as the candidate of the PDP. Sadly enough, CAN made such an appeal and when our candidate expressed his dissatisfaction with such a request, CAN unethically released a circular withdrawing their endorsement of Hon. Innocent Umar Jabayang and calling on all Christians to support the candidate of the PDP.

"From the foregoing, we condemn in strong terms the recent activities of CAN, especially in relation to the by-election in the state. We are passing a vote of no confidence on the current leadership of CAN in the state and calling on them to steer clear of any form of

interference before, during, and after the rerun election scheduled for Wednesday 14th February 2024.

They also appealed to Gov. Agbu Kefas to allow for a level playing ground during the polls.

The group added: "While we thank His Excellency, Governor Agbu Kefas for his continuous love for the Mumuye people, we urge him to stay true to the political marriage between the Jukun and Mumuye people while providing level grounds for the candidates in the rerun election. Let the will of the people prevail which will bring the development his Excellency desires for the state.

The group also pledged to resist any "any attempt to subvert the will of the people" and also called on the people to come out en masse and vote their candidate, Innocent Jabayang of the PDP.

But in his reaction to the allegation, the State CAN Chairman, Rev. Jerapye, in a harsh tone, took the group to the gutters. He said: "You can tell them to blame more than that my brother. I don't have time for them. Tell them they should speak all the nonsense they want to say

## Politics

### Citizen-led leadership accountability: Missing link in Nigeria's democracy

*In a comprehensive analysis of democratic leadership effectiveness, it becomes evident that two major components play a pivotal role in ensuring the success of a democratic system.*

Firstly, the presence of an informed electorate and electoral integrity through the vote is essential.

Secondly, the institution of a structured, efficient, and effective leadership accountability audit by citizens is crucial for maintaining a healthy democratic environment. Regrettably, Nigeria currently lacks the latter, leading to a significant democratic dysfunctionality within the nation.

The cornerstone of any democratic system is the presence of an informed electorate and the assurance of electoral integrity through fair and transparent voting processes. An informed electorate is one that is knowledgeable about the issues, policies, and candidates, enabling them to make educated decisions at the polls. Additionally, electoral integrity ensures that the electoral process is free from fraud, manipulation, or any form of malpractice, thereby upholding the true will of the people.

Beyond the electoral process, the institution of a structured, efficient, and effective leadership accountability audit by citizens is equally vital. This mechanism empowers the populace to hold their leaders accountable for their actions, decisions, and overall governance. A transparent and robust accountability audit serves as a checks-and-balance system, fostering trust between the government and the governed while promoting responsible leadership.

Despite the significance of citizen-led leadership accountability audit, Nigeria currently lacks this fundamental component in its democratic system. The absence of a structured mechanism for citizens to effectively audit the leadership has led to a notable dysfunctionality within the country's democratic governance. Without a clear process for citizen-led accountability, there is a risk of unchecked power, corruption, and a disconnect between the government and the people.

To address the prevalent democratic dysfunctionality in Nigeria, it is imperative to institute a robust and structured leadership accountability audit by citizens. By empowering the populace to actively participate in holding their leaders accountable, the nation can foster transparency, integrity, and responsible governance. Furthermore, the implementation of such a system can help bridge the existing gap between the government and the citizens, ultimately strengthening the democratic framework of the



country.

In conclusion, the effectiveness of democratic leadership hinges on an informed electorate and the

presence of a structured, efficient, and effective leadership accountability audit by citizens. While Nigeria has made strides in ensuring

electoral integrity, the absence of the latter component has contributed to the country's democratic dysfunctionality. By recognising the vital role of

citizen-led accountability, Nigeria can take significant steps towards fostering a more robust and resilient democratic system.

### Re-evaluating Nigeria's Monarchies: Imperative for reform, inclusion

*Recent events in Nigeria have illuminated the precarious state of traditional monarchies, with a spate of depositions by state governors that have highlighted their vulnerability to the whims of political power.*

This situation demands a comprehensive reassessment of the role of monarchy within Nigeria's socio-political landscape and calls for the establishment of legal frameworks that involve citizen involvement to safeguard these institutions' historical and cultural significance.

These traditional structures, which have served as symbols of unity and custodians of heritage for centuries, are integral to the fabric of Nigerian society and possess the potential to significantly contribute to national integration, security, and conflict resolution.

The unilateral deposition of monarchs, often driven by personal and political motives, has not only destabilized the affected communities but also called into question the legitimacy and continuity of cultural leadership. Such actions disregard the deep-seated connections between monarchs and their subjects, particularly in remote and ungoverned areas where traditional rulers provide essential governance and security functions. Nigerian monarchies, therefore, must be protected from executive caprice and realigned with the nation's governance and

developmental goals.

The challenge lies in reconciling the historical reverence for monarchs with the realities of modern governance and the need for a more democratic and inclusive approach to traditional leadership.

The current constitutional framework does not adequately protect traditional monarchies from political interference nor does it integrate them into the national governance structure. To address this, there must be a holistic approach that involves broad-based citizen consultation and the establishment of clear, transparent, and culturally respectful guidelines for the

selection, legislation, and abdication of traditional rulers.

Proposed reforms should include amending the constitution to provide explicit recognition and protection for traditional institutions, establishing legal guidelines that honor historical, traditional, and cultural practices in selecting monarchs, and defining the constitutional roles and responsibilities of traditional rulers. Additionally, strengthening the administrative and financial autonomy of traditional institutions would enhance their capacity to serve their communities effectively, and promoting the inclusion of

traditional rulers in formal governance structures would ensure their contributions to policymaking and national discourse are recognised and valued.

In conclusion, the recent challenges faced by Nigeria's monarchies necessitate a reexamination of their place within the nation's socio-political fabric. By embedding traditional institutions within a legal framework that promotes inclusivity, transparency, and cultural respect, Nigeria can protect these vital pillars of its heritage and ensure they continue to play a constructive role in the nation's governance and pursuit of national cohesion and peace.

THEWILL.

***"The current constitutional framework does not adequately protect traditional monarchies from political interference nor does it integrate them into the national governance structure. To address this, there must be a holistic approach that involves broad-based citizen consultation and the establishment of clear, transparent, and culturally respectful guidelines for the selection, legislation, and abdication of traditional rulers."***

# IMAGES

## MUTFWANG RECEIVES STABILIZATION FUND COMMITTEE, RMAFC

*Plateau State Executive Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang recently received on a courtesy call, Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) led by its vice chairperson, Hajiya Salamatu Bala, member of Stabilization Fund Committee at the new Government House Rayfield, Jos.*



**RMAFC, Vice Chairperson, Hajiya Salamatu Bala (standing) delivering the Committee remarks.**



**Governor Mutfwang responding to the message from RMAFC, while the Vice chairperson taking notes**



**SGS, Arc Samuel Nanchang Jatau (right) CoS Government House, Engr. Jeremiah Satmak and HoS, Barr. Rauta Dakok**



**Cross section of RMAFC members**



**State Accountant General, Permanent Secretary, Finance, Commissioner of Finance with other RMAFC members from Abuja**



**Governor Mutfwang exchanging greetings with Plateau State representative at RMAFC and others**



**Secretary to the State Government (right) flanked by the CoS Government House, Head of Service, Commissioner of Finance, Permanent Secretary and the State Accountant General**



**Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang (middle) with his Commissioners and team from RMAFC, Abuja**

Photos: DANLADI DUJK



Politics

# Dewan: Not too young to rule

*In the twilight months of year 2023, something dramatic took place in the state House of Assembly, an unexpected change of guards, which was hard for the All Progressives Congress to swallow became a reality, GM DUNGRIDI writes.*

IF anyone outside the precinct of the Assembly had thought Hon Gabriel K Dewan would be serving in the capacity of Speaker, most people would have expressed reservation.

The reason is not far-fetched, he is the only serving member of his party, Young Peoples Party (YPP) in the Assembly; it would have been next to impossible to expect him to lead the 10th Assembly after the resignation of the last occupant; Rt Hon Moses Thomas Sule of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in November 2023.

The Assembly does not work by emotions; there are rules that govern its operations. The majority in any democratic society always hold sway.

What happened with the election of Hon Gabriel K Dewan as Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly, given the climate of confusion and uncertainty that had engulfed the House is a case for political study.

His emergence as the Rt Hon Speaker of the House shot a number of people in the foot; as it was a masterstroke that no one had anticipated, thanks to the decision of his colleagues, who were aware that would help in the stability of the House, given that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was engaged in an all consuming legal battle with the APC at the Supreme Court.

That put paid to the political machinations of the opposition on the Peoples Democratic Party's strangle hold on the Assembly. The loss of All Progressives Congress was the gain of Dewan's Young Peoples Party (YPP).

If the All Progressives Congress did not like it, it changed the narrative and colour of what was being expected. The youth have not been given the chance to express themselves in any form as in this dispensation.

The vibrant young Speaker, Rt Hon Gabriel K Dewan took the gauntlet without a second thought, wearing the toga of responsibility for leadership bestowed on him by providence not to disappoint the state, his constituency and the youth to the office with equanimity.

For him, traversing the political landscape in just about three months has been filled with thorns and thistles, again, no thanks to the forces



Dewan

that see his emergence as the handiwork of the Peoples Democratic Party.

Those who stood on the sidelines to see him slip and be disgraced have since had a different thought about him, given his contributions in the last three months of his leadership of the Assembly.

Perhaps the government of the day may have been beating its chest for the choice of the Speaker of the state

House of Assembly. More accolades have continued to trail him on account of his cool headedness and penchant for what will build the state and its people.

Each statement and contributions from his office since his ascendancy to the exalted position has tilted

uniting Plateau State without reference to who was responsible for his emergence into becoming the Speaker.

Consider for instance, the statement he issued on January 12, 2024, when the Supreme Court was to deliver the verdict on the gubernatorial election in the state: The most interesting part of everything is that any decision arrived at, is in the interest of the state as the contending parties in the case are our brothers and sisters.

'The capacity to translate our vision into reality on the state

should not be compromised. I must be quick to add that whosoever is declared winner tomorrow, is in the interest of Plateau state and to the glory of God.

'My fellow compatriots, we should all assemble our arsenals in building a new Plateau of our dream- a dream that we are all responsible for. The future of the state is in our hands, remember too, our actions today is the manure to fertilise the state tomorrow. Every lover of the state will want a flourishing state'.

Solidly seen not to have disappointed younger persons have put a stamp of approval and rating to his leadership qualities, vowing to also be his major supporting base for the actualization of his political mandate.

This is not a mistake, given the degree of support the youth have given him. On a daily basis, he continues to receive frank recommendations, backings for the expansion of his political base in the state.

Already, some of the prayers on the lips of his constituents and even from outside are far reaching and revealing. Given his antecedence as a child of destiny, Rt Hon Gabriel K Dewan has the future laid laying before him.

It is for him to utilise the wisdom imbued in him and get the space occupied by himself

Dungridi is a political analyst, wrote in from Dungung, Kanke LGA.



NEWS

# Mutfwang suggests reviving hunting festivals

By PETER TITLE

GOVERNOR Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang of Plateau State has urged all traditional groups in the state to revive the age-old hunting festivals, which most tribes are known for, as an antidote to tackling insecurity bedeviling the state.

The governor made the call recently at the New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos, when the Pan Development Association (PDA), paid him a courtesy visit. He said reviving hunting activities would also help address the issues threatening the state's forests reserves.

The governor, who also acknowledged that the security issues confronting the state required more proactive measures from all stakeholders, called for cooperation and synergy by community development associations towards that regard.

"We must think of how to enhance the value of our lives in terms of security. I have directed all the local government chairmen to liaise with the traditional rulers. We must revive our hunting festivals.

"It is the hunting festivals that take us to all the forests. It is the hunting festivals that take us to the mountains, to the river beds, and if we don't do that, we will leave those territories for people to occupy.

"When we go hunting, people will know that the owners of the land are still there; so this is one area we need to think through strategically and see how every community can be part of this move, so as to take back their lands from insurgents.

"By the time one community is doing it, and joins forces with another community, we will be joining strength with strength, and I am sure that before long, we will be able to secure the land and make sure that people do not disturb us," Mutfwang said.

Also addressing the issue of Pandam Game Reserve as a harbinger of criminals, the governor said that the Federal Government was making arrangements to take over the property, though he was looking into its modalities.

"We are asking questions, we learned it was handed over to the Federal Government, they've written notes for a formal takeover, but I said before I do that, I want to know how the story began.

"I want to know what are the commitments that have been made in the past? We will investigate, we will re-evaluate, and if there is a need to ask the Federal Government further questions or make further commitments, be rest assured we will do so.

"So let me thank you sincerely for this visit, and I will like to assure you that the issues you have raised, we will continue to look at them and how to make sure that whatever needs to come out of Quan-Pan to add to the Plateau basket will not be neglected."



Mutfwang

On his part, Dr Naankang Garba, President of Pan Development Association (PDA), congratulated the governor over his victory at the polls and at the courts, saying the group had come to also present to him some issues confronting it.

"Today, we the Pan people gather in this hallowed hall of the Government House, to celebrate the triumph of democracy and the will of the people.

"It is with great pleasure and pride that we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you as the elected governor of Plateau State with resounding victory, affirmed by the

Supreme Court. "We are saddened by the recent loss of lives in the state. Our heart goes out to all those affected by these devastating events.

"As we mourn the lives cut short, may we also strive for a state where such senseless acts of violence are eradicated. We salute the strategies of the government to forestall future occurrences by equipping security agencies, but wish to solicit for more support in some areas," Garba said.

Our correspondent reports that some of the areas the association requested support included agriculture and water, road network, health,

## Rural roads construction to commence in Benue - Alia

IN keeping to his campaign promise to ease transportation of farm produce to urban centres, Governor Hyacinth Alia says his administration will soon embark on construction of rural roads in the state.

The governor disclosed this recently at Saint Gerald's Majella Cathedral, Katsina-Ala Local Government Area when he was speaking during a requiem mass in honour of one of the first class chiefs in the state, (Tor Sankera 1), Chief Abu King Shuluwa who passed away recently.

According to the governor, the 16 township roads initially approved have reached advanced stage with some already completed while others will fully be completed by April.

"Construction of rural roads would soon commence fully to ease transportation challenges faced by the people, especially

From TERESE TUHWA, Makurdi

farmers, in conveying their farm produce to the markets".

He disclosed further that the Makurdi-Gboko, Yandev-Ugbema-Katsina Ala, Yandev-Buruku crossing point and Kastina Ala-Wukari highways, have been captured in the 2024 budget of the federal government. And pointed out that his administration would continue to press on the Minister of Works, Senator Dave Umahi, to commence work on the road projects.

Governor Alia described late Chief Shuluwa, as a man of peace who made sacrifices and was able to impact many lives in different ways.

"He died with his boots on,



Alia

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

# Bauchi Governor commits N9bn to construct 4 roads

IN fulfillment of his campaign promises to provide dividends of democracy to rural communities, the state government has awarded a contract for the construction of 4 roads linking many communities in Bauchi Local Government Area of the state, worth over nine billion Naira.

During the groundbreaking ceremony to kickstart the construction of the roads at BRC Yelwa, Governor Bala Mohammed said his prioritisation of road construction and rehabilitation across the state, is a response to calls by various communities during his election campaigns, by communities that have suffered neglect over the years.

Our correspondent who covered the ceremony recently, reports that the targeted roads are 4.1km Sabon kaura-Birshi-BRC, 6km Zango-Gwallagan Mayaka-Dandango, 1.1km Bayara township road and 2.6 km Gwallameji-Rafin zurfi-Yolan Bayara Road.

Governor Bala Mohammed, further explained that the objective is to open up the



Bala

axis for community demographic development as well as to decongest the Bauchi metropolis and urbanization.

Worried over the security situation in the outskirts of the Bauchi metropolis, the governor attributed the trend to bad eggs, strangers who are visiting the state from neighboring states.

Bala Mohammed, used the opportunity to once again warn traditional rulers as well as community leaders to stand firm on the protection of their environment and report any suspicious activity to

the authority. He however, commended the communities for living in peace with one another despite the complexity of religion and tribal differences.

In a goodwill message, the state chairman, PDP Elders Forum, Alhaji Garba Muhammad Noma, commended the governor for his development initiatives in the state. He further appealed and advised him to consider the resuscitating the state dilapidated Industries and other state owned companies for job creation and economic development of the state.

canvassing for peace to reign and return to Sankera axis".

He called for careful and fair selection for replacement of first class and second class chiefs of the axis who passed on recently. He added that their choice would determine the success and development of the axis.

Governor Alia, who also warned against all illegal activities and security breaches in the axis, said he had promised to develop the state and make it conducive for the people and for ease of doing business, as such, he would not relent until his dream was achieved.

In his remark, the Tor Tiv, Prof James Iorzua Ayatse, called for

unity and prayers for a better state.

Represented by Tor Kwande, Chief Ambrose Iortyer, Professor Ayatse urged Benue citizens to respect all authorities and ensure that love prevails. He emphasized the need for integrity, transparency and due process in order to ensure that the right leaders were chosen.

In his eulogy, the Catholic Bishop of Katsina-Ala Diocese, Most Reverend Isaac Dugu, called on traditional leaders and other stakeholders from other local governments to join hands with those in Sankera axis to end banditry, kidnapping and other forms of criminality in the area.

The Cleric, while regretting the death of the late Tor Sankera, Chief Abu King Shuluwa and that of Ter Katsina Ala, late Chief Fezanga Wombo, urged Tor Tiv king makers and Governor Alia to ensure that those who will be selected to fill the vacant stools of Ter Katsina-Ala and Tor Sankera, are people of proven integrity and fear of God.

Other dignitaries who spoke at the burial were former Governor Gabriel Suswam, former and serving senators from the state, traditional rulers, family members as well as other well-wishers within and outside the state.

## EFCC arrests 3 over N1.3m currency racketeering

From JOHN FWAH Kaduna

THE Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has arrested three persons in connection with alleged racketeering of N1,307,400.

This was disclosed by the spokesperson for the EFCC, Dele Oyewale, in a statement recently.

The operative, the statement added, is a member of the Special Task Force set up for the enforcement of extant laws against currency mutilation and dollarisation of the economy by the EFCC Chairman, Ola Olukoyede, acted in a sting operation carried out by the team.

The statement explained, "The operation yielded the arrest of the three suspects selling new and old naira notes to the tune of

N1,307,400 and many Automated Teller Machine cards."

It said that the suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

A Special Task Force has been raised by the EFCC across its commands, against the backdrop of the falling naira as its operatives clamp down on individuals mutilating the Naira and dollarizing the Nigerian economy.

The spokesperson for the anti-graft agency, Oyewale, further revealed in a statement, that the EFCC had arrested some perpetrators issuing invoices in dollars and mutilating the Naira in Lagos and Rivers states.

He said that the EFCC has raised a Special Task Force in all its zonal commands for the enforcement of extant laws against currency mutilation and dollarization of the economy.

The statement explained that the task force, inaugurated by the Executive Chairman of the commission, Ola Olukoyede, was raised to protect the economy from abuses, leakages and distortions, exposing it to instability and disruption.

Already, it said that the commission has made some arrests of perpetrators of issuance of invoices in dollars and mutilation of the Naira in Lagos and Port Harcourt.

It noted that proprietors of private universities and other institutions of higher learning charging fees in dollars have been invited by the commission.

It said that the commission is committed to the enforcement of all laws in place for the reflation and stimulation of the economy.

News

# Mutfwang calls on Christians to unite

By PETER TITLE

THE Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, has urged Christians in Nigeria to unite beyond denominational boundaries and come together in selfless service to God.

He emphasized the importance of fervent prayers for the healing of the nation, urging Christians to always pray for the country and the leaders.

Governor Mutfwang made these remarks during a Sunday service worship at the Living Faith Church, Lokogoma, Abuja, where he engaged the congregation in a session of worship and praise songs.

Expressing gratitude to the religious leaders who supported him during his legal challenges, the governor thanked God for granting him victory.

He extended warm greetings to Bishop David Oyedepo, founder of the Living Faith Church Worldwide, acknowledging



Mutfwang

the prayers offered by Bishop Abioye during challenging times for Plateau State.

Governor Mutfwang emphasized the need for Christians to break down denominational barriers and recognize their unity in Christ,

stressing the importance of fellowship and collective worship.

Bishop David Abioye, the guest preacher at the church, delivered a sermon on "The Power of Settlement," drawing insights from Holy Scriptures.

## Organisation trains journalists on human rights

STALLION Times Media Services, over the weekend, trained 30 journalists in Kogi on human rights and social Inclusive reportage.

The workshop which was funded by MacArthur had engaged journalists selected from across print, electronic and social media platforms.

The Project Coordinator of the workshop, Isiyaku Ahmed, in his welcome address, enumerated the objectives of the training to include: To appreciate conditions for gender equality, social inclusion and development via giving the sector adequate

publicity and promotion as well as advocating for human rights and social inclusion through news coverage.

According to Isiyaku, "The Workshop is also aimed at instituting a dialogue mechanism on Collaborative Media engagement for development inclusion and accountability (CMedia) Project"

He expressed optimism that at the end of the training, participants would have been equipped with necessary knowledge, techniques and strategies for evoking abandoned human rights and social inclusion stories that were for a long time neglected.

"Journalists should at all times strive to do stories on gender equality and be crusaders of human rights through their professional social responsibility functions to the citizens," Isiyaku Ahmed admonished.

The Special Adviser to Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State, Ismail Isah while declaring the workshop open, commended Stallion Times Media for extending its services for the benefit of Kogi journalists. And described the gesture as a rare opportunity.

The Special Adviser gave an assurance that the training will no doubt enhance the capacity building of the participants to deliver on the reportage of human rights and social inclusion in the state.

He promised that the Kogi State Government under the leadership of Alhaji Ahmed Usman Ododo, will run an all inclusive governance that will involve both male and female folk as well as the elderly and the young citizens.

Highpoint of the training was lectures delivered by Dr. Theophilus Abba of the Daily Trust Foundation on "Gender Equality in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Prospects" as well as "Gender Based Violence Reporting".



Isiyaku



## Pain as part of our existence

Nigeria has a lot of existential challenges. Since the return to democracy, the country has grappled with so many of these challenges and it has shaped the experiences of leaders variously. We have struggled through the Niger Delta militancy to the demonstrations in the Western part of the country. Also, the Central part of Nigeria has not been spared the wrath of land grabbers nor has the North East and North Western Nigeria been free of the activities of insurgents who have revolted against the State first to protest against perceived injustices and later as a way of enforcing their religious beliefs.

In the midst of all these, the country has not been spared other equally devastating catastrophe. Fuel scarcity has remained a constant with the people. So too has been the challenge of insecurity. Our infrastructure are failing as our roads and other means of travels have become increasingly unsafe. The country seems to be on the precipice and something needs to be done fast to redeem it. We have been witnesses to the devastation done in other climes by nature but in our own case, we have been our own catastrophe.

We have demonstrated annoying lack of capacity to run our affairs even when we claim to have some of the best brains in the world. Our citizens are found everywhere in the world and in every profession yet we cannot translate what we give out there into tangibles at home. We compete with the best, yet we *japa* at any given opportunity and leave the country expecting

someone else to come and fix it for us. What can be done to redeem our self-inflicted curse?

There is need to change the process of our leadership recruitment process. Whoever wants to be given a leadership must be schooled in such a manner that he would see the country as first not minding where he comes from. Unless we remove our attachments to some of our primordial sentiments, we might not be able to build a strong and virile country. We must endeavour to demonstrate the Nigerianess in us by serving faithfully and being just and truthful in all we do.

Unless we begin to see ourselves as one people with shared destiny, we are not likely to move forward. When we reduce everything to our small localities, we will continue to be local champions. Our society is over ripe to start churning out leaders who can be trusted to deliver the goods. If we can only replicate the good things we see outside our shores at home, we will build beyond the imagination of our

**“ There is need to change the process of our leadership recruitment process. Whoever wants to be given a leadership must be schooled in such a manner that he would see the country as first not minding where he comes from. Unless we remove our attachments to some of our primordial sentiments, we might not be able to build a strong and virile country. We must endeavour to demonstrate the Nigerianess in us by serving faithfully and being just and truthful in all we do. ”**

detractors. And the opportunity to take charge of our destiny is here. In a few days, the Presidential and national assembly elections will be held. It is up to us to take up the guntlet and change the narratives. We have choices to make which would either mar or make our society. The choice is ours to make. If we want to repair our fractured society, here is the opportunity, if not it is all in our hands. We must look beyond our enclosures to find leaders who can work for the general good not those who would service themselves and their own.

We must resolve to end insurgency. Respect the mass who are the employers of the politicians and ensure they are held to account when they veer off the mark. No more region, no more religion, no more tribe and more who you know or don't know. All we need now is equal opportunities, capacity, ability and the drive to do that which is right. If we field the best in our society, we are sure to have quality results not what we have seen since the return to democracy in 1999 where rogues and loquacious characters have been occupying the political space and messing everyone else.

To be sure, it is time to take back Nigeria from those who have held it captive and are struggling to kill and bury it. That is unacceptable and should not be allowed to happen. We owe our children and those unborn the responsibility of leaving a virile and strong country for them given the kind of resources at our disposal. Like our singers have often said, *Nigeria go survive*, ours is to make sure that happens.

## News

# Water facility to provide 100 cubic meter hourly

By JIDAUNA DARING

MINISTER of Water Resources, Hon. Joseph Terlumun Utsev has said that the commissioned water project at Sabon Gida in Langtang South Local Government Area (LGA) has the capacity of providing 100 cubic meter per hour during its production.

Hon. Utsev who was represented by Engr. Bello Kassim stated this during the commissioning of the above mentioned water project, in Langtang South LGA of Plateau State, recently.

Hon. Utsev pointed out that the tank can deliver 800,000 litres of water per day and also have reservoir of 2,000 cubic litres. He explained that the facility consisted of a 2 number 60 cubic meter elevated tank with one located at Mubudi while the other one at Sabon Gida. He added that they have a transmission length of about 13 kilometers from the take up to distribution system.

Governor Celeb M. Mutfwang of Plateau State who was represented by the Commissioner for Water Resources and Energy, Hon. Engr. Noel Nkup during the Commissioning of the water facility project said that his administration remains committed to the yearning of the people of the state at all times.

Barrister Mutfwang thanked the Federal Ministry of Water Resources for coming to the aid of the locality after finding out from a son of the soil that the people of the area were facing many challenges as a result of acute shortage of safe drinking water.

He lauded the Federal Ministry of Water Resources for considering the benefiting communities out of the many requests from other communities on water issue across the country. And pointed out that the facility should be effectively utilized for the betterment of the people.

Governor Mutfwang told the benefiting communities that the commissioned facility has become their property. "If a single supply pipe is removed from this facility, it would render the whole facility ineffective. This is the main reason why you must guide against it jealously".

In her remarks, Transition Implementation Committee Chairman (ITC) Langtang South, LGC, Hon. Manji Dongfa appreciated the efforts of the Federal



Mutfwang

Ministry of Water Resources for partnership with the Plateau State Government and for also considering the plight of the people at the grassroots with such a facility.

Dongfa attributed the success of the handing over of the project to the probity placed by the leader of the time is now which is led by Barrister Mutfwang who was geared towards provision of safe drinking water this would also go a long way to increase the health needs of the people through constant availability of portable water to all in line with global best practices.

The chairman added that it was no doubt on this development that Governor Mutfwang allocated over fifteen billion Naira in 2024,

state budget for the water sub sector aimed at bettering the lives of the people.

Dongfa also warned that any member of the community found involved in the vandalization of the facility would be driven out of the community.

She assured Governor Mutfwang of her people resolve to remain committed to the philosophy of his administration.

Also in his remarks, His Royal Highness (HRH) the Ponzhi Byan, HRH. Clement D. Durven, commended both Federal and State Ministry of Water Resources for a project that has direct bearing on the lives of his subjects in the locality and promised protect the facility.

## NKFI gets full accreditation to run National Diploma

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Nigeria Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has granted full accreditation to all the programmes offered by Nigeria-Korea Friend Institute located in Lokota, Kogi State.

Rector of the institute, Williams Charles Oluwatoyin, disclosed this recently at the premises of the institute in Lokoja while briefing journalists on the new development.

He hinted that the programmes that benefited from the full accreditation for National Diploma Certificate are Computer Software Engineering, Welding and Fabrication, Network and System Security, Electrical/Electronic Engineering and NVC Automotive Mechatronics.

"When I resumed as the rector of this great institution, one of my vocal areas was to ensure that we achieved a full accreditation of all of our courses in all our departments. I was in shock

upon resumption to discover that the institute had not attained full accreditation even after over eight years of establishment.

"This situation had impeded the growth of the institution and was totally displeasing, hence we set out modalities to resolve this quagmire. You would also recall that between the 19th - 21th of December 2023, the delegation from the Nigeria Board for Technical Education were at our institution to carry out an accreditation exercise of all our programmes.

"Gentlemen of the press, we are so delighted to announce to you and the entire public that the Nigeria Board for Technical Education has granted full accreditation to all the programmes in our institution and the accreditation took effect from January 2024", he said.

While expressing gratitude to the immediate past governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Adoza Bello, for his

DIRECTOR General, Defense Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) Kaduna, Major General Aniedi Edet has promised to work in collaboration with the National Metallurgical Development Centre (NMDC) Jos, Particularly in the area of research.

Major Gen. Edet stated this during a one-day familiarization visit to NMDC Jos, on Monday.

He described the activities at the centre as very key to DICON when it comes to research and equally promised to sustain the collaboration work between DICON and NMDC for more effective productivity.

Major Gen. Edet commended both management and staff of NMDC for the good work that they were doing and urged them to sustain such tempo so as to continue moving the centre forward.

Earlier in his remarks, Director General/Chief Executive NMDC Jos, Engr Professor. Linus O. Asuquo, while giving the background of the Centre said that NMDC Jos was established in 1973 as a Testing Laboratory of the defunct Nigerian Steel Development Authority (NSDA) to specifically handle the analysis of raw materials for the then proposed state steel plants.

## DICON promises to collaborate with NMDC

By JIDAUNA DARING

Prof. Asuquo explained that the name NMDC was adopted in 1987, adding that the centre was given legal backing by Decree No.50 of 1992.

He added that the centre mission was to add value to minerals and metals through research and development while its vision was to be a global centre of excellence in mineral and Metals innovation.

He pointed out that NMDC has made immense contributions to the Nigerian economy through provision services to the mineral and metal sector. He added that the centre contributions range from conduct to routine tests and material identification services to major R&d projects.

Prof. Asuquo remarked that the centre has been offering its service to the benefit of the nation since inception. Some of the contributions of the centre include; research and development in minerals.

He maintained that NMDC has the capacity to offer comprehensive excellent and effective research and development services aimed at value addition to the vast

mineral material resources of Nigeria that would enhance both economic and technological growth of the nation.

According to him, the centre's role, as per its mandate is to offer the research and development inputs necessary for the full development of the mining and metal sector in Nigeria and to also offer its services to the West African subregion.

Prof. Asuquo said that having looked at the role of the centre it has become necessary to strengthen it in the area of infrastructure, equipment, training and funding of research projects to enable it to provide the necessary services for the development of the minerals and metal sectors for economic diversification, poverty alleviation, Jobs and wealth creation in line with renewed Hope Agenda of President Tinubu led administration in the country.

He disclosed that the centre is facing several challenges that are affecting the effective and efficient discharge of its duties adding that the most pressing challenges are: Funding research and development equipment, staff training/manpower development, overhead and power supply among others.

## DMCMA celebrates with retired staff

By FWENJI GO'AR

THE management and staff of the Plateau State Drugs and Medical Commodities Agency (DMCMA) turned out in their numbers to rejoice with, and celebrate one of its retired staff, Mrs Nora Naanniet Yalmi, on Saturday, February 10, at a special retirement Mass in St. Philips Catholic Church, Zazon.

In a goodwill message at the



Yalmi

reception, the Executive Secretary of the Plateau State DMCMA, Pharm. Fabian Y. Agwo, reiterated the need for individuals who find themselves in positions of influence to always strive to leave positive marks and legacies that would speak volumes to those who come after them.

Speaking through the Director, Research and Statistics of the agency, Pharm Lenka, Nenman Musa, the Executive Secretary, described Mrs Yalmi as a wonderful person who has contributed her quota to the agency in the short time she worked there.

He said she was always clear about what she wanted, and that there was never a dull moment with her. He rejoiced with her husband, Miskoom Hilary Homsuk Yalmi, and the rest of the family on this auspicious occasion.

"You have finished your phase of life as a civil servant well, and have entered another. And so, we at the agency wish you the very best life has to offer in this new phase you have entered.

On behalf of management and staff of the DMCMA, I wish you good health, prosperity, and a long and fulfilling life".

Agwo further assured her that she would always remain dear to the agency, and that she'll constantly be "remembered in our prayers."

In his message, Rev. Fr. Stephen Abisi, prayed that God would grant her a long life so that she can reap what she has sown. He said she served her nation well in her thirty five years (35) of service and that now is the time to rest from her labour.

He reminded her that age is not on her side as such, she should take time to rest and more importantly, to be spiritually up and doing, "Now is the time to be closer to your maker," he said.

Dr. Gilbert Yalmi, who spoke on behalf of the family, appreciated her for always being there for the family and also thanked everyone who made time to celebrate with them. He prayed that God would bless each one of them, and grant them journey mercies as they depart.

**Public Notice**

**DEATH NOTICE**

This is to notified the general public of the death of **DOMBING VICTOR VONGJEN** who died on 15th January, 2024 at Pajat, Langtang North, Plateau State. He was a staff of Plateau State Hospital Management Board.  
Signed: **NANKA VICTOR DOMBING**  
SON: NEXT -OF -KIN

**DEATH NOTICE**

This is to notified the general public of the death of **TIMKAT AMOS GUNTIM** who died on 29th July, 2023 at Pajat, Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. He was a staff of Plateau State Ministry of Work and Hosing, Jos.  
Signed: **TIMKAT JOHN AMOS**  
SON: NEXT -OF -KIN

**DEATH NOTICE**

This is to notified the general public of the death of **VONGVYAP RINDAP WAZHI**, who died on 9th June, 2023 at Jinan Hospital Langtang, Plateau State. He was a staff of Plateau State Ministry of Agriculture.  
Signed: **VONGVYAP DINTIM RINDAP**  
SON: NEXT -OF -KIN

**DEATH NOTICE**

This is to notified the general public of the death of **SELYA KAMDIP BABALE** who died on 22nd July, 2022 at Tim-Tali Park, Jos, Plateau State. He was a staff of Plateau State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Jos.  
Signed: **PONJUL KNOX BABALE**  
SON: NEXT -OF -KIN

**DEATH NOTICE**

This is to notified the general public of the death of **ALIKALI HABU PATRICK** who died on 24th April, 2023 at Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. He was a staff of Plateau State Ministry of Education, Jos.  
Signed: **HABU LOHNNAN**  
SON: NEXT -OF -KIN

**DEATH NOTICE**

This is to notified the general public of the death of **NANSOH DOMYIL LAFAT** who died on 30th July, 2022 at General Hospital Langtang, Plateau State. He was a staff of Plateau State Ministry of Education, Jos.  
Signed: **JULYANA NANSOH DOMYIL**  
Wife: NEXT -OF -KIN

**DEATH**

This is to notified the general public of the death of **MOYA NAPCWAT**, who died on 23rd November, 2022 at general Hospital Langtang, Plateau State. He was a staff of Plateau State Ministry of Education.  
Signed: **JULCIT VENDAM**  
Daughter: NEXT -OF -KIN

**Change of Name**

**LUKE**

I, formerly known as **ABLE BENJAMIN ADAKE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **LUKA ABLE BENJAMIN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**POLYCARP**

I, formerly known as **POLYCAPP ESTHER**, now wish to be known and addressed as **POLYCARP ESTHER ROVO**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**ABIGAIL**

I, formerly known as **ABIGAIL MIKE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABIGAIL MIKE ILIYA**. Date of Birth 10/4/1983 Not 15/12/1991. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**JUMMAI**

I, formerly known as **EMMANUEL JUMMAI ALITI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JUMMAI ALITI EMMANUEL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**RHODAPOMAK CENTER FOR EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT**

This is to inform the general public that the above named has Applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration Under Part 'F' of the Companies and Allied Matters ACT (CAMA) 2020

**BOARD TRUSTEES ARE:**

- 1. DAMCHER CHRISTOPHER EMMANUEL - Chairman
- 2. DRISU ANNE EMMANUEL - Secretary
- 3. IZANG ABUS IBRAHIM
- 4. UMAR FAROUK MUSA
- 5. PWAJOK DUNG GUD

**AIM AND OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To provide skills acquisitions and vocational training centers for women and youth empowerment.
- 2. To educate and create awareness for women and youths on their constitutional right and leadership skill for sustainable development.
- 3. To campaign against drugs abuse and violence against women in the community.
- 4. To support programmes targeted at improving the standard of education for orphans vulnerable children.

Any objection to this Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **CHAIRMAN**

**GARBA**

I, formerly known as **GAUBA SULEIMAN HAUSA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GARBA SULEIMAN HAUSA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

**DAWANG**

I, formerly known as **PETER DAWAM** now wish to be known and addressed as **DAWANG DANIEL GURUMDAT**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**ISAAC**

I, formerly known as **KENAM ISAAC**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ISAAC KYENBAM YILDICK**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**PAUL**

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

**SHEILA**

I, formerly known as **SHEILA HANNATU SAMUEL(MISS)**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SHEILA HANNATU EMMANUEL (MRS)**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**OFFIAELI**

I, formerly known as **SOLOMON CHUKWUEBUKA IKEH** now wish to be known and addressed as **OFFIAELI CHUKWUEBUKA JUSTIN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**ISA**

I formally known as **HAMISU HAJARA** now wish to be known and address as **ISA HAJARA DATONG**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**TUAMMEN**

I, formerly known as **TUAMMEN EMMANUEL SAL**, now wish to be known and addressed as **TUAMMEN EMMANUEL SHEPNAN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

**Public Notice**

The **KANKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL** is notifying the general public of two (2) corpse at the Pankshin General Hospital mortuary of unidentified persons who were involved in an accident along Amper - kwall - Kabwir Raod on the 10/06/2023 and 5/05/2023 respectively.

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, by this notice is calling on the general public whose relations are missing to contact **WASH DIRECTOR KANKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL** for identification and possible claims of the corpse within 3 weeks of this notice or else the local government council will disposed the corpse

Signed: **Director WASH**

**SPACE FOR SALE**

**AMEH**

I, formerly known as **EMEH ABEL KIKU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AMEH ABEL KIKU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

**MICHEAL**

I, formerly known as **MICHEAL JOANNA JULYA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MICHAEL JOANNA BINDIP**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

**MATHEW**

1. I formally known as **DOEWAM EZEKIEL** now wish to be known and address as **MATHEW ISAAC NAANWUMAH**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**PLANGKAT**

I, formerly known as **PLANGKAT PLANGAN RINDI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **PLANGKAT RINDI SHWARRET**. My correct date of birth is 3/11/1982. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

**DANBANA**

I, formerly known as **SELDIR DORIS DAUDA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANBANA DORIS DAUDA**. Correct date of birth is 5/11/2001. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

**NAANBAR**

I formally known as **SIMON NAANBAR** now wish to be known and address as **DAWAM NAANBAR SIMON**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**SOEMBOELOEP**

I formally known as **GOEWAM SOEMBOELEP** now wish to be known and address as **GOEWAM SOEMBOELOEP JOHN**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**YUNUSA**

I formerly known as **INUSA IBRAHIM NAJIB** now wish to be known and address as **YUNUSA NAJIB IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take

**NANTIP**

I formally known as **MATHEW NANTIP** now wish to be known and address as **NANTIP SELKAP**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**MUSA**

I formally known as **ADU ADAMU** now wish to be known and address as **MUSA ADAMU**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**LAWAL**

I formerly known as **HAWAN USAN** now wish to be known and address as **LAWAL USMAN MUHAMMAD**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**RECHEAL**

I formerly known as **RAHAB OBADIAH MASHAT** now wish to be known and address as **RACHEAL CHRISTOPHER SULE**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take

**PWAJOK**

I formally known as **PWAJOK KANGYANG GYANG**, now wish to be known and address as **PWAJOK ESTHER**. Correct date of birth is 4/2/1971 not 1/1/1971. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**AYALA**

I formally known as **AYALA AUTA**, now wish to be known and address as **AYALA LUKA BAWA**. Correct date of birth is 10/10/1990 not 02/05/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**RABI**

I formally known as **RABI SANI MUNIR**, now wish to be known and address as **RABI HALIU DANTORO**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

**SALIHU**

I formally known as **FARUK ASAMUU**, now wish to be known and address as **SALIHU ASMAUU**. All former documents remain valid. All concern authorities and the general public to take note

## Foreign News

### Protest over election delay postponed in Senegal

A protest march scheduled for Tuesday against Senegalese President Macky Sall's controversial move to delay this month's presidential poll to December has been postponed after authorities banned it, organisers said.

Elymane Haby Kane, one of the organisers of the march, told AFP news agency he received an official letter from local authorities in the capital, Dakar, that the march was banned as it could seriously hamper traffic.

"We will postpone the march because we want to remain within the law," said Malick Diop, coordinator of a collective that called the protest. "The march was banned. There's a problem with the route so we will change this."

Mobile internet coverage was also restricted, just as it had been on the day of the parliamentary vote.

"Due to the dissemination on social networks of several subversive hate messages that have already provoked violent demonstrations... mobile data is suspended this Tuesday 13 February," the Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications and Digital Energy said in a statement.

Sall's decision to push back the February 25 vote plunged Senegal into a crisis that saw clashes between protesters and police in which three people were killed.

The Aar Sunu Election (Let's Protect Our Election)

collective, which includes some 40 civil, religious and professional groups, had called for a rally in Dakar on Tuesday at 15:00 GMT.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has called on the government to restore the original election timetable. On Monday, ECOWAS chair, Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu, visited Sall to discuss the matter just days after an emergency session of foreign ministers within the bloc.

The chairman of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, has urged Senegal to resolve its "political dispute through consultation, understanding and dialogue".

Sall said he postponed the election because of a dispute between parliament and the Constitutional Council over potential candidates barred from running and over fears of a return to unrest seen in 2021 and 2023.

Parliament backed the suspension of the election until December 15, but only after security forces stormed the National Assembly and detained some opposition lawmakers.

The vote paved the way for Sall - whose second term was due to expire in April - to remain in office until his successor is installed, probably in 2025.

Senegal's opposition has decried the move as a "constitutional coup" and suspects it is part of a plan by the presidential camp to extend Sall's term in office,

despite him reiterating that he would not stand again.

Sall, who has been in power since 2012, is now seeking a way out of the turmoil.

Media have reported the possibility of a new dialogue with the opposition, including anti-establishment firebrand opposition leader Ousmane Sonko, who fought the state for more than two years before being imprisoned last year.

Some have suggested the possibility of an amnesty for Sonko, his imprisoned second-in-command Bassirou Diomaye Faye, and for people detained during unrest in 2021 and 2023.

The government has not commented on the reports.

Senegal's eight public universities began a two-day strike on Monday in protest against the death of a student during Friday's unrest in the northern city of Saint-Louis, the main higher education union said.

Human Rights Watch meanwhile said at least 271 people were arrested on Friday and Saturday.

Ex-Presidents Abdou Diouf and Abdoulaye Wade - the father of one of the disqualified candidates, Karim Wade - called on Sall to organise the "national dialogue he has announced, without delay", according to a letter sent to AFP and attributed to the former leaders. They also called on youths to "immediately end the violence".

### US House Speaker blasts aid deal for Israel, Ukraine

SPEAKER of the House Mike Johnson has criticised a proposed military aid package for US allies including Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan.

United States House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson has cast doubt on the fate of a \$95.3bn aid package for countries including Ukraine and Israel as the Senate voted to advance the legislation aimed at reassuring Washington's allies.

Johnson, the top Republican in the House, said the Senate had "failed to meet the moment" by not addressing security on the US-Mexico border, which he described as the "most pressing issue facing our country".

"The mandate of national security supplemental legislation was to secure America's own border before sending additional foreign aid around the world," Johnson said in a statement on Monday. "It is what the American people demand and deserve."

Johnson previously said that an earlier version of the bill would be "dead on arrival" as curbs it placed on unauthorised migration did not go far enough.

Last week, a majority of Senate Republicans voted to kill a bipartisan bill that included the most comprehensive immigration



Johnson

reforms in years amid opposition by former President Donald Trump, who has led his party to adopt more sceptical stances towards immigration and intervention overseas.

After stripping out the immigration provisions from the legislation, the Democratic-led Senate on Monday voted 66-33 to bring the military aid package closer to a final vote that could come as soon as Wednesday.

Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer said the deal reflected "our security, our

values, our democracy" and would be a "down payment for the survival of Western democracy and the survival of Western values".

"The entire world is going to remember what the Senate does in the next few days," Schumer said.

US President Joe Biden has urged Congress to quickly approve additional military aid for Ukraine, Israel and Asia Pacific allies including Taiwan.

Conservative Republicans in the House have resisted Biden's calls, insisting on measures to tackle "illegal" immigration at the southern border and questioning the need to continue support for Ukraine.

Senator JD Vance, an Ohio Republican, on Monday blasted the push to support Ukraine as a "fetish".

"There are some Republicans for whom Ukraine is the most important issue confronting the country," Vance said in an interview with former Trump adviser Steve Bannon.

"And I just say, even if you're pro Ukraine funding, and obviously I'm not, don't we have 10 more important issues confronting this nation, between the border problem, the debt problem? Why are we so obsessed with this?"



### PLATEAU STATE SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, JOS

#### EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANT POSITIONS IN PLATEAU STATE SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, JOS

Following the approval by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Plateau State, **Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang** to expand Residency Training in the fields of Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery and Pediatrics. Management of the Hospital hereby invite application from suitably qualified candidates to fill in the under mentioned vacant positions:

- a. Department of Surgery,**
  - i. General Surgeons
  - ii. ENT Surgeon
  - iii. Trauma/Orthopedic surgeon
  - iv. Ophthalmologist
  - v. Urological Surgeon
  - vi. Anaesthesiologist
- b. Department of Medicine.**
  - i. General Internist
  - ii. Cardiologist
  - iii. Endocrinologist
  - iv. Gastroenterologist
  - v. Neurologist
  - vi. Infectious Diseases Physician
- c. Pediatrics**
  - i. Neonatologist
  - ii. Infectious Disease Pediatrician
  - iii. Emergency Care Pediatrician
  - iv. Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist
  - v. General Pediatrician
- d. Obstetrics and Gynecology**
  - i. Urogynaecologist
  - ii. General Gynecologist
- e. Pathology**
  - i. Anatomic Pathologist
  - ii. Haematologist
  - iii. Clinical Microbiologist
  - iv. Chemical Pathologist
- f. Radiology**
  - i. Diagnostic Radiologist
  - ii. Interventional Radiologist

#### Support Services

- a. Rehabilitation Services**
  - i. Physiotherapist
  - ii. Speech Therapist

#### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Interested applicants must possess the following:

- a. Medical Consultants**
  - i. MBBS/Resgistrable with Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN)
  - ii. Fellowship of the National Post Graduate College of Nigeria/Fellowship of the West African College of Physicians or Surgeons/Any of its equivalent.
  - iii. NYSC Discharge/Exemption Certificate
  - iv. Post registration cognate working experience
- b. Physiotherapist**
  - i. Must obtained a Bachelor of Physiotherapy degree
  - ii. Licensed with Rehabilitation therapist Registration Board of Nigeria
  - iii. NYSC Discharge/Exemption Certificate
  - iv. Post registration cognate working experience
- c. Speech Therapist**
  - i. A degree from a recognized University in the relevant professional field
  - ii. NYSC Discharge/Exemption Certificate
  - iii. Post registration cognate experience

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants are to submit application letter, Curriculum Vitae and supporting documents, indicating the position applied for, addressed to the Chief Medical Director, Plateau State Specialist, Jos within six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

**PROF. CHRISTOPHER SABO YILGWAN**  
MBBS (JOS), Ph.d (Pub. Health), FWACP (Paed)  
Chief Medical Director

## Feature

# Of deforestation, illegal logging, and obsolete laws

Forests are last line of defense in mitigating climate change, epidemics and curbing the extinction of wildlife. KEHINDE OSASONA, in this piece, looks at the implication of illegal felling of trees and the position of laws. Kehinde Osasona writes

Traditional agricultural practices, overgrazing, poor land tenure system, wood consumption, logging for export, food crop production, are among the major causes of deforestation in Nigeria, according to experts.

Apart from disrupting the natural balance of ecosystems, deforestation also leads to loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, changes in the local climate and it also affects the local population by reducing access to clean water and increasing the risk of flooding and landslides.

According to the United Nations (UN), Nigeria has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world.

Before the COP 28, environmentalists in the country revealed a pressing concern about Nigeria's 4 per cent annual forest loss and the urgency to address the estimated daily felling of 1.5 million trees, which has contributed a 3.5 per cent deforestation rate annually.

Statistics by Mongabay revealed that 113,948 hectares of Nigeria's primary forest were lost to deforestation from 2002 to 2018 while 818,286 hectares of tree cover, planted by people, were destroyed during the same period.

As of 2018, tree covers in the country findings by Blueprint Weekend revealed stood at 10,326,662 hectares, 639,384 hectares short of the 10,966,046 hectares recorded in 2010.

The primary forest as of 2018 was 1,789,176 hectares; 80,004 short of 1,869,180 hectares accounted for in 2010.

Worried by the development, in 2016 the Minister of State for Environment, Ibrahim Jibril, during an International Environmental Roundtable for Africa disclosed that Nigeria loses 1.5 million trees daily due to logging, with a deforestation rate of 3.5 per cent annually considered the highest globally.

In another report, published in 2017 by the Environmental Investigation Agency, it was estimated that over 1.4 million illegal rosewood logs, popularly known as Koso, worth \$300 million were exported to China from Nigeria, in connivance with top government officials.

However, despite the alarming trend, many loggers in the country have not only continued to defy every known regulations and law, they have gone ahead to step up the illicit practice to the detriment of the environment and its inhabitants.

Any operator without a license is deemed to be carrying out illegal activities and may be arrested and tried in court.



Although the country is still battling on all fronts the menace of illegal logging and timber trafficking by transnational criminal gangs, obsolete and weak laws cum legislation, according to stakeholders, has not helped matters.

To this end, many have argued that existing forestry and wildlife laws in the country needed to be reviewed to meet contemporary demands towards addressing the spate of deforestation and conserve the ecosystem and in essence arrest large scale depletion of forest resources in the country.

In pursuant to Section 20 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the state is empowered to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria.

Demonstrating readiness a few years ago, the Kaduna state government unveiled a new forestry law.

At the unveiling ceremony, the Chairman, Task Force on Forest Protection, Anthony Kachiro, said the new law would replace

the old ones that had become obsolete.

Kachiro, who doubles as Director of Forest Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Development in the state, added that the bill, when it became law, would provide a proper legal backing to the state officials in terms of sanctions, fines and prosecution of those encroaching in the state forest reserves.

He assured that the move was in line with the international effort to tackle the effects of global warming and environmental hazard of desertification.

He said: "While the laws were being fine-tuned for proper enforcement, the state government had set up a task force with members drawn from the state timber and firewood dealers associations to tackle illegal felling of trees for local use and for business.

"There will be monitoring of those engaged in illegal felling of trees to make charcoal for business and proper sanctions would equally be applied on them to curtail their activities.

"We are working to ensure that for everyone tree that is cut down, at least three others are planted in the same area by the same person,"

Going forward, environmentalists, environment advocates, activists, and other stakeholders have renewed their calls for a massive tree planting campaign to replace the destroyed ones.

Not only that, they also mooted sensitisation activities to create awareness on the dangers associated with tree felling.

Speaking to *Blueprint Weekend*, in an exclusive interview, an Agro-Environmentalist, Madam Lizzy Igbine, described promulgation of new laws to protect the environment or review of existing laws as the only way out.

According to Igbine, a member of the Nigerian Women Agro-Allied Farmers, the laws should be such that if a tree was to be uprooted, an investigation must be carried out and approval made before such exercise is carried out.

"There should also be a monitoring group across the strata involving all stakeholders

to make it work," she added.

Also, speaking exclusively to our correspondent, an Environment Advocate, Mr. Lateef Ahmed, attributed loss of trees to physical activities like building of houses among others.

Proffering a way forward, Ahmed suggested that every builder must be made to plant three or more trees in replacement for the one removed during the building process.

Environmental experts have estimated that if a nation upholds deforestation and also plants new trees, it can earn \$4-12 billion.

Experts, also believe that if Nigeria enacts a law that proscribes felling of trees the nation could be added to the list of countries getting paid for keeping their forests.

There are countries that earn dollars under the REDD+ (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) funds, a UN-led mechanism project, by not cutting trees and saving carbon dioxide in forests.

# EYE'S WORLD

With PALANG KASMI

## Living

# The evolution of marriage proposal planning in Nigeria

From JESSICA OGIEVA

IF there is one thing we, as Nigerians, are going to do, it is have a good time! This attribute can be linked to our well-known Nigerian spirit of resilience. No matter what new set of challenges we're facing, we will make time to plan events and have a good time.

The event planning industry in Nigeria is one of the most extravagant in the world and a billion-dollar industry.

A notable part of the event planning industry closely linked to the wedding industry that has caught us by surprise in recent times is the marriage proposal industry. These two industries are intertwined. One is a benefactor of the other. Most times, the latter is a determinant as to whether there will be a wedding or not.

A marriage proposal is essentially a special moment where one partner is in a relationship and asks the other to marry them. It is an offer of marriage in a romantic gesture that often involves a ring, a heartfelt speech, and a memorable experience. This westernised practice and long-standing tradition of the man getting down on a bent knee in a fancy setup has seeped into our practices and influenced how we go about our proposals today.

This wasn't always the marriage proposal practice in Nigeria. Back in the day, proposals used to be a lot simpler. Couples got engaged purely by exchanging dialogue, nothing more. A simple question and a straightforward answer. For some, they had an arranged marriage from birth. They would skip the dialogue step and go straight to the formal introduction of both families. Proposals were more of a formal announcement than a romantic gesture.

Today, the rise of the wedding industry and the use of social media in Nigeria have fueled the demand for extravagant and memorable



proposal experiences.

Technology and social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube have provided a platform that reaches a wide audience. This has had a huge impact on the evolution of marriage proposals in Nigeria.

Younger generations, exposed to

Western influences through media, education, and travel, have redefined traditional notions of romance and courtship. As a result, there has been a gradual shift towards more elaborate, personalised, and creative proposal approaches that reflect individual preferences and aspirations.

Nigerian weddings influence proposal planners who emulate lavish decor, elegant attire, scenic locales, live entertainment, and gourmet dining. These planners cater to couples aspiring to craft unforgettable moments, employing professional photographers and videographers for their services.

Technology has also made it easier for couples to access proposal planners to plan and coordinate these elaborate proposals designed to sweep the prospective bride off her feet.

Over the last 4 years, Nigeria has witnessed a surge in extravagant proposals, largely influenced by social media. Expectations for surprise elements and partners' reactions drive individuals' desires for elaborate proposals orchestrated by the groom-to-be.

Couples are constantly coming across beautiful proposal videos and images online, sharing their engagement stories, and garnering likes, comments, and well-wishes from friends and followers.

This builds on the lady's

worthy proposal.

Proposal season is mainly between November and February. During this time, a lot of future proposers are overwhelmed by how to navigate their proposal journey.

They need a proposal planner, but in this part of the world, not many are aware of what they are called, if they exist, and where to find them. Little do they know that help is available, and there are people who have dedicated their careers to taking their proposal stress away and making it as seamless as possible.

Despite the embrace of modernity, some challenges persist in marriage proposal planning in Nigeria. Socio-economic disparities, cultural expectations, the availability of similar quality proposals as seen in popular cities and experienced in less popular ones, and family dynamics can complicate the process, especially for couples navigating interethnic or interreligious relationships.

Moreover, the pressure to meet societal standards of success and status can impact the scale and extravagance of proposals, leading to financial strain or unrealistic expectations. Balancing tradition with modernity, authenticity with extravagance, and familial expectations with individual desires presents a delicate balancing act for couples embarking on the journey of marriage proposal planning in Nigeria.

The proposal industry holds immense creative potential, yet remains largely untapped. Sensitization about the role of proposal planners in the event industry is crucial for societal recognition. With few certified planners, meeting the demand for innovative proposals nationwide requires expansion. As the industry evolves, its future appears dynamic and diverse.





# EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With PALANG KASMI

## Relationship

# Inspite of economic hardship, make valentine memorable

By ALAUSA-ISSA ZAINAB

THAT time of the year is here again! I know you're wondering how you will celebrate this year's Valentine amidst the economic situation in Nigeria. Don't burden yourself on what to do for your partner on Valentine's day. Making each other feel important is enough. Below is how you can make Valentine special.

### Pray for yourselves

Face each other and thank God for making you one. Appreciate the kindness God has used your spouse for in your life. Thank Him for the love you both share and for it to continue to flourish. You can do this in the morning before setting out for work.

### Prepare a special delicacy

On Valentine's day you can decide to prepare a meal you don't usually prepare. Make your spouse know you decided to mark Valentine with it. It could be fried rice, coconut rice with fried fish, meat or chicken. You can also try pasta – just make it exciting.

### A gift

Based on the economic situation in Nigeria, you don't have to go overboard with your gift. Well, if you can afford it why not. You can give your spouse a card, bracelet, wristwatch, flower, roll on or a perfume. What matters is the love that comes with it.

### Love song

Sing your favorite love song and dance to it. Look into each other's eyes; don't be shy with your partner. Talk silently into each other's ears and hug tightly.

### Text message

You can send a message to your spouse reiterating the



love you share. This can be after you've acknowledged each other before going to work. Sending a love message during the day will just make it sweeter.

All you have read are tips that can make Valentine pleasant for you and your

partner. Regardless of the economic situation in the country, you can still make each other happy.

### Try a classic dinner date:

Sometimes you don't have to think too hard about what you can do to celebrate this day. Some couples just like to have a romantic diner at a restaurant nearby and it's actually a great idea because there are no distractions. This year, you can add a new twist by trying a new restaurant or better yet, go to the one you've always loved.

### Spend the day with nature:

You might be looking for something that will help you connect and relax. There are so many ways to unwind together, but being in nature is one of the best options to try. Imagine being in a

peaceful location where you can relax and talk about the fond memories you have while the birds are chirping around you. So romantic. This idea is pocket friendly and doesn't require a lot of planning.

### Spruce up movie night:

Watching movies together is nothing new for most couples. It is something that probably happens every week, but since it's V-Day, you can make it extra special. Do something fun like ordering corny, matching Valentine's outfits and prepare some snacks. You can even put up some crazy themed decorations.

### Have a two people party:

What is better than partying with your bestie in the comfort of your home?

This is a plan you can try, especially if you are on a tight budget but still want to celebrate the love you have for each other in a fun way. You can buy some wine for the night, set up your favourite playlist and dance the night away until the sun comes up. If you are in a long distance relationship, you can still have a virtual party.

### Play couple games:

Playing spicy games together can also bring some humour and romance into your relationship for the day. There are lots of games to choose from so take time to research and explore some of the games you might enjoy as a couple. This will also rejuvenate the chemistry you have.



Editorial

**PHCN's excruciating overbilling**

RECENTLY, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) approved a new electricity tariff for the 11 distribution companies (DisCos) in the country with effect from last January. As a result of this development, the Federal Government also ensured that a new tariff to the tune of N1.6 trillion was facilitated for the year.

STATISTICS indicate that power distribution companies overbilled about 7.1 million unmetered electricity consumers between January and September 2023. Though the regulatory commission reportedly raked in over 105 billion as a result of overbilling, the pathetic disposition of the epileptic power supply in the country has continued to baffle many stakeholders.

IN the past few months, citizens have continued to groan as a result of anomalies by administrative ingenuity in the billing system. This development forced the Nigeria Electricity Commission to order commencement of refund through energy credit of all excess charges billed its customers as a result of direct consequences of adjustments in the estimated methodology in some of the companies' business units.

IT would be recalled that on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2015, the same commission issued Abuja Electricity Distribution Company(AEDC) notice of Enforcement Action over what it described as manifest and flagrant breaches of approved for estimated billing of electricity consumers. AEDC was investigated for alleged arbitrary imposition of random figures on clusters of its customers ranging from 18 to 28 percent and in some cases, 1,100 percent increase which resulted in spike in customers' bills as against the provision of the methodology of the Estimated Billing Regulations of 2012,

DESPITE some of these sanctions, AEDC has continued to fail in complying with NERC's regulation over issuance of outrageous and usually very high bills to its customers which have had devastating consequences on the citizens of this nation.

DESPITE this negative turnout of events, most consumers are yet to be informed of new guidelines on charges, supply interruptions, services which are rendered by the DisCo. In some cases, such unpleasant experiences are unabatedly recorded following slow growth in generation capacity, market deregulation process interference by the Federal Government. On the whole, though electricity is basically fundamental and inevitable to our nation, the inability of the regulating body to tackle this problem has left much to be desired.

ACCORDING to the Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill 2024, it seeks to address the development and environmental concerns of host communities and sets aside five percent of the actual annual operating expenditure of power generating companies (GENCOs) from the preceding year for the development of their respective host communities. For these set objectives to be achieved, stakeholders must tackle problems preventing stations from getting gas.

OBVIOUSLY; Nigeria at the moment generates about 80 percent of its electricity from gas while 20 percent comes from hydro. The political leadership and stakeholders must therefore ensure that the fight against corruption, which is overwhelming almost all lucrative sectors of our economy, is sustained to help overcome the challenges in our power sector.

IT is high time the issue of excruciating power billing is tackled once and for all for the benefit of the people of this country.

SOME legal scholars and International diplomacy experts have rightly noted that ECOWAS made an attempt with military incaution in Niger, Niger a member of the ECOWAS joined the regional block in year 1975 with is democracy on a snaky foundation resulting from coups and conflicts that have plagued the nation in its 63 years history.

The ECOWAS was established on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 1975 with the signing of the treaty of Lagos. The intention for a regional block and a vision is to promote economic and cultural interests. The continent as a single large trade the ECOWAS has position itself and reasserted the multiple approach to democratic cultures among its members states ranging from diplomatic mission to election, defense mission to peace keeping mission. ECOWAS has kept all options on the table including military action in the case of any undemocratic rule. ECOWAS Authority of Heads of States had suspended Burkina Faso as a result of the rise of illegitimate governments born out of coups that have been united in such nation and in some cases escalated into other member states. ECOWAS has no legality to take any military action premised on the sovereignty of states. A theory that presupposes that no other body or institution under the international system may interfere in the internal affairs of any other nation. Sadly,



**Restoring democratic principles among ECOWAS States**

we have seen that the same international system has created exceptions and history as ECOWAS has failed to present a regional framework to resolving crisis that could put regional peace and prosperity into effect. This emboldens the ECOWAS to threaten action against the military juntas.

However, we have seen quite an overwhelming support for the military Junta by the people of Niger Republic.

Also, ECOWAS must understand that it may oppose sanctions, deplore diplomats and emissaries to broker peace and restore democracy but must not plunge the rest of the region into war because it wants

to dance to the tune of the UN AU especially France, former colonial master of Niger.

In this case, the political drama in Niger is turning to a matter of concern while ECOWAS have tried to persuade the Juntas by resorting to using soft diplomatic measures like economic sanctions, border closures and cutting of Aid. However, a military action would be devastating not only to Niger but the region as a whole.

In like manner, examining relationship between member states shows that the union is not licensed to devastate political action or pathways in an insistent manner that precludes the sovereignty of the member state to decide their own fate.

International political and interest is at play by mounting pressure on Niger by the leader and the current ECOWAS chairperson launched a military expedition under the reign of ECOWAS to flush out an Anti-French, military Junta and install a pro-west so called democratic government format and reasoned itself from any military action except the protection of borders between Niger and member states Niger because, is bordered by Nigeria to the south Benin and Burkina Faso to the southwest, Mali to the west Chad to the East. Most of these neighbours have pledged their support for Niger in solidarity for military rule which for now is an abortion.

**By Emmanuel Ofili Isagbah, Department Mass Communication Plateau State Polytechnic Jos Campus.**

**Need to construct drainages in Tudun Wada**

PLEASE allow me space in your esteemed newspaper to express my grievances against the lack of water drainages in Tudun Wada area of Jos North LGA.

The condition of our roads require drainages in the area which because deplorable whenever rains, while running water carries dirt, waste especially leather bags and other sustains are released on the main road due to the lack of drainage.

These green flies and mosquitoes and other diseases. The stench from the drains causes unhealthy atmosphere. Above all, the problem causes, blockade while the heavy down pour is common in the locality. The people of the area are at the risk of being exposed to health hazards due to the absence of proper drainages which are often

accompanied by pollutants and Depris flowing into our rivers and causing long term damage to our ecosystem.

Due to the stagnant water in the area, one may find it difficult to walk freely due to mindsides large in our community whenever water and other substances pass through houses.

I therefore, wish to appeal to the government take decisive action to address this pressing issue we need comprehensive construction plan for a drainage system with a proper waste management to ensure that the area is safe.

**Dankuje, Joy Asheson, Department of Mass Communication, Federal University, Lafia.**

**Standard Cartoon**



## Opinion

# Why healthcare in Nigeria is unlikely to improve

**OBIKILI CHINEDU GEORGE**

**LAST** year, I paid close attention to the way the four leading presidential candidates addressed issues affecting health. It was quite clear that no one had a reasonable understanding of the problems in the health sector. We are ranked 203rd of 204 for life expectancy, 198th of 200 for maternal mortality, and 192nd of 193 for under-5 mortality, yet they all echoed the recurring theme that people think pouring more money into a poorly structured system will solve the problem.

My hope was that even though our candidates did not know what to do with health, they would at least be able to appoint someone with a good understanding of the sector. Thus, it was pleasant to see Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate appointed as the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare.

In November, he unrolled his health sector renewal plan, termed "business unusual." It is on account of this document, alongside other public interactions, that I decided to write this article.

Overall, I would say the renewal plan did not meet my expectations. I believe he has the intention to work and drive

change based on his experience and his understanding of the situation. The problem a lot of people who want to change these systems have is thinking that they can improve efficiency by merely being there.

The renewal plan was mostly a disease-oriented approach. It looked very nice with ambitious targets, but the strategies to achieve those targets did not pass the scrutiny test. The approach targeting disease is one that assesses specific concerns and then designs a system aimed at eradicating that problem. The paradoxical effect of such disease-oriented approaches is that they tend to weaken the health systems as the resources are pumped into that targeted disease, with human and physical resources focused on only a few things.

### Health financing

The renewal plan spoke about universal primary healthcare coverage through equity-driven decentralised facility financing. The aim of this is to reduce administrative costs by directly funding the facility and allowing them to utilise the funds under supervision. I do not see sustainability in this approach, as there is no specific programme to be implemented; rather, we should be looking at how to

ensure the sustainability of PHC.

Past ministers have spoken about and allocated resources for building PHCs or buying more equipment to enhance service readiness. This has repeatedly failed because no one thinks about the sustainability of the projects. In some states, there are PHCs in close proximity to each other: the older one is dilapidated and dysfunctional, and the newer one is semi-functional. This is because primary health care is not about buildings or equipment. It is about the availability of essential drugs and skilled personnel as well.

The focus, therefore, should be on understanding why the previously functional PHCs failed and finding ways to fix those problems. If I aim to eradicate polio, I can do a short-term programme, but if I want to improve health care in a community, it needs to be a long-term, sustainable plan.

### Health insurance coverage

The renewal plan mentioned briefly about improving health insurance coverage but did not highlight the way this insurance coverage will be expanded. This, I believe should have been on the front-burner as it is key to improving health coverage. If health financing is to be

decentralised, health insurance is the only way for it to be sustainable.

Currently health insurance covers mostly the formal sector and leaves out the informal sector which has the most vulnerable groups.

There are two key aspects here: how to get people into an insurance scheme and how to ensure accountability at the PHC level. For the first time, there have been numerous ideas on community health insurance systems, but the most beautiful I have heard was about harnessing technology. A proposed system looked at signing up voluntarily to a health insurance scheme using mobile phones or airtime. Discussions are being had on leveraging existing telecommunication and finance sector partnerships to improve health insurance coverage. With this same technology, harnessing cashless transactions with little to no access to cash can improve accountability. Thus, more people can get enrolled, and less money can be misappropriated.

### Health workforce/human resource for health

The reasons behind brain drain

and ways to reverse it weren't emphasised. Rather, there was a lot of emphasis on training and retraining community health extension workers (CHEWS) and CHIPs. This, I believe, is due to the disease-oriented approach to the entire plan. If I want to reduce the burden of TB, I can train community members on how to fill out a checklist to identify at-risk people and how to treat them. However, this does not solve the problem of community members having a urinary tract infection.

Medical training is long, tedious and expensive and task shifting can only go so far.

A close look at the reasons behind this exodus and efforts to mitigate it should be an important aspect of salvaging this sector. I have written previously about public-private partnerships, which can create more opportunities with competitive wages. This can also lead to significant revenue generation for the country.

Another thing I found surprising was conditional cash transfers, which have in the past simply been ways and means by which people looted resources. Accountability tends to be poor, and the N5000 stated hardly seemed impactful.

# We don't need more public universities

**OBIKILI CHINEDU GEORGE**

I never set out to discuss anything about our university system, or the state of our Ivory Towers, this week. A report I came across some few days ago, though published on the January 3, 2024 edition of a national daily, however, had a different plan for me.

It compelled me to devote today's column for our universities, especially those owned by the federal government. The newspaper report, titled, "Bill to Establish 47 new varsities scales second reading", observed that the number of federal-owned universities in Nigeria may hit 99 in the coming months.

This is because a bill to establish 47 new others has scaled through the second reading, at the National Assembly. "Some of the bills were either passed in the 9th Assembly but did not get the required concurrence at the Senate to scale through or were not signed by Mr President.

"When established, some of the institutions will include Universities of Science and Technology, Agriculture, Aviation, Medicals, and Engineering, among others," part the report stated.

Another news story noted that, "Between 2020 and 2023, a number of federal and state universities were created. In 2020, the federal government approved the take-off of two federal universities. In 2021, four federal universities were approved by the Muhammadu Buhari administration. In 2022, just one federal university was approved, according to data obtained from the National Universities Commission,

NUC.

"In 2023, shortly before the handover, Buhari approved the take-off of two federal universities. However, the administration of President Bola Tinubu announced the take-off of six new federal universities".

It is disturbing that our lawmakers are not in tune with the reality. Otherwise, they should have known better that despite our population boom, the country has more than enough public universities, complemented by hundreds of its private counterparts, to cater for the educational needs of citizens.

The problem with our public universities has to do with its dwindling fortunes, or better still, declining academic standards. The President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke, at a function last year, said the establishment of universities without a template for funding was one of the factors responsible for the falling standard of tertiary education in the country.

Stakeholders have also observed that poor infrastructure, inconsistent funding, restrictive rules, lack of research and brain drain, are factors hindering Nigerian universities from becoming globally competitive.

A newspaper editorial argued that the problems of Nigeria's university system are structural. "The dearth of qualified teachers has been well-documented. The 2012 Needs Assessment report prepared by the government detailed an underwhelming personnel deficiency.

"It noted that only 43 per cent of lecturers had PhDs, with 57 per cent having lower qualifications. This makes teaching and learning less

productive. But nothing has changed. It might even be worse. The report confirmed that just seven universities had up to 60 per cent of lecturers with PhDs; some had fewer than five professors.

"...Standard universities are not cheap to run. Most world-class universities boast a high concentration of talented teachers, researchers and students, sizable budgets and a combination of freedom, autonomy and leadership.

"It is argued that for most universities, the largest chunk of their income is dedicated to staff salaries and benefits (such as child care, health insurance and pensions). Also, a large chunk of spending is voted for research projects undertaken by academics and graduate students.

"Another large chunk of university budgets goes towards physical maintenance - including building repair and refurbishment, and investment in campus facilities such as libraries and sports centres. Any university that cannot meet these goals is nothing but a glorified secondary school," the article noted.

While Nigeria's university system is not yet in the league of its western counterpart, it is also not the 'mate' of several others in Africa, frankly speaking. The still much-talked-about undercover report by a Daily Nigerian investigative journalist, which exposed the decay in some African countries' university systems, somewhat 'upgraded' the status of our university education.

In the aftermath of the investigation, it was gathered that several higher institutions in Benin

Republic and Togo in particular, are nothing but degree mills, dishing out 'fake degree certificates' to those who wish to procure them fraudulently.

Let us now return to the issue of the NASS-induced proliferation of public universities in the country. It is imperative that we caution our NASS members, with penchant for individually sponsor bills, seeking the establishments of federal universities in their senatorial districts, federal constituencies and states.

Our federal legislators should start worrying over the declining standards of existing public universities across the country. In recent years, most of them find it difficult breaking into the league of the world's best 1,000 universities, in global tertiary institutions' rankings.

There is also an acute deficit of functional learning and research infrastructure in most public universities in the country. Adequate numbers of lecture halls and theatres, science laboratories, halls of residence and staff offices, among others, can only be found in our public universities established two, three and four decades ago, not those floated within the last decade.

Even at that, most of them have long seen better days. Our public universities, again, have also not been lucky with getting massive budgetary allocations to adequately fund their routine operations, hence, the dearth of critical facilities in our campuses and the lingering menace of industrial actions by lecturers.

Another consequence of the

degeneration of our public universities is the churning out of half-baked graduates, with little or zero employability skills. Gone are the years Nigerian graduates can stand and rob shoulders with their peers across the world. Nowadays, our labour market is saturated with degree holders, who cannot prove their mettle when offered job opportunities.

I have almost forgotten about brain drain, another cankerworm threatening the progress of our university system. With poor salaries and absence of basic welfare packages, Nigerian lecturers, particularly those in public tertiary institutions, have deserted the country for greener pasture abroad.

Besides, the funds needed for the take off of any tertiary institution is colossal, and the Nigerian government cannot guarantee that for the 47 proposed universities.

Therefore, it is only wise for the federal government to invest part of the country's limited financial resources to upgrading our existing public universities, instead of funding the ones our lawmakers are making a case for. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, particularly, and the NASS should take assiduous steps to better the fortunes of public universities in the country.

Through improved funding to enhance their academic standards, our universities will compete favourably with its peers across the world. Increasing their numbers, however, is not the way to go. It won't solve anything. Rather, it will only compound the existing problems affecting our public university system.

**Mahmud, Deputy Editor of PRNigeria, writes via: babasalam1989@gmail.com.**

# Change of Name

<p><b>JULIET</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JULIET ROTMWA WAMBUTDA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JULIET JONATHAN KASSEM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>PEACE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PEACE ROTJIMWA GOKE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS PEACE ROTJIMWA BADUNG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>ESTHER</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ESTHER TSOHO, ESTHER ALU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ESTHER ONWURAH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANDUL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANDUL SELCHUM SHEHU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANDUL SELCHUM FAMAN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>BARAU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BARAU YOHANNA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BARAU YOHANNA ILIYA</b>. Date of birth is 05/02/1976 not 30/11/1997.. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>SHIPRAH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SHIPRAH WAZIRI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SHIPRAH KARIMU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>KYAUTA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KYAUTA BITRUS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KYAUTA GENESIS JAMES</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LUCKY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>OFOFO BLESSING LUCKY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LUCKY BLESSING</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMAD MARIYA SABO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD MARIYA SABIU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>GAMBO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GAMBO SALAMATU GAMBO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GAMBO SALAMATU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>YUSUF</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YUSUF YUSUF ZAKARI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YUSUF YUSUF ZAKARIYYA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>JAPARI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>W/INSPR JAPARI INDAPTIL MAMZA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>W/INSPR JAPARI DANLADI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>DARUGHUM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DARUGHUM ABIGAIL YUSUF</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DARUGHUM ABIGAIL ROBERT</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>GAIDA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GAIDA YOHANNA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GAIDA YOHANNA DIMBAI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>BARNABAS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>TITUS BARNABAS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BARNABASTITUS DAN TARO</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>BULUS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PRECIOUS PLANKAT</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BULUS THANKGOD KOPWAI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>RABIU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>RABIU UMAR SHUAIBU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RABIU MUHAMMAD UMAR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>JOSEPH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JOSEPH ASUKWA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOSEPH ETIM NYONG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>MUHAMMED</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMED YUSUF SAMBO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMED JIBRIN YUSUF</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>PHILIP</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PHILIP SALTIFAT AMBURUM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PHILIP SALTIFAT</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMAD AISHATU JAMILU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD AISHA JAMEEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ANNA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KUMBISH ANNA PHILIBUS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ANNA PHILIP</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>YILKUR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YILKUR NANCHANG PETER</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YILKUR NANCHANG KATKUR</b>. Correct date of birth is 04/08/1988 not 21/04/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MIFTAHUDEEN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MUHAMMAD AUWWAL IMAM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MIFTAHUDEEN MUHAMMAD HAWAL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>MOSES</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MOSES MARY SHEHU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MOSES MARY NIARI</b>. Correct date of birth is 21/1/2003 not 1/1/2003. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MILDRED SUNDAY ALAKU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SUNDAY MILDRED NANBAM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>ADELABU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SANDRA OMOYE GIWA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ADELABU SANDRA GIWA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>AGUNBIADE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AGUNBIADE SAMSON OJO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AGUNBIADE SAMSON OLANIYI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>KUDU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KUDU GABRIEL ILLIYA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KUDU GABRIEL ILIYA</b>. Correct date of birth is 20/12/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>BEYOLLA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DEKOM GOKIR SUNDAY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BEYOLLA SUNDAY GOKIR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>AKINLOSOTU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MISS O MOSUWA WEMIMO VICTORIA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS AKINLOSOTU OLUWAWEMIMO VICTORIA</b>. All former documents remain valid. Access Bank PLC and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>AMARACHI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AMARACHI PRISCILLA PETER</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AMARACHI PRISCA UDEH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MANCHA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JOK, SIMON MANCHA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MANCHA SIMON JOK</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>LATU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DIDAMS BEATRICE BALIAT</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LATU BEATRICE BALIAT</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>JOSEPH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MICHAEL PAM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOSEPH PSM GYSNG</b>. Correct date of birth is 20/11/1997 not 10/01/9519. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>NIMYEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABEL NIMYEL MICHEAL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NIMYEL ABEL BINDANG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>CHIOMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>CHIOMA HELEMA JHIOMA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>CHIOMA HELENA KENECHUKWU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>TIMKAT</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANKO LAR</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>TIMKAT NIMKONG KUMKUR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>EMMANUEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>OGUCHE MATHW EMMANUEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EMMANUEL CLEMENT</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>BARDE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BARDE IRMIYA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BARDE IRMIYA SANDUR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>JODHUA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JOSHUA ISAAC AJAGBE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OLA JOSHUA ISAAC</b>. Correct date of birth is 12/04/1989 not 12/04/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>JONGE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BITRUS JOY</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JONGE JOY BITRUS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>ZHOWI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ZHOWI FRANCIS NDAMEN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ZHOWI PERPETUAL NDAMEN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUHAMMAD</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ALHAJI DAYABU MOHAMMED</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MUHAMMAD DAYYABU MUSA</b>. Correct date of birth is 4/01/1963 not 12/01/1966. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>JOHN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JOHN LAZARUS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JOHN LAZARUS GWINDAH</b>. Correct date of birth is 27/03/1995 not 27/03/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>SELNAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SELNAN AMOS FANZHI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SELNAN DOMNAN NANSHAL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>YAKUBU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YAKUBU EVELYN HUDUNG</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YAKUBU HUDUNG AYUBA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>SALIS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SALISU JAFAR NAZIFU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SALIS NAZIRU JAFAR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>DAPYEH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LINUS REKE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DAPYEH, REKE LINUS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AMAH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AMAH JOHN AMAH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AMAH JOHN IKEDINA CHUKWU</b>. Correct date of birth is 21/11/2002 not 21 May 1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>DANIEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DANIEL AUGUSTINE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANIEL AMAMA KIKU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ABDULLAHI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABDULLAHI MUAIMUNA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ABDULLAHI MAIMUNA</b>. Correct date of birth is 18/8/1967 not 1/1/1940. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MUSA</b></p> <p>I, <b>MUSA MANSUR MUHAMMED</b>, wish to state that my correct date of birth is 21/11/2003 not 21/11/1993. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANNYI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANNYI JAMES</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANNYI NANYAK BINGANG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>SELNAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LAMDA MAKCIT DANJUMA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SELNAN MAKCIT JEMDA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>EUNICE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BENJAMIN EUNICE BARDE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EUNICE ADESIYUN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>ABIGAIL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ABIGAIL SELZING PENNAP</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS ABIGAIL SELZING PENNAP</b>. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, all concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>STEPHEN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DORCAS YAKUBU BELLO</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>STEPHEN DORCAS MARCUS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>OGUNWUYI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PAUL EZEKIEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OGUNWUYI PAUL EZEKIEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AFEMIKHE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PIUS JUSTINA ALOAYE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AFEMIKHE JUSTINA ALOAYE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

# News

## BBC Hausa journalist appointed DG GMC

**From WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

GOMBE State Governor, Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, has approved the appointment of a journalist with the Hausa Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Ibrahim Isa, as the Director General of the Gombe State Media Corporation (GMC).

The Secretary to the State Government, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar Njodi, who conveyed the governor's approval, said Ibrahim Isa's appointment, which takes immediate effect, was based on his outstanding personal qualities and extensive experience in the field. Ibrahim Isa, who has spent over two decades of his journalism profession in service to the public, is expected to bring his expertise to his new role, having excelled as a reporter, producer, newsreader, TV host and media manager.

A release made available to our correspondent by Ismaila Uba Misili, Director-General, Press Affairs, Government House Gombe, said Ibrahim is also expected to bring a fresh perspective and



**Yahaya**

innovative ideas to the effect. He said the decision, which was conveyed by dynamic and vibrant the SSG, was grounded on media environment. Dr. Mohammed's outstanding achievements, equally expressed exceptional commitment and effectiveness demonstrated within the short period since he was first appointed SSA.

According to Ismaila Uba, Governor Inuwa expressed confidence that Ibrahim Isa's leadership will contribute to GMC's growth and make it serve the public better with accurate and timely information. In the same vein, Ismaila Uba said the governor has approved the elevation of Dr. Mohammed's partnership drive and Mohammed from the position of Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on support from various Development Partners to contribute to the overall progress and well-being of Gombe State.

He said the decision, which was conveyed by dynamic and vibrant the SSG, was grounded on media environment. Dr. Mohammed's outstanding achievements, equally expressed exceptional commitment and effectiveness demonstrated within the short period since he was first appointed SSA. He stated also that Governor Yahaya expressed confidence that Dr. Mohammed's elevation to the position of Special Adviser will further enhance the state's partnership drive and bolster its efforts in attracting resources and support from various development entities to contribute to the overall progress and well-being of Gombe State.

**From ANENE AIKE, Sokoto**

THE Sokoto State council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists is set to organize a public lecture meant to immortalize Alhaji Shehu Aliyu Laraba Shagari, the ex-president of the Second Republic, Nigeria.

The State Chairman of NUJ, Comrade Dalhatu Abdullahi Safiyal Magori, tabled this during the union's Extraordinary Special Congress meeting at the Press Center, Zuru Road, Sokoto.

He said the union, after consultation with various stakeholders, decided to organize a memorial in honour of the first Executive President of the Second Republic, late Shagari scheduled to take place on the 25th of February 2024.

He stated that the 25th of February is the birthday of the late Shehu Usman Aliyu Laraba Shagari (Turakin Sokoto) and the union wants to use this rare

## Sokoto NUJ to immortalize ex-President Shagari

opportunity to immortalize collective goals".

his name by organizing a Late former President maiden edition of "Shehu Shehu Shagari is one of the Shagari Memorial Lecture. very few leaders of Nigeria

The congress agreed that who was never found the event would run wanting during his tenure. concurrently with two other The union had since side events that would inaugurated a committee include fundraising for the and sub-committees for the promotion of the former successful conduct of the president's legacies, first Shehu Shagari documentation of his memorial lecture in the political works for the benefit state.

Invitations to prominent persons across the country to the former Military to serve as either Special Governor of northwestern Guest of honour, Guest state, Late Usman Faruk who Speakers, Guest Lecturers donated his building in 1992. or Chief Launchers at the event, have already been to the NUJ.

According to the chairman, forwarded. People in these "Our task now is to agree and categories include Alhaji come to terms with the Tanko Yakasai, The former conduct of the event and if Governor of Jigawa State, the congress adopts the Alhaji Sule Lamido, the planned memorial lecture, former Governor of Niger we will go ahead to State, Babangida Aliyu and inaugurate the various immediate past Chief of committes that would assist Army Staff, Lt General in achieving the union's Faruk Yahaya.

## MURIC inaugurates new executives

**BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

PLATEAU State Chapter of the Muslims Rights Concern (MURIC), has inaugurated its new executive council to oversee the affairs of the organisation.

The aim of the organisation is to fight for the rights, respect, freedom of Muslims, and ensure fair hearing to all Muslim Umma.

The occasion which took place at the Asar-UD-Deen Society, Central Mosque in Jos, the Plateau State capital, recently, saw great Islamic clerics, affected by insecurity in Mangu women, youths and other heads and Bokkos Local Government of Civil Society Organisations Areas.

He therefore called on all Muslims Umma in the country to support by contributing towards cushioning the hardship being faced by them. "Our people have been denied the right to expression and government relief materials. They are really suffering! I want to commend women who seriously take this bold step".

On her part, the State Vice Chairman of MURIC, Hajiya Maryam Maidunama, who spoke on behalf of the inaugurated executive members, thanked Allah for giving them the opportunity to serve in respective capacities and prayed that He would see them to the end.

While presenting a Lecture at the occasion, the State Chairman of Muslim Lawyers Association of Nigeria (MULAN), Barr. Sani Abdul'aziz, who spoke on a topic: "Fundamental Human Right" said there were constitutional rights that protect citizens, but people have failed victims because of ignorance.

Also delivering his lecture on the topic: "The Right of the Masses on the Leadership: The Islamic Perspective", the Chief Imam of University of Jos, Dr. Yusuf Abubakar Yusuf, represented by Sheikh Nazeefi Yunus, expressed concerns that most of the breakdowns of law were engineered by some government officials.

He however, challenged MURIC to serve as an intermediary between government and the Muslim Umma, as well as citizens of Plateau State, so that there should be fair distribution of resources and appointments.

Meanwhile, an elder, Engr. Mansir Saliyu Nakande, urged people to differentiate religion from politics because it could be admitted only when it works for one area.

## Ododo mourns deceased monarch

**From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja**

GOVERNOR Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State has expressed shock over the death of the Ohindase of Okengwe, His Royal Highness, Pa Stephen Bamidele Bello, who died at the age of 79 in the early hours of Thursday.

In his condolence message to the people of Okengwe and the entire Epira Area Traditional Council under the leadership of the Ohinoyi of Epira land, His Royal Majesty, Alhaji (Dr) Ahmed Tijani Anaje,

Governor Ododo described the late Ohindase as a bastion of Epira tradition who will be missed by all Epira sons and daughters at home and in the diaspora.

The Governor recalled that the late Ohindase, His Royal Highness, Pa Stephen Bello, ascended the throne of his forefathers at an auspicious time in the history of Epira land and brought stability, statesmanship and deep understanding of the tradition of the people to bear on the Ohindase stool.

According to Governor Ododo:

"The late Ohindase of Okengwe was a statesman with deep understanding of the culture and tradition of Epira people.

"His mastery of the ways of his forefathers, brought about stability and conferred respect on the stool of Ohindase of Okengwe over the years.

"I condole with the Ohinoyi of Epira land, His Royal Majesty. Alhaji

Ahmed Tijani Anaje, the Epira Area Traditional Council, the entire Epira people and pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of His Royal Highness, Pa Stephen Bello, the late Ohindase of Okengwe."

Born on the 8th of August, 1948, His Royal Highness, Pa Stephen Bamidele Bello, reigned as the Ohindase of Okengwe for 47 years from January 12, 1977 to February 7, 2024.

## Tackle Nigeria's insecurity issues head-on

**From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

THE Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria CSN, has urged the Federal Government to tackle decisive actions against the country's escalating insecurity issues.

These are parts of the resolutions reached at a meeting held at the CSN headquarters in Abuja.

The meeting also expressed concern over national security, corruption and the critical role of family in societal values.

Secretary General of the CSN Rev. Fr. Zacharias Samjumi made a fervent appeal to government officials, urging them to fulfill their duties in securing the nation. He emphasized the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria's numerous communiques beseeching the government act.



**Samjumi**

In poignant woes, the Rev Fr. highlighted the intrinsic link between the health of family units and the state of the nation. Addressing issues within the church itself, Rev, Fr. Samjumi

acknowledged the challenges posed by irregular communions and emphasized the need for ongoing dialogue to bridge divisions and promote inclusivity.



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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
<b>MUSA JOSEPH (Also known) as JOSEPH EMBE MUSA</b> , late of Plateau, died on the 5th July, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>CHINDA JOSEPH</b> of MTC Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>EJA ANACLETUS ALU</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 17th June, 2016 At Jos, Plateau State.	<b>E J A E M M A N U E L OBINWANNE</b> of Dadin Kowa Jos South LGA, Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>BENJAMIN BEST</b> late of Plateau State died on the 15th May, 2023, at Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	<b>ROSELINE WILLIAMS</b> of JOVIC Cresscent No.12 Maraba Karu LGA Nassarawa State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
<b>MUSTAPHA ALIYU</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 30th July, 2023. At Jos, Plateau State.	<b>ALIYU MUSTAPHA</b> of Sabon Layi Zaria Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	<b>BAGERE BITRUS GYANG</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 5th July, 2023. At Dahol Dangwom, Bukuru Jos South, LGA. Plateau State.	<b>BITRUS SIMON GYANG</b> of Close of COCIN CHURCH Dahil Dagwom Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>REGINA LONGS NA'ANSAT</b> late of Plateau State, died on the 10th April, 2022. At Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA Plateau State.	<b>LONGJAP RAPHEAL LONGJAP</b> of Congo Shendam, Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>JOSEPH BENZAK KUMLE</b> late of Plateau State died on the 28th July, 2023. At BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	<b>MARY JOSEPH KUMLE</b> of COCIN Church Rahwol Kanang Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	<b>JOSEPH NYAM</b> late of Plateau State died on the 5th June, 1982. At Jos, Plateau State.	<b>CECILIA AKUJAH</b> of Behind PHC Rukuba Road Jos North LGA. Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	<b>AIR COMDER RAYMOND UMARU EMAIKWU (RTD)</b> late of Plateau State died on the 10th February, 2023, at Teaching Hospital Gwagwalada Abuja FCT.	<b>CHARLES ELEOJO EMAIKWU M. I.</b> Bahago ESQ Bristish American Junction Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>DANIEL MOHAMMED LIMAN</b> late of Plateau State died on the 17th July, 2017. At JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>MOHAMMED MUSA MOSES &amp; MOHAMMED HAJARA BETHSHABA.</b> All of Angwan Salama Mista Ali Bassa LGA, of Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.	<b>ALAFIATAYO OLAIYA JULIUS</b> late of Plateau State died on the 17th March, 2016. At Kauna Hospital Jos, Plateau State.	<b>ADEGOKE OLAMIDE ALAFIATAYO</b> of No.1 Dogon Karfe Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>JOHN AYUBA PAM</b> late of Plateau State died on the 10th April. 2022. At Vwang Jos SOUTH LGA, Plateau State.	<b>ENOCH JOHN AYUBA</b> of Chugwi Vwang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>ADETUNJI DAVID AKANNI</b> late of Plateau State died on the 1st July, 2012 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>ADETUNJI MICHEAL BABATUNDE</b> of No.3 After Trinity Methodist Church Zaria Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>CHIEF AMOS JUMA DANGANA</b> late of Plateau State died on the 23rd August, 2013 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>VICTOR DANGANA &amp; AIBE DANLADI AMOS DANGANA.</b> All of No.5 Gold and Base, Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	<b>RHODA PAUL DENFA (also known as) RHODA DENFA,</b> late of Plateau Sate died on the 7th July, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>DENFA AARON MANZING</b> of Dahol Dagwom Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>SAMBO NA'OMI MARA</b> late of Plateau State died on the 25th Nov., 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>BENJAMIN ALPHA NENPIN</b> of COCIN LCC Tuwan Kanke LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>AUDU AWUYA</b> late of Plateau State died on the 10th December, 2023 at OLA Hospital, Jos North LGA Plateau State.	<b>PATARALLA STEPHEN AUDU</b> of Babala Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>LONGKAP NIMMYEL MANBOL</b> late of Plateau State died on the 10th March, 2023 at Njinan, Hospital Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	<b>PONKAP NIMMYEL LONGKAP</b> of Nzam Wongdep Bwarat District Langtang North LGA. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
<b>PLANGTOK ANGELINA</b> late of Plateau died on the 25th March, 2023. At Jos Plateau State.	<b>SHARON ABALIS PLANGTOK</b> of Zion High School Kwang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>MICHAEL BUBA</b> late of Plateau State died on the 27th Sept., 2021 at Abuja Bwari.	<b>MICHAEL PAUL QUIDOM</b> of Gar, Kanam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>LUKMAN KYARI</b> late Plateau State died on the 10th Nov 2014 At KURGWI Quaanpan LGA, Plateau State.	<b>KYARI ABUBAKAR LUKMAN</b> of Kurgwi Qua'an Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawfulson of the said deceased.
<b>FWANTONG CHRYSANTUS DAMA</b> late of Plateau State died on the 6th March, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>MATHEW FWANTONG DAMA</b> of NSCDC Comm. Jos Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	<b>DAVOU DALYOP</b> late of Plateau State died on the 24th June, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>BULUS DAVOU DALYOP</b> of Hwolshe Gigiring, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>ANGELINA RWANG</b> late of Plateau State died on the 14th Nov., 2017 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>RWANG JORDAN JOSEPH</b> of COCIN Church Fwagul Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. The lawful Grand/son of the said deceased.
<b>JAIMET SINKIT YOUMNAN</b> late of Plateau State died on the 11th Nov., 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>JALMET HANNAH LOHBYEN</b> of Living Faith Church Stone Base Rantya Jos South LGA Plateau State. The lawful Widow of the said deceased.	<b>REMIKAT YAKUBU NTYEM</b> Late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th Oct., 2022 at Jos Plateau State.	<b>YAKUBU KAMPANY NTYEM</b> of COCIN LCC Shaka Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	<b>DONATUS DAMAL</b> late of Plateau State died on the 24th April, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	<b>CHOJI RUTH DONATUS</b> of C 15 Gwarandok Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
<b>OCHE VERONICA YOHANNA</b> late of Plateau State died on the 29th Oct., 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	<b>OCHE PETERS OCHE</b> of No.35 Ammah Street Jos Plateau State. The lawful husband of the said deceased.	<b>Ishaku Yusufu Dakahap</b> late of Plateau State died on the 6th February 2018 at Dadin Kowa Jos South LGA Plateau State.	<b>Emmanuel Gurumshak Dakahap</b> Plot 490 Sulu gamba Close 2nd Avenue Gwarinpa, Abuja lawful son of the said deceased.	<b>Abdullahi Danladi</b> late of Plateau State died on the 15 January 2023, at Jos Plateau State.	<b>Kamal Aliyu Abdullahi</b> of Mavo Road Wase LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
<b>Jerome Igberaese</b> late of Plateau State died on the 17 December 2021 at JUTH Plateau State.	<b>Blessing Obehi Igberaese &amp; David Osagie Igberaese.</b> All of Kangang Dadin Kowa Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawal son of the said deceased.			<b>Oragbakosi Ndu Alexander</b> late of Plateau State died on 4th August 2023 at OLA Hospital.	<b>Orah Chukwuka Emmanuel Alex</b> No. 53A Busa Buji Street Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
				<b>Badung Bulus</b> late of Plateau State died on the 5th March 2023 at OLA Hospital Jos, Plateau State.	<b>Michael Bulus Badung</b> of Jenta Adamu Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

Signed  
(ANDRAWUS MAIKAI)  
PROBATE REGISTRAR

PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS



BY FRANCISCA ADIDI

## Nigerians are very hungry

by now, with the hardship in our society, salaries of workers would have been increased and or there would have been price control by the government to reduce the hardship and enable Nigerians get a relief. But Mr President seems not to be in a hurry to look into this situation faced by Nigerians. All they are saying is that Nigerians should be patient. For how long? People are dying and protesting about the rising cost of everything.

That is why we have started seeing protests erupting from some states, yet Mr President is seeing it as the handwork of the opposition. No, it is not. Nigerians are hungry and angry. Is that the benefits of Muslim Muslim ticket that Mr Tinubu insisted on having?

No wonder, the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Bayero, has called on the First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, to press her husband, President Bola Tinubu, to address urgent issues like hunger, starvation, and insecurity plaguing the country when Tinubu's wife visited him in Kano recently.

The Emir said although they have several means of communicating to the government on our needs and requests, your way and means is the surest way to tell the President the actual happenings in the country.

The monarch said the hunger crisis "has become more

alarming and needs urgent attention. He also urged Tinubu's wife to push the president to tackle escalating insecurity. "The issue of insecurity is another serious problem we are facing. I know your government inherited it, but something more serious should be done to take care of the threats.

The Emir also voiced concerns over the Federal Government's plan to relocate offices of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and Central Bank of Nigeria from Abuja to Lagos.

"We should be made to actually understand the reasons behind the relocation. I for one cannot tell the actual intentions of the government," Bayero said.

He called on the government to "come out clean" and clearly explain the rationale behind the relocations.

The Emir also advised the First Lady to push forward her Renewed Hope Initiative Pet Programme, which aims to empower underprivileged Nigerians

The level of poverty is biting hard and Mr President keeps assuring Nigerians that it will be better. No one knows when and how it will be better because the fuel subsidy has not been reversed.

The prolonged scarcity of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), commonly called petrol, and the



associated hike in pump price across the states led to the astronomical rise in transport fares and cost of food products in the Nigerian markets.

The level of hardship and hunger witnessed in Nigeria in recent times has never been imagined nor occurred to anybody as something that would come to be. Hardship, hunger and poverty are major social determinants of health, and they have a significant impact on mental health. We may not take the main cognizance of people who are already mentally challenged, but healthy individuals who suffer lack and want are likely to be depressed due to discrimination and isolation.

Due to the hardship in the country, a lot of people see food and medicare in their dreams and not having food, means of transportation are great stressors which can cause depression. Hardship which comes in the form of financial insecurity, unemployment, homelessness, discrimination, violence can lead to depression, anxiety or sleep problems. People who are struggling to

make ends meet are worried about how to pay for rent, food and other necessities. Nigerians have lost hope and have turn to beggars.

On the same note, 'Japa' is already a syndrome in Nigeria and 'Sapa' is a mental condition. The grass is not green in Nigeria making citizens unduly stressed with ? 35,000 minimum wage which is less than \$50 and the government does not show any sign or readiness to remedy the ugly situation. Not being able to meet financial goals whether monthly or annually creates shame, guilt and discouragement. The mind and body are connected when it comes to stress and anxiety. Nowadays, we pay a very high rate for fuel, gas, electricity, education, transportation etc. and this definitely impacts our mental health.

Mr President, the minimum wage has not reached the various states civil servants yet, it seems only the federal government workers are being favored. Have a rethink. Nigerians are really hungry.



BY JENNIFER YARIMA

## Jungle justice, not our way of reasoning

more informed and aware of their rights and privileges which had eluded them as a result of culture and traditions that had caged most victims of this carnage in slavery.

The common saying, "when you see something say something" has been of immense help for people to be each other's keepers and sensitive to their environment particularly when it comes to issues as such. Yours sincerely has always wept over the wreck-less behaviors being exhibited by some people who have no regards for human dignity. Such people are not at all remorseful over the increasing cases of the maltreatment meted the vulnerable in our society.

One was recently shocked to the bone marrow concerning the show of shame displayed by some unscrupulous elements who paraded themselves as 'vanguards' of Agunese Affam-Mmaku community in Enugu State, following a viral video of a naked woman which trended on the social media alleging that she was caught stealing a basket of snails from a sacred forest.

Fortunate though, voices of reason have risen to condemn the inhuman treatment meted this woman who was stripped of

her pride over allegations of stealing meager pieces of snails. It hurts to know that these snails were either manufactured in the laboratory or offered to the gods but termed as sacred on the basis of outdated and harmful laws.

Her abusers who were mostly youths subsequently forced the middle aged woman who is a widow to carry the basket of the snails on her head. It's sad that a mob made up of these youths had to beat her up stripping her naked, tied palm fronts round her naked waist and neck before parading her round the community. This traumatic experience not only weighed the woman down but her children and relations who were left wondering how their

mother would eventually overcome such shame.

The pathetic aspect of the misfortune is that it has drawn the attention of interest groups and the public, particularly women groups in Enugu who have described the act as dehumanizing. In a joint statement, the women groups said it was inhuman to strip a woman over allegations of stealing a mere basket of snails. It has gladdened the hearts of many that elders in the land have not also tolerated the ruthlessness of these young men who carried the law into their hands.

Their collective voices have demanded for the prosecution of the perpetrators of this

dastardly act. Therefore, many stakeholders are stuck to their guns that the culprits must be brought to book. One had however wished that such an ugly situation never took place. The woman had denied that she did not commit the crime, but was just transacting her normal business. How much longer will the womenfolk continue to be victims of societal ridicule and trash is the question many people are asking.

One is not giving any excuse for any crime if it's genuinely committed, but we must not resort to jungle justice in such a cruel manner. As a people, we must come to the reality of the fact that there are more decent ways of addressing crimes than resorting to a situation whereby laws are taken into our hands through the exhibition of jungle justice rather than ensuring that suspects undergo legal judicial process before they are convicted.

Therefore, it would have been more for these youths to have considered her plight as a widow and treated her fairly. If her husband were to be alive, I am pretty sure that it wouldn't have been this bad with no respite to the woman.

“  
**One had however wished that such an ugly situation never took place. The woman had denied that she did not commit the crime, but was just transacting her normal business. How much longer will the womenfolk continue to be victims of societal ridicule and trash is the question many people are asking. One is not giving any excuse for any crime if it's genuinely committed, but we must not resort to jungle justice in such a cruel manner.**  
 ”

GONE are the days when people suffer and die in silence over their inability to open up on issues that negatively affects them. One of such issues bedeviling our society and left conspicuously hidden under the auspices of conspiracy of silence is the rampant case of sexual molestation and other forms of violence being experienced by mostly women and children in the society today. After enduring these difficulties for long, many people now have learned to open up and not die in loneliness as the case used to be in the past.

Certainly, times are changing and many people are becoming

**By JIDAUNA DARING**

IT is a fact that the significance of water as an essential commodity to human beings for survival cannot be under measured since "water they say is life".

In fact, for years the issue of water scarcity, particularly safe drinking water both in urban and rural areas during dry season has become very unbearable to the affected communities. The season often comes with mix-feelings to the communities that are worst hit when it comes to water scarcity in the affected areas.

This situation has continued to remain unpalatable to the people as far as the issue of carry empty Jaricans on their heads, moving from one place to another in search for water. Water scarcity during the said season often makes life difficult for the affected communities, especially when it comes to the issue of having access to safe drinking water.

It is very unfortunate to say that some of these affected communities share the source of water with animals either from streams or rivers. This type of water source is already a contaminated one for human consumption as it can cause different sicknesses to people.

To reduce this untold hardship, it therefore rests squarely on government at different levels to accord more attention to provision of safe drinking water. Since "Water is life", government should on their part ensure that they always allocate the water sector highest budget at all levels, this if considered in any given budget allocation would of course go a long way in addressing challenges of water scarcity in most communities both in the Urban and rural areas.

Certainly, for the budget in the sector to change or touch the lives of the people positively, it is the duty of the government to ensure prompt releases of the budget allocated fund for any given water project both for new and rehabilitated projects.

It may interest you to know that with the coming on board of the captain of "The time is now" administrations, which is led by no other person than our amiable and Pragmatic Governor of Plateau State, Barrister. Caleb M. Mutfwang, looking at the hand writing on the wall now, it is believable that the sector is going to witness massive transformation as far as the commitment by the government of the day is concerned in the state.

It was in view of this that the commissioner for Water Resources and Energy, Plateau State, Hon. Engr. Noel Nkup on behalf of the ministry and Plateau Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (PLAMWASSA) handed over three treatment plants to different contractors to commence rehabilitation work immediately at their various plants.

Our correspondent reported that the handing over ceremonies took place at Wase, Longtang North and Bokkos Local Government Areas (LGAs) treatment plants respectively, recently.

Engr. Nkup while speaking at the various LGAs said that the three LGAs were carefully selected by sustainable Urban Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene (SURWASH) a World Bank funded programme which Plateau State was among the selected 7 States that would benefit from the water and sanitation sector supported by the Plateau State Government.

He explained that PLAMWASSA is

the implementing body while the ministry for

Water Resource and Energy is to regulate its activities. He added that other LGAs may benefit from the same gesture in the next two years.

He told the people of the three LGAs that Governor Mutfwang has expressed his readiness to provide citizens of the state with safe drinking water, adding that all the treatment plants handed over to the contractors for rehabilitation if completed and put to use the benefitted LGAs would have relief of water scarcity within the local government's headquarters.

boreholes in 3 LGAs each so as to enable them have access to safe drinking water.

Engr. Nkup remarked that Wase has 3 components, these include construction of model treatment plant, drilling of boreholes and 25 KM of water reticulation within the town while Langtang North and Bokkos LGAs has 2 components each, they both include rehabilitation of water treatment plants and pipes reticulation within its towns as well as drilling of boreholes in small villages of the 2 LGAs.

He equally stated that the projects were already extended to

**PLSG hands over treatment plants for rehabilitation**



**Bokkos treatment plant**

Engr. Nkup maintained that the rehabilitation work at plants were giving hope to the benefitting LGAs as far as the promises made by the present administration during its campaign was concerned. He described the project as a life time project, saying that the state government would continue to focus on projects that would have direct impact on the lives of the people.

The commissioner also described Governor Mutfwang as a product of hard work hence the need for all and sundry in the state to give the present administration the needed support so as to witness more development at all times.

He added that water as an essential commodity does not have an enemy because of its usage to human beings. He pointed out that the projects are already extended to small villages through drilling of

building of facilities in both schools and Primary Health Cares (PHCs), as part of governments efforts to improve the two sectors in the state.

The commissioner warned the contractors against any substandard work, saying that the ministry would not tolerate such work from any contractor. He advised them to report any challenge they may face in the course of the work for immediate action.

Engr. Nkup urged the people whose projects are domicile in their communities to give the necessary support and cooperation to all the contractors while carry out their work at their respective sites of 3 LGAs. He called on people of the localities to provide adequate security for the contractors so as to guarantee their safety while on site at all times.

benefits of the plant if rehabilitated are going to be much for people to enjoy particularly in the areas of public health, environment and economy.

TIC chairman. Langtang North LGC, Hon. Godwin Nanmwa Kumzhi thanked Governor Mutfwang for bringing the water project to fruition in to his locality.

He told the commissioner that the Langtang North plant which was constructed many years ago had continued to lack maintenance culture and assured of his people's readiness to protect all the water facilities after the rehabilitation work.

TIC chairman Bokkos LGC, Hon. Monday Kassah who was represented by Deputy Director WASH, Mrs. Martha Gotus expressed happiness and also thanked the present administration for considering the people of Bokkos in the water project. Adding that the people of the locality need safe drinking water.

Speaking separately at each LGA, Emir of Wase, Alhaji Dr. Muhammad Sambo Haruna who was represented by Rekna of Bashar, Abdullahi Adamu Idris and District Head of Bokkos, Saf. Monday Adancin both assured of their willingness as custodians of people to work hand in hand with the contractors so as to achieve the desired aim of the project which is going to be for the benefit of their subjects.

Speaking separately at their various sites, the contractors all promised to deliver a standard work, especially according to specification. They also disclosed that they were not going to disappoint the government for awarding the contracts to them. They equally promised to speed up work at their various sites.

Our correspondent reports that the commissioner, GM PLAMWASSA and entourage had earlier paid courtesy visit on the Emir of Wase at his Palace in Wase.

General Manager PLAMWASSA, Mr. Julius Ndah Akawu expressed optimism with the rehabilitation work awarded to the contractors. He added that it is the duty of the agency to ensure the success of all the awarded projects, saying that the present administration is committed to serve the people better.

In his remarks, transition implementation committee (IIC) Chairman Wase LGC, Hon. Alhaji Hamisu Anani Mohammed appreciated PLAMWASSA for coming to the aid OF Wase for handing over the Wase Water treatment plant to contractors for rehabilitation to ensure that the people of the locality have access to adequate Water Supply.

Hon. Mohammed also called on his people to protect the water treatment plant, adding that the



**Wase treatment plant**



# IMAGES

## PRESS CONFERENCE BY STATE JOINT UNION OF JUPTI

The Joint Union of Tertiary Institution of Plateau State yesterday held a Press Conference on the politicization of removal and appointment of Chief Executive of Tertiary Institutions and cancellation of recruitment done in October, 2022 briefings was done at the NUJ Press Centr, Jos



JUPTI Chairman, Comrade Sunoe Peter Longbaam (middle) with Kwanmun Tumen Dennis, Asst. Sec (left) and Simon Yohanna Igyem



Comrades Sunoe Peter Longbaam (middle) Gokir Fwenshinen Ayuba, JUPTI Treasurer (right) Simon Yohanna Igyem with others at the high table



Cross section of JUPTI members singing solidarity songs at the Press Conference



A cross section of newsmen covering the Press Conference



Mr. Andrew Ajijah asking question (standing) flanked by other journalists



JUPTI members listening to the speech being presented



Mr. John Farinola Sunday of Channels TV (right) showing something of interest to Mr. Nanle Joseph of PRTVC



From left are, Chairmen of NUJ Assignments Committee, Mr. Douglas Francis, Secretary, Mrs. Palang Kasmi with Mr Kaleng Isaac committee

Photos: DANLADI DUK

## Odd World

# 'I got my noisy neighbours evicted'

A woman has admitted she got her new neighbours kicked out just weeks after they moved in because they were too noisy - but some of her friends have told her she was selfish. Noisy neighbours can make your life hell.

Getting along with your neighbours isn't a requirement, but it can make living next to each other a whole lot easier, and most people will at the very least try to be civil with their neighbours. But when your neighbours are causing trouble by blasting music too loudly or doing their household chores in the middle of the night, it can make being cordial a lot more difficult - and can even leave you wanting to report them.

That's exactly what happened to one woman who said her new neighbours moved in less than a month ago, and she's already reported them to their landlord for noise infractions so many times that they've been evicted - and now have to find a new place to live within 30 days.

The 24-year-old woman explained she and her roommate have lived in their flat for six years, and recently got new neighbours who moved into the flat above theirs in the middle of January. The problems started almost immediately, however, with the neighbours shouting and vacuuming their floors in the early hours of the morning.

In a post on Reddit, the woman said: "The mother of the family introduced herself to me and my roommate, assuring us that they had been upstairs neighbours before and would be respectful of our space. I explained the layout of our unit to them, pointed out where the bedrooms were in relation to the upstairs, and asked them to be careful on the stairs, avoiding stomping as our couch is against the wall near the stairs. She promised they would be quiet

and left.

"Since then, we've been consistently woken up by them, with their kitchen above my bedroom and their late-night meal prep involving dropping pots and pans at 3:45 in the morning. The teenagers come home shouting 'I'm home' at 2 am, and they vacuum at 1 am.

"Our internet was disconnected because they falsely claimed they were the only occupants of the house, causing me to miss two days of work. When our internet issue happened, the landlord came to the house and asked if they would share our internet, as we had shared ours with them for the past week leading up to this, but they refused, even slamming the door in his face when he pointed out our previous cooperation."

The complaints made against the neighbours have caused their landlord to kick them out of the property, and while the woman feels "justified" in making the complaints, she has been told by some of her friends that what she did was "selfish".

Mum shamed for parking like 'absolute idiot' in posh leafy village - but she hits back

She added: "They asked for a meeting with the landlord to work on an arrangement, but I declined. Our friends with kids have criticised us, saying we were selfish and unreasonable to complain so much. However, I feel justified in our noise complaints and in denying the meeting."

"They were on a month-to-month lease, whereas we're on a yearly lease. Part of me feels bad, understanding how hard it is to find a place, but the other part wants to avoid being consistently woken up or having to wear noise-cancelling headphones to relax in my own home."

Source: The Mirror



## Has God taken a casual leave from Nigeria?

SOME years back, a colleague of mine took ill and had to be going in and out of hospital. At a point, the illness became so critical to the extent that we were confused on what to do. As I sat down by her hospital bed that fateful day, I remembered I assured her that as long as God was in control, she would live and testify of His goodness over her life.

A few days later, the Lord answered our prayers, but contrary to my expectations, she went home to be with him in heaven. After the demise of my colleague, I felt so devastated that my prayer did not come to pass as anticipated. Tied to this analogy was the prayers offered for the Super Eagles before the African Cup of Nations final match against Ivory Coast.

Prior to the commencement of the competition, many supporters knew quite well that our team was in the finals of the championship just but for sightseeing. In fact, we all knew that it was not quite well with the Super Eagles but was only banking on luck.

After qualifying for the knockout stages and eventually the final, though many knew we had individual stars without a team, our philosophical approach to the competition automatically changed. In this regard, Nigerians became chief priests, Imams and clergies praying furiously that the God of soccer should do another ojoro and give us victory. In other words, though other nations who participated in the competition prepared very well, we were left with no other option than to beg God to guarantee us victory.

As funny as some of these prayers were, the crux of it was that, god should help us with the cup to enable us have temporary relief following the excruciating circumstances we have found ourselves in this country.

Unfortunately, though we manage to reach the finals of the continental soccer extravaganza, the god of soccer did not seal it for us. In the aftermath of these nasty experiences, I was left to wonder if God answers all our prayers in life. While confiding in a clergy days back, this Man of God resoundingly affirmed me that God answers all prayers channelled to him. As hesitating as it looks, I was still left pondering on the magnitude of the prayers offered God to save my colleague but she eventually died.

But again, I also took time to ponder on the prayers offered by Nigerians to God for the Super Eagles to win the African Nations Cup which eventually hit the rocks.

Now that the African Nations Cup is over, we as a nation is back to where we all started. As I went on survey in morning, food items in the market are still on the high side. A mudu of rice has gone up to N2,000 while a bag of cement has skyrocketed to about N9,000 in open markets even as businesses today rely more on loans to survive. The fuel subsidy removal has continued to affect almost all the sectors of our economy.

Many households as it is today cannot afford three square meals a day. Our children have become beggars on the

street with no hope for a better tomorrow. Yet, in the midst of this unending calamity, an Imam last week expressed dismay that the Muslim faithful in Jos North/Bassa Federal Constituency have refused to get more wives for themselves and give birth to many children to subdue the natives and win the constituency's keenly contested elections.

While quoting several verses, the clergy reemphasised his ideology which is buried in fallacy that if the Muslims must win elections, they must make deliberate attempt to increase their population through marriages.

Thus, if the excruciating difficulties experienced in this country is anything to go by, one then wonders why some clergies would place themselves in a position of wooing their followers to marry more wives and give birth to many more children for the sake of winning elections. For the first time in the history of this country, citizens have come out to protest and express their anger over the way and manner the poverty level in the country is affecting us all. So far, citizens in Niger and other southern states have totally come out to protest against the difficulties faced by more than half of the population of the people of the nation.

Reports also indicted that Nigerians in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja recently also joined citizens in other parts of the nation to lament the edge-cutting hardship being experienced, warning that of mass protest if the government fails to arrest growing agitations. Records indicates that similar protests have also been held in Kano, Osun, Lagos and Rivers States with perhaps little attention given from the side of the government and or other relevant stakeholders. Amidst this hardship, the IMF has equally urged the Federal Government to completely halt payment of fuel, electricity subsidies and or review its economic policies.

One may think however that this is quite funny but if you ask me, I think many citizens of this country are yet to come to terms with the predicament we are facing in it's entirety. Our citizens have not taken this issue with the seriousness it deserves; that is the more reason why our politicians have decided to play over our intelligence. Consequently, it is so disheartening that while our members of the National Assembly have been allocated luxury cars worth hundreds of millions of naira, the ordinary man on the street cannot feed his family.

Come to think of it, the issue of the increasing rate of insecurity has continued to beat my imagination in all ramifications. While killer herders have continued to have their field day in many states of the country, the kidnapping industry is also blossoming by the day. The situation in Nigeria has gotten to a point where most Nigerians have concluded that God is no longer in the business of answering prayers of the citizens of the nation. Perhaps God has decided not to answer these prayers because of the obvious fact that the citizens are hypocritical about their lifestyles or he is on casual leave.

## View Point

## Global influence of afrobeat

By LUKA MUSA JR.

AFROBEAT as the name implies, is a captivating and vibrant style of music gender that hailed from Africa, specifically, Nigeria and Ghana in West Africa, which incorporates elements of Jazz, Funk and Soul music blended with sounds of highlife and Juju music. One peculiar thing about Afrobeat is the mesmerising soundscape, characterized by energetic percussion, complex intersecting rhythms and power chanted vocals, accompanied by rich tradition of the Yoruba's and other languages of the Western and Eastern part of Nigeria. One attribute you cannot take away from Afrobeat, is the use of the pidgin slangs (broken English), hardcore beats and dance steps. As a style of music gender, influenced by American funk, Jazz and Soul, it has influenced the mainstream music by infusing its infectious rhythm and melodies into various genders that appeals to a wider audience, which stirred artist's or musician's from other background to incorporate afrobeat elements in their songs.

The emergence of Afrobeat can be traced in early twentieth century, which was later made official in the 1960s by Fela Anikulapo Kuti and his drummer Tony Allen which they experiment with contemporary music of the period then. From there, Afrobeat started capturing the airwaves and kept receiving attention among Nigerian's and Ghanian's. The very first time Afrobeat was taken out of shores of Africa was in 1969 when Fela Anikulapo Kuti and his band called "Nigeria 70" went on a trip to the U.S. While there, he was introduced to the Black Panthers, a black supremacist group. He was also exposed to the writings of a lot of activists such as Martin Luther King Jr., Angela Davis, Jesse Jackson, and most notably Malcolm X. Upon return from the trip, he changed the name of the band to "Africa 70."

He went on to sing many songs on the political climate of Nigeria. Which later took the turn of a revolutionary movement, where his lyrics spoke on the ills of politicians and the military regime. The most reason why, Fela Anikulapo Kuti is regarded as the pioneer and father of Afrobeat, with other juju musicians like King Sunny Ade (KSA), I.K Dairo, Ebenezer Obey with notable highlife musicians like Victor Olaiya, chief Steven Osita Osadebe, Rex Lawson and his Rivers men, who also played roles in fashioning Afrobeat into what it is today.

As years continues to roll by, Afrobeat got an unprecedented popularity not only in Nigeria and Africa but in United Kingdom (UK) and United States of America (USA) in the mid-70s, which is then popular among Nigerian migrants and few white men who love the African rhythm and the melody. But 1990 to 2000 were defining



Late Fela

moments for the growth of Afrobeat, with the introduction of (fruity loops) and emergence of digital studios, further deepened the acceptance of the music gender in Africa and beyond, for its crystal quality, energetic percussions and syncopated beats, catchy melodies and hooks, with modified use of pidgin English and Yoruba in lyrics, which gave rise to the formative period of Afrobeat that saw the emergence of Eedris Abdulkareem and Eddie Montana as the (Remedies), Tony Tetuila, later, 2face, VIP from Ghana and P Square, one aspect about Afrobeat that Kennis Music Record Label through its COE Mr Kenny Keke Ogungbe and Dayo "D1" must be reckon with and be given huge credit for assembling the aforementioned artists under his Label, and promoted their songs through a 1hr programme titled "Prime Time Jams" and "D in the street" a feedback show meant to listen to the reactions of Nigerians on the street, on how they feels about the songs of those artists. Whose songs were instrumental in breaking the dominance of foreign music then, like thus of Christiana Aguilera, Will Smith, Madonna, Dr Dre, Mary J Blige, Snoop Doggy Dog, Maria Carey, Notorious BIG, Spice Girls, Eminem, Naughty by Nature, Monica, Britney Sparse and 2pac whose songs were then the rave of the moment in Nigeria. By the year 2000, the rise of MO' Hits pioneer by D banj and Don Jazzy was another period for the rebirth of eccentricities of Afrobeat to superstardom, earning the music gender popularity and recognition by international superstars like Snoop Dog, Akon, and Kanye West by mesmerizing hits of Wande coal, D'Prince and Kayswitch in the year 2006.

The year 2013, brought the hallmark of frenetic period of Afrobeat with the emergence of Wizkid, Davido and Olamide, by 2015 Afrobeat has blossomed and started witnessing its watershed

moment, with the rise of Wizkid, Davido and Burna Boy who can be describe as the tripod stand of Afrobeat around the globe. With other rising Afrobeat artists like Asake, Rema, Fireboy, Omalay, Tiwa Savage, Ayra Star, Terms etc who continue to add more flair to the popularity and acceptance of the Afrobeat music gender across the world.

The journey of Afrobeat is a tale of evolution, growth and global influence which brought an era attributed to globalization and technological advancement. With the rise in digital platform such as YouTube, Spotify, Boomplay, TikTok, Instagram and Facebook, which makes it easier for artist's to connect with global audience, making Afrobeat garner millions of views, streams and downloads beating artist's from other contemporary music genders in both UK and America. Which again, became a medium of rating artists performance online base on number of views, streams and downloads an artist has. For instance, the recap of Spotify in 2023 announced, Asake as the most streamed Nigerian artist and also number one in Ghana and Togo, and also one of the top 10 most streamed tracks with three of his hits "lonely at the top", "2:30" and Amapiano, Rema rounded the year 2023 as the most globally exported African artist, particularly propped by Selena Gomez assisted remix of the song "calm down" also became the first African-led single to reach a billion streams on Spotify, and also the first Nigeria Afrobeat artist to feature in top chart of most streamed recordings globally on Spotify. Burna Boy secured the top position for both the most searched and the viral artist while Ayra Star retained last year's position as the most streamed female artist in Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

According to Phiona Okumu,

Spotify head of music for sub-Saharan Africa said, "this year wrapped is a testament of the power of music to connect people and bring them closer to the culture and traditions of Nigeria 'she further said "Nigeria is a hotbed of musical talent and we're incredibly proud to showcase the diversity and passion of Nigerian music lovers through wrapped. Which further explore the extent to which Afrobeat has engulfed the world and became a source of Economic gain and a determining factor that project's the pace at which music moves globally, at the moment, Afrobeat is more than just a music gender but a tool for stirring Economic, Social and Cultural change across the globe. In recognition of the global impact of Afrobeat and the extent to which the gender has penetrated the contemporary music, we have witnessed big collaborations of globally acclaimed musical artist's with Afrobeat superstars like the hit songs of Davido featuring Chris Brown "Blow my Mind", Wizkid featuring Drake "Come closer" Beyonce featuring Burna Boy "Ja Ara E" and Rema featuring Selena Gomez "Calm down "these are samples of collaborations that are of immense pride to Afrobeat, and the continent at large.

Spotify, on its side in 2023 announced Afrobeat to have attained and has been scorching with staggering 550% surge in streams from 2017 to 2022 with anticipated eclipse of the streams, and further revealed revenues generated on its platform by Nigerian artists to have reached N11bn where Nigerian music industry itself saw a growth of 63% from 2021 to 2021. Recently, former minister of Information and culture Mr Lai Mohammed called the country's creative industry as "The new Oil" while reacting to UNCTAD's findings that creative industry has contributed £84.1 (about \$115.5) billion to the British

economy in 2014 and \$698 billion to the U.S economy in the same year. "Nigeria cannot afford to be left behind, the Nigerian government is already providing incentives to investors in the sector, including a recent \$1 million venture capital fund to provide seed money for young and talented Nigerians looking to set up business in creative industries.

The government is also allowing the industry "pioneer status," meaning that those investing in motion picture, video and television production, music production, publishing, distribution, exhibition and photography can enjoy a three- to five-year tax holiday "Mr. Mohammed declared, which is obvious that Afrobeat is head in this and number one taken the lead in that regard.

According to THISDAY Style, in June 2023 Burna Boy became the first African to headline a stadium show in UK. The stadium was sold out with a crowd of 60,000 fans screaming in adulation, chorused some of the hit tracks of the artist, it is estimated that Burna Boy added as much as N2 billion to the economy of the UK with ticket sales strating from \$94.41 and going upto to \$327.25 each.

This aside from sponsorship from big companies such as American Express, which secured exclusive right to ticket sales and many others whose deal would be taxed by the UK government. On July 8, Burna Boy also packed out the U.S city field stadium with a capacity of 41,000 people and became the first ever African to sell out a stadium show in the United States, an average city field tickets cost \$180, at the average ticket cost of the event was ranked in an estimate N5.66 billion for U.S government gain, as tax from ticket sales. BusinessDay also accounted how Wizkid packed out venues in London and United States, when he performed at Tottenham Stadium on July 29th 2023 had ticket sold from \$238.02 to \$469 adding more to the UK economy. Statista a global data and business intelligence platform, further projects that by 2023, the Nigerian music industry could be worth about \$44 million, and African music streaming revenue is predicted to hit \$287 million in 2022, potentially reaching \$484 million by 2026, which is good and promising future for the Afrobeat in adding to the Economy of the world. In 2021, data analytics company "steers" dubbed Nigeria the second best performing entertainment and Media consumer market in the world, with an estimated revenue from streaming alone is expected to reach \$45.34 million as of last year 2023 in Nigeria. Which is about 20% of the projected amount for the entire continent and placed it ahead of South Africa and Egypt who were leading in the previous year's according to Statistic.

To be continued

News

# Former lawmaker condoles former NUJ Scribe

From **JOHN FWAH Kaduna**

FORMER Sen. Shehu Sani recently paid a condolence visit to the immediate past Secretary of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, (NUJ), Kaduna State Council, Comrade John Femi Adi, who lost his 76 year old mother, Florence, on Sunday morning in Kaduna.

According to the lawmaker, the news of the death of Mrs. Florence came to him as a rude shock, stressing that human beings are pilgrims on earth, hence the need for everyone to live his or her life with eternity in view.

The lawmaker further remarked that his consolation is on the ground that the deceased lived an accomplished life as a mother, friend and companion, dying serving her God. He reiterated that the loss of a mother is always a very big tragedy.

Late Mrs Aishatu Adi "As men of faith, life is temporal. We are here to serve our God and humanity and we leave this world not when we wish but as destined by God. All we should do while alive is to leave a good name to be remembered for when we are no more. I am pained by this loss because mothers and women respectively are pillars of the home."

"She will continue to be with you forever in spirit. God will



Sani

continue to support and strengthen your spirit. Pray God to console the family. She is now immortal and as mortal beings, she will continue to see us even though we cannot see them. Let us continue to pray for her soul. From the dust we were created and to dust we shall return.

"You should always take to heart all she did or said while alive before her demise which indicates her preparation to leave this earth, May her soul continue to rest in peace and grant you and the family the fortitude to bear the loss" he prayed.

Furthermore, the president has tasked a panel that is

headed by the Coordinating Minister of the Economy and Minister of Finance to, among other functions, conduct a comprehensive diagnostic on the financial architecture and framework of the Social Investment Programmes with a view to conclusively reforming the relevant institutions and programmes in a determined bid to eliminate all institutional frailties for the exclusive benefit of disadvantaged households and win back lost public confidence in the initiative.

These directives of the President take immediate effect.

From **MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan**

# Act now before hunger starts killing - SPANCI

A human rights group, Save the Poor and Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the National Assembly to find ways of solving the current economic crisis bedeviling the country before people begin to die on the streets.

SPANCI advised Tinubu and the National Assembly to find ways of bringing relief and succor to reduce the hardship Nigerians are facing as a result of inflation, insecurity and scarcity of essential goods across the country.

The group noted that the level of hardship in the country and its effect on the economy and people is unbearable.

SPANCI made these declarations via an open letter signed by its President, Comrade Yemi Ezekiel Bello and addressed to Tinubu and the National Assembly.

Bello, in the letter made available to journalists on Tuesday in Ibadan, appealed to Tinubu, the Senate President, Goodwill Akpabio and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Tajudeen Abass, to immediately intervene and act now before people begin to die on streets.

He advised them to take necessary adjustments in bringing down the hardship, because the effects of the hardship in the country is unbearable.

Bello further maintained that the cost and prices of consumables and other commodities in the market has

gone up beyond reach of the ordinary Nigerian.

He said that this has brought life threatening hardships on people as people die easily now, considering the cost of medical treatment.

"Act now before people begin to die on the streets. The effects of the hardship are unbearable. We in Save the Poor and Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI), hereby humbly say that the hardship in the country and its effect on the economy and people is unbearable.

"We therefore appeal to Mr President and the National Assembly to immediately intervene and act now before people begin to die on the streets and make necessary adjustment in bringing down the hardship, because the effects of the hardship in the country are unbearable.

"We wish to say that the cost and prices of consumables and other commodities in the market have gone up beyond reason and this has brought life threatening hardships on people. People die easily now considering the cost of medical treatment and sustainability for those with medical needs. And hunger has killed and may still kill more if immediate solution is not provided.

"A situation where a bag of

rice is sold for almost eighty thousand Naira, a bag of yam flour is sold for about two hundred thousand Naira, gari Oyo for one thousand Naira, a bag of cement is now around eight thousand Naira, roofing sheets is about one hundred thousand, petrol, six hundred and forty naira, cooking gas one thousand three hundred naira per kg, will bring more hardship on people. Our economy needs urgent attention.

"We will also like your Excellency to immediately increase the salary of workers to conform with the present economy and as well as improve the welfare of our security operatives.

"We humbly request our National Assembly to cut down their salary and make other necessary adjustments, considering the fact that they are representing the masses and people of their constituency and use the money to improve the welfare of their people. This will reduce the rate of kidnapping, banditry and armed robbery. They should act now before people begin to die on streets according to section 14 (1) (2) (a) and (b) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended".

# ACReSAL launches smart agriculture transfer knowledge

By **EZEKIEL DONTINNA**

PLATEAU State Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) Project, has launched its Smart Agriculture Transfer Knowledge Demonstration Farm in Vom, Jos-South Local Government Area as part of its components tagged; "Greening The Environment, Saving Lives".

This is aimed at having a strong integrated climate resilient landscape management.

The State ACReSAL Project Coordinator, Mr. Gabriel Gwon Gonkol, who led the Management Team to the site, thanked the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, for creating an enabling environment through the Ministry of Agriculture for

them to have the plot of land.

He said, "At least, with what is on ground now, ACReSAL seems to be achieving its mandate or ACReSAL slogan which is to green the environment. It is interesting to have a demonstration plot like this and the essence of having this is not just for having the fruits that we are obtaining from this farm. No! But it is for technology.

"Green House is a new technology that the global world is running after. And so, having established and achieved this so far, there is now a tendency for us to deploy the technology to farmers which I know my technical officers, in collaboration with Farm Manager, have done because they have trained the farmers. It is technology that uses a little water", he highlighted.

Gonkol however, thanked the contractor and the service provider for carrying out the task according to specifications. "Infact, the Farmer Manager said, the reaping of these crops is twice in a week which is very interesting. So, the green house has so many benefits apart from resistance to diseases," he stated.

On his part, the State ACReSAL Natural Resource Officer, Mr. Nanbal Hassan Kumswan, said, "For now, it is a demonstration farm to be able to transfer knowledge in modern farming techniques whereby the green house uses Drip System and everything is controlled-the sunlight, wind and diseases are controlled.

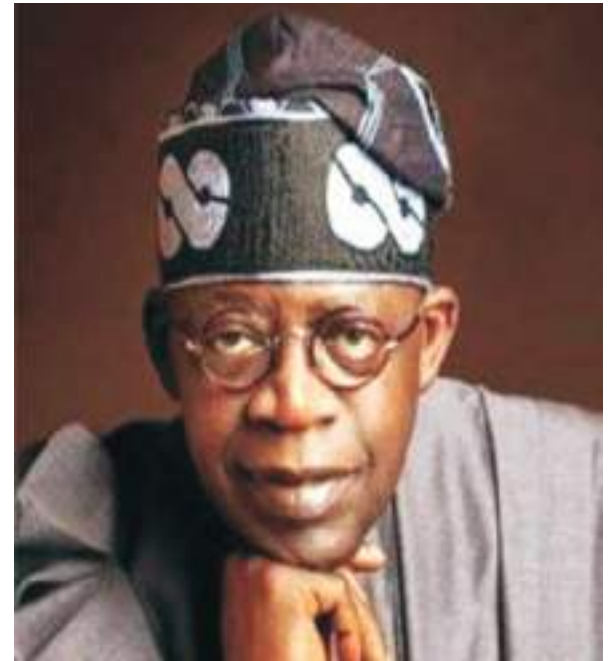
"With the limited time of eight to ten weeks, you will have your harvest and it can go on as long as three months and can be harvested twice in a week. So, with this, we expect that farmers should embrace this technology and it will increase food yield and security.

"Now, if these ones are able to show enough courage and will to embrace it, we are thinking of improving from this green house to be able to start another one for community, thereby, empowering them before we can handover to them because they need to understand it before we open a big field for them", he explained.

Meanwhile, the Service Provider for the Project, Friday Bako, said, it was a new farming system using technology to stabilise the

ecosystem and environment. He explained that "For this farm, we have a contractual agreement with ACReSAL to build a Green House (25/25m size), solar power motorised borehole and the farm house.

"So, here is a green house and we have planted one thousand (1,000) seedlings of the improved seedless cucumber. If you look out there, you will see a metal station of 200 watts/8 solar panel and an automatic ground force solar pump. This means that you do not need to use electricity at all times, If the sun comes out, you get water", he disclosed.



Tinubu

# Police arrest 4 over attack on Adamawa commissioner

THE Adamawa State Police Command has apprehended four people for allegedly attacking the state Commissioner of Environment, Muhammed Sadiq, and robbing him of his official vehicle and other valuables.

It also recovered the stolen

Toyota Hilux including a barreta pistol, three live ammunition, two anti-trackers, phones, and cash in foreign currency.

A statement by the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Suleiman Nguroje, gave the

names of the arrested suspects as Saliyu Buhari, 38 years old, and Abdullahi Abubakar, 35, both from Garoua in Cameroon Republic; Isa Adamu, 55, from Tudun Wada, Sokoto State; and Mustapha Muhammed, 47, of Lelewalji, Girei Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

According to Nguroje, the suspects were nabbed by a combined team of police operatives attached to Girei Divisional Police Headquarters on Monday after they attacked the Commissioner in the early hours of the day. He was taken to a hospital where he is currently receiving medical attention.

He said the success followed an operational strategy introduced by the police to check criminal activities such as armed robbery, shila gangsterism, kidnapping, among others within and outside the state capital.



Gonkol



Fintiri

## Sports

# Haller return from cancer with AFCON trophy

**Shortly after he scored the goal that secured one of the most unlikely Africa Cup of Nations title wins for Ivory Coast, Sebastien Haller was doing a television interview which he had to stop as he broke down in tears. PIERS EDWARDS writes.**

HAVING put on a brave face for so long, this was the moment when his torturous two-year journey to the Elephants' tumultuous triumph really hit home and emotions understandably overwhelmed him.

For it was just over a year ago that the striker showed he had won his biggest contest yet, when he returned to football six months after overcoming testicular cancer.

And now here he was, pitch-side in Abidjan's Alassane Ouattara Stadium, witnessing the fevered celebrations after his goal gave the Elephants a 2-1 win over Nigeria and a third Nations Cup title.

"We dreamed of this moment so many times," Haller said.

"We hoped to get to this point and once again the match wasn't an easy one. The joyous scenes we see now, what's happening in the country, they deserve it too. I really hope it does a lot of people good."

His winning goal, a brilliant flicked finish from Simon Adingra's cross, came just four days after Haller had also proved to be the matchwinner in the semi-final win over DR Congo.

"I am so happy for Haller," former Ivory Coast international Kolo Toure, once of Arsenal and Manchester City, said on BBC Three.

"He went through a tough time but he did unbelievably for the team. He is a humble man, and he works hard for the team. He is just someone who wants to help his team-mates.

"I am so happy he scored that goal - it is fantastic for him and for the country."

But, in many ways, it was also amazing that he was even on the pitch - as he referenced in a news conference on the eve of the final.

"The last 18 months have been challenging for me and my family," the 29-year-old said on Saturday.

"Given what has happened over the last few months, it's great to be here in front of you."

While it was improbable that an Ivorian should be talking about contesting the final given the fact that the team were on the brink of a group-stage exit, only to squeeze through into the knockout round as a best third-placed side, it was even more so that it should be Haller.

It was in early February 2023 that Haller scored his first goal for Borussia Dortmund to wild acclaim, as he was buried beneath a sea of yellow-clad team-mates.

The goal came eight months after he had signed for the German club, but the outpouring of emotion was all about his recovery from testicular cancer, which he had been diagnosed with in July 2022 - just two



**Haller (left) netted what proved to be the winning goal in the 2023 Nations Cup final with a brilliant improvised volley**

weeks after joining Dortmund.

"Of course, you realise it is something really serious that is happening, that a lot of things can change," Haller told BBC Sport last year.

"But the urologist helped me not to be scared. He said I could heal well. I took all his words for granted."

After two surgeries and various rounds of chemotherapy, Haller returned to full training in early January 2023, making his debut later that month before scoring against Freiburg, in one of those strange coincidences, on World Cancer Day itself.

Fast forward to this January and injury, albeit much milder, was again preventing the former West Ham and Eintracht Frankfurt forward from featuring for the Ivorians as they hosted the delayed 2023 Nations Cup.

After damaging his ankle on 19 December, Haller was not fit enough to make the squad for the Elephants' first three games.

But that paved the way for his return as the conquering hero given their calamitous group stage, in which they lost twice, including a heaviest ever home - and Nations Cup finals - defeat when losing 4-0 to Equatorial Guinea.

Ivory Coast sacked coach Jean-Louis Gasset but then progressed to the last 16 just hours later as

Zambia failed to get the result needed to finish above the West Africans as a best third-placed side.

"After the big defeat against Equatorial Guinea, we had no choice," Haller said.

"We've come back from a long way. There were words, moments, which were not easy for the players, staff and everybody [but] which were necessary."

And, after the team had scored just twice in the group stage, the return of Haller was ever more important.

This, after all, was a man who became the second player after Cristiano Ronaldo to score in all six Champions League group games in 2021-22 for Dutch side Ajax, before eclipsing the Portuguese to become the fastest player to reach 10 Champions League goals in history.

In the hosts' epic last-16 clash against defending champions Senegal, Haller was thrown on late in normal time, where his physical presence, hold-up skills and direct play proved crucial.

It was his perfectly-weighted and probing through ball which found Nicolas Pepe, who was duly upended to allow the Ivorians to score from the spot and take the game into extra time.

Haller then played his part by netting in the shootout, with the

Ivorians prevailing 5-4 to knock out the holders.

Against Mali in an equally-thrilling quarter-final, Haller was again a substitute - but thrown on at half-time as interim coach Emerse Fae gambled with his team down to 10 men.

Before his injury, Haller's international form - three goals in three games - had been far better than at Dortmund this season, where he has failed to score in 11 league games (despite having rebounded well last season with nine goals in 19).

Haller volleyed a deep cross from Max-Alain Gradel into the ground, over DR Congo keeper Lionel Mpsi and just inches under the bar in a ping-pong style finish, to provide a 'Haller-lujah' moment for Elephants fans as the tense deadlock in Abidjan was finally broken.

Cue raucous celebrations and a barely-believable roar once again - this time across an entire country, and not just inside a stadium which had former Ivory Coast legend Didier Drogba in attendance.

"It's certain the public push us in every moment. When the public is there and make noise and push us, that makes the difference," Haller said.

Born in Paris to a French dad and Ivorian mum, Haller played at every youth level for France - from Under-16 all the way to Under-21

- but in 2020, he pledged his senior international future to his mother's land.

And how she and her nation of 30 million are happy he did as he against proved a central figure again in Sunday's final against Nigeria.

After the Elephants trailed for a third time in their fourth knockout game, they rebounded once again in another show of resilience.

Franck Kessie equalised just after the hour mark and Haller showed a remarkable touch to volley Simon Adingra's pacey cross into the far corner of the Nigerian net.

Once again, he was besieged by team-mates - this time lost in a cloud of orange as Haller disappeared from view despite his stature.

"I now take everything step-by-step and try to enjoy every moment. I don't want to have any regrets," he had said on Saturday.

"I think it might take months or years to take it all in, what has happened over the last few years."

Thankfully, as he reflects on the dark side of his recent life, when so much was in the balance just over a year and a half ago, a smile may just break out on the face of this gentle giant as he recalls what may well prove to be his fondest memory in football.

## Sports

### Mourinho sacked as Roma manager

Jose Mourinho has been sacked as Roma manager with the club ninth in Serie A.

The Portuguese, 60, took over in May 2021 and led Roma to the Europa Conference League title a year later and the Europa League final in 2023.

But they are five points off Serie A's final Champions League qualifying spot and last week were knocked out of the Coppa Italia by city rivals Lazio.

Owners Dan and Ryan Friedkin thanked Mourinho "for the passion and commitment he has shown" as boss.

"We will always have great memories of his stewardship, but we believe that, in the best interests of the club, immediate change is necessary," they added in a statement.

Mourinho received a second successive red card in the Lazio loss and afterwards compared himself to Harry Potter, suggesting his profile was "raising expectations" for what Roma could achieve.

That result was followed by a 3-1 league defeat by AC Milan on Sunday, which left Roma five points adrift of fourth-placed Fiorentina and led to his dismissal.

Victory in the 2022



Jose Mourinho took over at Roma following his departure from Tottenham

Conference League secured Roma's first major European title and earned Mourinho huge support among the club's fanbase.

But after they were beaten on penalties by Sevilla in last season's Europa League final the Italian club took just five points from their first six Serie

A matches in a poor start to the current campaign.

With Roma 16th in the table, the former Manchester United, Chelsea, Real Madrid and Tottenham boss said he had rejected the "craziest offer" to leave last summer.

Mourinho's contract was due to expire at the end of the current season.

ARGENTINA forward Lionel Messi has won men's player of the year at the Fifa Best Awards, with Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola claiming the men's coach prize in London.

Inter Miami's Messi edged out City striker Erling Haaland with Paris St-Germain attacker Kylian Mbappe third.

City's Ederson collected the goalkeeper award ahead of Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois and Al Hilal's Yassine Bounou.

City won the Treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup in 2022-23. Messi wins by tightest margin

Messi, 36, began 2023 at Paris St-Germain, before moving to Major League Soccer (MLS) club Inter Miami in June.

He picked up the best men's player award for the third time since this format of the awards began in 2016, after doing so in 2019 and 2022.

He scored nine goals for PSG as they won the French Ligue 1 title and 10 goals in seven games as Inter Miami won the inaugural Leagues Cup in the United States.

Haaland grabbed a record 36 Premier League goals last

### Fifa Best Awards: Lionel Messi wins best male player



Lionel Messi (front row) helped Inter Miami beat Nashville SC to win the Leagues Cup in the United States

season. In all competitions in 2022-23, he scored a club-record 52 goals - with 28 of them coming after the World Cup, plus another two goals this season before 20 August.

France's Mbappe, like Messi, won the Ligue 1 title with PSG - and clinched a fifth consecutive Golden Boot.

The 25-year-old netted 18 goals for his French club during the window of 19 December 2022 to 20 August 2023 - the period the awards were based on.

A mix of votes from national team managers and captains, journalists and fans

on Fifa's website - with each counting for 25% - were used to decide the winners.

Messi and Haaland finished on the same amount of points, with Messi getting the award as he had more first-place nominations from national team captains.

Among the national team captains who voted for Messi were Harry Kane, Mbappe, Mohamed Salah, Andy Robertson, Aaron Ramsey and Luka Modric, while Ilkay Gundogan and Casemiro voted for Haaland, as did Messi himself.

England boss Gareth Southgate gave his vote to Haaland, while Wales' Robert Page and Scotland's Steve Clarke voted for Messi.

Montserrat skipper Lyle Taylor opted for Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice, Russia skipper Georgi Dzhikiya voted for Georgia and Napoli winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Portugal boss Roberto Martinez voted for ex-Inter Milan midfielder Marcelo Brozovic, now at Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia.

### Australian Open: Raducanu beats Rogers in Melbourne

EMMA Raducanu marked her Grand Slam comeback in style with a confident straight-set win over Shelby Rogers in the Australian Open first round.

BBC SPORT said that, the Britain's Raducanu, 21, had not played at a major since last year's event in Melbourne, having missed nearly eight months after wrist and ankle surgeries.

The 2021 US Open champion served superbly and hit her groundstrokes smoothly in a 6-3 6-2 win.

Raducanu will play China's Wang Yafan in the second round on Thursday.

The former British number one, now ranked 296th in the world after her lay-off, joins compatriots Katie Boulter, Jack Draper and Cameron Norrie in winning first-round matches on Tuesday.

Raducanu and Boulter - who has taken over as Britain's highest-ranked woman - remain on course to meet

each other in what would be an appetising third-round encounter.

Focus on Raducanu has been intense since she announced her arrival to the world with that remarkable US Open triumph.

The road has been rockier since the teenage qualifier won one of the biggest prizes in the sport.

There have been a series of injuries and illness, taking its toll mentally as well as physically, before the long break enforced by the surgeries in May.

But interest in her story has never waned and, on a packed outside court at Melbourne Park, Raducanu reminded us of her talent.

There will be tougher tests ahead, of course.

Rogers, who Raducanu beat on her way to her defining title in New York, is also on the comeback trail after missing the second half of last season with an

abdominal injury.

Playing under a protected ranking of 51, 31-year-old Rogers showed signs of rustiness and fatigue in a match where she made 35 unforced winners compared to 15 winners.

Nevertheless, Raducanu will take a lot of confidence from a

performance where she did not face a break point and won 91% of points behind her first serve.

Raducanu clinched victory on her first match point with a forehand drive volley and immediately turned to her team with a raised clenched fist.

After shaking hands with Rogers, she smiled as she waved to the crowd and then excitedly ran around the perimeter to thank the fans leaning over.

The sheer joy - and relief - indicated how much she has missed the elation of winning matches.

### Swiatek beats Sofia Kenin

WORLD number one Iga Swiatek says she has to be "ready for everyone" after overcoming 2020 champion Sofia Kenin in the Australian Open first round.

Poland's Swiatek, who has never reached the final, won 7-6 (7-2) 6-2.

The top seed faces another tough test in the next round, where 2022 runner-up Danielle Collins

awaits after she beat two-time champion Angelique Kerber.

"You never know who it is going to be and you have to be ready no matter what," Swiatek said about the draw.

"Tennis is a sport where the draw means you can play a former champion, a former world number one or someone with lots of experience.

"I try not to focus on who is going to be on the other side of the net, I want to play my game and I know if I am going to win this tournament I have to beat most of the girls."

Swiatek, who has won three French Open titles and the 2022 US Open, is playing well and beat 41st-ranked Kenin to earn a 17th successive win.

"It is not easy to play in the first Grand Slam of the season and it wasn't easy at the beginning to find my rhythm," Swiatek added.

"I was a little bit off and Sofia did everything to keep it that way. She's won here so knows what it takes. Huge respect to her."



Swiatek has won four Grand Slam titles but has never been beyond the Australian Open semi-finals

American Collins beat Swiatek in the semi-finals on her way to the 2022 final in Melbourne and overcame Kerber's experience with a 6-2 3-6 6-1 victory.

Kerber, a three-time Grand Slam champion, returned to action just two weeks ago as part of the German team at the United Cup, having spent 17 months off the tour to have a baby.

Elsewhere in Tuesday's first-round matches, Belarusian 18th seed

Victoria Azarenka beat Italian Camila Giorgi 6-1 4-6 6-3 and will meet Danish world number 100 Clara Tauson in the second round.

Russian 14th seed Daria Kasatkina also successfully navigated her way through a tricky opening test, winning 6-2 3-6 6-2 against powerful American Peyton Stearns.

Former US Open champion Sloane Stephens won 6-3 6-1 against Australian wildcard Olivia Gadecki.



Raducanu has won in the first round of the Australian Open on all three of her appearances at Melbourne Park

## Sports

### Qatar Open: Raducanu beaten by Kalinina in first round

EMMA Raducanu said she "struggled with everything" as she was beaten by world number 30 Anhelina Kalinina in the first round of the Qatar Open in Doha.

BBC SPORT said that, the Briton was well below par in a one-sided first set, hitting 15 unforced errors to her Ukrainian opponent's two.

She saved two match points in a far more competitive second but Kalinina came through to win 6-0 7-6 (8-6).

"I was struggling with everything - serve, return, forehand, backhand," Raducanu, 21, told Sky Sports.

The former US Open champion is in the early stages of her comeback after missing most of 2023 following surgery on both of her hands and left ankle.

She won one match in Auckland in her first tournament back, reached the second round of the Australian Open and beat world number 36 Marie Bouzkova in Abu Dhabi last week.

But that win was followed by a comprehensive defeat by second seed Ons Jabeur and, having been given another wildcard this week in Qatar, she suffered another early exit.

Raducanu had a set point at 6-5 on her serve in the second-set breaker but Kalinina saved it and took the next two points to seal victory.

The Briton hit 48 unforced errors compared to 22 by Kalinina, who will play eighth seed Jelena Ostapenko next.

"It was combination of things," Raducanu said.

"It was my first day-match I have played in a year. That is different.

"I need to practise training outside a bit more. The lights, conditions, shadows... it is really hard to see the ball, I found towards the end.

"When my tennis isn't there I have to try and at least fight and I did that in the second set."

Raducanu said she will now return home after consecutive weeks on tour but said she needs to "schedule my tournaments a bit better".

"I just struggled with the timing of the ball," she said. "It will come with more time practising as well as matches.

"It is hard for me to get used to the tour schedule. It is one tournament then another straight away.

"I need to schedule my tournaments a bit better and try to get more matches under my belt."

Also on Monday, four-time major champion Naomi Osaka won her first-round tie 7-5 6-4 against Caroline Garcia of France.

Osaka, 26, made her Grand Slam return at the Australian Open in January after giving birth last year, but was knocked out in the first round by 30-year-old Garcia.



Raducanu

In Doha, the Japanese player was 5-3 down in the first set before 15th seed Garcia faltered, allowing Osaka a chance to recover and seal the set by winning four games in a row.

Meanwhile, Belarusian Victoria Azarenka, a two-time winner of the tournament, beat Poland's Magdalena Frech 6-3 3-6 6-3 in the

opening round.

Osaka, who is unseeded, will face Croatia's Petra Martic in the next round, while Azarenka will take on China's Xinyu Wang.

In the second round, Polish world number one and top seed Iga Swiatek swept aside Romania's Sorana Cirstea 6-1 6-1 in just over an hour.

### Kiptum was a 'special talent' - Farah

Marathon world record holder Kelvin Kiptum was a "special talent" who would have gone on to have an "incredible career", says Sir Mo Farah.

BBC SPORT said that, Kiptum, 24, died in a car accident alongside his coach Gervais Hakizimana in his native Kenya on Sunday.

He broke Eliud Kipchoge's world record last year and was set to compete at this summer's Olympics in Paris.

"Kelvin was an amazingly talented athlete and had already achieved so much," Briton Farah said.

Farah, Britain's four-time Olympic champion over 5,000 and 10,000m, finished ninth in last year's London Marathon - a race Kiptum won in a course record time of two hours, one minute and 25 seconds.

"He truly had a special talent and I have no doubt he would have gone on to have had an incredible career," Farah said.

"I send all my sympathies and condolences to his and Gervais' family and friends at this tragic time."

Kiptum also broke the record

for fastest debut marathon in Valencia in 2022 before bettering Kipchoge's overall record in Chicago in October last year, clocking the 26.2 miles (42km) in two hours and 35 seconds.

Just last week, his team announced he would attempt to become the first person to run the distance in less than two hours in open competition.

Hugh Brasher, London Marathon event director, said Kiptum "had the sport of marathon running in his feet and at his feet."

Brasher added: "He was a once-in-a-generation athlete who was set to redefine the boundaries of our sport.

"His was a flame that burned so bright and was tragically put out.

"As a sport we mourn for a life so tragically cut short, a talent and a work ethos that was only starting to be appreciated and a man that we had only just started to know."

Britain's Emile Cairess, who finished sixth in London last year behind Kiptum, said the Kenyan could have become



Kiptum

BRITAIN'S Heather Watson and doubles partner Linda Noskova suffered a 6-4 7-6 (7-4) defeat by Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Sofia Kenin in the final of the Abu Dhabi Open on Sunday.

BBC SPORT said that, Watson and her Czech partner forced a tie-break in the second set but the American duo closed the match out.

Briton Harriet Dart and Tereza Mihalikova of Slovakia were beaten in the final of the Transylvania Open.

They went down 6-3 6-4 to the United States' Caty McNally and Asia Muhammad.

Earlier in the week, Dart reached her first semi-final on the WTA Tour in the singles tournament, losing to Karolina Pliskova.

It helped the 27-year-old climb back into the top 100 of the world rankings.

In the final of the singles at the Abu Dhabi Open, world number five Elena Rybakina cruised to a 6-1 6-4 victory over Daria Kasatkina.

The top seed from Kazakhstan wrapped up the win in 68 minutes against her Russian opponent in Doha to secure her seventh career

### Watson, Dart defeated in doubles finals



Watson

title. Salman Khan is BNN's esteemed International Sports Correspondent, capitalizing on his expertise and ICC certification to deliver comprehensive reports in the sports sector. He has notable experience covering significant events including the 2019 World Cup and the 2022 Asia Cup. His exemplary work has been recognized

with awards such as the 2021 Emerging Star Award, reflecting his commitment to sports journalism. Leveraging his widespread understanding of and passion for sports, Salman offers a unique and engaging perspective in his reports, making him an integral part of BNN's sports journalism team.

"Usain Bolt-esque" as a "figurehead of athletics".

"It's a massive blow because at his level, someone can really capture the attention of people outside off the sport," Cairess told the BBC.

"Many people thought they would never see a sub two-hour marathon in their lifetimes but since he came along, it's like it was just a given that he would do it because of his exceptional performances so far.

"It was almost certain that he would have done it. It's terribly sad and a real shame that we won't get to see him again or to attack that barrier."

Kipchoge, 39, completed a

marathon in Vienna in one hour 59 minutes 40 seconds but that time does not count as an official record as it was in a specifically arranged sponsored event with pacemakers.

Kiptum's performances in the past two years had seen him emerge as a rival to his great Kenyan team-mate.

In paying tribute, Kipchoge said he was "deeply saddened by the tragic passing".

"[Kiptum was] an athlete who had a whole life ahead of him to achieve incredible greatness," he said.

"I offer my deepest condolences to his young family."

Sebastian Coe, the president

of World Athletics, said Kiptum was "an incredible athlete leaving an incredible legacy".

"On behalf of all World Athletics, we send our deepest condolences to their families, friends, team mates and the Kenyan nation," Coe said.

Kiptum's road accident happened at about 23:00 local time (20:00 GMT) on Sunday, police were quoted as saying by the AFP news agency.

Giving further details of the crash, police said Kiptum was the driver, and the vehicle "lost control and rolled, killing the two on the spot".

A spokesman quoted by AFP added that a female passenger had been injured and "rushed to hospital".

### Taylor wins raucous event in play-off

CANADIAN Nick Taylor produced a superb late surge to win after a play-off.

BBC SPORT said that, Taylor, 35, birdied three of his last four regular holes to tie with Charley Hoffman on 21 under after the American took the lead with a seven-under-64 at Scottsdale, Arizona.

Both birdied the first extra hole but when Hoffman missed on the second, Taylor holed an 11-foot birdie putt to win it.

But yet again the PGA Tour event, which features thousands of fans surrounding the par-three 16th 'stadium hole', saw unruly behaviour with fights among spectators, a woman taken to hospital after falling from a stand, and alcohol sales being temporarily halted.

One man was arrested after jumping over the ropes and diving into a greenside bunker on the 16th, where he proceeded to perform 'snow angels' in the sand.

Johnson's outburst was in a separate incident to Horschel, who shouted "buddy, when he's over a shot shut the hell



Taylor

up man", towards spectators who had heckled qualifier Galletti.

Former BMW PGA Championship winner Byeong Hun An said the event was "totally out of control on every hole" in a post on social media.

The incidents are the latest at an event that has increasingly become affected by rowdy behaviour, particularly on the 16th.

An almost naked spectator was arrested at last year's tournament after streaking around the green before jumping in a nearby pond.

The previous edition saw fans routinely shower the hole with drinks bottles to reward a good shot - with one player being hit - while PGA Tour players Harry Higgs and Joel Dahmen removed their shirts to the delight of baying fans.



**Quest**



**writer**

UGBIDYE SHAAPERA

FRAGMENT

**"Generally, the result of the HG - AAS analysis shows that the level of Hg is always higher in the liver compared to intestine and muscles. Mercury is rapidly absorbed and distributed by the blood; about 1% is deposited in the brain where it is retained for a long time, and the rest is transported to the liver and kidneys where it is excreted through bile and urine."**

UGBIDYE SHAAPERA

## Determination mercury level in *Rana esculenta* (Frog)

**T**ODAY, *R. esculenta* also known as edible frog has become the main supply of protein besides meat and poultry. Countries like France, Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia and Nigerian, take edible frog as the main dish of their diet because it provides protein. Therefore, their mode of feeding and environment to these frogs needs investigation. Heavy metals have the tendency to accumulate in the various aquatic animals and the accumulation depends on the intake and elimination from the body. Marine fish and edible frog were exposed to these metals that human being consumed as sea foods. Therefore, there is a link for the transfer of toxic metals into human beings as we go up the food chain. However, frog also may contain chromium, mercury and lead that could give negative effects for health. The marine organisms accumulate contaminants such as metals from the environment and have been extensively used in marine pollution monitoring. These metals accumulate in frog from water, food, sediment and some suspended particulate matter. The contamination of water bodies with heavy metals has become a matter of concern over the last two decades. The natural aquatic systems may extensively be contaminated with heavy metals released from domestic, industries and other man-made activities. Heavy metals contamination may have devastating effects on the ecological balance of the environment and a diversity of aquatic organisms. Heavy metals are of particular concern due to their potential toxic effect and ability to bioaccumulate in aquatic ecosystems. Heavy metal concentrations in aquatic ecosystems are usually monitored by measuring their concentrations in water. Water quality standards should be applied to sediment because of its strong influence on the water quality. However, total metal concentration in sediment is not a good estimation of bioavailability. Different phases of sediment can vary in toxicity with the same concentration. Even though, mercury is a naturally occurring metal which has several forms of existence, the most common organic mercury compound is methyl mercury, which is produced mainly by small organisms called bacteria in water and soil. Methyl mercury builds up in the aquatic organisms and its levels in tissues increase as we go up the food chain. Edible frog and other aquatic organisms' intake are the major source of exposure to mercury, mainly in the form of methyl mercury, which accumulates from surrounding waters. Studies shows that edible frog accumulate these heavy metals from the surrounding water bodies thereby leaving a health risk if taking as food. EPA drinking water limit is 2ppb and FDA maximum permissible level of methyl mercury in seafood is 1ppm. Therefore, methyl mercury is worse for young children than for adults, because more of it passes into



children's brains where it interferes with normal development. In this study, we investigate the distribution of mercury in edible frog, sediment and water from river Guma, Benue state, Nigeria. The observed levels of this metal concentration were compared to the Provisional Tolerable Intake for mercury as set by World Health Organization standard.

### Materials and Methods

**Sampling:** Three sampling stations coded A (07.806910 North, 008.657630 East), B (07.806520 North, 008.657560 East) and C (07.769730 North, 008.594130 East) was established based on the anthropogenic activities that are going on around the area. Samples of edible frog, water and sediments were collected from the River Guma for three consecutive months (between January and March, 2013). A total of 20 mature edible frog samples with mean weight of  $150 \pm 3g$  and mean length  $26 \pm 2cm$  were obtained from the sampling station. The samples were stored in an ice box in order to maintain the freshness and later transported (11/2 hours) to the laboratory for dissection to obtain muscles, intestine and liver. The edible frog samples organ (muscles, intestine and liver) were oven dried separately for an hour to constant weight at 1050C. The organs were pooled separately according to tissue type and milled with a mortar and pestle. They were put in dry labeled plastic containers and stored in desiccators until digestion.

### Results and Discussion

The results of analysis shows that the concentration of mercury in all the water samples from the three sampling stations and between the

periods of investigation (January, February and March) were below the detection limit. Therefore, any Hg level found in the frog could be as a result of bioaccumulation. The mean concentrations of mercury measured in the edible frogs are shown in figures 2 - 4. The concentration of mercury varied in the organs from 0.001 - 0.006mg/kg in all the periods of investigation. Figure 2 illustrates the mean concentration of mercury in liver, intestine and muscles of edible frogs from river Guma as obtained in January, 2013. Similarly, figures 3 and 4 shows the mean concentrations of mercury for February and March, respectively. However, in figure 4 the concentration of Hg in muscle of frog could not be detected, perhaps it was below the detection limit. Even though, the concentrations of Hg obtained were generally about a factor ten (10) higher than the recommended value of WHO within the period of this investigation.

Generally, the result of the HG - AAS analysis shows that the level of Hg is always higher in the liver compared to intestine and muscles. Mercury is rapidly absorbed and distributed by the blood; about 1% is deposited in the brain where it is retained for a long time, and the rest is transported to the liver and kidneys where it is excreted through bile and urine. The mean concentrations of Hg reported in this work are within the range of literature values reported by previous studies. Mukherjee reported mercury concentration in *Harpadon nehereus*, *Daysciaen aalbida*, *pumpus argentius*, *Formio niger*, *Hilsa ilisha* and *Rastrellig kanagaruta* to be 0.91, 0.46 0.70 0.28, 0.37 and 0.93µg/g respectively in fishes from Bag

Bergal, India. Voegborlo reported mercury concentrations in fish species samples from the coastal waters of Ghana as in *Lagolephalus lagocephalus*, *Stromatteus fiatrla*, *Braelydenterus curitus*, *Pamulinus argus*, *Calappa rubroguhata*, *Gerres nigri*, *Decapterus rhonchus*, *Braehydentera aurita*, *Diplodus puntazzo*, *parapristipomma humile*, *selene dorsalis*, *Galeoides decadactylus*, and *Pseudotolithus senegalensis* as 0.066, 0.004, 0.037, 0.035, 0.056, 0.043, 0.070, 0.112, 0.034, 0.041 and 0.031µg/g. High value of mercury concentration of 0.32ppm in *Lates nilotcus* has been reported on Kaduna river. Alinnor working on Nworier river, reported Hg level of mean in *Liza grandisaquamis* and *Sphyaena sphyaena* to be 0.0083ppm and 0.0083ppm, respectively. Ekpo reported mercury concentration in *Metacembelus iconnbergii*, *Clarias lazera*, *Citarinus cithanus*, *Tilapia Zilli* and *Erpetoichthys* from Ikpo river in Benin City to be 0.004mg/kg, 0.003 mg/kg, 0.003 mg/kg, 0.00mg/kg and 0.002mg/kg respectively. Eneji also determined the concentration of these metals in the gills, intestine and muscle tissues of two fish species; *Tilapia Zilli* and *Clarias gariepinus* obtained from up and down streams of the River Benue. They reported the percentage composition of total heavy metals in the fish organs to be 52.2% in the gills, 26.3% in the intestine and 21.5% in the muscle tissue in *Tilapia Zilli* and contain 40.3% in the gills, 31.6% in the intestine and 28.1% in the muscle tissues of *Clarias gariepinus*. The concentration of mercury in all the sediments samples ranges from 0.000 - 0.001mg/kg in all the periods of investigation. The mean concentration of Hg in the sediment from river Guma is presented. Similar to the results of water

analysis, the concentrations of mercury in most sediment samples were below the detection limit. The result shows that mercury level is at pick of maximum permissible level in the soil and any further addition as a result of anthropogenic activities could leads to contamination.

Norville reported the spatial distribution of heavy metals in sediments from the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad and recorded mercury concentrations to vary 0.03 - 0.10ppb. Kannan study the distribution of total mercury and methyl mercury in water, sediment and fish from South Florida Estuaries. They reported total mercury concentrations in the sediments to range from 1 - 219ng/g dry weight, while methyl mercury accounted for, on average of 0.77% of total mercury in sediment. The relationship of total and methyl mercury concentrations in fish to those of sediments from corresponding locations was fish -species dependent, in addition to several abiotic factors. Kwaansa-Ansah investigated the effect of pH, sulphate concentration and total organic carbon on mercury accumulation in sediments in the Volta Lake at Yeji, Ghana. They reported total mercury concentrations ranged from 32.6 - 700ng/g which is below the International Atomic Energy Agency recommended value of 810ng/g. Sizmur sampled sediments and polychaete worms from mudflats in the Bay of Fundy to investigate the bioaccumulation of mercury and methyl mercury in the coastal invertebrate food web. Their results shows that mercury concentrations in the sediments were low (< 20µg/kg) and worms that were feeding deeper sediments contained the greatest methyl mercury concentrations (69.6µg/kg). 4.0

### Conclusion

The mean concentration of mercury obtained in edible frog (0.027mg/kg) was below the International Atomic Energy Agency recommendation value (IAEA - 433) of 0.168mg/kg. Also, the mean concentrations of mercury in the edible frog organs and sediments were found to be statistically significant (p = 0.50). This work shows that edible frog could be used as an excellent bio-indicator of mercury in the aquatic ecosystem as the concentration of mercury was too low to be detected in water using routine methods. Nevertheless, the gradual accumulation of mercury within the ecosystem to concentrations of considerable concern was found in edible frog. Generally, the order of mercury concentration in a descending level in edible frog organs was liver > intestine > muscles; while the order in the aquatic ecosystem was edible frog > sediment > water.

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