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**LP set to hold
convention today**



Abure

The leadership of the Labour Party insists that it won't rescind the decision to hold its contentious national convention today as planned.

The development comes few days after the party formally petitioned relevant government institutions requesting

urgent intervention to protect the party against further aggression from the Nigeria Labour Congress.

In four separate letters written to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume, Attorney General of the Federation, Lateef Fagbemi, Ministry of Labour and Employment and Registrar of Trade Unions, Falonipe Amos, the party called for disciplinary action to be taken against the NLC President, Joe Ajaaro, and other union leaders who spearheaded the alleged vandalism of its property.

The ongoing conflict over the control of the party escalated last Wednesday when members of the union

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Judge sentences Chinese lover to death

Justice Sanusi Ado Ma'aji of Kano state high court sitting at Miller Road, Bompai, has found Quandong Geng, a Chinese national, guilty of killing his girlfriend.

Geng had invaded the residence of Ummita in September 2022 and stabbed her to death during an argument.

He had fled the scene but was subsequently arrested by the police and arraigned.

During cross examination in court, he had said Ummita broke his heart by getting married to another

person as he had plans of settling down with her.

Geng added that when they started preparing for their wedding, he bought her wedding dresses worth N1.5 million, sweets and other dresses they would wear on their wedding day and 'Asoebi' for her friends. He added that he also gave her N700,000 new notes for spraying on the wedding day.

"I went to Sokoto to see her family members where I spent N700,000.

"On the 13th September 2022, she requested some money to be used in the



Fagbemi

house she is building in Abuja but I didn't give her because I didn't have

money then.

"Since then, she stopped answering my calls because she thought I was broke," he said.

He said Ummita deceived him and got married to another person but continued to request money from him and there was a time she came to Kano, and she made sure that they met.

He had noted, "Besides huge amounts of money I used to spend on her, I used to take her out to places like Bristol Palace and Central Hotel to eat food.

"I bought her a house worth N4 million, a car worth N10 million, N18 million as capital to start business, and spent N500,000 worth of bags and shoes on her new shop and N1 million worth of laces and wrappers and a house in Abuja which she started building."

Geng added that he bought her gold wears worth N5 million, N6 million to go and process her certificate at Sokoto University and N1 million to install the solar system in their house.

On Tuesday, the judge convicted Geng and sentenced him to death.



Governor Mutfwang of Plateau State, assisted by the Chairman, Transition Implementation Committee, Jos South LGC, Peter Ywang Dung, to cut the tape commissioning the multi-million naira modern motor park and shopping complex in Jos Bukuru built by the local administration

**NSCDC uncovers illegal
crude oil reservoir in Rivers** P 2

**PLSG to invest in
potatoes production** P 2

News

LP set to hold convention today

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acting on the directive of NLC leadership picketed LP secretariats across the country.

The action was to press home their demand for Abure's resignation.

The protesting workers had laid siege on LP's national headquarters in Abuja chanting solidarity songs and demanding Abure's resignation.

They were, however, prevented from gaining access to the party secretariat by security operatives posted to the office to maintain order.



Abure

Edo PDP Chairman regains freedom

THE Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Edo State, Tony Aziegbemi, has been released from captivity by his abductors after ransom payment.

Reports say that Aziegbemi was released at about 3am on Tuesday after spending 11 days in captivity.

Sources say that the kidnapped PDP chairman was released after the payment of N50 million ransom.

A statement signed by Clem Aziegbemi, on behalf of the Aziegbemi's family, appreciated the public for the show of love and solidarity to the family throughout the unfortunate incident.

"As a member of the Aziegbemi family, we say thank you all for your great show of love and solidarity with us all through the period of the unfortunate and ugly abduction of our beloved son, brother, cousin, and leader, Dr Tony Aziegbemi for his unhurt release," he said.

Senator Odion Ugbesia, who confirmed Aziegbemi's release to journalists, said, "Yes, I just spoke to him, it is true. To God be the glory."



Aziegbemi

Recall that Azeogemi was kidnapped by gunmen on March 15, at about 11 pm while returning home after a meeting with Governor Godwin Obaseki in Benin, the state capital.

His abductors had last Friday demanded N500 million ransom.

NSCDC uncovers illegal crude oil reservoir in Rivers

THE Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Commandant General's Special Intelligence Squad has uncovered a 500,000 liters of crude oil reservoir at Odagwa Community in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The Rivers State Command Spokesperson of NSCDC, Superintendent Olufemi Ayodele, who paraded some of the suspects arrested during the raid of the oil bunkering site in Odagwa Etche in Port Harcourt, said its men discovered over 10 illegal refineries with an estimated 500,000 litres of Crude oil contained in about 50 illegally constructed reservoirs.

He said the discovery was achieved based on credible intelligence.

Saying the NSCDC will continue to work assiduously in the fight against crude oil theft, illegal mining, illegal dealings in petroleum products amongst others across the country.

"The Commandant General of the NSCDC, Dr Ahmed Abubakar Audi has reiterated over time that all



acts of economic sabotage would be fought to stand still as suspects arrested would face the full wrath of the law irrespective of their sponsors."

"In furtherance, the CG gave a marching order to the Special Intelligence Squad charging them to be more thorough and results oriented in their operations"

"Based on credible intelligence the CG's SIS swung into action and

uncovered 10 illegal local refineries in a forest located at Odagwa Community in Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State where 5 suspects were caught in the act of illegally refining of crude oil," he said.

He said about 10 different cooking pots of 50,000 litres capacity were seen with one big pumping machine, receiver tanks, 25 rubber hoses used for pumping crude oil and

many long galvanized pipes with unquantified litres of crude oil and illegally refined Automotive Gas Oil stored in 6 very large reservoirs and other 20 smaller reservoirs were dug in the ground.

He gave the names of the suspects arrested whom he said have been handed over to the police for further investigation as Favour Chukwu, Desmond Umeh, Godwin Amos, Bineace Galion and Goodnews David.

NGO empowers youths with skills

By JIDAUNA DARING

channel their energy positively in whatever training given them.

Nyelong explained that Stage Fiesta is a platform for expression, particularly for the various artists both in music and dance.

Adding that such event is also a place of expression for the partners who collaborated with ZP to

teach young people how to create their own markets. She disclosed

that the importance of the event cannot be overemphasized since it was geared towards encouraging business networking and network expression.

Maintaining that the activities of ZP, since its inception in 2018, have transformed and also changed the youths,

sense of reasoning positively.

Speaking on sponsorship, Nyelong posited that the event was self-sponsored with support from their partners.

She called on government and spirited individuals to either collaborate or partner with them so as to enable ZP train more young people in different skills.



Nyelong

OVER one hundred young people have been trained in different skills courtesy Zemmes Productions (ZP) in Plateau State.

Chief Executive Officer ZP Jos, Anita Nyelong, stated this at the "Stage Fiesta" they organized in collaboration with their business partners at Rekta Garden Jos, recently.

Nyelong said that ZP owns a skills acquisition centre that trains young people in tailoring, dance, crafts and hats, adding that ZP also runs a dance studio aimed at discovering talents amongst young people in the music industry.

She pointed out that ZP programmes are generally geared towards engaging the youth to

PLSG to implement investment plans in potatoes production

By PETER TITLE

PLATEAU State Government has pledged to eradicate all impediments to the successful implementation of its planned investment in the production of potatoes.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang gave the indication when he received a delegation from the Federal Ministry of Finance on a working visit to Plateau State, at the Government House, Little Rayfield Jos.

Mutfwang expressed his government's determination towards

eradicating all bureaucratic bottlenecks to the effective implementation of the potato value chain initiative in the state.

He therefore pledged the government's support to the programme as, according to him, anything short of such commitment would amount to a disservice to the people of the state.

On her part, leader of the delegation, Dr Akande Bejide, from the International Economic Relations Department, Federal Ministry of

Finance, solicited for maximum cooperation and support to enable the programme succeed.

The engagement

involving top government officials and some members of the Plateau State Potato value chain later went into a closed-door session.



Mutfwang



PLATEAU STATE COLLEGE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY

P.M.B. 013, PANKSHIN

collhealthtechpkn2008@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR ACADEMIC, NON-ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are invited from interested suitably qualified candidates to fill in the vacant positions in the various Schools and Departments of the **Plateau State College of Health Technology, Pankshin.**

A. ACADEMIC STAFF POSITIONS:

1. School of Community Health

- a. **Assistant Lecturer:** The candidate must be a holder of B.Sc. degree in Community Health with, at least, second class lower division in the following areas;
 - i. **Anatomy,**
 - ii. **Physiology,** plus NYSC discharge Certificate or Exemption Certificate, and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.
- a. **Instructor:** The candidate must be a holder of Community Health Officer certificate with upper credit and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.
- b. **Tutor:** The candidate must be a holder of Primary Health Care Tutor certificate in Community Health with at least Upper Credit, and a certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

1. School of Environmental Health.

- a. **Assistant Lecturer:** The candidate must be a holder of B.Sc. degree in Environmental Health with at least second class lower division, a certificate of registration with relevant professional body, and National Youth Service Corps discharge certificate or letter of exemption.
- b. **Lecturer III:** The candidate must be a holder of M.Sc. in Environmental Health or Health Education with certificate of registration with relevant professional body and National Youth Service Corps discharge certificate or letter of exemption.
- c. **Tutor:** The candidate must be a holder of Environmental Health Officer and Environmental Health Tutor certificates with, at least, upper credit and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.
- d. **Instructor I:** The candidate must be a holder of HND in Environmental Health with, at least, upper credit and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.
- e. **Technician:** The candidate must be a holder of National Diploma in Environmental Health with, at least, upper credit and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

2. School of Medical Laboratory Sciences

- a. **Assistant Lecturer:** The candidate must be a holder of Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science Degree in the following areas with at least second class lower division, a certificate of registration with relevant professional body and a certificate of National Youth Service Corps or Exemption letter.
 - i. **Histopathology (blood group)**
 - ii. **Haematology blood group serology**
 - iii. **Chemical Pathology**
 - iv. **Microbiologist**
 - v. **Parasitology**
 - vi. **Bacteriologist**
- b. **Technician:** The candidate must be a holder of National Diploma in Medical Laboratory Science with certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

3. School of Health Information & Biostatistics

- a. **Assistant Lecturer:** The candidate must be a holder of B.Sc. with second class lower division in any of the following disciplines with certificate of registration with relevant professional body, and certificate of the National Youth Service Corps, or letter of exemption;
 - i. **B.Sc. HRO,**
 - ii. **B.Sc. Computer Science,**
 - iii. **B.Sc. Health Information Management and Biostatistics,**
 - iv. **B.Sc. Computer Science,**
 - v. **B.Sc. Statistics**
- b. **Instructor I:** The candidate must be a holder of HND in Health Information Management and Biostatistics with at least upper credit and certificate of registration with relevant professional body and NYSC discharge certificate or letter of exemption.

4. Department of Nutrition and Dietetics

1. **Assistant Lecturer:** The candidate must be a holder of B.Sc. Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics with at least second class lower division with certificate of registration with relevant professional body and certificate of the National Youth Service Corps or letter of exemption.
2. **Instructor I:** The candidate must be a holder of HND in Food Technology with, at least, Upper Credit, certificate of registration with relevant professional body, and certificate of the National Youth Service Corps.
3. **Assistant Lecturer:** The candidate must be a holder of B.Sc. in Biochemistry with at least second class lower division and National Youth Service Corps certificate or letter of exemption.
4. **Instructor I:** The candidate must be a holder of HND in Nutrition and Dietetics with, at least upper credit, NYSC discharge certificate or letter of exemption and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.
5. **Assistant Lecturer:** The candidate must be a holder of B.Sc. degree with at least second class lower division in Agricultural Science and NYSC Certificate or letter of exemption..

6. **Technician:** The candidate must have a National Diploma in Food and Nutrition from a recognized institution.

5. Department of Public Health

1. **Assistant Lecturer:** The Candidate must possess a Bachelor's degree in the following areas with, at least, second class lower division, certificate of registration with relevant professional body (where applicable), and certificate of National Youth Service Corps or letter of exemption;
 - a. B.Sc. Public Health
 - b. B.Sc. Biochemistry
 - c. B.Sc. Computer Science
 - d. B. Sc. Nursing
2. **Clinical Instructor:** The Candidate must be a holder of Community Health Officer certificate, and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.
3. **Instructor I:** The Candidate must be a holder of HND in Public Health with at least upper credit and the National Youth Service Corps or letter of exemption.

6. Department of Pharmacy

1. **Assistant Lecturer:** The Candidate must be a holder of any of the following with, at least, second class lower division, National Youth Service Corps certificate, and certificate of registration with relevant professional body (where applicable);
 - a. B.Sc. Pharmacy,
 - b. B.Sc. Physiology /Anatomy.
2. **Technician:** The candidate must possess a National Diploma (ND) in Pharmacy Technician with at least upper credit with certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

7. Department of Medical Image Processing & X-Ray

- a. **Assistant Lecturer:** The Candidate must be a holder of B.Sc. in Radiology with at least a second class lower division, certificate of registration with relevant professional body and NYSC certificate or letter of exemption.
 1. **Instructor I:** The candidate must possess a HND in Radiology with at least upper credit, certificate of registration with relevant professional body, and National Youth Service Corps certificate or letter of exemption.
 2. **Technician:** The Candidate must possess a National Diploma in Medical Image Processing & X-Ray with at least upper credit and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

8. Department of Epidemiology and Disease Control

1. **Assistant Lecturer:** The Candidate must be a holder of a Bachelor's. Degree in any of the following disciplines with, at least, second class lower division, certificate of registration with relevant professional body (where applicable), and the National Youth Service Corps certificate or letter of exemption:
 - a. **B.Sc. Epidemiology**
 - b. **B.Sc. Computer Science**
2. **Instructor I:** A holder of HND with, at least, upper credit in Environmental Health with certificate of registration with relevant professional body, and the National Youth Service Corps certificate or letter of exemption.

9. General Studies

1. **Assistant Lecturer:** The Candidate must be a holder of any of the following degrees with, at least, second class lower division, certificate of registration with relevant professional body (where applicable), and National Youth Service Corps certificate or letter of exemption.
 - a. B.Sc. /B.Sc. Ed. Physics,
 - b. B.Sc. /B.Sc. Ed. Chemistry,
 - c. B.Sc. /B.Sc. Ed. Mathematics,
 - d. B.A. /B.A. Ed. English,
 - e. B.Sc. /B.Sc. Ed. Mass Communication,
 - f. B.A /B.A. Ed. French,
 - g. B.Sc. Sociology,
 - h. B.Sc. Business Management,
 - i. B.Sc. Entrepreneurship,
 - j. B.Sc. Political Science,
 - k. B.Sc. Psychology,
 - l. B.Sc. Computer Science.

B. NON-ACADEMIC STAFF POSITIONS:

1. Registrar's Cadre

- a. **Administrative Officer II:** Applicant must have a Bachelor's Degree in Arts, Social Science or humanities with, at least, second class lower division plus NYSC discharge certificate, Possession of computer literacy will be an added advantage.
- b. **Administrative Officer I:** Applicant must possess a good Bachelor's Degree (Minimum of second class lower Division) preferably in Arts, Social Science or Humanities with at least three years' post qualification, relevant experience or a Master's Degree in the relevant discipline with at least three years post qualification cognate experience. Computer literacy will be an added advantage.
2. **Executive Officer (Administration) Cadre:**
 - i. **Higher Executive Officer (Admin)** – The candidate must have a Higher

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LANGTANG SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

INVITATION OF TENDER FOR THE EXECUTION OF ECOLOGICAL PROJECTS IN LANGTANG SOUTH L.G.A PLATEAU STATE YEAR 2024

Langtang South Local Government Council wishes to invite reputable and competent companies with good track records of performance and experience to tender for the following projects:

- LOT 1 -** Construction of Dadinkowa – Walnim Road extending just before the newly constructed (3-cell box culvert) ahead of Walnim (6.41km).
- LOT 2 -** Back filling and slope stabilization at the newly constructed triple cell box culvert
- LOT 3 -** Construction of Drainages from General Hospital to mini dam in Mabudi
- LOT 4 -** Construction of Drainage at Angwan mission in Mabudi Langtang South
- LOT 5 -** Construction of Box culvert along Mabudi – Gamakai road. Langtang South Local Government Council

CONDITION FOR ELIGIBILITY

All bids must be accompanied by the following:

- Evidence of Company Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission in Nigeria.
- At least current two years tax clearance certificate of the company. (2021 – 2023)
- Company Audited Account for the last 2 years (2020 -2021)
- Evidence of Financial Capacity or Bank Support to undertake the project (Name and address of the Bank)
- Evidence of having successfully carried out similar works.
- Company profile including Qualification and experience with key company staff.
- Proof of the companies understanding of the job Implementation.
- Sworn affidavit that the company is not indebted with any project by not completing it.
- Evidence of registration with any relevant bodies.
- Evidence of registration as a contractor with Langtang South Local Government Council.
- Evidence of payment of tender bids, with Langtang South Local Government Council.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Clearing, filling and ramming to the finished road level.
- Excavation, blinding, building, capping rendering as specified in the BEME.
- Casting of the structural elements as specified in the BEME.

TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested companies should obtain the documents from the office of the Director of Works, Transport, Housing, Lands Survey Town Planning, Langtang South Local Government Council upon the payment of non refundable tender fee based on the LOT advertised in Bank draft made payable to Langtang South Local Government Revenue Account.

SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Five (5) bounded copies of the technical and financial tender documents must be submitted in separate envelopes clearly Marked Technical Bid" and "both in third Financial Bid" both in third envelope sealed and marked on the right hand top corner TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL, TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES AND ADDRESSED TO:

**THE DIRECTOR OF WORKS
LANGTANG SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL
MABUDI, PLATEAU STATE**

The closing date for the submission of tender shall be 9th April, 2024 by 12:00am. The tenders shall be dropped in a tender box in the office of the Director of Works, Transport, housing lands and Survey Langtang South Local Government Council before opening.

Submission of tenders by post or courier will not be accepted and any tender submitted to the designated location after the date and time will be considered late and none responsive.

OPENING OF TENDER

Opening of tenders shall be on 10th April, 2024 by 10:00am at the Council chamber, Mabudi, Langtang South Local Government Council Area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Failure to satisfactorily fulfill the condition requested above will result in the Invalidation of tender
- Langtang South Local Government Council shall reserve the right to verify the authenticity of claims made by tendering parties.
- Langtang South Local Government Council reserves the right to reject any submission based on unverifiable information.
- All financial bids should be quoted in naira.

Signed
SIMSIN NDAM RIMDAP
Director Works
For TIC:
Langtang South Local Government Council



Towards fair play and justice

THESE past few years have presented trying moments for our dear country and Plateau State. So many things seem to be happening at break-neck speed. Today, mass pogroms have become the order of the day. As a result, we appear to have lost our humanity as nothing bothers us anymore. From the north to the south, peace has somehow taken flight. Chaos has become the norm. Sadly, we are not doing anything concrete to put a stop to this madness.

We pray in our various places of worship for peace to reign yet we forget that prayers without works amount to nothing. Our holy books are very clear on this - no manna will ever fall again from heaven. We forget that miracles only happen these days when we deliberately put in place measures for them to materialize. Rather, we spend our time in prayer houses making supplication for what we have refused to work for.

As a people, we must do some serious soul searching. It is time to ask ourselves if we are on the right course or if we have veered off the mark and need to redirect our steps. Since the return to democracy in the last twenty-five years, things have gone from bad to worse for both our country and people. We have often transitioned from one crisis to another. Our lives seem to be defined by the many crises that have plagued and come to be a part of our society.

The Niger Delta catastrophe, which was handed over to the democratically elected Obasanjo government, was the first litmus test for our democracy. And because we were not able to get it right by handling it properly, it opened the floodgates for other agitations. Because justice was not served, others felt the best way to attract attention was to resort to self-help. And that invariably meant forcefully attracting the attention of the state to your negative activities. The language of force became the norm. It was as if we were all waiting for the military to retreat so that we unleash and vent our pent-up anger on each other. Unfortunately, this has become our lot because we have failed to do justice and ensure fairness at the right

time. Some parts of the country have been treated as unequal partners in the Nigeria Project while others have had to struggle to make life worth living without safeguards being provided for them to thrive. Resources meant to serve the general good have always been cornered by a privileged few, leaving the majority to wallow in abject poverty and want. This is because the rest of us are considered as the dregs of the society, who deserve nothing but suffering.

And if nothing is done to correct this anomaly by those whose business is managing the resources of the state on behalf of the majority, then we are in serious trouble. It is these contradictions that have brought the country to this pass where everyone seems to be on their own while God is for all of us. We have reached a point where brutish force appears to have become the only way to survive. This jungle that we have deliberately created is sure to lead us to

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Therefore, to build a strong and virile nation, we must retrace our steps. We must emphasize those things that bind us rather than those that divide us. We must take deliberate and bold steps that would unite us. And, most of all, we must be deliberate in our leadership recruitment process in order to give young people the opportunity to aspire to any office of their choice without let or hindrance.

Young people must also learn to take up responsibilities and demonstrate some seriousness in doing so. Unless they arm themselves with the requisite new skills, they are not likely to make any impact in today's highly competitive world.

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the path of destruction as a country and a people unless we retrace our steps.

So how can we return to the path of growth and unity? We can do that by, first, ensuring that justice is served to all citizens. All Nigerians must be treated equally, irrespective of their tribes or religions. Our leaders must rise up and protect the people whenever an injustice is done to anyone of them. They must be proactive at all time - they should neither allow citizens begin agitations before doing what they are paid to do nor allow themselves to be compelled to perform their statutory functions. This would go a long way in dousing a lot of tension.

Also, leaders must turn a blind eye to religion. They must not be tribal bigots or regional enthusiasts. They must see the country as their constituency and act like the nationalists of yore whom we often talk about in glowing terms. We must also ask ourselves whether our founding fathers would be happy and proud of what we have made of this country we inherited from them.

Therefore, to build a strong and virile nation, we must retrace our steps. We must emphasize those things that bind us rather than those that divide us. We must take deliberate and bold steps that would unite us. And, most of all, we must be deliberate in our leadership recruitment process in order to give young people the opportunity to aspire to any office of their choice without let or hindrance.

Young people must also learn to take up responsibilities and demonstrate some seriousness in doing so. Unless they arm themselves with the requisite new skills, they are not likely to make any impact in today's highly competitive world. The days where you spread falsehood on the social media expecting manna to fall from heaven are over. Our youth must be up and about. They must seize the moment while working their way up the ladder of growth in order to make any meaningful mark on the sands of time.

Politics

As Benue APC crisis deepens

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Benue State is now torn by internal crisis, thus threatening the peace and tranquility of the entire state. Two rival groups belonging to Governor Hyacinth Alia and the Secretary to Government of the Federation (SGF), George Akume, are battling for its soul. This has also taken its toll on the state House of Assembly as the lawmakers have also taken sides. KENNETH DARENG examines the factors that led to the crises and the efforts being made by stakeholders to bring the situation under control.

THE crisis rocking the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Benue State has assumed dangerous proportions as it is now factionalised with each of them running its own secretariat.

The state governor, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Alia, his cabinet and supporters are pitted against the APC's state structure led by the Chairman, Austin Agada, who is considered a staunch loyalist of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF, Senator George Akume.

However, according to the *Saturday PUNCH*, Agada was purportedly removed as the party chairman by his Ehaje council ward and subsequently restrained from parading himself as such.

Following court injunctions, the State Executive Committee of the APC, led by the governor, appointed Benjamin Omakolo as the acting chairman. However, Omakolo was later sacked by the state's chief judge, Justice Maurice Ikpampese, after vacating the order restraining Agada.

However, the party secretariat located at J.S. Tarka Road was being occupied by the Agada-led state working committee. The other factional office had been opened by the Omakolo-led team close to the Government House, Makurdi.

As is to be expected, the division within the APC in the state has spilled over into the state House of Assembly where some of the law makers have decided to pitch their tent with the George Akume camp.

They accuse Mr. Alia of marginalising APC members and exhibiting "dictatorial" tendencies in running the affairs of the state.

These myriads of crises recently took a new turn when members of the party in the National Assembly called for the intervention of President Bola Tinubu. Their caucus, led by Titus Zam, the senator representing Benue North-West, made the appeal during a press briefing at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

The lawmakers who attended the briefing were Senator Emmanuel Udende, representing Benue North-East and members of the House of Representatives - Dickson Tarkighir, Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency; Philip Agbese, Ado/Ogbadibo, Okpoko Federal Constituency; Terseer Ugbor, Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency; Austin Achado, Gwer-East/Gwer-West Federal Constituency; and Sekav Iyortyom, Buruku and Sesoo Ikpagher, Konshisha/ Vandeikya Federal Constituency.

They claimed to be staunch loyalists of the SGF, George Akume.

Mr. Zam, flanked by members of the caucus, also accused the governor of marginalising members of the ruling party in the state.

"Having watched with apprehension the absence of democratic leadership in Benue State in the last six months exemplified by the arrogant and egocentric conduct of Governor Hyacinth Alia, we have decided to draw the attention of Mr. President and other leaders of APC in Nigeria to seek their immediate intervention before the fortunes of APC in Benue State are totally destroyed," he said.

In a public statement made available to the media, the parliamentarian added that the Mr. Alia had not been picking the calls of members of the National Assembly since his emergence as governor.

The statement read in part: "It is



Alia

necessary to state from the onset that, we have collectively and individually drawn the attention of the leader of the APC in Benue, Sen. Dr. George Akume Secretary to the Government of the Federation who has on several occasions pleaded for patience from us in the anticipation of a possible change of attitude from His Excellency Governor Hyacinth Alia.

"Rather than change for the better, Governor Alia has become more emboldened and has continued to treat us and the party in general in the most disgusting disrespectful and disingenuous manner."

The lawmakers also alleged that the governor erred in the appointment of his commissioners. They claimed that the appointments were made without consulting members of the party.

Likewise, the nomination of caretaker committees for local governments in the state.

However, Mr. Zam praised the SGF for continuously pleading with party members to stay calm. But, according to him, they had finally lost patience and wanted the president to intervene.

"Governor Hyacinth Alia since assumption of duty has not held any meeting with NASS members of Benue State who were elected on the same APC platform with him neither does he pick or return their telephone calls not to talk of consulting them on political matters in the state.

"He has assumed the posture of a conqueror who does not care about the welfare, nor status of National Assembly members in his leadership of Benue State. In every state of the federation members of NASS are working in synergy with their governors to attract development from the centre to their State of origin," he said.

Mr. Zam also announced the "loyalty" of the caucus to Mr. Akume and the state factional chairman,

Austine Agada.

Rev. Alia, a Catholic priest, ditched his cassock last year and emerged as the governorship candidate of the APC. He subsequently won the gubernatorial election.

Analysts believe that Mr. Akume, a former governor of the state, provided the political structure that ultimately brought back the APC to power in the state.

However, there have been speculations of a rift between Messrs. Akume and Alia, even though the former has consistently denied such allegations.

With the crisis brewing in the Benue APC, stakeholders are anxiously looking up to President Tinubu for a solution. Just as he has done in other states, they want him to use his good offices to broker peace in the Benue State APC.

It will be recalled that Tinubu had intervened in the crisis in Rivers State between Governor Siminalayi Fubara and his predecessor, Nyesome Wike. This led to the resolution of the conflict in the oil-rich state. The president also intervened in the rift between former Ondo State Governor, late Rotimi Akeredolu, and his deputy, Lucky Aiyedatiwa.

In the current Benue State stalemate, the Majority Leader of the legislature, Saater Tiseer, has raised an alarm over what he termed the factionalisation of the House. He however maintained that he could not confirm if the division was between the Akume and the Alia factions.

Tiseer, who spoke in Makurdi against the backdrop of the recent three-month suspension slammed on four members said to be leaders of the Group of 22 or G22 in the Assembly, insisted that there was no rift in the House.

Said he: "The House is divided but I do not know whether it is between Senator Akume and the Governor. It



Akume

is divided because there was a contest on who should be the Speaker and one person emerged that had 17 votes and the other 15 votes.

"The 17 votes of the speaker cut across the APC and the PDP, it was an alliance. On the other hand, out of the 15 votes, 14 are APC, one is Labour Party. So from the APC sometimes they feel disgruntled but nobody is being victimized. They feel that we have collaborated with the PDP to form the leadership and that is why there is tension in the House. For those supporting the Speaker, we believe if he gets the right support and supports the Governor, the state will move forward."

On the distribution of official vehicles to members, which also sparked controversy in the House, he added: "... we were supposed to be given vehicles, and we are 31 because one of us Dr. Ortese was appointed Commissioner for Health.

"What is supposed to happen is that the leaders of the House were supposed to get more than one car. They are supposed to get two with the Speaker two and other security vehicles. The governor ordered for 32 and the contractor was able to bring only 17.

"Recently, the governor attempted to terminate the contract and asked us to go to the banks to get vehicles but the contractor assured the governor that we would get them this week and so he asked us to go and share the available cars."

There seems to be no end in sight to the intra-party crises rocking the Benue State APC as policemen were reported to have fired tear gas at an anti-Austin Agada group which attacked him while attempting to access the state secretariat of the party in Makurdi.

The incident followed a letter written by the Chief of Staff to the governor conveying Alia's instructions to the Commissioner of Police, Emmanuel Adesina, indefinitely banning all political activities in the state. This was said to be over the state of insecurity occasioned by the influx of herders into the state.

In compliance, the police directed the state chapter of the APC group led by Agada not to hold its planned executive committee meeting with some key party officials. However, the Agada group, believed to be loyal to George Akume, went ahead with the meeting but the governor's supporters blocked the road leading to the venue.

Pandemonium broke out as Agada arrived the party secretariat and the anti-Agada supporters descending on him, prompting the police to shoot into the air and fire tear gas to disperse the crowd.

As a way towards finding a lasting solution to this lingering problem, the Vice President, Shetimma Ibrahim, waded in by undertaking a visit to the state. He was said to have done so at the instance of President Tinubu.

During a meeting with party faithful in Makurdi, the vice president appealed to the warring sides to bury the hatchet for the overall development of the state.

Political observers were hopeful that the president would personally intervene towards a peaceful resolution of the crisis which has polarized the APC in the state. And just like the president's intervention in the Wike-Fubara feud led to a compromise, a similar intervention could very likely lead to finding a headway towards ending the rivalry and bitter exchanges between loyalists of Governor Hyacinth Alia and those of the SGF, George Akume.



When wickedness becomes the norm

A prisoner escaped from a prison in one of Nigeria's northern states. As he roamed the forest, he came upon a man carrying a few days' old infant crying at the top of its voice. The escaped prisoner hid behind some trees because even though it was dark, whoever looked at him closely would know he was a prisoner because of his prison garb.

But what struck him most about the other man was his complete lack of compassion. It didn't matter to him at all that the infant was wailing uncontrollably and made no effort to comfort it. You would have ordinarily think that it was a doll by the way the man treated the infant. But what would a grown man be doing with a doll? All that mattered to the man was to push deeper into the forest.

Curious, the escaped prisoner followed at a safe distance. Then, as the man lifted the wailing baby above his head, chanting some incantations, its cries reached a feverish pitch. The infant had sensed that something dreadful was afoot. The prisoner felt an urge to dash out and save it. But, of course, his situation could not permit that.

Hot tears of frustration were already rolling down his face. The baby continued twisting its little frail body in agony. Suddenly, its wailing reached a crescendo and abruptly ceased. Then a graveyard silence descended on the forest.

The man's incantations grew louder. And with one swift movement, he tore the baby into two over his head. The blood gushed over his head and into his mouth. Wearing a satisfied look, he licked the blood and continued chanting.

The escaped prisoner was horrified. He had to cover his mouth with his palms to stop himself from shouting out in horror. Unfortunately, there was nothing he could do. He had to remain hiding because it was a moonlit night. He knew what fate would befall him should the murderer discover him. Overwhelmed with emotions, he had to control himself.

The man completed his rituals, cleaned himself and wrapped up the dead baby. Only God knows what he planned to do with the horrific remains. As he made his way through the forest, he walked like a king, untouchable because he knew that he was well protected. Carefully contemplating him, the escaped prisoner saw a very wealthy man and wondered what that bloody episode was all about.

Long after the baby murderer had departed, the escaped prisoner retraced his steps back to prison, reported himself as he wept bitterly. He confessed to the authorities that he never wanted to be free again because what he had witnessed made prison the safest place for him on earth.

This account may appear far-fetched. But that was the prisoner's true story.

There was a similar narrative involving a day old baby. It all started in a hospital. When a lady in labour was rushed to the hospital, it was discovered that she was ready to start pushing. So, she was taken to the Labour Room.

All along, a woman who had stationed herself by her side appeared to be comforting her. She gave her all the moral support she needed and stood by her all through her delivery. After a successful delivery, the new mother fell asleep.

When she woke up, she asked for her

baby but was told that it was in the care of her mother. Wide eyed, she looked at them and asked: "Which mother?"

The nurses informed her that it was her mother who had been by her side all through her labour. But told them that her mother was dead. Pandemonium broke. The nurses had assumed that the doting elderly woman by her side was her mother.

Nurses and security guards ran helter-skelter in search of the woman and the baby. But they were nowhere to be found. At the gate, they were informed by a commercial motorcyclist that he had just dropped a woman carrying a baby at a certain destination. Excited, he was just informing his colleagues that she had paid him N1000 and told him to keep the change.

When he led some security men to the place the woman had alighted, they approached the isolated house cautiously. Then they saw the elderly woman pounding something in a mortar. When she noticed them, she was unperturbed. They approached and asked her why she stole a baby. She casually told them to wait and see for themselves. They asked for the baby and she told them that they were too late because it was already being cooked.

They heard the sound of cars approaching and took cover. To their utter surprise, a group of wealthy individuals was ushered in. These powerful men were served baby garnished soup. And they leisurely sat and ate it with so much relish as if it was delicious fish peppered soup.

Aware that their lives would be in danger if these powerful individuals spotted them, the security agents who had been investigating the case sneaked away unnoticed.

So, they had no choice than to explain to the hospital authorities that they had embarked on a wild goose chase. The baby's mother was utterly devastated. This case was an eye-opener for most maternity wards not to make assumptions but ask before trusting the life of a baby or mother in anybody's care.

These anecdotes are meant to show us the extent of human wickedness. The two heinous atrocities above were visited on innocent souls - babies. One was a day old and the other a few days old.

Times without number, we have heard of girls who give birth out of wedlock and come back home without the baby. A lady said that she gave birth to a healthy baby but was later told her baby died and the private clinic took the liberty to bury it while she was sleeping. She said, she smelt a rat but since it meant she was free again, she let it go.

We have also heard about baby factories. Have our governments been able to successfully tackle this menace? Government has to revisit the issue of registration of health facilities, especially orphanages. From every indication, there are a few bad eggs aiding in the nefarious acts of selling babies.

Sadly, many quacks still abound in the health sector. These could be the bad eggs engaged in these activities in order to make quick money. They urgently need to be fished out to save many other parents, especially mothers, from the agony and pain of losing their beloved babies.

MOST Nigerian cities can best be described as being very dirty. Therefore, the big question is, how do we clean all the mess?

Maintaining cleanliness in Nigeria is crucial for public health, environmental sustainability and national development. A clean environment reflects a prosperous and healthy society. However, pervasive corruption and political crises have hindered Nigeria's efforts toward achieving and maintaining environmental cleanliness.

Many citizens are dying because they lack proper basic hygiene and healthcare facilities where they live. It is the responsibility of government to ensure that citizens have basic healthcare services. Many areas require well-constructed drainages to check erosion and seasonal flooding.

Unfortunately, corruption is widespread in Nigeria. This has led to the mismanagement of public resources and the neglect of environmental initiatives. Embezzlement of public



Let's keep Nigeria clean

money, bribery and nepotism have eroded public trust in governments and undermined efforts to keep our environment clean.

The diversion of funds meant for waste management, sanitation and general cleanliness has resulted in inadequate services and poor maintenance of facilities. This has contributed to the rise in waste pollution in most of our communities.

Bribery, tax evasion, illegal waste disposal and non-compliance with environmental regulations

degrade the environment and promotes culture of lawlessness and impunity.

The rampant dumping of refuse in gutters, on roads and in our surroundings does not help matters. We should learn how to dispose waste in hygienic ways because doing otherwise can be an easy way to contact diseases.

The right policies can help improve the level of cleanliness in our society. This should also be part of our culture and way of life.

Solome Jiya, Jos

Curbing insecurity in Nigeria

PLEASE spare me some space in your widely read newspaper, THE NIGERIA STANDARD, to express my feelings on some current happenings in the country.

Nigeria is the giant of Africa for a reason. Its vast land and various cultures are some of the things that make it to be reckoned with. A country with a population of over 200 million inhabitants and huge resources is expected to flourish.

But, sadly, the high levels of insecurity and abductions that have bedeviled the country have become matters of great concern. In recent times, the activities of Boko Haram and Fulani herdsmen have slowed the wheel of progress of the country.

The abduction of the Chibok and Dapchi girls and other school children (including the most recent one in Kaduna State) are a source of great concern. These challenges have made Nigeria one of the most dangerous places to raise a child in the whole world.

One begins to wonder if the insurgents are ghosts that

cannot be seen with ordinary eyes or if their activities are sponsored for political and selfish reasons. Why do they seem to disappear into thin air whenever security operatives come to the scene of such attacks? In some cases, they raid communities for many hours and no one dares them.

During the recent attacks in Mangu and Bokkos local government areas of Plateau State, the residents were just left at the mercy of God, with little coming from the security agencies. Leaders of tomorrow were killed and burned to ashes. Foodstuff cultivated and harvested were also burnt, leaving the people to wallow in abject poverty. Sadly, little children were turned to orphans, husbands turned to widowers and wives to widows as a result of the unfortunate mayhem.

Should we keep on being silent and allow all of these evil people invade our land? The government has a very big and important role to play in stemming the madness of

insurgency. It is high time stringent measures are taken to curb this evil. Why would an ex-convict or terrorist be accommodated by government for being repentant and become critical member of top security agencies while our young and vibrant youths are left jobless with no means of livelihood?

Also, our state borders must be secured to reduce the influx of criminals who disguise themselves as traders. Jobs should be provided for our teeming youths. This will curb their recruitment into terrorist gangs or organizations.

Sadly, the number of internally displaced persons are on the increase. Some are dying as a result of hunger and other ailments. This does not speak well for a country as rich as ours. We must stand up and unite as patriotic Nigerians to fight all the evils that lead to insurgency.

Narin Sati, Angwan Rukuba, Jos, Plateau State

Standard Cartoon



Change of Name

AKWU I, formerly known as AKWU SUSAN OJOCHOGU , now wish to be known and addressed as AKWU SUZAN OJOCHOGU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	IDUTA I, formerly known as CHARLES PATRICIA OYIE , now wish to be known and addressed as IDUTA PATRICIA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	ABDULMALIK I, formerly known as JIBRIL ARWAH GOBIR , now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULMALIK ARWAH GOBIR . All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	DAKONG I, formerly known as LONGWAL NANLE , now wish to be known and addressed as DAKONG LONGWAL NANLE . Correct date of birth is 3/3/2003 not 10/2/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	YAKUBU I, formerly known as YAKUBU SIMON , now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU SIMON ATANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	YAHAYA I, formerly known as YAHAYA TITI DANLADI , now wish to be known and addressed as YAHAYA TITI SHIYA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ANNA I, formerly known as ANNA ADAMU TONGWE , now wish to be known and addressed as ANNA TIMOTHY NYAM . All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NANDOM I, formerly known as BALI NIMRAM , now wish to be known and addressed as NANDOM BALI NIMRAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.	TAPFOM I, formerly known as TAPFOM GABRIEL , now wish to be known and addressed as TAPFOM GABRIEL ELISHA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	ESTIRA I, formerly known as ESTHER PAM , now wish to be known and addressed as ESTIRA PAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	ONYEKWELU I, formerly known as EDOZIE EBERRE MERCY , now wish to be known and addressed as ONYEKWELU EBERE MERCY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	DAPEL I, formerly known as JOSEPH THOMAS , now wish to be known and addressed as DAPEL JOSEPH ZUMLE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
ABDULMUMEEN I, formerly known as ABDULMUMIN ABUBAKAR , now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULMUMEEN MANGUNA ABUBAKAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GLORIA I, formerly known as GLORIA NANLEP DASHI , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GLORIA NANLEP GAUS . All former documents remain valid. UBA, Access Bank and other concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	NANREBET I, formerly known as NANRIBET SILAS DANLADI , now wish to be known and addressed as NANREBET SILAS DANLADI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	MAMOT I, formerly known as MAMOT MARY NUHU , now wish to be known and addressed as MAMOT MARY SAMSON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	NALDA I, formerly known as NALDA NANBUT LABAR , now wish to be known and addressed as NALDA NANBUT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	KUMDEN I, formerly known as KATBAM EDWARD , now wish to be known and addressed as KUMDEN KATBAM EDWARD . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
PRECIOUS I, formerly known as KWAMKAT LAR , now wish to be known and addressed as PRECIOUS KWAMKAT MONDAY . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JOSEPH I, formerly known as GIMBA ASABE JOSEPH , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH ASABE YANA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MUSTAFA I, formerly known as MUSTAPHA AB GALLA , now wish to be known and addressed as MUSTAFA GALLA MOHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NNENNA I, formerly known as NNENNA NWOBODO , now wish to be known and addressed as NNENNA OPARA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	UMEMBA I, formerly known as NWAJI FERDINAND UMEMBA , now wish to be known and addressed as UMEMBA FERDINAND NWAJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DORCAS I, formerly known as UWADEH MAREN MACHEN, DORCAS MAREN MACHEN , now wish to be known and addressed as DORCAS GABRIEL FRANCIS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
DELIGHT I, formerly known as MAAFAN DOOSUUR MIRIAM , now wish to be known and addressed as DELIGHT YUNUSA MIRIAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CHOHU I, formerly known as CHOHU JEFFEREY JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as CHOHU JEFFREY JOHN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ANTHONY I, formerly known as ANTHONY RAOUL DJANGBO, ANTHONY LAWRENCE RAOUL and RAOUL DJ ANTHONY L. , now wish to be known and addressed as ANTHONY LAWRENCE DJANGBO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ABAFARAS I, formerly known as MWOLBANG ABAFARAS , now wish to be known and addressed as ABAFARAS LONGTONG MWOLBANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	YAKUBU I, formerly known as AFINIKI BITRUS DAWURANG , now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU AFINIKI GYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	EMMANUEL I, formerly known as EMMANUEL CHOMO CHOJI , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL CHOMO DAVOU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
PHILEMON I, formerly known as PHILEMON NANRIBET SALE , now wish to be known and addressed as PHILEMON CONFIDENCE SALE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MARTHA I, formerly known as MARTHA NANMER PAUL , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MARTHA DONGSEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AZI I, formerly known as CHRISTIANA EZEKIEL , now wish to be known and addressed as AZI CHRISTIANA IBRAHIM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	BALMUN I, formerly known as BALMUN DEBORAH DIYEN , now wish to be known and addressed as BALMUN PHILEMON DIYEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ILIYA, I, formerly known as ILIYA, NANYAH BONGKUR , now wish to be known and addressed as ILIYA, NANYAH . Correct date of birth is 17/8/1987 not 25/3/1978. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JUDE I, formerly known as MIKYES HAPPY YUSUF , now wish to be known and addressed as JUDE HAPPY YUSUF . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
SATI I, formerly known as KUMBUR EUNICE , now wish to be known and addressed as SATI EUNICE GARBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	OCHOGA, I, formerly known as OCHOGA, OGABA , now wish to be known and addressed as OCHOGA, OGABA MICHEAL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GOKIR I, formerly known as FWENSHINEN AYUBA , now wish to be known and addressed as GOKIR FWENSHINEN AYUBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AJIBADE I, formerly known as AJIBADE ABIODUM , now wish to be known and addressed as AJIBADE ABIODUM SAHEED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SHUT I, formerly known as SHUT KANENG PAULINA , now wish to be known and addressed as SHUT KANENG EZEKIEL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NENLIA I, formerly known as NENLIA STEPHEN GOSHIT , now wish to be known and addressed as NENLIA SOLOMON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
ONYEMEKEIHIA I, formerly known as ELEMA NOYE , now wish to be known and addressed as ONYEMEKEIHIA CHRISTIAN NOYE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GAMUKO I, formerly known as LONGLENG MIALDAT BITRUS, LONGLENG MIALDAT F. ISTIFANUS , now wish to be known and addressed as GAMUKO FLORENCE ISTIFANUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SATDEN I, formerly known as FWANGCHI TONGRIANG YUSUF , now wish to be known and addressed as SATDEN TONGRIANG LONGJI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CHALLAT I, formerly known as CHALLAT NAANNACHIGIR , now wish to be known and addressed as CHALLAT NAANNACHIGIR JOSEPH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DAKUP I, formerly known as ISA ARTTU HAPPY , now wish to be known and addressed as DAKUP HAPPY JAMES . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JAMES I, formerly known as MISS AUDU PATIENCE AWAZI , now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. JAMES PATIENCE AWAZI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
MIRI I, formerly known as HENRY CECILIA ABISOLA , now wish to be known and addressed as MIRI CECILIA ABISOLA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	TANI I, formerly known as TANI SALE KIRYA, TANI KIRYA MAKAN , now wish to be known and addressed as TANI KIRYA MAKAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	KETURAH I, formerly known as GYANG KETURAH GWOM , now wish to be known and addressed as KETURAH YAKUBU CHUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DATIRI I, formerly known as JOSHUA GAROS MARGARET DANIEL, DANIEL MARGARET GAROS JOSHUA , now wish to be known and addressed as DATIRI GAROS DACHUNG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DANIANG I, formerly known as DASHE KELVIN KANGNOET , now wish to be known and addressed as DANIANG KEVIN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JAAFARU I, formerly known as JAAFAR KHADIJA IBRAHIM , now wish to be known and addressed as JAAFARU KHADIJATU ABUBAKAR . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
YONLEP I, formerly known as DATONG MIKANG , now wish to be known and addressed as YONLEP MIKANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DAWANG I, formerly known as DAWANG DOMINIC PETER , now wish to be known and addressed as DAWANG DAPOET DOMINIC . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MOHAMMAD I, formerly known as MOHAMMED AMINA , now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD AMINA . Correct date of birth is 17/1/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MICHAEL I, formerly known as DORATHY EMMANUEL NAANRIBETH , now wish to be known and addressed as MICHAEL DORATHY . Correct date of birth is 1/1/1999 not 20/05/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JANA I, formerly known as JANA JANE MICHEAL, GUKUN JANA , now wish to be known and addressed as JANA JANE YILKOPBA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MODIBO I, formerly known as MODIBO SAMARI SOLOMON , now wish to be known and addressed as MODIBO, SOLOMON SAMARI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

Change of Name

FADILA

I, formerly known as **MISS FADILA ABUBAKAR DANJA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS FADILA ISMAIL MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

YABABA

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

SYLVIA

I, formerly known as **SYLVIA MOSES KHAYI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SYLVIA WASH PAM**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

TITUS

I, formerly known as **JIBARANG LEONER AYUBA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **TITUS LEONER AYUBA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

NANSOH

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

NANSHIN

I, formerly known as **HANNATU VONGKUR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NANSHIN NANJI HANNATU**. All former documents remain valid. Bassa Education Authorities and the general public should please take note.

GRACE

I, formerly known as **UHWET GRACE GANDU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **GRACE DINCHI GANDU**. All former documents remain valid. Access Bank and the general public should please take note.

MAFENG

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

DANBWARANG

I, formerly known as **DUNG DEBORAH PAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DANBWARANG DEBORAH DANTYO**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

RAHAMATU

I, formerly known as **YAHANASU MOHAMMED BAGE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **RAHAMATU MOHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

KWARKYES

I, formerly known as **BANWAR FELICIA JOSEPH**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KWARKYES FELICIA OBADIAH**. Correct date of birth is 10/1/1985 not 3/4/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

IDIRIS

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

HAUWA

I, formerly known as **HAUWA ABDULLAHI NIMLAN**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HAUWA NANNA NIMLAN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

AKINTOLA

I, formerly known as **AKINTOLA OLUMUYIWA PETER**, now wish to be known and addressed as **AKINTOLA OLUMUYINWA PETER**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ANTHONIA

I, formerly known as **TONIA AMAKA OKIKE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ANTHONIA AMAKA IKE**. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DAMIYAL

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

EMMANUEL

I, formerly known as **EMMANUEL KWALTOMAI DASHE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **EMMANUEL KWALTOMAI WOKDUNG**. Correct date of birth is 16/08/1976 not 01/10/2003. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

BOLCIT

I, formerly known as **BOLCIT JOSIAH NDAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BOLCIT JOSIAH BALE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BOLCIT JOSIAH KWALTOMAI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

DASHAKAT

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

UMAR

I, formerly known as **RABI'U MOHAMMED UMAR**, now wish to be known and addressed as **UMAR RABI'U**. Correct date of birth is 8/2/1976 not 8/1/1973. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

JOSHUA

I, formerly known as **MISS GARBA, MARYAM HARUNA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. JOSHUA, MARYAM HARUNA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

SAMSON

I, formerly known as **SAMSON PONBUL SHAMA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **SAMSON PONDUL SHAMA**. Correct date of birth is 24/6/1986 not 26/6/1986. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

BRENDA

I, formerly known as **DANKWAR BRENDA CALEB**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BRENDA PLANGJI LUKA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

APPOLOS

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

MARKUS

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

DOMINIC

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

FEMI

I, formerly known as **OLAREWAJU RACHEAL ANUOLUWAPU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **FEMI RACHEAL OLAREWAJU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

DAFUR

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

YAKUBU

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

HENRY

I, formerly known as **LEAH LIAATU HENRY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **HENRY LEAH JOHN DEEWE**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

Continued from page 3



PLATEAU STATE COLLEGE OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY

P.M.B. 013, PANKSHIN

collhealthtechpkn2008@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR ACADEMIC, NON-ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL STAFF VACANCIES

National Diploma in relevant discipline preferably, Arts, Social Science or humanities plus NYSC discharge certificate.

ii. **Assistant Executive Officer (Admin)**. The Candidate must possess a National Diploma (ND) in Public Administration or any of the Social Science areas from a recognized institution.

3. Confidential Secretaries Cadre

a. **Senior Confidential Secretary** – Candidate must have a Higher National Diploma at credit level in Office Technology and Management or its equivalent with at least three years post qualification cognate experience. Plus NYSC discharge certificate or letter of exemption.

4. Executive Officer Cadre

a. **Higher Executive Officer Accounts** – Candidate must have a Higher National Diploma in Accounting or Finance at credit level, obtained from a recognized institution plus NYSC discharge certificate or letter of exemption..

i. Executive Officer Cadre (Audit)

a. **Assistant Executive Officer Audit** – Candidate must possess a National Diploma or its equivalent in Accounting or Finance at credit level obtained from a recognized institution.

5. Medical Services

a. **Community Health Extension Workers (CHEW)** – Candidate must possess a Community Health Extension Workers Certificate or ND in Community Health plus membership certificate from relevant registration body..

b. **Junior Community Health Extension Workers (JCHEW)** – Candidate must possess a Junior Community Health Extension Workers Certificate (JCHEW) or its equivalent plus certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

c. **Medical Laboratory Technician** – Candidate must have a National Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technician certificate or its equivalent plus certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

d. **Nutrition and Dietetics Technician**; Candidate must be a holder of National Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics and certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

e. **Health Information Technician** – Applicant must be a holder of National Diploma in Health Information Management and Biostatistics and present evidence of registration with relevant professional body.

f. **Pharmacy Technician** – Applicant must be a holder of the National Diploma in Pharmacy and present a certificate of registration with relevant professional body.

6. Works Department

a. **Building Technologist**: The candidate must possess HND in building technology with at least upper credit and certificate of registration with relevant professional body, and NYSC discharge certificate or letter of exemption.

b. **Electrician**: Applicant must possess government Trade Test grade I and II.

c. **Compound Labourer** – Applicants must possess Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (SSCE).

d. **Compound Security/Watchmen. Applicants must possess Senior Secondary School Certificate of Education (SSCE)**

7. Library Department

a. **Librarian II** – Candidates must possess a good Bachelor's Degree (minimum of second class lower Division) in Library Science with certificate of registration with relevant professional body, and National Youth Service Corps discharge certificate or letter of exemption.

b. **Assistant Library Officer – Candidate must have a National Diploma at credit level in Library and Information Science/Technology.**

c. **Library Attendant** – Applicants must possess at least Senior Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent.

8. Store Unit

a. **Store Officer** – Applicant must have a National Diploma in Business studies/Purchasing and Supply/Marketing at credit level with at least three years post qualification cognate experience.

b. **Assistant Store Officer** – Applicant must have a National Diploma at credit level in Business Studies, Marketing or Purchasing and Supply.

c. **Store Keeper** – Applicant must have a Senior Secondary Education Certificate (SSCE) with four (4) passes at one sitting or five passes at two sittings including English Language and Mathematics.

9. Information and Communication Technology Unit

a. **Programme /System Analyst II** – applicant must possess a good Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science with, at least, second class lower division plus NYSC discharge certificate or letter of exemption.

b. **Computer Operator** – Applicants must possess a Higher National Diploma in Computer Science or its equivalent from a recognized institution.

Method of Application:

Interested applicants are to collect the application forms from the office of the Registrar of the College of Health Technology, Pankshin on payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand (N2,000.00) Naira Only**.

The completed forms, along with the evidence of payment, are to be submitted to the Office of the Registrar not later than **six (6) weeks** from the date of this advertisement.

Note: Only shortlisted Candidates would be contacted for the interview

Signed:
Paul Walong Rabo, Esq.,
Registrar.



PLATEAU STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, GARKAWA

P.M.B. 001 GARKAWA
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

(Internal and external advertisement for Academic and Non-academic staff positions)

Applications are invited from suitable qualified candidate to fill the under listed Academic and Non-academic positions at the Plateau State College of Agriculture, Garkawa

S/No.	Department	Post/Rank	Qualification	Grade/ Level
A	Agric Extension and Management	i. Assistant Lecturers ii. Assistant Lecturer iii. Assistant Lecturers iv. Asst. Technical Officer v. Asst. Tech. Officer	B.Sc. Agric Economics B.Sc. Entrepreneurship B.Sc. Agric. Ext. & Rural Sociology ND Electrical & Electronics ND Audio Visual (Photograph)	CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 6
B	Agricultural Technology (AGT)	i. Asst Lecturers ii. Asst Lecturers iii. Asst Lecturers iv. Lecturer III v. Asst Lecturers vi. Higher Instructor vii. Higher Instructor viii. Nursery/forestry Attendant	B.Sc. Agric. Engineering B.Sc. Computer Sci./Engr. B.Sc. Soil Science M.Sc. Soil Science B.Sc. Fisheries HND Irrigation/Soil Science HND Computer Science SSCE or Equivalent	CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 09 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 2
C	Animal Health Technology (AHT)	i. Doctor of Vet. Med. (DVM) ii. Assistant Lecturers iii. Technologist iv. Asst. Livestock Tech. v. Livestock Attendant	DVM B.Sc. Animal Sci./Health Tech. HND Animal Sci. & Prod. Tech. ND Animal Sci. & Prod. Tech. SSCE or Equivalent	CONPCASS – 09 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2
D	Animal Production Technology (APT)	i. Asst. Lecturers ii. Asst. Lecturers iii. Asst. Lecturers iv. Technologist v. Asst. Livestock Tech. vi. Livestock Attendant	B.Sc. Animal Nutrition (Ruminant) B.Sc. Animal Nutrition (Monogastric) B.Sc. Pasture & Range Mgt. HND Animal Sci. & Prod. Tech. ND Animal Sci. & Prod. Tech. SSCE Or Equivalent	CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2
E	Horticulture and Landscaping Technology (HLT)	i. Asst. Lecturers ii. Asst. Lecturers iii. Asst. Lab. Tech. iv. Asst. Nursery Demonstrator	B.Sc. Horticulture B.Sc. Agronomy ND Agric. Technology SSCE or Equivalent	CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2
F	Home and Rural Economics (HRE)	i. Lecturer III ii. Asst. Lecturers iii. Technologist iv. Lab Technician v. Lab. Attendant	M.Sc. Home Economics B.Sc. Home Economics HND Catering or Related Areas ND Home Economics SSCE or Equivalent	CONPCASS – 09 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2
G	Pest Management Technology (PMT)	i. Lecturer III ii. Lecturer III iii. Asst. Lecturers iv. Asst. Lecturers v. Asst. Lecturers vi. Technologist vii. Lab. Technician	M.Sc. Entomology M.Sc. Weeds Science B.Sc. Entomology B.Sc. Parasitology B.Sc. Agronomy HND Pest Mgt. Technology ND Agric. Technology	CONPCASS – 09 CONPCASS – 09 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 6
H	Basic Science	i. Assistant Lecturers ii. Assistant Lecturers iii. Assistant Lecturers iv. Assistant Lecturers v. Assistant Lecturers vi. Assistant Lecturers vii. Asst. Lab. Tech. viii. Lab. Assistant	B.Sc. Mathematics B.A. English B.Sc. Physics B.Sc. Chemistry B.Sc. Biology B.Sc. Science Laboratory ND Lab. Science SSCE Or Equivalent	CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2
I	Crop Production Technology (CPT)	i. Assistant Lecturers ii. Assistant Lecturers iii. Assistant Lecturers iv. Instructors v. Technologist vi. Lab. Technician vii. Lab. Attendants	B.Sc. Bio. Environmental & Engr. Tech. B.Sc. Agronomy B.Sc. Crop Science HND (PGD) Crop Production HND Soil Sci./ Water Engineering ND Agric Technology SSCE or Equivalent	CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2
J	Provostry	i. Pharmacy Technician ii. Clinic Attendant iii. Security Guards iv. Asst. Ex. Officer (Acct) v. Farm Attendant	ND Pharmacy SSCE or Equivalent SSCE or Equivalent ND Acct. or Audit SSCE or Equivalent	CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2
K	Library and Information	i. Librarian I ii. Librarian II iii. Data Processing Officer iv. Library Officer v. Library Assistant	MLS BLS B.Sc. Computer Sci. /Engineering ND Library Science SSCE or Equivalent	CONPCASS – 09 CONPCASS – 08 CONPCASS – 08 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2
L	Registry	i. Admin. Officers ii. Asst. Ex. Officers iii. Clerical Officers iv. Messengers v. Cleaners vi. Confidential Secretary	B.Sc., BA. Humanities & LLB ND Public Admin SSCE or Equivalent SSCE or Equivalent SSCE or Equivalent HND/ND Office Technology	CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 8
M	Bursary	i. Store Officer ii. Clerical Officer (Acct) iii. Store Attendant iv. Asst. Ex. Off. (Acct) v. Accountant I	ND. Store Keeper ND Accounting SSCE or Equivalent HND (Accounts) B.Sc. Accounting	CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 8 CONTEDEISS – 8
N	Works	i. Craftman (Electrical) ii. Plant Operators iii. Tractor Operators iv. Labourers v. Driver/Mechanics vi. Quantity Surveyor vii. Technical Officer (Electrical) viii. Technical Officer (Mechanical)	Trade Test SSCE or Equivalent SSCE or Equivalent/Trade Test SSCE or Equivalent SSCE or Equivalent/Valid Class Drivers License ND Quantity Survey ND Electrical Electronics ND Mechanics Engineering	CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 2 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 6 CONTEDEISS – 6

Method of Application

Interested and qualified candidates are to check at the College and follow the instructions outlined to apply not later than six (6) weeks from the date of the publication.

Note: That College will only contact shortlisted candidates. Please.

Signed
Richard I. Dingsan
Registrar

IMAGES

MUTFWANG COMMISSIONS MOTOR PARK AND SHOPS

The Plateau State Governor, Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, recently commissioned the multi-million naira Modern Motor Park and Shopping Complex constructed by the Peter Vwang Dung administration of Jos South LGA



Governor Mutfwang assisted by the Chairman, Peter Vwang Dung, the Commissioner, Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ephraim Usman, while cutting the tape to commission the projects



Governor Mutfwang delivering his speech



The Ultra Modern Motor Park and Shopping Complex



Front view of the project



Cross-section of commissioners



some of the invited dignitaries



Governor Mutfwang (right) putting heads together with the TIC Chairman, Jos South LGA, Peter Vwang Dung



Some clergymen at the ceremony

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

IMAGES

GOVERNOR MUTFWANG INAUGURATES FOUR COMMITTEES

The Plateau State Governor, Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, on Monday at the Government House Banquet Hall, Rayfield, inaugurated the IDP resettlement, chiefdom upgrades and civil service reforms committees, among others



Governor Mutfwang reading his speech to inaugurate the committees



Cross-section of chairmen, secretaries and members of the four committees being inaugurated by the governor



The governor in a group photograph with the Chairman, IDPs and Resettlement and members of the Task Force



Governor Mutfwang in a group photograph with the Chairman, Civil Service Reforms, Engr. Mrs. Esther Gonda, retired Federal Permanent Secretariat, with members of her committee



L - R: HoS, Barr. Rauta Dakok, CoS, Government House, Engr. Jeremiah Satmark, and the SGS, Arc. Samuel Nanchang Jatau



Chairman, Committee on Chiefdom Upgrade Complaints, Justice Christine Dapub, and her members in a group photograph with the governor



Commissioner, Lands and Survey, Barr. Nyam Gai (left), and some of the governor's special advisers



Some of members of the Plateau State Executive Council

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Feature

Danfodio's ghost and Middle Belt genocide

By DAVID HUNDEYIN

"WHEREVER a Fulani army had been, it left a depopulated desert. Greed was one of the chief characteristics of the new dynasty, tax after tax was enforced upon the people, so that at the present day there is no conceivable trade and no profession which has not had its own special tax. Every form of handicraft, the dyers, weavers, blacksmiths, etc were taxed. Even the collectors of honey in the woods paid their dole to the chiefs, and there exists, I believe, a complete system of death duties."

This is an excerpt from a report about Northern Nigeria, submitted to the British colonial government in 1902. At the time, the occupying Brits were not quite sure what to do with Northern Protectorate due to its unique system.

Heavy on rulership and state pageantry, light on trade and productivity. Heavy on conquest and violence, light on effective governance of conquered territories. Heavy on an ever-expanding class of rentier aristocrats, light on a merchant class to support said rent seeking elites. Northern Nigeria was a mess that was collapsing under the weight of its own contradictions.

In typical colonial fashion, the main concern of the British administration was not to effect any kind of root-and-branch reform of a clearly unsustainable empire-state, but merely to make sure that it became productive enough to stop requiring substantial administrative subsidies.

Their solution eventually turned out to be the ill-fated amalgamation of 1914 that saw the merger of conceptual opposites into one nation-state without their consent or input. While the economic and political fallout of that decision on Southern Nigeria are well documented, much less so is the effect it had on the vast expanse from Kaduna to Benue, now known as the Middle Belt.

"It is also in this key context that is often missed when people who are not familiar with the uniquely blood-soaked history of Northern Nigeria attempt to explain the bloodshed it is witnessing today. For the avoidance of doubt, let me state categorically and without fear of contradiction state that – these deaths were neither a series of economic, farmer-herder "clashes," nor are they random, unconnected events. What we are witnessing in Northern Nigeria today is in fact, an unfolding ethno religious genocide, the same one that started in 1804 under the leadership of Shehu Uthman Danfodio."



In modern Nigeria, the perpetrator of one of the most diabolical massacres of the 20th century is immortalised on the national currency, and has the country's busiest airport named after him. It is also the country where his contemporary, who took part in many of his crimes was somehow "forgiven", and elected president by the ahistorical populace.

Five years later, he ordered soldiers to shoot them dead for the heinous crime of peaceful protest at Lekki Toll Gate. In this country, merely documenting the murders carried out by individuals is not enough to significantly shift the needle of their stubbornly positive public perception.

Few examples illustrate this as starkly as that of Shehu Uthman Danfodio, the Fulani ethnic conquistador whose violent Jihad swept through Northern Nigeria in the early

1800s, leaving tens, maybe hundreds of thousands, of rape victims and dead bodies in its wake.

While history tells a very clear story about the sort of thuggery and wanton destruction that Shehu Danfodio visited on the dozens of cities and villages in his path, he is remembered not revered – in Northern Nigeria today, as a "reformer."

As against the bloodthirsty, incredibly violent and ruthless empire builder that he was, contemporary Nigerian orthodoxy insists on presenting him as a religious scholar and some sort of righteous crusader.

The descendants of those who once lived in what is now Nigeria's Middle Belt, especially those in Benue, Plateau, Kogi and Southern Kaduna, remember the Shehu and his dynasty rather differently. In an excerpt

taken from the book, "The Legacy of Arab-Islam in Africa: A Quest for Inter-Religious Dialogue," by Alembillah Azumah, the content was taken from the colonial report referenced at the outset, and it points a rare flashlight at the extensive practice of slave raiding to feed the Trans-Saharan slave trade, which Danfodio's dynasty practiced well into the 20th century.

While reading it, it is important to bear in mind that the areas described in this report are almost entirely now classified as part of the Middle Belt:

It is also in this key context that is often missed when people who are not familiar with the uniquely blood-soaked history of Northern Nigeria attempt to explain the bloodshed it is witnessing today. For the avoidance of doubt, let me state categorically and without fear of contradiction state that – these deaths were neither a series of economic, farmer-herder "clashes," nor are they random, unconnected events.

What we are witnessing in Northern Nigeria today is in fact, an unfolding ethno religious genocide, the same one that started in 1804 under the leadership of Shehu Uthman Danfodio.

The presence of the British colonial administration, and the subsequent nominal existence of an independent

Nigerian state have served to quell some of the more visible manifestations of this barbarous bloodshed.

But, let us be very clear about this: the targeted killings, displacements, mass rapes, destruction of economic resources such as farmland, and forced renaming of towns and villages in the Middle Belt is the same strategy employed by Shehu Danfodio against the very same ethnic groups in those exact areas whom he was generally unable to subdue.

This violence is not a recent phenomenon at all.

What has changed over the past decade and made it more pronounced is manifold. The toppling of Ghadafi and the subsequent flooding of the Sahel region with cheap automatic firearms from Libya's vast weapons stockpiles had compounded the situation, while on the other hand the proliferation of cheap Android smartphones, cheap 3G and 4G internet connectivity and social media, which have made people better able to tell their stories instantaneously and without censorship.

And, most importantly, there was the entry of Muhammadu Buhari into Aso Rock, which signaled to the Dan Fodian marauders that a kindred spirit was in power and it was their time.

And now he really proved them right!

Culture

The significance of *Imborivungu* practice among the Tiv people

Imborivungu is a deity of the Tiv people which requires the killing of humans through witch craft practices *Tsav* as a sacrifice to maintain its efficacy which thus invoke the spirit of favour upon the person or the entire family of those in position of the object. The *Imborivungu* is usually in the custody of witch craft practitioners commonly referred to as *Mbatsav* whom are mostly the elders or young men who acquired it for themselves or inherit it from their ancestors. *Imborivungu* could be a human bone or a sacred wood carved elaborately with similar features of human body. The head or skull, have eyes made of different materials either metals, stones or cowries. While the body segment is decorated with beads of different colours, chains and other materials that could be of great significance to the functionality of the heirloom. ALIEMEN CAROLINE SEWUESE writes.

THE Tiv world view of *Imborivungu* is a cognitive culture; a mental organization in their minds on how it functions to provide their basic needs of life.

The ethnography of the Tiv people cannot be complete without the heirloom known as *Imborivungu*. The object is capable of bringing prosperity to any person who owns it and service it regularly. The *Imborivungu* gives prosperity without limit, it is an instrument that brings honour, wealth and a bountiful harvest to its owners or any one in possession of it. However, any other person aside the owner who sees or comes in contact with it will result to a serious problem for the person which is termed "*injur*" meaning debt and such a person must have to pay with his or her life or kill a loved one or blood relation through witch craft *Tsav* to clear the debt or face the consequences.

There are two types of *Imborivungu*, It is either own by a family collectively or personal. If it is owned by a family, to ensure equal wealth and prosperity distribution amongst members of the family to avoid troubles, it is rotated turn by turn among the family members. Whenever *Imborivungu* is acquired by an individual believing he has found a solution to poverty and misfortune, such a person performed the rites of appeasement secretly to get the benefits of good harvest, honour and wealth alone. This is so because whenever the kinsmen discovered that one has acquired it, they would demand that such a person should voluntarily cease to keep it for himself and hand it over to them so they can also benefit from it. However, if he or she refuses to hand it over, they plot to kill him or her through witch craft *Tsav*. Thereafter, they take it away from him or force his child or children to relinquish it to them, or face a similar misfortune like their late parents. Infact, Tyough, (2010:60) reported that the *Imborivungu* is so valuable to the Tiv culture that it is the singular cause of the highest numbers of deaths even above the issue of women which results into numerous deaths among the male competitors in Tiv land. In extreme cases, the entire families have wiped themselves out in a tussle of who takes possession of an *Imborivungu*. Loho-U-Ter, (2020) affirmed on a similar note that "stories are told that many politicians and business people of the Tiv extraction still have *Imborivungu* in these contemporary times. In most



cases, children or close family members of people who are believed to have *Imborivungu* die under strange circumstances. These deaths are associated with the appeasing and servicing of the *Imborivungu*. Just like every other Tiv ritual "*Akombo*", the *Imborivungu* has its do's and don'ts, and periodically needs blood sacrifices for it to continue to be potent. A good number of those who has *Imborivungu* know the implication before they decide to own it."

Challenges of Practicing *Imborivungu*

There are certain challenging factors affecting the preservation and practice of *Imborivungu* in the study location. These challenges are as follows:

- Westernization; religion (Christianity) and Education
- Fear of the consequential effect of the practice

Westernization remains one of the biggest challenges of cultural practice and thus had affected negatively the practice of African Traditional Religion (ATR) which *Imborivungu* is one of a kind.

With the coming of Christianity, most traditional practices have been replaced. For instance, the Biblical in Exodus 20:3 and Deuteronomy 5:6 out rightly condemns the practice of *Imborivungu* by explaining clearly that they are not allowed to serve or have no other god (*Mbaaondo mba gen*) such as *Imborivungu* and other deities but God Almighty alone.

Education is another challenge faced by the practitioners of *Imborivungu*.

The introduction and establishment of many Schools in the region, has granted many people access to education which has enlighten and expose the Tiv people to acculturation and this has made the people to have less interest in the practice of

Imborivungu as well as envisage it as a barbaric practice. This has caused a major setback for the practice of *Imborivungu*.

Fear of the Consequential effect of the practice of *Imborivungu*

There are cases where elders where beaten seriously especially during the burial ceremonies of mysterious deaths of youths regarding the appeasement of *Imborivungu* and this have sent a signal to many who have it in there custody that killing to appease the object may or land them in to trouble of being beaten almost to the point of death as well as humiliating their families if the community discovered the truth through "*Ishor*" meaning "consulting the mouth piece of the gods of the land to make enquiry"

Another form of fear associated with this practice is that of loosing continuously many souls to the cold hands of death as a result of appeasing it to enjoy the associated benefit.

Many however, would have loved to have *Imborivungu* in their custody considering its benefits but cannot afford to bear the pain of losing their loved ones continuously and thus, have lost interest totally in the practice of *Imborivungu*.

Efforts towards preserving the practice of *Imborivungu*

It is expected that by now the practice of *Imborivungu* in Tiv land should have reduced drastically because of the earlier stated reasons. However, traditional practitioners are also making efforts to ensure that *Imborivungu* practice is maintained. For instance, some of them encourage the practice with words or sayings such as "*Guda Ukpen Ken Tor a u Kpen Ken Chan*" meaning "it is better to die a rich man than die a poor man," or "*Gyanden or gbe lun gbilin ga*" meaning "an elder

cannot just live without any power but must have a source of living." Sayings like these have been a source of encouragement for those who still practice *imborivungu* to acquire quick wealth.

Another effort towards preserving *Imborivungu* is the criticism of Christianity by traditional worshipers by making a mockery of the Christian faith. They tend to compare their achievements with that of the Christian faithful which in most cases appears to be more appealing to them than those practicing Christianity. Consequently, these results had conformed some to the practice of *Imborivungu*.

While others, persecute their Christian siblings with the purpose of discouraging them from being Christians and promoting the practice of *Imborivungu*.

Illiteracy is also another means used to preserve the practice of *Imborivungu*. Most traditional practitioners deny their relations access to western education considering the fact that *Imborivungu* practice is perceived as barbaric and most educated or civilized people will not subscribe into it. Infact, there are reported cases in some families especially polygamous homes where the uneducated family member in possession of *Imborivungu* have used the educated siblings blood to appease the *Imborivungu*. These information's are obtained by consulting the mouth piece of the gods of the land or through the talebearers of the community to knowing the specific person that kills an innocent soul for such a reason which had over some time lead to the beaten of some old men during burial ceremonies of some well to do youths in the region. Educated persons are

easily victimized because of their ignorance towards *Imborivungu* practice. Usually, the witchcraft practitioners would take advantage of their ignorance in this regard because coming upon *Imborivungu* whether inadvertently or advertently as a person who is not the custodian of it, such a person must be killed or sacrifice a person so dear to be used for the consecration of the *Imborivungu*. For this reason, witchcraft practitioners who own *Imborivungu* will deliberately keep it carelessly atimes specifically for the purpose of comparing one to come across it.

Conclusion

In Conclusion, most Tiv people relies more on *Imborivungu* practice for success. However, the coming of westernization; Christianity and Education in the area is now competing and almost at the verge of bringing the practice of *Imborivungu* into extinction. Although, there is no doubt that westernization also have its benefits to mankind but placing more priority to the western culture places the practice of *Imborivungu* on the danger of going extinct.

Significantly, there exist some barriers to the use of *Imborivungu*. The Tiv world view of *Imborivungu* shows the peoples philosophy on wealth creation and its importance in their social lives which proves clearly that the consistent use of western ideas for wealth creation and protection in the area under study have extinction consequences on the practice of *Imborivungu*. Despite all odds, *Imborivungu* is still productive and beneficial to those who practice it and carry out the required sacrifices to appease it at the expected time.

It remains a fact that in order to enjoy the economic benefits of *Imborivungu*, there must be an appropriate and consistent practice of *Imborivungu* with no hindrance to performing its rituals holistically if one can stand the consequential effect of practicing *Imborivungu*.

Reference

Loho-U-Ter, (2020) Unusual Hospitality about the Tiv Nation and the Marital Sex Entertainment Controversy. Jos: Scrollhouse Publishing Firm. P169-171. ISBN: 978978-54440-8-7.

Tyough (2010) Akaa-a-Tiv; Tiv Cultural Heritage and Politics. Makurdi. Ashitech Digital Colour Separation Limited.

Aliemen Caroline Sewuese is an Ethnographer with National Commission for Museums and Monuments, National Museum, Jos.

Foreign News

US surgeons transplant gene-edited pig kidney

DOCTORS in Boston have transplanted a pig kidney into a 62-year-old patient, the latest experiment in the quest to use animal organs in humans.

Massachusetts General Hospital said Thursday last week that it's the first time a genetically modified pig kidney has been transplanted into a living person. Previously, pig kidneys have been temporarily transplanted into brain-dead donors. Also, two men received heart transplants from pigs, although both died within months.

The patient, Richard "Rick" Slayman of Weymouth, Massachusetts, is recovering well from the surgery last Saturday and is expected to be discharged soon, doctors said Thursday.

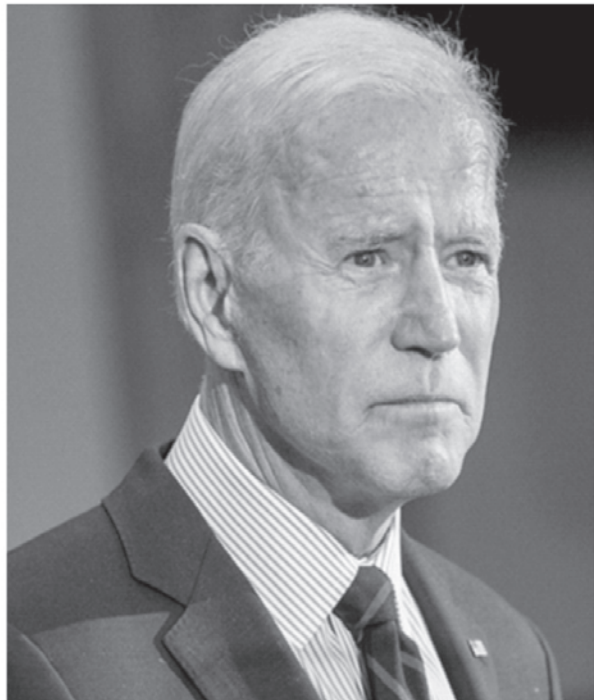
Dr. Tatsuo Kawai, the transplant surgeon, said the team believes the pig kidney will work for at least two years. If it fails, Slayman could go back on dialysis, said kidney specialist Dr. Winfred Williams. He noted that unlike the pig heart recipients who were very sick, Slayman is "actually quite robust."

Slayman had a kidney transplant at the hospital in 2018, but had to go back on dialysis last year when it showed signs of failure. When dialysis complications arose requiring frequent procedures, his doctors suggested a pig kidney transplant, he said in a statement released by the hospital.

Pigs might one day help people who have liver failure. A novel experiment shows how Roy Calne, a surgeon who led Europe's first liver transplant, has died aged 93 "I saw it not only as a way to help me, but a way to provide hope for the thousands of people who need a transplant to survive," said Slayman, a systems manager for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

The transplant surgery took four hours, with 15 people in the operating room who applauded when the kidney turned pink and started making urine, doctors said at a news conference. "It was truly the most beautiful kidney I have ever seen," said Kawai.

Dr. Parsia Vagefi, chief of surgical transplantation at UT Southwestern Medical Center, called the announcement "a big step forward." But echoing the Boston doctors, he said studies involving more patients at different medical centers would be needed for it to become more



Biden

commonly available.

The experiment marks the latest development in xenotransplantation, the term for efforts to try to heal human patients with cells, tissues, or organs from animals. For decades, it didn't work the human immune system immediately destroyed foreign animal tissue. More recent attempts have involved pigs that have been modified so their organs are more humanlike increasing hope that they might one day help fill a shortage of donated organs.

More than 100,000 people are on the national waiting list for a transplant, most of them kidney patients, and thousands die every year before their turn comes.

Pigs have long been used in human medicine, including pig skin grafts and

implantation of pig heart valves. But transplanting entire organs is much more complex than using highly processed tissue. The kidney implanted in Slayman was provided by Genesis of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The pig was genetically edited to remove harmful pig genes and add certain human genes to improve its compatibility.

Slayman's case was challenging, doctors said. Even before his first transplant, he had trouble being on dialysis and needed dozens of procedures to try to remove clots and restore blood flow. He became "increasingly despondent and depressed over his dialysis situation. At one point ... he literally said 'I just can't go on like this,'" said his kidney doctor, Williams. **Courtesy, AP**

Faye set to win presidential election

Opposition candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye, a political newcomer popular among the country's disaffected youth, is set to be declared the next president after his main rival Amadou Ba conceded defeat.

Provisional results after Sunday's presidential vote showed Faye with about 53.7 percent and Ba with 36.2 percent based on tallies from 90 percent of polling stations in the first-round vote, the electoral commission said on Monday.

Earlier, ruling coalition candidate Ba called Faye to offer his congratulations, a government spokesman told journalists.

"In light of presidential election result trends and while we await the official proclamation, I congratulate ... Faye for his victory in the first round," Ba said in a statement.

Senegal's outgoing President Macky Sall also congratulated Faye, hailing "a victory for Senegalese

democracy".

Sall, who did not stand after wins in 2012 and 2019, said he "salutes the smooth running of the election" and "congratulates the winner, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, who the poll trends show as winning".

Several opposition contenders had also conceded defeat to Faye during the night, including Anta Babacar Ngom, the only woman running.

Reporting from Senegal's capital Dakar, Al Jazeera's Nicolas Haque said the announcement comes on Faye's birthday.

"Faye is turning 44 today and he has now been congratulated for winning this incredible unprecedented election," he said.

"Remember just 10 days ago Faye was in prison. He spent over 11 months in prison for a Facebook post that authorities deemed subversive. Now he went from political prisoner to the next president of Senegal ...

THERE are "reasonable grounds" to believe Israel is committing genocide in the besieged Palestinian enclave of the Gaza Strip, according to a report issued by a United Nations-appointed expert.

In the report, issued late on Monday, the UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories Francesca Albanese said there are clear indications that Israel has violated three of the five acts listed under the UN Genocide Convention.

Albanese, appointed by the UN Human Rights Council but not an official voice on behalf of the United Nations, said she had found "reasonable grounds to believe that the threshold indicating the commission of ... acts of genocide against Palestinians in Gaza has been met".

"The overwhelming nature and scale of Israel's assault on Gaza and the destructive conditions of life it has inflicted reveal an intent to physically destroy Palestinians as a group," she said.

The report was immediately rejected by Israel as an "obscene inversion of reality".

Entitled *Anatomy of a Genocide*, the report listed the violating acts as: "killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or

UN accuses Israel of 'genocide' in Gaza

mental harm to the group's members; and deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part".

Albanese noted that Israel has killed more than 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October 7. A further 12,000 are reported missing, presumed dead under the rubble.

More than 70 percent of the recorded deaths have been women and children and Israel has failed to prove that the remaining 30 percent - adult males - were active Hamas fighters, she said.

Regarding the second violated act, Albanese said Israeli forces have wounded more than 70,000 Palestinians and detained thousands of Palestinian men and boys, subjecting them to torture and mistreatment.

On the third act, Albanese said Israel has destroyed or severely damaged most of Gaza's life-sustaining infrastructure, including hospitals and agricultural land.

Israel's diplomatic mission in Geneva said the country

"utterly rejects the report", describing it as "simply an extension of a campaign seeking to undermine the very establishment of the Jewish State".

"Israel's war is against Hamas, not against Palestinian civilians," it said in a statement, slamming Albanese's "outrageous accusations".

Hamas fighters attacked southern Israel on October 7, during which about 1,200 people were killed. The armed Palestinian group also seized about 250 hostages, of whom Israel believes approximately 130 remain in Gaza, including 33 presumed dead.

A US official told AFP that Washington is "aware" of the report but has "no reason to believe Israel has committed acts of genocide in Gaza".

The US insisted on Monday that it had no evidence Israel has violated human rights and that its ally has offered assurances that it has not used weapons it has donated to violate international humanitarian law.

CULLED FROM NEWS AGENCIES



Palestinians walk past destroyed buildings in Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza

and he promises sweeping changes to the country."

Millions in Senegal took part in the vote to elect the country's fifth president.

The polls followed three years of political turbulence that sparked violent anti-government protests and 60 percent of people are under 25 and struggle to find jobs.

A peaceful transition of power in Senegal would mark a boost for democracy in West Africa, where there have been eight military coups since 2020.

Some of the military rulers who seized power have cut ties with traditional power brokers in the region such as France and the United States, and turned instead to Russia for help in their fight against armed groups that operate in countries near Senegal.

Many hope the vote will bring stability and an economic boost to Senegal, which is set to start producing oil and gas this year.

"I am happy to see there is a wind of change," Tall, who Faye and Sonko, two former tax inspectors, campaigned

together under the slogan "Diomaye is Sonko", promising to fight corruption and prioritise national economic interests.

Their message is particularly popular among young voters in a country where more than 60 percent of people are under 25 and struggle to find jobs.

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"I am happy to see there is a wind of change," Tall, who Faye and Sonko, two former tax inspectors, campaigned

joined revellers during the night as supporters waved Senegalese flags, lit flares and blasted vuvuzelas, told the news agency Reuters.

"It is wonderful because democracy has won. Many thought it would not happen," he said, only wishing to give his first name.

Earlier, Alioune Tine, founder of the think-tank Afrikajom Center and Amnesty International's former regional director for West and Central Africa, said a victory for Faye is a good sign for democracy in Senegal.

"Democracy was sick with political violence, with state violence, with death," Tine told Al Jazeera, referring to the political violence of the last few years. He added that Sonko being unable to contest elections further showed that democracy was ailing.

Official results are expected to be announced by the Dakar appeals court on Friday. **AL Jazeera**

By PRIYA SIPPY

SULAIMAN is from Kaduna state, where 280 children were recently abducted from a school in the town of Kuriga.

He has been working informally in this controversial and risky role for several years since some of his relatives were taken hostage. "We have to negotiate. You cannot use force to get hostages back. It would put the lives of our loved ones in danger," he said.

Sulaiman first became involved in negotiations with kidnappers, referred to locally as bandits, in 2021 a year before the payment of ransoms became illegal in Nigeria. Over the last three years he said he has negotiated the release of more than 200 hostages, a fraction of the thousands of people abducted over the last decade.

The negotiations take patience and courage.

"The government believes I have been helping the bandits," he said, speaking from an undisclosed location.

"The bandits think I have been getting money from the government, so I am also a kidnap target."

His first negotiation took place as he was trying to raise a ransom of around \$12,500 (£9,800) for two of his relatives who were abducted.

"I did not know what I was doing. I was just speaking with the bandits - and begging them," he said.

However, his patient approach with the gang members worked and at the end his relatives were freed though he had to sell his farm in his home village to cover the ransom.

AFP

When word spread about the successful release, other families who were victims of kidnapping came to him for support. Soon his phone was constantly busy.

"Almost everyone in my village has had a family member kidnapped," he said, adding that he helps them regain their freedom. Despite the outlawing

of ransom payments, people still come to him desperate for help.

Sulaiman admitted that it is a scary position for him to be. "The government does not like negotiation with the bandits, and can send people to jail for doing that."

He recorded his success to the root causes of Nigeria's kidnapping crisis, which he said is fuelled mainly by poverty and youth unemployment.

without electricity. I know that they feel they have been forgotten by the government."

The gangs are often made up of gunmen on motorbikes, who target areas and particular families on the words of paid informants. It is a huge, sophisticated money-making operation.

Around 30,000 bandits in more than 100 gangs operate in north-western Nigeria, according to the



Inside story of a ransom negotiator

A hostage negotiator has said paying ransoms may be illegal, yet it is the only way families can guarantee the release of relatives kidnapped by gangs terrorising swathes of northern Nigeria



Competition for land and resources between cattle herders and farmers has also contributed to the problem. The kidnappers tend to be former herders from the Fulani ethnic group, who target villages where mainly Hausa farmers reside.

"When I speak to the bandits, I understand the people," he said, adding that the negotiations tend to take place in Hausa, the lingua franca of mainly Muslim in the north, though most kidnappers' mother tongue is Fulfulde, spoken by the Fulani.

"I tell them that I know they are living a difficult life in the bushes,

Centre for Democracy and Development a think-tank based in Abuja.

Sulaiman said the success of his negotiations depend on the leader of the kidnappers: "Some bandits I have dealt with still keep hostages and want more money, even after you have paid the ransom."

"But some of them release the hostages as soon as the specified amount is paid."

The process can be arduous, taking up to 50 days to release a hostage.

"You have to use soft words. They can be rude and they will

insult you but you have to remain calm," he said.

Despite shortage of bank notes in Nigeria, kidnappers demand that ransoms be paid in cash as bank transfers can be easily traced.

Payments are usually delivered by either parents or relatives of abductees, Sulaiman explained.

"The bandits will call them and give them step-by-step directives on how to find them in the bush. Once they reach there, they will count the money, note by note."

Sometimes the bandits request motorcycles as part of the ransom payment, as well as alcohol and cigarettes.

When another close associate of Sulaiman was kidnapped from a university along with other students before ransom payments became illegal, he said the government paid about \$2,370 for each student's freedom, though there has never been any official confirmation of this.

"The government will never admit on the record they paid because that would be admitting failure. But as insiders we know what happened and we didn't have that kind of money," he said.

Sulaiman became involved in those negotiations and said the kidnappers had first demanded about \$32,000 for each hostage and were eventually bargained and slashed.

These days as villagers are left to foot the bills, only few can afford to raise the cash for ransoms. They often turn to crowd-funding, though this is now also proving difficult given

how the insecurity has devastated the economy.

Bandits have been known to either kill hostages or release them when there is no hope of payment.

Sulaiman thinks the spate of recent mass abductions from schools, and the threat to kill the students, may be a ploy to get the authorities to take notice: "They think the government will pay."

There are reports that the authorities have continued to pay ransoms on occasion - though this is always denied.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has taken stringent measure to say "not a dime" will be paid for the recently abducted children of Kuriga, directing the security forces to ensure their release.

Between July 2022 and June 2023, armed gangs demanded more than \$6m as ransom, according to a report by SBM Intelligence, a security risk consulting firm.

The ransom negotiator agrees with the authorities that continuing to pay up will just fuel the kidnapping business: "Ransom payments encourage kidnapping. The bandits are just looking for money."

But he is certain that the heavy-handed approach of military force is not the answer: "If I can advise the government, they should meet these people and have dialogue with them."

Until then, Sulaiman fears the next time his phone rings, it will be another abduction case.

Determined to keep helping his community, he is sure to answer the call.

Courtesy, BBC



Opinion

The Nigerian Police and our many dots

By CHARLES DICKSON

ONE day a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They waited anxiously at their desks for the test to begin. The professor handed out the question paper with the text facing downwards as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked his students to turn the page and begin. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions, just a black dot in the center of the page.

The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's face, told them the following, "I want you to write what you see there." The confused students got started on the inexplicable task. At the end of the class, the professor took all the answer papers and started reading each one of them aloud in front of all the students. All of them with no exceptions described the black dot, trying to explain its position in the middle of the sheet etc.

After all had been read, the classroom was silent. The professor began to explain, "I am not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot and the same happens in our lives. We have a white paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift given to us by God with love and care. We always have reasons to celebrate, nature renewing itself every day, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, the miracles we see every day."

"However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spots, the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend etc. The dark spots are very small compared to everything we have in our lives, but they are the ones that pollute our minds. Take your eyes away from the black spots in your life. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a positive life positively!"

Now, to my admonition, Nigeria, Nigerians, we are a special breed, a special people, and when we say special, it all depends on what you call special. I am almost sure that for some, what we may recall as 'dots' would be the now forgotten phrase by the former President, Mr. Buhari in referring to a section of the country.

For a nation that fought itself fiercely at the last General Polls looking for a Messiah as president, it remains to be seen whether there is a sense of urgency to do what is right, or change our old ways. We are just special, in all our ways and manner, this nation of great men and women simply has too many dots.

It is that dot that we forget often when we discuss Nigeria, a dot that despite all the #ENDSARS drama, the loss of lives, and property both for civilians and the police, we witness as was the case in Edo only last week, again, police brutality, this time, a viral video which shows a police car running over a

handcuffed man.

In the almost 20 seconds clip, a handcuffed man is lying on a road while a police vehicle – a Sienna car – runs over him. People screamed for the officers to stop while the handcuffed man was powerless beneath the vehicle. Immediately the car ran over the man; the angry crowd surged towards it. The driver stopped, opened the car door and fled the scene.

The Force spokesperson, Muiywa Adejobi, described the incident as "unpoliced", adding that he has contacted the commissioner of police in Edo State. "I don't think a normal human being can do this. To crush a man with a car? This is unbelievable. We need to take urgent action on this. It is strange to me as a person," he said in a Twitter post.

The police is an institution of dots... the dot on the white sheet is often too visible by their bad behaviour, have you seen what the police barracks look like across the nation?

Despite the poor and degrading nature of our prisons, most police barracks are not different from rehabilitation homes for juveniles. The police have been reduced to an agency of ridicule and hatred amongst the populace. The only robbers they shoot are ordinary citizens who refuse to give them the N20 toll. When they conclude an investigation successfully, it must have been that of a landlord and tenant or two- fighting at a bus stop.

Right from the days of Anini the

great robber, the police rather than be the combatants of crime, has been partners in progress to armed robbers, robberies and all manners of social vices. It is that bad, if you have an encounter with robbers you are 70% likely to escape with your life intact and the same encounter with a policeman in possession of a pistol, you will have less than 30% chance of survival.

No equipment, poor funding, unavailability of logistics, the police resort to the very crimes they are supposed to protect us from. Divisional Police Offices are now banks; the Divisional Police Officers' are branch managers waiting daily for 'returns' (bribe) from marketing executives (Junior ranks).

The edifice called the police is a case of epilepsy, from the change of uniform, to increased recruitment of illiterates that can barely spell their names. The problem is not necessarily just that of the Nigerian police but that of a nation whose leaders have thrown their responsibilities to the gutters.

Talking about the police, it is interesting to look at the police from what it should be. Police are agents or agencies empowered to enforce the law and to affect public and social order through the legitimate use of force.

In our experience the police have contributed negatively to an increasingly disjointed social order in the nation. The Nigeria Police has failed the nation in its primary function of providing safety,

ensuring public order, enforcing criminal law, traffic regulations, crowd control, criminal investigation etc.

In this manner, a mad man was assumed to be admiring the police parade at a nearby police post, the Divisional Police Officer walked to him and asked if he wanted to join the police and the mad man answered, 'I dey mad'.

Like the teaching profession, these days' people join the force as a last resort, so naturally they vent all the frustrations of life on the job. Bail is free on paper but in practice the price you pay all depends on the offense and the officer in charge.

I once narrated the tale of an officer who stopped the police commissioner in his state and asked for a bribe of N20 or else he was going to arrest him for driving at night alone when the roads were dangerous. How many times have we seen policemen disappear on occasion of an armed robbery, everyone wants to get to heaven, but none wants to die?

With our police everything is wrong, very few spaces are white, all black dots. There is a public apathy against the police so much that even if they wore white they would discrete the color.

Between an endless hope and a hopeless end, let us see hope in the horizon, though this is difficult to see. The situation is bad, let it not be said that we did not talk, write, and even beg the government to expand the white. And as I now say these days—May Nigeria win!

Government policy choices and misgovernance

By FRANK NWEKE

THE president, governors and political elites of the country must realise the danger of Nigerians 'returning to their tents.' Anarchy sits patiently at the end of foolish counsel, ill-informed policy choices and misgovernance.

Governments across our nation must now make deliberate and conscious efforts to help citizens navigate this difficult period by urgently undertaking wage review, the massive procurement of grains and staples to force down the prices of food and implement a family support programme of cash transfers to the most vulnerable citizens, using a verifiable social register.

Nigeria is facing significant economic difficulties at the moment.

At 29.9 per cent, inflation is high and quadrupled between May 2023 and February 2024, while wages remain stagnant or unpaid. The naira is on a high-speed slide, depreciating by over 300 per cent in nine months with no end in sight.

The already endemic insecurity has worsened with increased banditry, kidnappings, robbery and murder across the country. Life is very hard for Nigerians across regions in a way that is evident and undebatable.

Protests on account of hunger and pervasive hardships are being recorded in different parts of the country. Nigerians have been captured on video scrambling to scoop rice mixed with sand due to poorly planned palliative distribution efforts.

The most desperate citizens have been trampled upon in epic struggles for bread at distribution centres in some state capitals. A recent effort by the Customs

Service to sell confiscated rice at an 'affordable' price resulted in a stampede, with reported fatalities.

Reports from a state in the Middle Belt indicated that security agents may be guarding major markets to prevent them from being raided.

A time like this requires public officials and governments to be more thoughtful about policy interventions in both the monetary and fiscal spaces, with an emphasis on programmes and initiatives that will alleviate the cost of living crisis confronting citizens.

It is however regrettable that, despite the obvious difficulties and sufferings families are going through daily, some state governments carry on as though Nigeria is in a period of boom. They luxuriate in long convoys of expensive vehicles occupied by lone drivers, oblivious of the hunger and desperate efforts of citizens to survive.

The Federal Government disbursed the sum of N5 billion to each of the 36 states of the federation in 2023 to cushion the effects of the removal of fuel subsidy on households. But the impact was very limited.

This is neither the time for excessive and multiple taxations nor the time to extort, bully or humiliate citizens, especially young Nigerians, who are already down and out in large numbers. It is not the time to confiscate the wares of poor men and women, most of whom are old and struggling to make ends meet. This is not the time to destroy capital, however small, belonging to the poor.

The monthly federal allocation to states and local governments has increased by 12 and 70 per cent, following the removal of subsidy on petrol. But this has come

with limited positive impact on the quality of life of the average citizen in the states and local governments.

The timing, adoption and execution of some policy measures make discerning people cringe.

How is it that under the prevailing harsh economic conditions, market stalls, places of business and even homes are regularly demolished in different parts of the country, sometimes with little or no notification to the owners?

Businesses are disrupted or shut down in some states for failure to remit daily taxes - situations which are beyond the control of the promoters due to low patronage in an economy which the purchasing power has become severely constrained.

Operators of motorcycle transport services have their bikes arbitrarily confiscated and destroyed for allegedly operating outside designated areas. Policy makers ought to consider that these individuals have no other means of livelihood and may in desperation resort to criminality to survive and cater for their families.

Given the restiveness of the populace and increased criminality, occasioned by the hardship in the country, it will be pragmatic for government to take on a human face as it discharges its responsibility of catering for the welfare and well-being of citizens.

Therefore, government must of necessity uphold and enforce the law. But this must be done only in accordance to the law in a compassionate and non-discriminatory manner - the focus being to correct and protect, not to humiliate or oppress.

The hardship experienced under the previous administration was harsher in comparison to the suffering of Nigerians today. Anarchy sits patiently at the end of foolish counsel, ill-informed policy choices and misgovernance.

While investments in economic infrastructure is necessary to facilitate trade and development, the most important investments, at this time, ought to be those that will help put food on the tables of Nigerian families. This is critical to maintain social and economic stability.

The overall attitude of the federal and state governments and the regime of harsh economic policies churned out daily are reminiscent of the reign of King Rehoboam of Israel as narrated in 1 Kings 12:1-19 NKJV.

The people of Israel had approached Rehoboam, who had succeeded his father, King Solomon, and requested that he consider introducing new measures to ameliorate their considerable hardships under his father.

Rehoboam received counsel from his peers, who became his new advisers, and subsequently returned to inform his citizens that, rather than ameliorate their suffering, he would scourge them with scorpions in place of the whips deployed under his late father.

The response by the people was swift - rebellion, leading to anarchy and a division of the kingdom, as Israelites chose to 'return to their tents.'

To avoid that kind of descent into anarchy, ego tripping, haphazard policies, pain-inducing directives, self-aggrandizing leadership must give way to pro-poor policies, holistic solutions and empathetic governance.

NEWS

Achieving peace is collective effort - Mutfwang

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang has said that achieving peace on the Plateau was not the responsibility of a select few, but a collective effort of all stakeholders, irrespective of faith and ethnic differences.

He stated this recently, while declaring open a training on Health Approach to Violence Prevention for Religious/Faith Leaders in Plateau State, organised by the United Religious Initiative, URI, West Africa (Nigeria CC Cluster 1) in collaboration with the Plateau State Government at the Millennium International Events Centre, Jos.

Mutfwang who was represented by his Special Adviser on Peace Building, Hon. Monday Nyam Ajiya, commended the organisers of the training for thinking outside the box toward finding solutions conflicts, describing it as timely, considering the security challenges the state was facing.

He observed, "This is what the government is yearning for, a situation where people will come together and discuss the way forward, by stating their problems openly, to pave way for peace. That is why the event is in conjunction with the state government and all the stakeholders, cutting across the 17 LGAs of the state."

"The peace that we are



Mutfwang

yearning for is the one that is sustainable. We do not need anybody outside to tell us what to do. We are committed to providing peace on the Plateau so that the development and peace we are seeing today will be sustained."

He charged all participants to be sincere by opening up to tell the truth about what is bothering them so that they would be able to proffer solutions to the problems facing the state.

Earlier, the URI, West Africa Regional Coordinator, Dr. Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba, said "We are beginning to look at violence as a public health."

On their part, Pastor Andrew Dankat, of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA),

Shendam, and Pastor Otukhagus Benjamin, said the training was timely coming at a time that criminality and lawlessness were the order of the day.

They described peace as priceless and as such one can make whatever sacrifice that is necessary to achieve and sustain it.

Also, the Plateau State Secretary of Islamic Tender Education Initiative (TEDI), Nasarawa Gwom, Gwani Abdullahi Hamza Idris, expressed joy that the training was coming when it was direly needed, emphasizing that, "This will pave way for peace on the Plateau."

Ododo lauds Kogi Hajj Commission

KOGI State Governor, Ahmed Ododo has commended the Kogi State Hajj Commission for being the first state in Nigeria to effect full contribution to the Hajj Savings Scheme of the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria to secure clearance for 460 Muslim pilgrims from the state to perform the 2024 pilgrimage to Makkah.

He spoke through his Special Adviser on Media, Ismaila Isah, saying that the commendation has become imperative following reports by the Kogi State Hajj Commission over increment in the 2024 Hajj fares and how Kogi State managed to secure subsidy for its pilgrims on account of the 100 per cent contribution to the Hajj Savings Scheme by the pilgrims through the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria.

Ododo, who expressed satisfaction with the level of

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

preparation made by the state Hajj Commission, praised the immediate past administration of Alhaji Yahaya Bello for approving the participation of the state in the contributory Hajj Savings Scheme by pilgrims two years ago, stressing that his administration would sustain and consolidate on the gains of the scheme.

Ododo also commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his intervention by providing subsidy for Nigerian Muslim pilgrims who were distressed by the increase in the 2024 Hajj fares, assuring that his administration would continue to partner with the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria to ease the burden of pilgrims from Kogi State.

He explained that "Increase in the 2024 Hajj fare caused by foreign exchange differentials resulted in over 1.9 million Naira extra charges per pilgrim in

Nigeria with only Kogi State now fully cleared of the over 800 million Naira that should have been paid by its over 460 pilgrims now set to perform this year's pilgrimage to Makkah."

CHANGE OF NAME

ISUWA

I, formerly known as **YAKUBU ISUA PAM**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ISUWA, PAM YAKUBU**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MWANTI

I, formerly known as **MISS MWANTI KANENG ALI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. MWANTI KANENG SAMUEL BOYI**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

JANET

I, formerly known as **JANET FIDELIS BARARY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **JANET BARRY SAMUEL**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

GYANG

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

RINDAP

I, formerly known as **SAKBYEN PRECIOUS RINDAP**, now wish to be known and addressed as **RINDAP SAKBYEN BANDA**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ILIYA

I, formerly known as **ADAMU DORCAS**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ILIYA DORCAS**. Correct date of birth is 15/03/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

MATAWAL

I, formerly known as **MATAWAL JAME DAMENG**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MATAWAL JALLY DAMEN**. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

ELIJAH

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

Communities pledge to sustain UNICEF ASH projects

STAKEHOLDERS led by traditional rulers in some Northeast communities of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states have pledged to sustain a five year UNICEF sponsored project in their communities.

This was the resolution reached during the Programme Endline Validation and Local Investment Plan Development Meeting held for the affected states in Gombe.

The beneficiaries include: Guyuk and Jada LGAs of Adamawa State, Bui and Meigumeri LGAs of Borno State as well as Fune and Geidam LGAs of Yobe State where improvements were witnessed in the areas of health, nutrition, and

wellbeing of poor and vulnerable people in the targeted rural communities.

The project, particularly made positive impact on women and girls, just as it contributed to the positive reduction in 'Children on the move' outbreak of cholera diseases during the five year period of the project implementation (2019 - 2023) stakeholders disclosed.

According to Emir of Jajere, Yobe State, the project is a success because they were able to reach all the targeted areas intended.

"I commend UNICEF for

this wonderful intervention and the states and Federal Government for paying their counterpart funding so that our people will benefit," the emir stated.

During the five year programme, 997,000 people in the target LGAs were provided with safe drinking water, 880,000 people stopped defecating in the open and are now using safe and hygienic toilet facilities, and a total of 500 new water facilities were constructed while 1,000 broken down facilities were rehabilitated, by UNICEF.

Group calls for removal of traditional ruler

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan

SAVE the Poor and Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) has called for the removal of Alamura of Amura in Oriire Local Government Area of Oyo State, Oba Samuel Olakunle, over allegations of land grabbing and other related offenses.

SPANCI President, Comrade Yemi Ezekiel Bello, made this appeal in a statement made available to our correspondent recently in Ibadan, the state capital.



Makinde

Bello in the statement said that Olakunle has been prosecuted by Oyo State Government through the office

of the Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General of the the state on four count charges relating to land grabbing, conspiracy and forceful entry.

He added that the state taskforce on Real Property Protection and Anti-land Grabbing Law, found him culpable after investigation.

SPANCI president pointed out that it was wrong for the same state that prosecuted him to still honor him and present him with a Staff of Office as an Oba.

Bello, further appealed to Makinde to immediately remove Olakunle as Alamura of Amura.

He used the opportunity to appeal to the IGP, AIG Zone 11 and the Oyo State Commissioner of Police to caution the men of Owode Area Command to immediately withdraw from the land matters upon which Olakunle was prosecuted.

Bello said, "We want to appeal through this medium to his Excellency, Engineer Seyi Makinde, who is known for being a credible and law abiding governor and Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters, to immediately remove Deacon Olakunle Samuel, the Alamura of Amura land in Ikoyi Ile, Oriire Local Government Area, Ogbomoso as Oba for the reasons stated above and more."

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

Yakubu Dung Dantu late of Plateau State died on the 20th February 2019 at Jos Plateau State.

NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT

Chollom Taddy Yakubu of Rabindu Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful nephew of the said deceased.

Signed
(ANDREWUS MAIKAI)
PROBATE REGISTRAR,
PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA,
JOS

SPACE FOR SALE

Focus

The untold burdens of the core North

By CHRIS GYANG

THEY appealed to the state government to "immediately issue evacuation orders to all illegal occupiers and users of land, dams, ponds, streams, homes and other properties in all the affected communities."

Yet, *Daily Trust* has hardly conceded the fact that Fulani herdsmen have been committing atrocities all over Plateau State and other parts of the Middle Belt.

The closest they ever come to accepting this fact is when they resort to that calculated, deceptive, narrative of describing this genocide against indigenous peoples as 'herder/farmer clashes'.

Surprisingly, the newspaper was miffed that the President did not deem it fit to personally condole with the victims of the attacks but chose to be "in attendance at a book launch of a party chieftain in Lagos," in South West Nigeria. Of course, President Buhari must suddenly develop compassion towards the victims in the core north because, as the editorial argued many times, he was "voted *en masse* five times by the same populace."

Even when Buhari has consistently shown an abiding lack of concern, disdain, for victims of such attacks in other parts of the country in the past, he must now "genuinely demonstrate that he feels the silent anguish of hundreds of communities and thousands of citizens everywhere across the north and the country at large..."

On the night of March 7, 2018, the same president was in Jos after a two-day official visit when innocent citizens were killed by suspected Fulani herdsmen in Bokkos and Bassa LGAs. The next day he flew out of Jos, the Plateau State capital, without he or his host, Governor Lalong, saying anything about the murders. Is *Daily Trust* only beginning to realise that this oftentimes aloof leader hardly shows compassion, empathy for the sufferings of Nigerians?

You say he contested for the presidency a record four times. But was this persistence borne out of a genuine desire to make sacrifices for the general good of Nigerians or to simply prove the point that he could actually become president, against all odds?

Furthermore, this perception that Mr. Buhari must show compassion towards his fellow Fulani/Muslims while doing otherwise to other Nigerians reinforces the belief that he is actually the 'president of the core north', minus other Nigerians.

On October 13, 2017, the then World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim, made this revelation: "In my very first meeting with President Buhari, he said specifically that he would like us to shift our focus to the northern region of Nigeria and we've done that. Now, it has been very difficult. The work there has been very, very



Buhari

difficult." Before that, Mr. Buhari had declared that most of his projects would go to the core north which gave him the largest chunk of the votes that won him the Presidency.

This nepotism has largely underscored the president's policies with the active connivance of core northern institutions such as *Daily Trust*. Consider these three phrases which occurred in three different parts of that editorial: "...citizens everywhere across the north and country at large... and elsewhere across mostly northern Nigeria... in the north or elsewhere in the country..."

These are the closest the editorial got to specifically referring to other parts of the country that have been ravaged by Fulani herdsmen's attacks for quite some time now. In fact, Benue State has been one of the epicentres of this deliberate Fulani expansionism. They massacred 73 indigenes of Logo and Guma LGAs on January 1, 2018. This is only one case in point. These attacks have continued without the Buhari administration doing much to curb them.

Analysts have posited that the northern political establishment has consistently refused to sufficiently address the Fulani herdsmen's scorched earth campaigns against indigenous/minority communities of Central Nigeria. And the fact that the 2015 Global Terrorism Index (GTI) rated Nigeria's Fulani herdsmen as the fourth deadliest terror group in the world has not moved the Buhari administration into appropriately designating them a terrorist organisation.

As we have pointed out many times before, had the Buhari government and the northern power block, of which *Daily Trust* is an integral part, humanely and in all honesty addressed the monumental atrocities Fulani herdsmen have been inflicting on the indigenous peoples of Central

Nigeria and other parts of the country, the mayhem currently unfolding in the core northern states would not have reached such a monumental scale.

By allowing armed Fulani herdsmen have a field day in other parts of the country unabated, the core north was tacitly making violence a legitimate means of territorial and religious expansion, acquiring power and influence.

Unfortunately, this virus has now infected the core north itself in a most pernicious way. Sadly, it is innocent people who had hitherto borne the full brunt of the selfishness of the northern elite that are still at the receiving end here.

In the estimation of the newspaper, banditry in northern Nigeria is caused by "an amalgam of many complex issues, among them high levels of poverty and unemployment in the region, deeply entrenched feelings of past dispossession and exclusion, climate change, and above all, a near complete break-down of law and moral order in society."

Although no mention of Fulani herdsmen's attacks and the fact that the so-called bandits buffeting the core north are mainly Fulani Muslims (as has been confirmed several times by the Sultan of Sokoto and Governor Masari of Katsina State) one other critical cause of the problem was left out here by *Daily Trust*, again, by design.

Bishop Mathew Hassan Kukah believes that religious persecution has been left to bloom in northern Nigeria for too long to such an extent that the impunity of the dominant religion has now boomeranged against itself. In a homily at the funeral mass of Seminarian Michael Nnadi, who was killed by kidnappers for his faith, held on February 11, 2020, he warned about the simmering violence that was about to explode and engulf the core north: "We are being told that this situation has nothing to do with religion?

Really?

"Are we to believe that simply because Boko Haram kills Muslims too, they wear no religious garb? Are we to deny the evidence before us, of kidnappers separating Muslims from infidels or compelling Christians to convert or die? If your son steals from me, do you solve the problem by saying he also steals from you?"

Even though the Bishop was speaking before the current violence peaked in the north, his words nevertheless prefaced what is happening today. According to the cleric, one of the remote causes of the current upsurge in anarchy in the north is the fact that "the northern Muslim elite has not developed a moral basis for adequate power sharing with their Christian co-regionalists." Could this be what the editorial tersely listed as "deeply entrenched feelings of past dispossession and exclusion..."?

If so, no one feels this sense of exclusion and alienation more than northern Hausa Muslims who are treated as outcasts, second-class citizens and their basic rights routinely abused and denied. In the wake of the Sokoto travellers massacre, a northern Hausa Christians' organisation issued a statement (-admin@hacfo.org) in which it described that heinous crime as "quite unfortunate and highly condemnable." Note that we referred to this group above.

It noted that although Northern Nigeria is a multilingual and multiethnic region, "no one is respected and given the chance to live and have a sense of belonging if the person is not a Muslim.... Even among the Muslims, if you're not a Fulani man or woman, you are not considered eligible for key positions and opportunities." Despite the fact that this position further underscored Bishop Kukah's stance above, the Hausa Christians went ahead to distinguish between, first, Hausa Muslims and non-Muslim Hausa and, second, Fulani and Hausa Muslims.

The organisation revealed that they are always asked why Hausa people were also being killed and kidnapped by Fulani terrorists when they are also Muslims. "Well," they said they always replied, "in reality the Hausa people have been enslaved by the Fulani right from the deceptive campaign of the Usman Danfodio jihad," which had created a master-servant relationship between them. And still re-echoing Kukah's viewpoint, they said: "Religion has been used to enslave the entire Hausa land and Northern Nigeria at large. They have been brainwashed into supporting all the evil done to others, especially Christians, in the name of religion."

Bishop Kukah's response is that nation building cannot effectively take place "without adequate representation and deliberate

efforts at creating for all members a sense, a feeling, of belonging, and freedom to make contributions. This is the window that killers of Boko Haram have exploited and turned into a door to death. It is why killing Christians and destroying Christianity is seen as one of their key missions."

The editorial cried out, "What more needs to happen before the President would genuinely demonstrate that he feels the silent anguish of hundreds of communities and thousands of citizens everywhere across the north and the country at large? Only a few years ago President Buhari too bemoaned these very events, even when they occurred at a much lower scale than now, and that his bemoaning was part of the very reason he was elected to the presidency."

This shows that Buhari merely used the issue of insecurity as a ruse to win his first and second term elections and, second, the current state of insecurity in the core north and country at large has spiraled out of control. It is now more than what obtained during the President Jonathan era, unlike the propaganda being bandied around by Buhari's spin doctors, especially Lai Mohammed, the Information Minister, to the contrary.

But this is Bishop Kukah's take on this score: "No one could have imagined that in winning the presidency, General Buhari would bring nepotism and clannishness into the military and the ancillary security agencies, that his government would be marked by supremacist and divisive policies that would push our country to the brink. This president has displayed the greatest degree of insensitivity in managing our country's rich diversity."

"He has subordinated the larger interests of the country to the hegemonic interests of his co-religionists and clansmen and women. The impression created now is that, to hold a key and strategic position in Nigeria today, it is more important to be a northern Muslim than a Nigerian."

The editorial quoted the Sultan of Sokoto as bemoaning the current situation in the north thus: "if I continue talking about the insecurity in the North, we will not leave this room... There is no single day that passes without people being killed in the North, especially in the North West now, but we don't hear of it."

But here is another dimension from which the same Sultan had earlier conceived the problem, as quoted by Bishop Kukah: "The Sultan recently lamented the tragic consequences of power being in the wrong hands." Kukah proceeded to paint the general picture of disenchantment with the Buhari administration among Islamic clerics and even the Northern Elders Forum "who in 2015 believed that General Buhari had come to redeem the north [but] have now turned against the president."

To be concluded

Sports

Olympic qualifier Falcons face Bayana Bayana



Super Falcons Nigeria's Super Falcons would be facing South African's Bayana Bayana in the final round of the Olympic Games Qualifiers.

Recall that Super Falcons defeated the Indomitable Lionesses of Cameroon on 1-0 aggregate to clinch the final round spot while Bayana Bayana defeated Tanzania on 4-0 aggregate to qualify.

Super Falcons would host the first leg at the Moshood Abiola Stadium on April 1st 2024.

The return leg will be

played in South Africa eight days later, with the overall winners booking their flight to the Paris 2024 Olympic d between July 26 and August 11, 2024.

Both teams did not feature at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in Japan, 2021.

Super Falcons coach, Randy Waldrum has urged his team to be efficient and clinical around the opponents' vital area and convert their chances into goals following their 2024

Olympic qualifier third round second leg 1-0 win over Cameroon on Monday in Abuja.

Waldrum said this was critical if they intend to beat their South African counterparts to the final round qualification ticket to the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Nigeria had several chances to kill the game against Cameroon in the first half after enjoying a good start to the encounter.

However, poor finishing from Jennifer Echegini, Rasheedat Ajibade, Toni Payne, and Esther Okoronkwo left Nigeria holding on after Cameroon gained the upper hand in the second half.

Speaking to reporters after the game, Waldrum said at his post-match interview: "In the match we had some chances that we missed and it was a match we really struggled to win.

"You can go back and look at the opportunities that we had. We could have easily finished the game at half time.

"So, we have to be more efficient and clinical around our opponents' vital area and convert chances into goals.

"I would have also preferred the match to be played in the night because the weather was hot, but we can't complain because the players are all Nigerians and are used to it."

Former Nigerian international, Victor Ikpeba believes Super Eagles interim coach, Finidi George is on the right track becoming the team's substantive coach. Recall that the 1994 Africa Cup of Nations winner was handed the job on an interim basis following the departure of Jose Peseiro after leading Nigeria to the final of the AFCON 2023 final, where the team lost 2-1 to Ivory Coast.

Ikpeba, who was a guest on Monday Night Football on Supersports, stated that last week's 2-1 win over the Black Stars of Ghana may have put him on the right track to becoming the coach on permanent basis.

"I am happy with what Finidi is doing with the Super Eagles. I am in the system and I know what he's doing. Don't forget that I am in the committee set up to do the right thing. "We are doing the right thing that's why we made Finidi the interim

It's looking good for Finidi -Ikpeba

manager instead of calling for other managers or names to be employed. Instead we said the assistant should take over from Peseiro "From what I have seen from the players comments,

its looking good for Finidi George. As I speak right now, I think it's looking good for him. Mind you. I am not the decision making, I am one of the people that will advise the NFF, but it's looking good for Finidi."



George

NIGERIA PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1. Eungu Ranger	27	14	6	7	36	13	13	48
2. Lobi Stars	27	14	5	8	32	25	7	47
3. Remo Stars	26	14	3	9	32	24	8	45
4. Enyimba	27	14	3	10	30	24	6	45
5. Plateau Utd	27	14	2	11	40	27	13	44
6. Kano Pillars	27	12	5	10	34	29	5	41
7. Katsina Utd	27	11	8	8	25	23	2	41
8. Shooting Stars	27	11	7	9	31	27	4	40
9. Bendel	27	10	7	10	23	20	3	37
10. Abia Warriors	27	10	5	12	28	31	-3	35
11. Sport Lagos	27	9	7	11	26	26	0	34
12. Sunshine Stars	26	8	10	8	26	27	-1	34
13. Doma United	27	9	7	11	20	26	-6	34
14. Niger Tornadoes	26	9	6	11	18	24	-6	33
15. Kwara United	26	7	11	8	21	24	-3	32
16. River United	23	8	7	8	25	22	3	31
17. Akwa United	27	8	7	12	26	30	-4	31
18. Bayelsa United	27	8	7	12	31	37	-6	31
19. Heartland	27	4	11	12	24	35	-11	23
20. Gombe United	27	7	6	14	15	45	-30	21

MUSLIM PILGRIMS' WELFARE BOARD PLATEAU STATE

Opposite Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning,
Club Road, P.O. Box 1241, Jos Plateau State, Nigeria

PUBLIC NOTICE


Following a directive from National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) the Plateau State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board wishes to announce an increase of **₦1,918,032.91** 2024 Haji Fare, pilgrims are to pay (**₦6,617,032.91**).

The Executive Secretary of the Board, Alhaji Daiyabu Dauda stated this after a meeting with the Management through the Information Unit of the Board.

He added that the closing date for the increase of the 2024 Intending Pilgrims will be on Wednesday, 27th March 2024.

Therefore, you are to hurry up and come with balance for registration and documentation.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.


Yasin Ismail Yahaya
Information Officer
For: Executive Secretary

Quest



writer

GABRIEL GOWOK

FRAGMENT

And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

FATHER GOWOK

Easter: The truth cannot be buried

"Every violation of truth is not only a sort of suicide in the liar, but is a stab at the health of human society." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The Truth never damages a cause that is just." Mahatma Gandhi

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'"

OBSERVING nature carefully makes us wonder about the mysterious cycles of life, death and through death new life again. It is the mystery of the grain of wheat, which falls to the earth and dies in order to produce an abundance of new life, which transcends itself in both quality and quantity. When the truth is buried, it never dies, it comes out more glorious.

From biology in secondary school, we remember the word 'metamorphosis'. This is the post-embryonic change of an animal when the larva of an insect becomes a pupa, or a tadpole changes into a frog.

Metamorphoses is a mysterious development of life. Burial is necessary for the truth, if we want to see its beauty.

Not so with lies.

In dealing with the mystery of human life and death, the Bible refers to these phenomena in nature to indicate that, for the Christian, death is a metamorphosis (transfiguration: Mk 9:2) into a better life.

In the gospel of St. John, the Lord Jesus uses the mystery of the dying grain of wheat to refer to His impending death and resurrection to a new life.

The tomb, like the womb, brings new life.

Falsehood dies and undergoes corruption and degradation, it aborts itself.

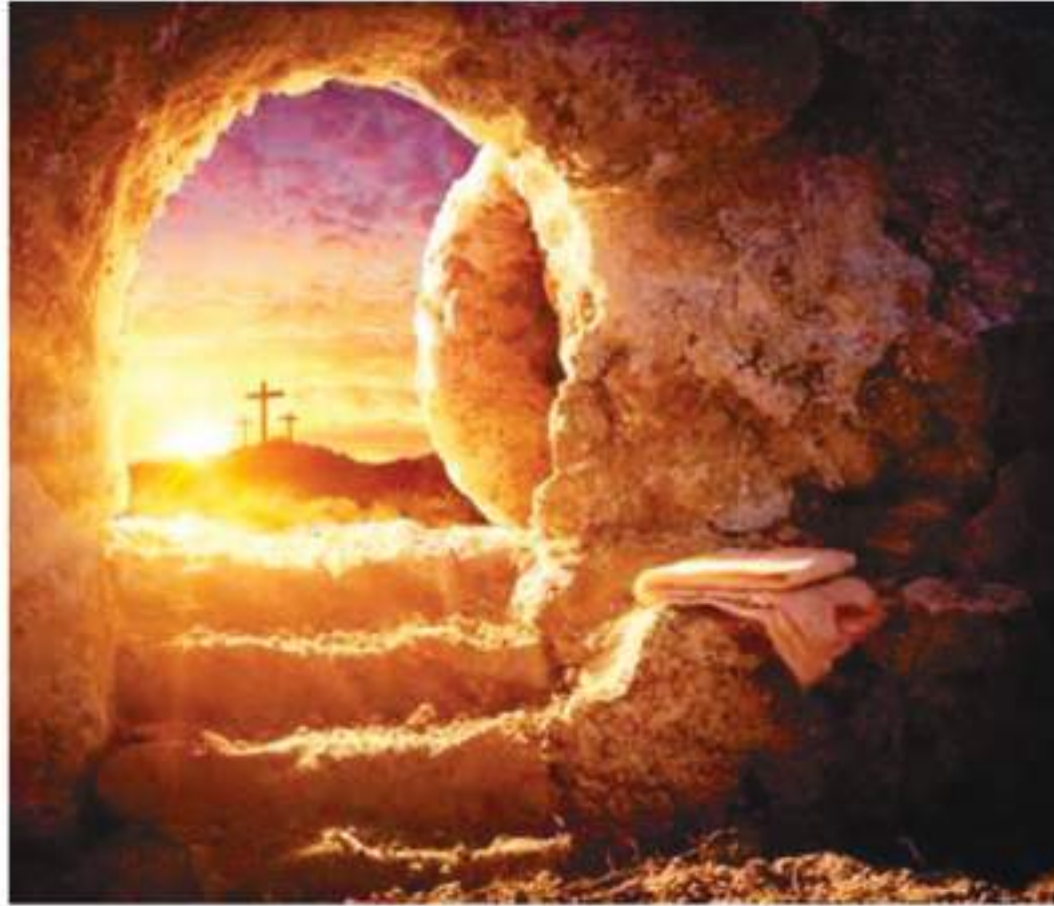
All of us experience our daily personal metamorphosis. We die and new life begins. This is the shape of the Christian life patterned after that of Jesus. As He did, we must go through the mystery of dying to sin, dying to the flesh, dying to selfishness, dying to self, in short, a metamorphosis. And it will result in a glorious life with Christ.

This is the meaning of Easter.

Easter is the feast of life. "The Lord has risen, alleluia, praise the Lord!" marks all prayers and songs of this festive season.

It represents the joy of being a Christian: The Lord's death was not a defeat but victory! And we share in the Lord's victory over suffering and death.

Because you cannot bury the



truth.

Easter reminds us of an empty tomb.

This is the difference between Christianity and other religions. The graves of their founders are here with us and their followers go there for pilgrimages. That is why Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is a relationship with a living person, the Lord Jesus the Christ.

Luke 24:5-7

And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?" This is a great and timely question! We do not normally look for the dead among the living. So why would you look for the living among the dead?

The empty tomb means that Jesus is risen and is living among us and we should not look for him among the dead. You can kill and even bury the truth, but just for three days!

Unfortunately, we human beings look for life in dead things

and places that have no life in them - we dig graves and bury ourselves. We are dead men and women walking. We turn to money, war, power, sin, betrayal, occultism, alcohol and drugs and think in them we can find life.

What are we searching for?

We never find love, joy and peace in these things. Instead, they become spiritual tombs with little or no hope of the resurrection. We love lies and our generation is best described as a generation of lies and liars. The best liar gets the day.

But for how long? Lies have a very short lifespan. Yet we continue trying things in the hope that they will give us comfort and peace.

The opposite of the truth is lie, and a lie is an attack on the liar's person and credibility in the future. The words of Alexander Pope: "He who tells a lie is not sensible of how great a task he undertakes; for he must be forced to invent twenty more to maintain that lie."

Matthew 28:11-14

The Report of the Guard. While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to

the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."

Easter means, it is better to be hurt by the truth than to be comfortable with a lie. This is because there is no sweet and peaceful pillow like a clear conscience.

This is an undisputed truth.

Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death! What profits do you make from sin? Death. Our country has become the biggest cemetery in the world. We are the poorest in spirit, virtue and morals.

What will be written on your grave?

Do you increase your wealth without increasing your charity? Do you gain power without helping the powerless? Do you derive pleasure from life without alleviating someone's suffering? Those soldiers forgot that a liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth.

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption.

Easter breaks that feverish

human cycle of searching for life in things that are dead and in the grave.

Easter calls us to shed the old life and accept new life. The resurrection power means to get out of the tomb of selfishness, greed, prejudice, wickedness, addiction and hostility.

Easter invites us to get out of pride, envy, anger, greed, gluttony and lust, that have imprisoned us and to accept a new birth and a new person.

This is the meaning of Easter.

You cannot bury the truth for more than three days.

Easter can happen to you today, if you believe in the "new life," shed the old. Start with yourself, spread this joy to your family, in your workplace, to your friends and relatives, to your community, then lies will be buried and we shall be witnesses to the resurrection.

St. Paul puts it to all of us in Philippians 3:10-11. That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Let's conclude with the words of William Hazlitt: "As hypocrisy is said to be the highest compliment to virtue, the art of lying is the strongest acknowledgement of the force of truth."

One of the most devastating misfortunes in the aftermath of bandits' attacks is the number of children and women who are left orphans or widows. Sometimes we see pictures of these forlorn and vulnerable ones, their eyes stare out of nothing but emptiness and sadness. All the donations, the promises and the lies.

But something more is needed, more than even love.

They need a sense of belonging to someone, a sense of family, a sense of home, a sense of the truth. All the aid in the world cannot provide these things.

Emptiness and sadness can only be filled with meaningful, lasting relationships, and the truth, because the truth cannot be buried.

The good news is that while the journey of life will not be easy, it need not be traveled alone.

You need Easter!

Father Gowok is a lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication, University of Jos