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**DURING** the first board meeting of *The Nigeria Standard* newspapers on October 31, 1972, its founder, the legendary Joseph Dechi Gomwalk, stated: "I believe that it is in the interest of good government and healthy society that a variety of organs are available for the effective enlightenment of our people on matters affecting their lives locally, nationally, and internationally."

## FRONT PAGE COMMENT

**MORE** than 51 years later, those very aspirations have been echoed by Governor Caleb Mutfwang as he

### Governor Mutfwang's date with destiny

continues to express a deep commitment towards pursuing those lofty ideals. But, sadly, the fortunes of the newspaper and its subsidiaries have today plummeted to an all-time low.

**WHEN** he inspected the Plateau Publishing Corporation, PPC, on April 4, 2024, the governor stepped onto the corridors of that once bustling media hub where renowned journalists like Razak Aremu, Sale Iliya, Chris Anana, Gideon Barde, Ezeoke Odi, Clem Oluwole, Dan Agbese, Rufa'i Ibrahim and Jonathan Ishaku plied their trade with so much relish.

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# Reps to intervene in electricity tariff hike



GM of PPC, Chris Gyang (left), presenting a copy of *The Nigeria Standard* newspaper to Governor Mutfwang during his inspection visit  
PHOTO: DOPA'S OFFICE RAYFIELD, JOS

**T**HE Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Benjamin Okezie Kalu, has said that the House of Representatives will debate the propriety or otherwise of the recent hike in electricity tariff upon resumption of plenary later this month.

The recent hike in electricity tariff for Band A customers by about 300 per cent has been generating concerns across the country.

Speaking virtually on the special edition of "Ben Kalu's Mandate", a call-in radio programme of FLO FM, Umuahia, Abia State, on Monday, Kalu said the parliament, heeding the calls of Nigerians for its intervention in the matter, would adopt a win-win approach in resolving the issue.

In a statement, his spokesman, Livinus Nwabughigogu, disclosed that Kalu's reaction followed an inquiry from a

**-Kalu**  
call-in listener, Okafor Chinedum, from Umuahia, who sought to know the position of the parliament on the matter.

The statement quoted Kalu as saying: "It's a general problem. While I was on my holidays, one of the things I was bothered with was a letter sent to me by the majority leader of the house on the need

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News

**Reps to intervene in electricity tariff hike**



Kalu

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for us to intervene in a matter involving the University of Ibadan Teaching Hospital (UIITH) power supply. They were disconnected because of

this hike and they don't have the money to pay. We said it's an essential service. Something should be done about it while we look at other details."

**Bandits kill many vigilantes in Niger**

DOZENS of vigilantes christened as 'Yan Sa Kai' reportedly lost their lives in a fight with bandits in Dogon-Dawa community in Mariga LGA of Niger State.

Local sources said the incident happened last Saturday when the bandits attempted to launch an attack on the communities in the area.

The vigilantes were said to have trailed the bandits to their hideout and were ambushed on their way.

Sources said there were also casualties on the side of the bandits but could not

establish the number of deaths on their side.

The chairman of Mariga Local Government Area, Abbas Kasuwar Garba, confirmed the incident.

He said he could not give the number of casualties until search and rescue operations were completed.

He expressed concern over the security situation, saying attacks had resumed when residents were preparing for the farming season.

"Before this latest incident, we had been

THE Plateau State Government has promised to rescue of the Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), publishers of THE NIGERIA STANDARD newspapers, by providing basic working tools as well as dispatch a technical team to evaluate the JD Gomwalk House for proper renovation.

The governor, who disclosed this in an interview with Government House correspondents shortly after an inspection of the organisation and the former Tati Hotel, Gada Blyu, all in Jos North Local Government Area, recently, described the JD Gomwalk House as a legacy structure that would not be allowed to waste.

According to him, PPC was dear to the government and people of Plateau State and assured of his administration's readiness to restore the

**Mutfwang promises to revamp PPC**

By PETER TITLE

dignity of the corporation, stressing that the Gomwalk House was strategic and solidly built by a leader with foresight.

The General Manager, Chris Gyang, who took the governor round, expressed optimism that, now that the governor has seen the condition of the PPC, everything would soon be better.

While inspecting the former Tati Hotel, Jos, the Commissioner for Housing, Ubandoma Laven, informed the governor that the property was procured during the tenure of Governor Jonah Jang.

According to him, the immediate past government abandoned it, adding that his ministry made efforts to renovate it but due to paucity of funds, they could not reach

completion. Laven said that, as a result, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Borno State had since taken over some parts of the building as shelter.



Mutfwang

**NLNG constructs twin theatre at JUTH**

By PETER TITLE

THE Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Limited Hospital Support Programme has constructed a state-of-the-art operating twin theatre at the Jos University Teaching Hospital, JUTH, which was recently unveiled by Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State.

He explained that it was meant to alleviate the suffering patients faced in search of surgeries and provide life-saving operations, especially for the financially disadvantaged.

At the commissioning, Governor Mutfwang remarked, "The addition of

this twin operating theatre will serve a greater number of patients, substantially reducing delays and saving numerous lives. We extend our gratitude to NLNG Limited for their contribution to this administration."

"We refuse to settle for mediocrity. Our vision is to propel the health sector, towards a future marked by excellence. We welcome and value any support that helps us realize this vision," he stressed.

The governor commended the Chief Medical Director of JUTH, Dr. Pokop Bupwatda, and his team for building upon the work of their predecessors and

encouraged the staff to maintain their high standards.

The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Kachollom Daju, described the project as a significant corporate social responsibility initiative by NLNG Ltd and urged JUTH management to maintain the facility and ensure they deliver quality health care services to their patients.

Mr. Andy Odeh, General Manager, External Relations and Sustainable Development at NLNG Limited, explained that the project, one of several across the country, was designed to reduce surgical waiting times and inspire hospital staff to excel in their respective roles.

On his part, Dr. Pokop Bupwatda gave the assurance that the hospital, despite its limited resources, would maximize the use of the new theatres.

The twin theatre complex features automated doors for seamless integration with the hospital's Accident and Emergency Unit.

It includes two operating suites, scrub rooms, preparation areas, a recovery room and other essential facilities - all equipped with modern medical equipment and safety systems.

**Plateau commissioners, MDA heads, give scorecard**

By PALANG KASMI

AFTER attaining almost one year in office, the Plateau State Government under The Time is Now mantra of Governor Caleb Mutfwang has presented its record of achievements so far.

Ten commissioners, heads of boards and parastatals made their various presentations during the second Town Hall Accountability Forum organized by the Office of the Director General, Research and Documentation, Governor's Office, Jos, in conjunction with the Plateau Radio Television Corporation (PRTVC).

The forum, which was aired live on TV and radio, took place recently at the PRTVC TV studio, Rayfield, Jos, Plateau State.

In attendance were stakeholders in the state, from civil society organizations and the media.

The DG Research and Documentation of the Plateau State Government, Dr. Sam Gordons, said it was time to engage with the

people of the state to let them know what the government had so far done since assumption of office on May 29, 2023.

In a welcome remark, GM, PRTVC, Kachollom Rita Pam, said the heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) were at the PRTVC Television studio for accountability and to inform the people of the giant strides of the Mutfwang administration.

The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Hon. Philimon Daffi, in his presentation, disclosed that, on assumption of office, his ministry paid the backlog of dressing allowances of lawyers, equipped offices with computers, internet services, renovated the library, entrance of the ministry and set up a citizen's mediation center to enhance the prompt resolution of civil cases in line with global best practices.

He added that, aside restructuring some archaic laws, there were plans to remodel the obsolete Ministry of Justice structure to a 3-story



Jatau

building, equipped with modern sophisticated structures to make it meet current architectural standards.

Commissioner for Higher Education, Dr. Mrs. Kachollom Gang, disclosed that because the Mutfwang administration met an educational system full of challenges, the governor approved over N1billion for the accreditation of programmes at the Plateau State University, Bokkos, Plateau State Polytechnic, Barkin Ladi, College of Nursing and Midwifery and College of Education, Gindiri, among others.

She pointed out that the

ministry also reviewed students' scholarships and allowances from N5,000 to 300 percent to meet current economic realities and embarked on skills acquisition programmes to empower students.

Commissioner for Agriculture, Samson Bugama, said he embarked on staff training, planted 1000 economic trees and distributed N3.6 billion worth of fertilizers.

"We will open crop zones in the state to till lands across the state, farm large hectares, and plant potatoes in Bokkos LGA, Wheat in Bassa LGA etc, among so many other things," he stated.

On his part, Commissioner for Transport, Jatau Davou Gyang, explained trains had been test-run in the state but his ministry was still trying to address the challenges of electricity lines close to rail lines so that they can fully take off.

"To reduce accidents, we created truck depots at Mararaba Jema'a, Mista Ali and Babale and are working on security of citizens by ensuring Keke

and taxi drivers register their QR codes for personal identification and accountability," Gyang explained.

The GM, Plateau Express Services Ltd, Samuel Jok Bot, said, "It is a new chapter for the organisation, as we purchased 20 Toyota Mini Vans, 20 new hummer buses for long distances, trained drivers, and social media engagements to meet modern transport trends."

He appreciated Governor Mutfwang for purchasing the Tin City Metro system which had created employment opportunities for 250 people and indirect employment for 500 people.

The General Manager, Jos Metropolitan Development Board, Arch. Hart Bankat, disclosed that 24 roundabouts would be constructed in the coming months.

He advised Plateau citizens to register their schools, houses and get land approvals before embarking on projects to avoid falling victims of the law.



Bupwatda



## Don't judge a book by its cover

SOMETIME ago, something happened in neighboring Abuja that was an eye opener. In one of the busiest areas of Wuse Market, a young lady was employed to sell recharge cards, assorted drinks and snacks. Ijay's goods were selling like hot cakes. She was a smart lady who had always been referred to as multi-tasking. Alone she had been carrying on for months successfully, with no problems.

On one of the days, at the hour when Ijay's business was at its peak (that is around 11:00 am to 1:00pm), Ijay had an unexpected visitor. It was a young girl of about 12 years, in the midst of "Please give me N100 recharge card"; "Let me have one Maltina, cold one with meat pie". "I want N1000,00 MTN and N500 9mobile, and others asking for their change, Ijay heard a small girl's voice calling her attention. "Auntie!" She called out gently, almost afraid to come very close.

"Yes?" Ijay spared the innocent voice a look. "Can I help you?" Ijay asked politely.

"Please auntie, the little girl curtsied in respect, "My auntie over there," she pointed at a woman busy buying things, "is busy buying a lot of things. I just want a place where I can sit and wait for her until she finishes."

"It is okay," Ijay assented then went back to business. Ijay had a waist purse where she kept all the money for her transaction and the recharge cards, this is usually securely strapped around her waist. However, in the heat of business when she needed to sell a certain recharge card, she removed her waist purse to locate it easily.

Business was very good that day and Ijay was in high spirits, poking fun at her regular customers. She had even forgotten the little girl in her stall until she heard her childish voice saying: "Thank you ma. My auntie just motioned to me to come," the little girl curtsied and hurriedly left.

Shortly after that, a customer wanted a recharge card. Ijay's hands automatically went to where she had kept it. But it wasn't there. She looked under tables, it was not there. She overturned the shop. It was not there.

By this time, Ijay was sweating. The last person on her mind was that little girl. Volunteers ran around the market looking for the girl but she had disappeared into thin air.

It was at this point that other traders that were once bitten, shared similar stories. But it was too late for Ijay to remedy the situation. She has been robbed by the cradle. It amounted to N79,000 in cash and over N25,000 recharge cards. Ijay lost her job but had to pay her madam (nicknamed Shylock) for every dime.

Well-wishers in the market and some passers-by raised over N50,000,00 which Shylock collected grumbling. It was only after Ijay wrote an

undertaking that she would pay the balance in 3 months that she was released by the police. Today, Ijay is wary of innocents.

In a similar situation, on one sunny day, when business appeared to be slow running for more than a week, a car seller learned not to judge a book by its cover. An expensive Mercedes Benz drove to this car stand in Jos and 2 of the occupants went for the most expensive car on display. It was a jeep.

Overjoyed, the owners proudly marketed their goods. The prospective buyers asked if they could test run it and see how it worked. The sellers were enthusiastic about it. Why not, they thought; since Oga (the one the two men obviously worked for) was in their car and their car was expensive too.

However, about ten minutes after they left, Oga, who had been busy eating a mountain of suya with massa (roasted meat seasoned with groundnut cake with rice snack) started exhibiting some kind of attitude. First, he ate even the paper the suya was wrapped in; then started behaving as if he was dancing Michael Jackson's Thriller dance steps- the one that entailed dancing with the shoulder. The car sellers were laughing until his cap fell off.

What they saw almost gave them a heart attack. Oga's hair was dreadlocks, thick with filth. There was no question that it was home of lice because from every indication, the last time it enjoyed the luxury of being washed must have been several years back.

Oga started making animal sounds, tore the well designed babanriga he was wearing, the caftan, then trousers, exposing very filthy tattered clothes. Next, he damaged the door of the car and made to run. The car sellers used all their might to hold him down until security men were called.

In the end, they could not hold on to him-Oga- he was a mad man who was ignorantly used in committing crime. And of course, their jeep never came back and they could not hold on to the Mercedes Benz the thieves came in because the police discovered it was also a stolen car.

So many people are in unhappy marriages because they judged a book by its cover. Nigerians are suffering because they reposed their confidence in the wrong politicians. They come looking for you with a smile pasted on their faces when campaigning for positions. But after using you as ladder to climb up there; they start looking at you with their noses; they become inaccessible. They go to the extent of changing their numbers and their circle of friends. They forget that without people, they are nothing; in fact, they are as good as dead.

## News

# Mutfwang extolls virtues of new Supreme Court Judge

By PETER TITLE

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang has commended Justice Chundung Sankey for exceptional leadership during her inauguration as a Supreme Court Justice of Nigeria.

The governor described her as a beacon of humility, excellence and a proud daughter of Plateau known for her dedication and integrity throughout her career.

Mutfwang, who was joined by fellow dignitaries at a dinner hosted by the Plateau State Government in honor of Justice Sankey at the New Government House, Little Rayfield, extolled her courage, perseverance and commitment to upholding the principles of fairness and justice in public service.

"This evening marks a celebration of resilience in the face of adversity, exemplified by the unwavering commitment of Justice Sankey, even after the tragic events of 1966 that claimed her father's life.

"We honour her dedication to discipline, as demonstrated throughout her life and career. Furthermore, we celebrate her industry, perseverance, and unwavering pursuit of excellence, evident in her outstanding professional journey characterized by dignity and integrity," the governor stressed.

He urged the people to unite in fostering the state's



Mutfwang

development and championing the success of Plateau's sons and daughters, devoid of divisive tendencies. The governor expressed gratitude to the judicial community for their support during challenging times and commended the Supreme Court for delivering a landmark judgment in Plateau's case, which bolstered public confidence in the judiciary.

Former Governor of Plateau State, Sen. Jonah David Jang, the Gbong Gwom, Jos, Dr. Jacob Gyang Buba, and other guests, lauded Justice Sankey's resilience and foresight in upholding justice,

fairness and the integrity of the judiciary.

In her response, Justice Sankey attributed her appointment to divine grace and dedicated it to her late parents, particularly her mother.

She expressed gratitude to Governor Mutfwang, Plateau elders and the clergy for their prayers and support during challenging times and encouraged young lawyers to uphold fairness, justice and diligence in their service.

Justice Sankey solicited the prayers and support of the people of Plateau State as she embarked on her journey to serve the nation with excellence.

## DMCMA/PCN poised to lead in healthcare delivery

By FWENJI GO'AR

IN a bid to further consolidate on the gains so far made and to ensure it leaves no stone unturned in providing the best for the people in terms of healthcare, management of the Plateau State Drugs and Medical Commodities Management Agency (DMCMA) has undertaken a visit to the Plateau State office of the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN) in Jos.

Led by the Executive Secretary (ES), Pharmacist Kim Jerry Bot, the DMCMA team was received on behalf of the PCN Registrar by Dr. Winnie U. Okoye, Assistant Director/State Officer at the Plateau State office, at the Federal Secretariat, Jos.

Bot spoke of the need for a harmonious relationship between the DMCMA and PCN, harping on the need to always be at the top of every situation, as far as delivering safe, affordable and reliable drugs and medical commodities were concerned.

The ES said it was imperative that this collaborative partnership works very well because acts of sabotage could not be ruled out, especially when activities are fully on course.

"We are to do the right thing from day one. We want to start correctly. It is appropriate to come to the regulatory body to register our presence and assure of the need for harmonious relationship which is key," Bot said.

Pharmacist Dr. Winnie Okoye was delighted with the visit and expressed confidence that the collaborative partnership with the DMCMA would be most

beneficial for the citizens of Plateau State as a whole.

She said they were always updating the registrar on activities as captured in their reports in their correspondences and pointed out that they were supposed to

work out ways to see the governor and intimate him on their activities.

She described the idea of a collaboration as a win-win situation and a welcome development that would benefit both of them.

## d-el-Fitr: Kogi CP orders water-tight security

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Commissioner of Police, Kogi State Police Command, CP Bethrand C. Onuoha, has ordered for water-tight security across the state, before, during and after the Eid-el-fitr celebration to ensure hitch-free festivities.

In a statement by the Command's Police Public Relations Officer, SP William Aya, he also felicitated with Muslims on the occasion of the 2024 Eid-el-Fitr celebrations and equally congratulated them for the successful completion of the fasting during the holy month of Ramadan.

He further charged all the Divisional Police Officers, their Supervisory Area Commanders and Tactical and Operational Commanders to beef up security within their areas of responsibilities and ensure massive deployment of patrol teams along the major highways and undercover operations to black spots, flashpoints and other vulnerable criminal spots to nip in the bud all forms of crimes and

criminality across the state.

The CP reiterated the Command's unwavering commitment to working in synergy with other security agencies as well as critical stakeholders in ensuring the safety of lives and property.

The CP urged the good people of the state to continue to collaborate with the security forces through providing prompt and credible information on the activities of criminals to curtail their acts.



Egbetokun

## News

### BASG purchases agrochemicals to fight pests

From  
ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Government has procured agrochemical and other equipment worth N45,000,000.00 in response to a recent outbreak of insects and pests in farmlands affecting ten local government areas of the state.

Governor Bala Mohammed disclosed this while flagging-off aerial spray against Quelea birds at the Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa International Airport, Bauchi, recently.

Represented by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Professor Simon Madugu Yalams, Governor Mohammed described agriculture as the backbone of the state's economy and revealed that the sector employed over 75 percent of the population of the state.

He said his government had since inception made a lot of efforts towards transforming the agricultural sector from being a way of life of the people to a business that would enhance the earning power of the teaming farming families.



Mohammed

The governor added that the transformation was carried out in order to attract investors, donor agencies and development partners from within and outside the country.

He revealed that flocks of Quelea birds attacked and destroyed millions of hectares of agricultural farms and fields annually, leading to substantial grain deficiency in the country.

"These birds are migratory in nature, therefore, the only

method of controlling these destructive pests is by aerial spray of chemicals as well as ground control by the Ministry of Agriculture fumigation team," the governor explained.

The commissioner informed the affected communities where the aerial spray would take place, with the plane flying at a lower altitude, not to panic and warned them against eating any of the dead birds because they were highly toxic.

### SUBEB opens bid for construction/renovation of classrooms

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PLATEAU State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) has opened bid for the award of contracts for construction/renovation of classrooms for public schools in the state.

The occasion was held recently at the premises of SUBEB, Dogon-Dutse in Jos-North Local Government

Area, with the representatives of the Forum of Local Contractors, state Ministry of Justice and that of Education in attendance.

The Director Physical and Engineering Services, Chief (Engr) Gabriel Ayuba, disclosed that the projects, which came through the National Competitive Bidding Process for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2021 and 1st and

4th quarters of 2022, were made up of the construction of 55 blocks with 110 classrooms, 36 stores and 36 offices respectively.

Other projects included the renovation of 62 blocks with 148 classrooms, 32 offices, 32 stores and 32 toilets while those for completion were 14 blocks of classrooms, 9 stores and 9 offices in that order.

It was also made up of the reconstruction of 1 examination hall and construction of 498m perimeter fence and 1 gate house from the over 3 billion matching grant provided by the Universal Basic Education Board (UBEB).

Flagging off the bid opening, the Executive Chairman of the Plateau State (SUBEB), Hon. Sunda Samuel Amuna, thanked Governor Mutwang for providing the counterpart fund for the projects.

"We are standing here as a board on behalf of the people of Plateau State, to appreciate this effort. We also want to appreciate the Universal Basic Education Board (UBEB) for providing the matching grant, put together, totaling over three billion Naira (N3b) for the implementation of these projects.

"From this provision, we are expecting that about 9,616 plastic furniture's will be procured, for Junior Secondary Schools and public primary schools in Plateau State.

"We also expect that from this fund, 2 percent has been earmarked for agricultural education, 1 percent for sports development, 3% for water and sanitation, 2 percent for quality assurance and 2 percent for project monitoring", he highlighted.

### PLAMWASSA flags-off training for volunteers

From JIDAUNA DARING, Langtang North

PLATEAU State Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (PLAMWASSA) has flagged off a 3-day training for volunteer hygiene promoters in Bokkos, Wase and Langtang North Local Government Areas (LGAs).

The Plateau State Commissioner for Water Resources and Energy, Noel Nkup, who was represented by Timothy Gayi, while flagging off the training in Langtang North LGA, stressed the need for affirmative action that would change the state's current status on Open Defecation (OD).

Nkup said that the ministry and the agencies responsible for fighting against OD would continue doing everything possible to ensure that the state becomes Open Defecation Free (ODF).

The commissioner also commended the volunteers for their commitment which would help in bringing about behavioral change in the various volunteer communities.

Sustainable Urban, Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, SURWASH, project coordinator Plateau State,

Engr. Jonathan Malan, who was represented by the Sanitation Officer, PEPSA, Tessa Gyang, described the intervention of the World Bank in addressing the issues of water and sanitation as a welcome development to the state.

Malam emphasized the need for the state to adopt global best practices so as to sustain the projects.

General Manager, PLAMWASSA, Engr. Julius Akawa, underscored the significance of the training in combating OD and revealed that Plateau State was ranking second in the North Central with Kogi State as the first in the country.

Akawa urged participants to use the opportunity to become ambassadors of behavioral change in water management and hygiene practice.

Director Sanitation, Kangyang Timothy, outlined the training objectives to include influencing behavioral change among community members for a healthier and more active society.

Our correspondent reports that the technical presentations covered various projects-specific areas, providing participants with comprehensive insights and skills.



## Only in Nigeria...

IN several African countries, a spike in the price of a simple staple as breed is enough to spark violence, chaos and anarchy. The bread revolution in Sudan opened a government. And one of the consequences is the on-going war ravaging that country. The Arab Spring was also the result of Tunisia's bread riots that led to several deaths and a regime change in the country.

But in Nigeria, nothing happens when a leader wakes up and issues an executive fiat that fuel subsidy is gone without thinking through the policy and weighing the consequences. There would have been no issues if concrete measures that could mitigate the sufferings of the people were first put in place before the announcement.

Whether Nigerians would suffer dire consequences did not, in any way, matter to these leaders whose bills are picked by the taxpayers. According to the government, hikes in the price of petrol and other petroleum products signify a welcome departure from subsidizing these products and thus saving humongous sums for the various tiers of governments.

As much as one does not debate the savings made, one cannot help but ask: what is the essence of government in the first place? Beyond protection the lives and property of citizens, the fair and equitable distribution of the resources of a country occupy a very important place in the affairs of government. Is our government fair in the performance of these basic responsibilities? Can we trust it to uphold and defend the people as it is done elsewhere?

Only recently, the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, jacked up the price of units of power, categorizing electricity consumers into different bands. Unfortunately, Nigerians have not as much as shown interests in, or protested, this arbitrary increase in tariffs. No one is willing to stick their necks for the wellbeing of the generality of the people. All that happens is, people groan under the difficult yoke. At the end, they adjust and carry on with their sufferings. In the face of all these, workers' salaries have not changed and it is the only thing that committees are set up to review each time

labour unions threaten to call out workers to demand their rights.

Annoyingly, government has refused to bring to an end the insecurity that has caused hardships to the people. On a daily basis, people are being killed on their farms without protection from those hired to provide such protection. As General Sani Abacha said long ago, "Any uprising which last more than 48 hours is supported by the government." It, therefore, means that government has a hand in the unfortunate happenings in our various communities. Thus, it must make concerted efforts towards bringing to an end the violence and suffering it has brought upon the people.

And, as a consequence of the aforesaid, food production has been affected and the cost of food has skyrocketed way beyond the reach of the ordinary citizen.

If government cannot muster the courage to bring to an end the insecurity that has caused untold hardships on the people, then it has no business holding on

**“ And, as a consequence of the aforesaid, food production has been affected and the cost of food has skyrocketed way beyond the reach of the ordinary citizen. If government cannot muster the courage to bring to an end the insecurity that has caused untold hardships on the people, then it has no business holding on tenaciously to power.**

**If it were religion, a personal thing, that was tampered with, hell would have been let loose. Nigerians would have gone on rampage in defence of their faith.**

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tenaciously to power.

If it were religion, a personal thing, that was tampered with, hell would have been let loose. Nigerians would have gone on rampage in defence of their faith. They would have fought on behalf of their God. Yet, they would never contemplate raising as much as a finger when it comes to issues that border on their welfare.

Taking a census of the most religious countries in the world, where churches and mosques and other prayer houses litter the streets, one is not surprised by their backwardness. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria and so many other Third World countries have only relics of war and destruction to showcase. Issues of development hardly attract serious discourse.

There is need to refocus and pay more attention to issues that have to do with the development of our society and country. No one would come from somewhere to help drive our development. We will have to fashion ways and means to do this by ourselves. If we must fight, let it be for good reasons.

If the essence of government is truly the provision of basic infrastructure for the enjoyment of the citizenry, then it behooves on it to ensure that it provides infrastructure before it goes ahead to withdraw subsidies. After all, servicing the people is the number one responsibility of government.

As much as we agree that the withdrawal of subsidies would free government resources for the overall development of society, there needs to be a systematic transition. Government also needs to fight the endemic corruption that has become the hall mark of past leaders. As a matter of fact, subsidies are amorphous and nobody can say for sure what they are. In the end, they would be passed on to the end users.

We must be wary of the cobra effect. Our society cannot in trying to solve one problem create others in the process. Leaders must take up the gauntlet and solve problems because that is what they are employed to do. If they create instead of solving problems, then they would have been deemed to have failed, woefully.

# Change of Name

<p><b>SIMON</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SINAN GODIYA WOTREE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SIMON GODIYA KWATRI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANJI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANJI SANI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANJI SANI UBANDOMA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>YAMUSA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>YAMUSA GHEEBEK</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>YAMUSA GHEEBEK NEHENIAH</b>. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>SALE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>TANGKAT NANLOP SALE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SALE NANLOP LUCY</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>JONATHAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JONATHAN ISAAC</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>JONATHAN ISAAC NNANDI</b>. Correct date of birth is 13/12/1965 not 1/10/1965. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ZUWAIRA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ZUWAIRA USMAN UMAR</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ZUWAIRA ISA ADAM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>MILAT</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AGNES DANIEL, MILAT MILAT SWARKWAP</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MILAT AGNES SWARKWAP</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>IORKOSU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>IORKOSU SALVIN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>IORKOSU TERUNGWA SALVIN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>OWOICHO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>OWOICHA BLESSING ENUWA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OWOICHO BLESSING ENUWA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>BON</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SUNDAY BAGU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BON SUNDAY BAGU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ONAH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KENNETH ROSELINE NGOZI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ONAH ROSELINE NGOZI</b>. Correct date of birth is 28/12/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>FLORENCE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>FLORENCE CHINENYE NKWAZE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>FLORENCE CHINENYE KENECHUKWU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>GUPAR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>CHRISTIANA NALUK GUPAR</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GUPAR CHRISTIANA</b>. Correct date of birth is 09/07/1945. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>PATRICK</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PATRICK MARY GOKUM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>PATRICK CHRISTABEL GOKUM</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>SHADIRECK</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>VELLE LOHFE JONAH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SHADIRECK LOHFE</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>RECECCA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>REBECCA MARK PAM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>REBECCA NANTIM JOHNSON</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>VERONICA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>VERONICA VOU ISHAKU</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>VERONICA GYANG ISHAKU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>DASEN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NICODEMUS STELLA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DASEN STELLA NAANYIL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p><b>ELBERT</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DAYIL NECODEMUS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ELBERT SEENMIAL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DANJUMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>SHINDET DORCAS KACHOLLOM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANJUMA DORCAS KACHOLLOM</b>. Correct date of birth is 10/10/1995 not 10/10/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>PATIENCE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PATIENCE YAKUBU JIKWE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MRS. PATIENCE PETER CHOHU</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NDEN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LUKA RENAN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NDEN RENAN NANSACK</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LONGBAP</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>LONGBAP LUNGRE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LONGBAP LUNGRE GAVEN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SAMUEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>PYALSON ESTHER NEKEN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SAMUEL ESTHER NEKEN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>ENOCH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>FWANGMUN E. RINGMEN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>ENOCH FWANGMUN RINGMEN</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>EMMANUEL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>EMMANUEL DONGKET AMOS</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>EMMANUEL AMOS DONGKET</b>. Correct date of birth is 6/3/1988 not 3/4/1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANFE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANFE JOHN KURNAP, MERCY KURNAP JOHN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANFE JOHN KURNAP</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>BISSAI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MAMSWA HABILA BISSAI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>BISSAI HABILA MAMSWA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>KAKSHAK</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>BITRUS DANIEL</b> now wish to be known and addressed as <b>KAKSHAK DANIEL BITRUS</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANWON</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>KUMBIN NANWON NANSEL</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANWON GWAKZING SAMUEL</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>MARY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>MARY JACOB GYANG</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MARY GYANG JOSEPH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>RIFKATU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>JUSTINA JOSEPH</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>RIFKATU DANJUMA LOHDIR</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>SALISU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>ISA MARYAM</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>SALISU ZULAIKHAT ABUBAKAR</b>. Correct date of birth is 5/5/2006. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>GONZWAL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GONZUAL MARTHA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>GONZWAL MARTHA GODIT</b>. Correct date of birth is 25/8/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>OCHEJA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NGUKUSUK YUWANA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>OCHEJA YUWANA</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DANBOYI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DACHUNG JOB</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DANBOYI JOB DACHUNG</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p><b>MAISAMARI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>RABO ZAKKA MAISAMARI</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>MAISAMARI ZAKKA DAURA</b>. Correct date of birth is 19/02/1962 not 06/12/1960. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>AUDU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AYITONU EMMANUEL OGOBOLE</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>AUDU EMMANUEL OFOKU</b>. Correct date of birth is 25/04/2002. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>DORCAS</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>DORCAS JOHN SUZIKMA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>DORCAS POKYES EPHRIAH</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LARUBA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>AMEADJI LARUBA</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LARUBA ANEH ADAJI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NANKAT</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>GAMBO AGNES REUBEN</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>NANKAT AGNES GAMBO</b>. Correct date of birth is 3/3/1981. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>LOHMAN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as <b>NANYI FELIX</b>, now wish to be known and addressed as <b>LOHMAN NANYI</b>. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**MUSLIM PILGRIMS' WELFARE BOARD PLATEAU STATE**  
 Opposite Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning,  
 Club Road, P.O. Box 1241, Jos Plateau State, Nigeria

The Plateau State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board wishes to announce to the public that the closing date for the payment of the increase in cost of hajj fare of One Million, Nine Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, and thirty-two Naira, Ninety-one kobo (**₦1,918,032.91**) only 2024 for intending Pilgrims will be on Monday, 8th April, 2024.

The Executive Secretary of the Board, Alhaji Daiyabu Dauda made the announcement after a meeting with the Management. Adding that State and Local Government allocation form should be filled and returned on or before 15th April, 2024 for documentation. Failure to do so, may lead to forfeiting of the chance for the allocation.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

  
**Yasir Ismail Yahaya**  
 Information Officer  
 For: Executive Secretary

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**HOT DRINKS BEVERAGES AND WINE DEALERS ASSOCIATION JOS**

This is to inform the general public that the above named has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Abuja for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

**TRUSTEES ARE:**

(1) Okeke Solomon Okwuchukwu	-	Chairman
(2) Ofoma Chigozie	-	Secretary
(3) Eze Edmond Chijindu	-	Treasurer
(4) Oguefor Mmuolike Mmadu	-	Financial Secretary
(5) Ekwenye Chukwudi	-	Provost

**AIM AND OBJECTIVES:**

- To foster unity, love and cooperation amongst members.
- To monitor and influence best practices in the sale and distribution of products by members.
- To promote sustainable market value chains between Dealers, producers and Consumers of products.

Any objection to this Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P. M. B. 198, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Barr Jones Usim Osim

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**FWINBE THOMAS GOFWAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part F of the companies and allied matters Act, 2020.

**THE TRUSTEES ARE:**

- Gofwan Wakibul Thomas
- Gofwan Manji Thomas
- Gofwan Nenpominiyi Thomas

**AIMS & OBJECTIVES:**

- To conduct educational programs and workshops in communities to educate people about their legal rights and responsibilities, the importance of due process, and alternative ways to address grievances without resorting to violence
- To provide charitable donations to victims of jungle justice, indigent members of a victim of jungle justice which include sponsorship to the children of jungle justice victims.

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

Signed: Secretary

# THE Nigeria Standard

## Editorial

### Governor Mutfwang's date with destiny

SOME of the finest journalists in Nigeria once proudly walked these famous hallways into their offices to pen and produce some of the most remarkable works in the print media industry.

BUT what Governor Mutfwang met on ground was not good. He was not a happy man as Labaran Maku, Nuhu Gagara, Harris Dawurang, Emma Gogwim, Matthew Kuju, Gideon Mitu, and those other mercurial journalists had been in the heyday of *The Nigeria Standard* when they practised their craft with great love and devotion.

TODAY, the few remaining journalists in the newsroom sit on plastic chairs and write their stories on furniture supplied more than 30 years ago. Some administrative staff use wooden benches in an abandoned clinic-turned-offices. All over, the threadbare carpets are relics from the early 1970s.

THE newspaper, the main product of PPC, comes out only once a week – printed at a private commercial facility on bond paper because we cannot afford the cost of utilizing the state of the art Cityline machine.

NIGERIANS still recall with nostalgia when all the three titles of the newspaper were on the newsstands daily in most parts of the country. They set the tone for national discourse and influenced government policies at all levels.

GOMWALK also constructed the iconic nine-story edifice, once the dominant landmark on the Jos city skyline, boasting one of the few elevators in northern Nigeria at the time. It was a means of boosting the revenue base of the organisation and indeed the entire state. This same vision inspired the setting up of the paper conversion plant, today the only remaining one in the north. It produced the once famous Cactus Exercise Book, typing and duplicating papers. There was also a bustling commercial printing press.

ALL of these have either literally collapsed or are in various stages of decay due to sheer neglect by past leaders to whom economic independence, history and legacy mean nothing.

BUT rather than dampen his morale, these challenges have strengthened Governor Mutfwang's resolve to revive the PPC. He finds it incumbent upon himself to undertake this Herculean task so as to re-connect with the past and restore the pride and glory it confers on the state. This is because PPC is deeply embedded in the Plateau and Middle Belt identity.

ALTHOUGH the governor's visit resonated well with most staff, as they see it as a mark of good things to come, others are taking it with a dose of skepticism. This cautious optimism is quite understandable. In the last three decades, successive governments have reeled out ample promises that have largely amounted to naught.

BUT 2005 marked a turning point when the state government turned PPC into a scheduled entity, finally making its staff pensionable. That was mainly due to the untiring efforts of then Governor Joshua Chibi Dariye, who had once served as PPC Chief Accountant.

AND in 2014, the Jonah Jang administration installed the Cityline printing press, a 500kva power plant and supplied circulation and other vehicles. The contract he also awarded that year for the complete renovation of the Gomwalk House was stalled during the next government by intrigues that led to a lingering litigation.

THOSE laudable interventions should have been complemented by his predecessor through staff recruitment, provision of consumables, continuation of work on the Gomwalk House and revamping the exercise book production plant and commercial printing press in order to have the required, wholistic, impact. But that was not the case.

THAT is the vacuum Governor Mutfwang plans to fill. He has, therefore, espoused comprehensive short and long-term goals towards the total restoration of the PPC to make all of its arms, especially *The Nigeria Standard*, viable once again.

OVERJOYED by the sheer novelty of that inspection visit, the PPC management, staff and indeed the entire people of the Middle Belt resolutely stand with Governor Mutfwang as he takes on this historical assignment. For it's not by accident that destiny placed him here and at this moment in time, saddled with the burden of salvaging Gomwalk's legacy.

THAT much he firmly declared in these words he wrote in the PPC visitors' book: "I decided to visit this Legacy Building to see things for myself. It is unfortunate that the legacy of our founding father has been left in ruins.

"BY the grace of God we shall put in our best efforts to ensure that the labour of our heroes past are not allowed to waste. Restoring J.D. Gomwalk House is therefore a task that must be done!

"THE new management is showing great determination to restore *The Nigeria Standard* newspaper. Kudos."

KINDLY allow me use your medium to appreciate the Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, for doing a great job since his assumption of office about nine months ago. Before coming on board as governor, the state was enveloped in many obvious challenges. Aside the issue of insecurity bedeviling the state, it lacked several infrastructural facilities for the good of the citizenry.

The various indigenous groups on the Plateau had gone their separate ways as the spirit of unity was no longer there.

Surprisingly, even before the Supreme Court judgment which declared the governor as winner of the gubernatorial election, he never reneged on his promise of putting smiles on the faces of the citizenry. His significant display of political sagacity while the court processes lasted really made him stand out as a dependable leader worthy of emulation. While the political intrigues were playing out, he stood firm with God who answered our collective prayers at the end.

Today, Plateau State is gradually wearing a new look following the governor's commitment towards transforming the entire state. In the past few months, our governor has been able to embark on road construction and rehabilitation across the metropolis, irrespective of the religious or ethnic affiliations of the inhabitants of these areas.

In the area of education, our governor has injected new life into the system. Plateau State University has been revitalized to overcome contemporary challenges. In addition, various employment



### Governor Mutfwang, Plateau is proud of you

opportunities have been created in almost all the state's tertiary institutions to help rejig the system in to produce credible graduates. For that reason, the standard of education on the Plateau would blossom and become one of the best in the country.

If there is any area that Governor Mutfwang has given his best in most recent times, is the security sector. Since the unprovoked attack on Mangu Local Government Area and other local councils in the state, our governor has been trying his best to overcome this evil. Apart from the purchase of security gadgets, he has done quite a lot to give the citizens a sense of security.

So far, his open door policy and the appointment of government officials have reassured the people of the state that his coming is a great blessing. The inclusion of youth in his appointments has also infused some pragmatic energy into the art of governance in the state.

While we continue to pray for more wisdom for the governor, we equally call on him to continue with the great works he is presently doing so as to leave behind a lasting legacy in the state.

**Danjuma Wakili, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State**

### Fasting during Ramandan: A spiritual journey

PLEASE permit space in your widely read newspaper, *The Nigeria Standard*, to highlight the importance of Ramadan fasting to the Muslims and its sacrificial impact on mankind.

Ramadan, the holy month of fasting for Muslims, is a time for spiritual reflection, self-discipline and an opportunity to strengthen one's connection with Allah.

The Month-long fast is one of the five pillars of Islam, and it involves abstaining from food, water, and other physical needs from dawn until sunset.

Fasting during Ramandan is a spiritual journey that Muslims undertake every year which offers a unique opportunity to reflect on one's relationship with Allah and others.

For Muslims, Ramadan is not just about abstaining from food and drink, it is also a time for spiritual purification, a time for Muslims to focus on their faith, strengthen their relationship with Allah and seek forgiveness for their past sins.

Fasting during Ramandan helps Muslims to develop self-discipline, patience and empathy as they experience hunger and thirst and reflect on the suffering of others around the world who do not have access to life's basic necessities.

The spiritual journey of fasting during Ramandan begins with the

sighting of the crescent moon that marks the commencement of the holy month.

The first day of Ramadan is an opportunity to renew one's commitment to Allah, seek forgiveness for past sins and set new goals for personal growth.

During Ramadan, Muslims wake up early in the morning to eat a pre-dawn meal called *suhoor* and then begin their fast at sunrise. They break the fast at sunset with a meal called *iftar*, which is often shared with family and friends.

*Iftar* is not just a time to satisfy hunger and thirst but also a time for spiritual reflection and gratitude to God.

In addition to fasting, Muslims also perform extra prayers during Ramadan. These prayers, known as *taraweeh*, are performed after the *isha* prayers and are traditionally led by an imam. The recitation of the Holy Quran during *taraweeh* is a powerful spiritual experience that brings Muslims closer to Allah and helps them reflect on the teachings of Prophet Muhammad.

Charity is also an essential part of the spiritual journey of Ramadan. Muslims are encouraged to donate to those in need, whether it is through monetary donations or volunteering their time to help others.

This act of giving is a way of

expressing gratitude for the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon us and to help those who are less fortunate.

Fasting during Ramadan is not an easy task. Therefore, it requires dedication, commitment and sacrifice.

However, it is also a deeply rewarding experience that offers an opportunity for spiritual growth and self-reflection.

Through fasting, Muslims can strengthen their connection with Allah, develop self-discipline and cultivate empathy for others.

In a world that is often filled with directions and materialism, fasting in Ramadan offers unique opportunity to disconnect from the world and focus on the spiritual journey.

It is a time to reflect on one's relationship with Allah, seek forgiveness and renew one's commitment to personal growth and spiritual development.

As Muslims around the world embark on the spiritual journey of fasting in Ramadan, let us remember the true purpose of this holy month.

We should strive to cultivate empathy, self-discipline and gratitude for the blessings Allah has bestowed upon us. Let us renew our commitment to personal growth and development and work to make the world a better place for all.

**By NAMU SANUSI**



Politics

I am not quitting LP - Obi

THE 2023 presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP), Peter Obi, has said he would rather work to ensure peace for the party to overcome its present challenges than leave it.

Obi stated this in Gombe in an interview with journalists after inaugurating a borehole he donated to Tike Ram Market in Pantami, Gombe State.

He said the rumour that he would leave was not true as he was more committed to the peace of the party and expressed optimism that the LP would resolve its challenges and forge ahead as one family.

"No, there is no such thing as leaving the Labour Party. I am for peace; I like peace. I believe we are one people. Our concentration should be on peace and I believe that we will resolve the situation," he said.

On recent speculations of him running for the 2027 presidency with former Kaduna State governor, Nasir El-Rufai, Obi said: "Well, I'm more interested now in Nigeria's success today than tomorrow. We are always concentrating on the election rather than what Nigerians are going through. My commitment is about Nigerians living in a better society, given a better life and that's my concern," he maintained.

On why he donated the



Obi

borehole, the former governor of Anambra said he had been going round in the spirit of the Ramadan to support Nigerians, especially the poor to help cushion the impact of the current challenges.

"I'm here in Gombe and I came to Pantami market to help them in area of water supply that is the borehole I just inaugurated. You can see the business here, all the rams and everything here but they don't have water. We will support some individuals which we will do remotely and send them some little money, about 100, that will be done."

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that

there were speculations that Obi might have started shopping for another political platform, in spite of being guaranteed the LP 2027 presidential ticket at its convention.

Recall that the NLC spokesman, Benson Uphah on Sunday, said the NLC would not stand in the way of Obi, should he decide to defect to another political platform.

"The right of choice is available to Mr. Obi. If he chooses to leave the party, that is his preference. We can't sit in judgment over him on that. But if he chooses to remain, of course, Peter Obi is an asset any day. I rest my case on that," he said.

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Audu Faleke Political structure has cried out over alleged blackmail of the Minister of Steel Development, Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu accusing him of undue interference in the ongoing Kogi State Gubernatorial Election Tribunal.

Addressing a press conference in Lokoja on Monday, the group's spokesperson, Emmanuel Ekele accused Kogi East Critical Stakeholders (KECS) led by one Alhaji Sule Iyaji of blackmailing the Minister of Steel, adding that, the allegations against their principal by KECS were concocted.

The group warned that politicians should leave the Minister and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu out of Kogi politics and allow the election tribunal perform its constitutional assignment.

Ekele said "The Honourable Minister Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu has no business, interfering in the ongoing Kogi State Gubernatorial Election tribunal which is part of the electoral

Group cries out over alleged blackmail



Audu

process.

"It is also not within his purview hence it's needless to threaten him over what you imagined that does not even exist. May we also warn Kogi East Critical Stakeholders (KECS) to be mindful of criminal intimidation.

"The Honourable Minister is only concerned at this time with his primary task of reviving the steel sector for the good of the nation's economy and has really no time for the

imagined accusations. He was only appointed as Director General of the governorship election campaign by his party the APC. The election is over and he has since returned to his office.

"The Honourable Minister Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu has strong faith in our judiciary and wish to advice Kogi East Critical Stakeholders (KECS) to desist from speculations and casting aspersion on the judiciary which is very wrong and misleading."

Ododo felicitates with former governor

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

KOGI State Governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo, has felicitated with the former governor of the State, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, on his 75th birthday.

In a statement by his Special Adviser on Media, Ismaila Isah, the governor described Ibrahim Idris as



Idris

an exemplary leader and a detribalized Nigerian whose impact in the world of business and politics remains outstanding.

Ododo described Idris as a father whose guidance has been of immense help in managing the affairs of the state.

"I salute you most specially our dear father and former Governor on your 75th birthday anniversary and I pray that you continue to age gracefully as you provide the needed guidance for us and new generation of leaders in the state and our country.

"You have been a pillar of support for us since our governorship election campaign up till today and we shall continue to count on you as a father who did your best for our state as governor," Ododo said.

The Governor used the occasion to call on the people of the state to emulate the virtues of the former governor and wished him long life in good health.

KKU VC charges staff on discipline, transparency

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Vice-chancellor, Karl Kumm University, Vom, Professor Nanven Audu Gambo, has encouraged staff of the university to adhere to the tenets of the institution and be disciplined and transparent in the discharge of their duties to help move the institution forward.

In to a statement signed by the university's Protocol and Information Officer, Bulus Gambo, the VC called on the staff to dedicate themselves to the strategic objectives of promoting the educational ideology of the institution by producing graduates that would serve the country with all sense of responsibility.

He said, "I encourage you all to be disciplined and transparent in your work places, to help the institution move forward," and emphasized that "While the management is putting its best to create an enabling environment for you, you must justify these investments through hard



Gambo

work and transparency in your workplace".

Earlier in his submission, the Registrar of the University, Benjamin Dachomo, noted that the orientation programme would go a long way in educating the staff of the institution on their responsibilities to the institution for greater change.

He, thanked both the Vice Chancellor of the university and various resource persons who contributed towards the successful hosting of the orientation programme.

The Director of Academic Planning, Karl Kumm University, Prof. John Mawak, while presenting a paper, said leadership at both academic and

administrative levels, play crucial roles in shaping the strategic direction, culture and effectiveness of universities.

He disclosed that effective leadership fosters innovation, collaboration and ensures the attainment of institutional goals for greater productivity.

Obaseki appoints new deputy

HOURS after the impeachment of Philip Shaibu as Edo State deputy governor, Governor Godwin Obaseki has appointed Omobayo Marvellous Godwins, a 38-year-old engineer, as his deputy.

Reports indicate that the Edo State House of Assembly, on Monday, impeached Shaibu following the adoption of the report of a seven-man investigative panel set up by the Assembly to probe allegations of misconduct against Shaibu.

The Justice S.A. Omonualed seven-man panel investigating the impeachment petition

against Shaibu rounded off its sitting last Friday.

The panel was constituted by the Chief Judge of Edo State, Justice Daniel Okungbowa, on March 22, 2024, in line with the resolution of the State House of Assembly to investigate the impeachment petition against the deputy governor which bothered on allegations of gross misconduct and perjury.

Other members of the panel were Professor Theresa Akpoghme, Oghogho Ayodele Oviasu, Surveyor Andrew Oliha, Idris Abdulkareem, President Aigbokhan and Mariam Erakhoba Ilavbare.



Obaseki

# IMAGES

## MUTFWANG INSPECTS PLATEAU PUBLISHING CORPORATION

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, on Thursday last week inspected the Plateau Publishing Corporation (PPC), publishers of The Nigeria Standard Group of Newspapers at the JD Gomwalk House, Jos



General Manager of the Corporation, Mr. Chris Gyang (left), flanked by his management staff awaiting the arrival of the governor



Commissioner of Housing, Joshua Laven Ubandoma, directors of the ministry with the General Manager and PPC Director of Property Development, Francis Jatau



Mr. Chris Gyang receiving Governor Mutfwang



Commissioner for Information, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms (right), with the Nigeria Standard Managing Editor, Paul Jatau



Mr. Mamman explaining the workings of the Cityline printing machine to the governor and his entourage



Governor Mutfwang (right) listening to explanations from the Director, Commercial Printing, Garos Dusu



Governor Mutfwang acknowledging cheers from staff of the corporation



Governor Mutfwang (middle) PPC GM, government officials and PPC management team in a group photograph

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK



# IMAGES

## PLATEAU NUJ HOLDS MAIDEN RAMADAN LECTURE

The Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, Plateau State Council, recently held its Maiden Ramadan Lecture at the Press Centre, Jos



NUJ Chairman, Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo (left), welcoming the Guest Speaker, Sheik Omar Farouq Muhammad, Deputy Imam Fibre Mosque, Jos



Mrs. Ayuku Pwaspo making her remarks



Commissioner, Information, Hon. Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, representative of NUJ Patron, Alhaji Adamu Ahmad Abdullahi, Santalin Wase, and the Director of Press Affairs, Gyang Bere



NUJ Chairman, Muslim clerics and other invited dignitaries in a group photograph

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

## NAWOJ NATIONAL CHAIR DONATE ITEMS TO ORPHANS

The National Chairperson, Nigerian Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ, Comrade Aisha Ibrahim Bura, recently donated personal, food and other items to the House of Recap Orphanage in Jos through the former National Secretary, Mrs. Lucy Chindaba, in company of Tongnaan Dada Bawa and Grace Akwe Gotip



Mrs. Chindaba (right) presenting the items to wife of the Founder, House of Recap Orphanage, Mrs. Marilyn Akakaa



Representative of the National Chairperson delivering her speech



A cross-section of orphans



The children trooping out to receive the items

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

## Feature



J. D. Gomwalk



Gov. Mutfwang

# Fifty two years: Story of *The Nigeria Standard*

**A providential state visit from the South had exposed the political underbelly of the North. But it was more than that. It was also the beginning of a story that has hardly changed in the general run of the Nigerian odyssey. It is the story of the struggle for identity and how it found a voice to express itself. WULIME GOYIT writes.**

**T**he *Nigeria Standard* came from the impulse of one man. But by the time it took its form, it had become the standard bearer of the vision around which the aspirations of the people were molded. Conceived in a moment of exasperation, it rolled off the press in haste, just a few months after former Governor JD Gomwalk had seen off the then Mid-West State Governor, Col. Samuel Ogbemudia who had visited him. A snobbish treatment of the visit by the northern-owned newspaper, *New Nigerian* was the spark that ignited the flurry of activities leading to the establishment of the paper.

Coming when it did, against the odds that it faced, the birth of *The Nigeria Standard* spoke of the urgency of the issues for which it came; for the presence and place of the country's minority groups under the federal system; and for the unification of the hotchpotch of Nigeria's ethnic nationalities for the greater good.

The newspaper set out its mission as follows:

"Today, we join the growing family of the nation's news media. And we dedicate ourselves to the service of helping to build a strong and virile press that will enhance the enlightenment of our people, promote better understanding and ethnic

harmony among the various groups that make up this great country and contribute to the economic advancement of and political stability of our country.

"In carrying out our sacred duty of moulding public opinion, we shall not allow selfish motives or sectional interest to becloud our sense of national duty. We are born at a momentous period in the history of our country, a time when the Federal and state governments have embarked on gigantic programmes aimed at building a solid foundation for economic take-off and political stability.

"We owe it a duty not only to support the effort of the governments in this regard, but also to create a favorable atmosphere in which the people will continue to cooperate with government in their task of nation-building. We can only do this if truth, objectivity and fair play form the cardinal principles of reports and comments.

"For the benefit of the government and the governed, we will always offer constructive criticisms and maintain a virile editorial policy within the limits of the law. We will advise, implore, exhort, explain and criticize whenever necessary, without fear or favor.

"And as a vehicle of information, we will also undertake to interpret correctly government policies and measures to the people and

relay the people's reactions and views on such measures back to the government for its guidance. As one of the national couriers of news and views, our principal political objective is to play up all the factors that contribute towards the promotion of unity and trample on those that tend to kindle narrow nationalism, parochialism, and selfish tribal interests which are not only the symbols of disunity, but are capable of frustrating a nation's hope for a more progressive endeavor.

"Our task to the nation is difficult. But our ability to perform it satisfactorily will depend entirely on the amount of co-operation which we receive from you. We therefore appeal to all of you not only to co-operate with us but to patronize us in order to make *The Nigeria Standard* a success."

The newspaper was on the newsstands for the first time on July 8, 1972, decreed into life by Governor Gomwalk via Edict No. 6 of 1972, containing that editorial that set the tone for the pursuit of its grand ambitions.

Simple but assertive, confident but not condescending, the newspaper proclaimed its mission with the force of its convictions, and followed same with equal intensity. From the press of *The Nigerian Observer*

newspaper in Benin, Mid-West State, production of *The Nigeria Standard* newspaper moved to Jos two years later, in 1974. It was said to be a dreary start as a former editor of the paper, Dan Agbese describes it in the book, *JD Gomwalk: A man of vision*. Dan Agbese says, "we did not just work, we plodded. Everything was set up for maximum mental and physical punishment. It fell to the Government Printer to produce the newspaper. But it was done manually. This meant that every word was hand composed with the compositors picking individual letters from trays containing various typefaces...the agony was unbearable. We had no respite, we had the Printing Press to contend with too. It was a small letter press with its technology anchored in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century."

With the production machine only suited for the preceding generation of newspapering, with limited circulation of the paper and lacking in timeliness, it was indeed morning yet on creation day. Still, over time, *The Nigeria Standard* has provided the voice it set out to provide for sections of the society whose voices are hardly heard in the noisy clamour for resources and recognition.

Coming on stream when it did, *The Nigeria Standard* became the 6<sup>th</sup> oldest newspaper in the country and the second oldest in the North

after the *New Nigerian*. But it is renowned for higher duties for the country than for its long life in the print media world. As it evolved into the behemoth that it became on the media space, it branched out into other publications designed to meet peculiar needs. *The Sunday Standard*, *The Nigeria Standard on Saturday*, Yancin Dan Adam and *The Rock* magazine, all came at different times in the heyday of the newspaper.

Buoyed by its popularity and wide circulation, the newspaper attained heights that tend to belie its fortunes in later years. It is on record that even foreign governments, including the governments of the United States of America and the Soviet Union at some time invited an editor of the paper, Gideon Barde for visits to their countries. History also records that sometime during the Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo military regime, *The Nigeria Standard* was among the accredited media outfits on the entourage of the then Head of State when he visited The Gambia and Liberia.

But *The Nigeria Standard's* years of relative stability and progress, like other media of the 1980s and 1990s, would be troubled by the increasing arrogance and unrestrained ambition of a military class that had apparently lost sight of its primary mission. *The Nigeria Standard*, however, never abdicated its watch-dog calling, becoming more assertive in its demand for responsive and responsible leadership. In its reports and editorials, there was no let-up in the intensity of its critique of the military government, for which, reports said, it was at one time described as tending towards being a "Communist Manifesto".

The most recognizable face of the newspaper's radical bent was a former editor, Jonathan Ishaku whose running battles with the military junta got him fired twice in 1986/87 by the then Military Administrator of Plateau State, Col. Lawrence Onoja. And then there was the incident surrounding the famous Standard 7. These were the seven senior editors/members of the Editorial Board of the paper who had resigned their appointments following the annulment of the results of the June 12, 1993, presidential election in which Chief Moshood Abiola of the Social Democratic Party was expected to win.

The editors/Editorial Board members were Emma Gogwim, Gideon Mitu, Cyril Ogah, Harris Dawurang, Wilson Yale and Usman Abu. They had written the now legendary "This is Our Stand" editorial which

*Continued on page 11*

## Feature

Fifty two years: Story of *The Nigeria Standard*

Continued from page 10

demanding that the electoral process should be concluded and the winner declared. Asked by Government to retract that editorial, they stood up to the authorities and would rather quit their jobs! The seventh among them, Danjuma Abah, was of the Sub-Desk but decided to join the defiant party in solidarity!

As the military era stretched the polity to its limits, putting the media on their toes, there were concomitant economic drawbacks with serious implications for media practice. As a consequence, the fortunes of the media, among other sectors across the country began to dwindle. The glory days of **The Nigeria Standard** had begun to recede. From a local newspaper to a respectable national daily, the paper's downward slide was aided by aging machines, shortage of consumables and a gradual thinning of the very good hands that took it to the very top.

When the Corporation moved its physical presence to No. 5, JD Gomwalk Road in 1975, its massive, ten-story building represented the pinnacle of its achievements, a fitting tribute to its grandiose goals. Christened Joseph Gomwalk House, after the founder of the organization, it was simply a statement on the Corporation's gigantic ambitions and the boldness of its vision. Sharing **The Nigeria Standard** precincts with other key areas of innovativeness such as the Commercial Printing department, which produced the popular Cactus Exercise Books, the idea was also for more income streams for the Corporation. And while these revenue generating organs of the Corporation turned the wheels of its operations, **The Nigeria Standard** voice was heard in all its distinctiveness.

However, from limited circulation to a drop in the frequency of production, from being out of print to shortage of circulation vans, from the once-respectable national paper to a provincial mouthpiece, it has no doubt been a steep decline for **The Nigeria Standard**. As it is, the iconic JD Gomwalk House is just a shell of its old self, left in abeyance for years, serving no economic purpose. And then there are printing machines that have simply served out their time at **The Nigeria Standard**. Mostly outdated and virtually beyond salvation, they remain mere relics of the past. What is

more, a depleting staff population, in no mood for the drudgery that is the profession, is no good news for the future of the paper. Now, are the best days of **The Nigeria Standard** behind it?

Somewhere in the production area of the newspaper outfit is the Goss Printing Press, which has churned out several thousand copies of the newspaper since the 1970s when it was installed. This German-made machine it was that printed the vivacious reports, seminal articles and prodigious writings that all together constitute the highpoint of **The Nigeria Standard** story.

But the legendary Goss now grinds slowly to an impending end. Weakened by age, it idles away as another one, the City-Line Web-Off Set, takes its place. In the midst of the despondency of the moment, this new one embodies the possibilities of the future. With the potential to re-launch the paper onto the path of greatness once again, it awaits the tonic that its own season requires.

Built in India and shipped into the country in 2014, the new press is several notches higher in its technology than anything **The Nigeria Standard** has ever seen. However, its advanced technology is not an end in itself. Like it was in the past, the philosophy that underpinned the establishment of the newspaper must be in the center of the plans for its rebirth.

There is no gainsaying that recruitment of staff in all departments of the corporation, training of technical personnel for the transfer of knowledge on the new machine and re-orientation of editorial staff are among the essentials for a turn-around that is being sought. But all this can only be realized in a work environment that enhances optimal performance.

Fifty two years after its founding, **The Nigeria Standard** finds itself in the age of the internet and the New Media. Bolstered by an unwavering spirit, it has survived the vagaries of the media environment, outliving many of its kind to be the brand that it is today. For the future, for its relevance and continued survival, its new approaches must fully exploit the vast resources that the information superhighway provides. This is a key requirement of the newspaper as it seeks to reinvent itself in the new age.

## Opinion

## Electricity tariffs: The limits of shock

By DAKUKU PETERSIDE

In Nigeria, many policies that are supposed to catalyse economic growth end up making things worse and complicate matters for the citizen for whom these policies are designed to enhance their quality of life.

Recently, two significant policies typify this: The Petroleum Subsidy Removal Policy and the floating of the Naira. Both policies are good and well-intentioned and would bring about substantial progress for people in the medium to long term. However, the reality is that the policies ended up having a devastating effect on the populace.

Removing the subsidy brought untold hardship due to sequencing and implementation issues rather than the principle of doing it. Somehow, we are still battling to survive the impact of the Naira forex rate merger.

The problem was not the nobility of the intention but something was wrong with these policies' conception, delivery and implementation. This is against the absence of a planned execution that appreciated the impact assessment of a singular action on the economic dynamics such that by solving one problem, we created a bigger one.

The most recent 231 per cent hike in the price of electricity units for Band A customers is another presumed good policy that might have an unintended adverse impact on the citizens. The main argument for a cost reflective tariff must be distinct from that of subsidy removal, especially when the economics of the subsidy is yet to be proven and the utilisation transition mechanism is not established or communicated.

This policy may unleash hardships on the people, which is not the intention of the policymakers. To be clear, I am an advocated cost reflective electricity tariff because of the big picture, and I will give reasons for this, but I am afraid I have to disagree with the current government approach.

Based on the evidence of the roll-out of the policy and the realities of

this new electricity regime, it is unclear how the determination of the bands works because the criteria of customers enjoying the constant 20-hour power supply threshold are unsubstantiated and bogus for a largely illiterate population.

This makes the case for tariff increase somewhat confusing and not transparent as there is no measurable way for the average consumer to track supply relative to billing. The result is that people may end up paying for darkness.

A gradual, sequential step to the ultimate destination of appropriate electricity pricing would have delivered a different result and minimise the adverse effect on the citizens. I have gone through the website of the regulator, if what the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has released is the master plan for implementing appropriate electricity pricing, it lacks details of the progression path to total transition to cost effective tariff regime and fall short of expectations in every respect.

The result of this hurried announcement of a price hike, whether for band A, B, or even C clients, may lead to endless inflation and economic stress on the citizens. If we add the electricity price hike to the impact of petrol subsidy removal and spiralling food inflation, the average citizen faces existential shock.

However, I support the appropriate electricity pricing because it is critical for ensuring the sustainability, reliability, and affordability of electricity supply in Nigeria and promoting investment, innovation, and economic growth in the energy sector and beyond. Appropriate pricing ensures that utilities can generate sufficient revenue to invest in the maintenance, upgrade, and expansion of electricity infrastructure to enhance the reliability and quality of electricity supply.

It incentivises consumers to use

electricity more efficiently, thereby reducing energy consumption. It attracts private investment and, most importantly, helps reduce the financial burden on the government of subsidising electricity prices, freeing up resources for other priority areas such as health care, education, and infrastructural development. For the above reasons, I advocate appropriate pricing and support any policy that will open our electricity regime for growth and development. I understand the importance of electricity in Nigeria's emerging economic structure.

Nonetheless, I do not support the current policy approach because it is counter intuitive and counterproductive. It will produce a counter-effect to the intended goal. The reasons for my position are evident: first, between 1999 and 2015, Nigerian Senate documents show that Nigeria spent N2.74 trillion on electricity, yet there was no significant improvement in the generation of power delivered to homes and businesses.

From 2018 to 2020, we spent N1.7 trillion on electricity, yet 43 per cent of our population, according to the World Bank, needs to be connected to the national grid. The inference to draw is that the electricity power challenge is beyond money.

There are obviously systemic inefficiencies and corruption that no one has bothered to address. Asking consumers to pay more will transfer the inefficiencies to the populace. Second, NERC said only 15 per cent or 1.8 million out of 12 million meterable customers are under band A, which enjoys 20 hours of electricity per day, although this may seem unrealistic. This band A must include factories, banks, telecom companies, hospitals, schools, malls, commercial centres, and residential areas of high-net-worth individuals.

This increase in tariffs will mean an increase in the cost of doing business by 231 per cent. Cost of school fees for private institutions

will also go up by a factor of 231 per cent. The implication is that the businesses will transfer the cost to final consumers, mostly people experiencing poverty who are already undergoing a cost-of-living crisis. Third, this may dampen the real sector, and many businesses may close. Besides, demands for goods and services may drop. The competitiveness and profitability of Nigerian firms may be in jeopardy.

The current approach will create inflationary pressures, reduce the competitiveness of businesses both locally and internationally, impact the household budget that is already battered by harsh economic realities, lead to business closures and resultant unemployment, negatively impact economic growth by constraining production and consumption, and ultimately may exacerbate already tensed social and civil unrest.

Policymakers should consider implementing measures to improve electricity generation, transmission, and distribution efficiency and address issues related to tariff structures, affordability, and subsidy mechanisms.

Nigeria has a vast informal sector, micro, small, and medium-sized businesses, that is our economy's backbone. These businesses account for over 40 per cent of our GDP and 70 per cent of our employment. These businesses include vibrant youth-led innovation hubs in informal urban settlements across the country, small service and creative firms scattered across our commercial centres, and burgeoning small industrial production businesses dotted in areas where access to electricity is better and stable. A draconian hike in electricity without appropriate time to plan and adjust may spell doom for these businesses, already spending a chunk of their merger revenue on private power generation.

What could NERC have done differently to implement a better pricing system? NERC could have delivered a well-thought-through transition plan over a six-to-nine-

months period, with a model allowing everyone to see what an increased tariff and electricity supply would mean. This way, citizens can adjust, make alternative arrangements and plan accordingly.

Transparent communication and stakeholder engagement are essential for building trust and effectively managing potential, social and economic impacts. The necessity of public sensitisation on matters that affect the livelihood of the majority must be balanced. There is a need to prepare the public before implementing any new policy that has significant impact on livelihoods. Socio-economic reform must never be an ambush shock therapy; otherwise, the populace will react negatively. NERC ought to match an electricity tariff adjustment plan with a post-reform plan to show how the government and stakeholders intend to mitigate the adverse impact of a hike in price and other critical reforms.

Conceptualising and adopting sound economic policies is necessary for increased output in the electricity sector, but more is needed: any policy is only as good as its implementation and impact. Policy implementation can fail for three reasons: the absence of complementary measures necessary to make the policy effective, nonalignment with reality, and the inadequate capability of prevailing institutions and administrative systems to respond to changes.

This electricity tariff hike, especially given our current socio-economic realities, is one policy that may hurt the people because of poor conception and disoriented implementation. Though a great idea, the timing, implementation approach and lack of complementarity of favourable institutional and economic capacity to mitigate the unintended effect of the hike in price may end up creating more significant problems than we already have. Inadvertently, we may be biting more than we can chew.

## Political appointees in a changing world (2)

By FWENGJI GOAR

TRANSPARENCY and accountability are the main building blocks of good governance. Political appointees must adhere to high ethical standards, disclose relevant information to the public and be answerable for their actions. They should implement mechanisms for oversight and accountability, such as regular audits and open hearings, to prevent corruption and abuse of power. The other side to this is for the appointee to have public service delivery way up on the list of priorities.

Citizens rely on government services for their well-being and development. Political appointees need to prioritize the efficient delivery of public services, including healthcare, education, infrastructure and social welfare programs to improve the quality of life for all citizens, especially the marginalized and vulnerable.

These are aspects of governance which have the capability of leaving long lasting impressions on the populace. To what extent a government meets these needs says a lot about the quality of appointees that walk the corridors of power.

Many state governors in Nigeria are beginning to engage more with Civil Society Organisations, CSOs, and that is paying off big time for the most part. Political appointees are the ones who are most likely to actively engage with civil society organizations, community leaders and citizens to solicit feedback, foster dialogue and promote civic participation.

By involving the public in decision-making processes, they can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of governance initiatives. Many times, we hear people say a government is lacking in initiatives. With the understanding that fostering civic participation and engagement is key in driving good governance, appointees are placed on a pedestal that would guarantee success.

The economy of Nigeria is actually growing, but the resultant effects are not reflected in the quality of life of the people. One way of ensuring a thriving economy impacts on the lives of the people is through equitable distribution of resources which is vital for sustainable development and social cohesion. Political appointees must implement policies that stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities and reduce inequality and also ensure that the benefits of development are shared equitably among all segments of society.

The hunger in the land has caused many to lose faith in government. This, however needs to turn around. Building trust and confidence in Government is something that has to come to be. Trust is fundamental to the functioning of democratic institutions. Political appointees must work diligently to build and maintain trust among citizens by fulfilling their promises, demonstrating integrity and delivering results.

By fostering a culture of trust and

openness, they can strengthen the social contract between the government and the governed. These, they can achieve through various means, among which is through embracing innovation.

The world is rapidly changing. Therefore, political appointees need to change with it by embracing innovation and adaptability so as to address emerging challenges and opportunities. They should harness technology, data-driven approaches and best practices to improve the effectiveness of governance, enhance service delivery and promote sustainable development.

These are things we have been hearing and reading about in the past. That is in no way to say it is not relevant. In fact, more than ever before, it is needed.

Political appointees have a responsibility to safeguard the environment for present and future generations. They should also promote diversity, equity and inclusion in decision-making processes, appointments and policy outcomes.

By addressing systemic inequalities and empowering marginalized groups, they can create a more just and cohesive society. This is not far from the issue of the need to strengthen institutions and the rule of law.

Effective governance depends on strong institutions and respect for the rule of law. So, political appointees should invest in institutional capacity-building, judicial independence and legal reforms to ensure equal access to justice and uphold the rights

of all citizens.

By strengthening the foundations of democracy, they can foster stability and resilience in the face of challenges. Challenges which are not unique to Nigeria.

Because the world is interconnected, political appointees must engage in diplomacy and international cooperation to address global challenges and advance shared interests. Dialogue is key, so is mutual understanding and collaboration with other nations to tackle issues such as conflict resolution, humanitarian crises and public health threats. By fostering positive relationships on the global stage, they can enhance the prosperity and security of their own country and contribute to a more peaceful world.

The problem is not with the policy thrust of a government, but leadership. How many of these political appointees are leaders? In the true sense of the word, how many?

Political appointees wield significant influence in shaping the trajectory of governance and the well-being of citizens. By fulfilling their roles with diligence, integrity and a steadfast commitment to the public good, they can ensure that citizens reap the benefits of good governance thereby advancing democracy, prosperity and social justice.

These underscore the multifaceted nature of the roles political appointees must play in ensuring good governance and maximizing the benefits for citizens.

Concluded from last week.

# EYE'S WORLD

With PALANG KASMI

## Living

By PALANG KASMI

# Spending Easter in a different way

AS usual, Christians all over the world marked the 2024 Easter celebrations with various church activities, ranging from retreats, seminars, music concerts and love feasts to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

However, on Easter Monday, the 'Riverside Women Group' Down Base, Farin Gada, based in Jos North Local Government Area (LGA), spent the day differently. They spent it holding a dialogue and sensitising the children of their community about the dangers of engaging in social ills. The children of different ages were brought together in a very warm and peaceful atmosphere where they were told about the realities of life.

Leader of the group, Mrs. Bihatu Haruna Bishmang, told the children, in her welcome remarks, to feel free to "express yourselves and discuss freely" with the guest speaker and the mothers present, because they were all meant to interact and air their views as one big family.

She gave reasons for putting up the Easter Monday event: "We decided to gather you here today because you are on holidays and as your mothers, instead of holding our usual monthly meeting, we felt it will be nice to create a forum where we can talk to you on the increasing social vices that are eating up the fabrics of society, and stealing the future of our children."

Bishmang disclosed that a similar forum was organized in 2023 which yielded bountiful networking opportunities as it paved the way for unemployed youth to get jobs.

She however warned the children to imbibe the art of dressing decently to avoid falling into the hands of law enforcement agents, especially when they embark on mopping suspected criminals from the streets.

"Many youths have been mistakenly whisked away by security agents during street raids. Some of them were actually innocent, but were picked because they were among bad company, had indecent haircuts or appearances, or were hanging at the wrong environment. Sadly, before they could explain, they had already been picked and arraigned at Police stations or detention centers," she stated.

The Easter intervention of the Riverside women was in line with the popular adage: "A life is not important except with the impact it has on others." Nigeria is listed among countries grappling with a growing and alarming menace of drug abuse which is permeating communities across the nation. This is causing great pain and anguish in families and communities, thus calling for immediate attention.

Statistics also reveal a startling increase in drug abuse cases, with young adults being particularly vulnerable, while children as young as 13 are reported to be taking harmful substances. The prevalence of substances and drugs such as Marijuana, Codeine, Tramadol and other kinds of narcotics has reached unprecedented levels with foreseeable severe health consequences and a surge in criminal activities. A report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Nigeria indicates that



**Bishmang**

14.4% (14.3million) people aged between 13 and 64 years abuse drugs.

Another report by the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in 2021, showed that 40% of Nigerian youth between the ages of 18 and 35 are deeply involved in drug abuse. Statistics gathered from the NDLEA between January 2021 to July 2022 also revealed that about 18,940 suspected drug

traffickers were arrested, about 92 per cent were men.

It was against the background of these frightening statistics that the Guest Speaker, Mrs. Naomi Ishaya, a civil servant at Jos North LGA on field work, led the kids through about a two-hour interactive session where she asked them questions about the level of decay and backwardness children in the system face as a result of engaging in social vices like

They freely shared their understanding of the message and how they could apply it to their lives when they get back to the wider world. Then they discussed how they could focus on God's love and resist the temptation to try to fuel their worth by other influences rather than by turning to the truths embedded in the Holy Bible.

"It was absolutely a beautiful and wonderful experience," enthused 16-year-old Zemyen, while expressing her opinion about the programme.

She explained that she learnt about the disadvantages of engaging in social vices and appreciated the Riverside women for putting up such an impactful programme for the benefit of children.

"I also learnt about ways to identify drug addicts, the danger of Yahoo, cultism and the effects of drugs on our bodies, including the way drug abuse can affect our body physically by making our appearance to be haggard, old and frail," she added.

For 14-year-old Longtwam, a JSS 2 student of St. Murumba College, Jos, the event availed him a chance to learn about signs and effects of addiction among his peers which include unkempt appearance, red eyes, poor personal hygiene, loss of interest in education and pursuit of a meaningful life, violent tendencies, withdrawal from the crowd and always sleeping for long hours. "We were taught to resist get-rich-quick acts and be careful not to join 'Yahoo' or other cult groups which has dire consequences," he declared.

He was confident that, with the huge information and experience he had garnered from the women, he will certainly keep his eyes open as he mingles with his peers when school resumes in the next few weeks.

As these gracious mothers rounded up the programme, they left with the assurance that they had been able to make an impact in the lives of these young ones which will surely make a great difference in their lives, both now and in the future.



**Ishaya**

## Foreign Commentary

# Israel's war is for global stability

**Failure by global leaders to recognize Israel's battle against an irrational adversary resistant to conventional diplomacy threatens to unleash a surge in global instability. Terrorist attacks leave a trail of innocent victims in their wake. This is not a fictional scenario but a very real threat that could escalate if the Hamas terror organization is not defeated by Israel, LIRAM KOBLENTZ-STENZLER writes**

IT is crucial to understand that this path towards global instability is influenced by actions and rhetoric from many Western nations, including bodies such as the United Nations and democratic nations such as France, UK, and even the US. Despite their support for Israel, these nations often misunderstand the irrational enemy Israel is facing, exacerbating the already fragile situation.

For instance, in anticipation of a potential attack on Israel in Rafah, France and Qatar issued a statement expressing their opposition to any such assault and advocating for the opening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip.

On a separate occasion, British Foreign Secretary David Cameron urged Israel to ensure the flow of humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians in Gaza, cautioning that failure to do so would constitute a breach of international law. Similarly, US President Joe Biden issued a warning, declaring that an Israeli incursion into Rafah, Hamas's last stronghold, would cross a "red line." Additionally, Canada opted to halt arms sales to Israel following a non-binding vote in the House of Commons.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's statement from March 26 during his visit to Tehran, a day after the United Nations Security Council voted for a ceasefire, indicates it best. Israel is "losing political cover and protection even in the Security Council." This sentiment reflects the front page of **THE ECONOMIST'S** March 23 issue: "Israel Alone." It's a perplexing scenario: How does a nation that faced a surprise attack, suffering the most barbaric assaults since the Holocaust, find itself cast as the aggressor, bearing blame for the suffering of Palestinians? Should Israel be faulted for defending its civilians while endeavoring to secure the release of Israeli hostages and safeguard Palestinian lives? These are the same civilians left unprotected by Hamas.

This is an asymmetric war against an enemy that does not hesitate to use any means to achieve its goals. Hamas intentionally positions itself and acts from within the civilian population, utilizing civilian facilities like schools and hospitals. It does so for two reasons. Firstly, Hamas knows that Israel does not intentionally target civilian infrastructure or population. Secondly, Hamas aims to cause a large number of casualties among the Palestinian population.

Reasonable individuals may ask how it is conceivable that the same population Hamas claims to represent is the very one it waits to harm? The truth is the



**Natanyahu**

Palestinian population holds little interest for Hamas. Instead, in the era of globalism, Hamas exploits the widespread visibility of war by circulating images of dead Palestinians to influence public opinion and pressure Israel. It cynically exploits civilians as a simple means to its ends.

This sentiment is echoed in the statement of Hamas official Mousa Abu Marzouk, who declared that the underground tunnels were not constructed for the civilian population's benefit but solely for terrorists to launch attacks.

He also highlighted the fact that "Protecting Gaza civilians is the responsibility of the United Nations and Israel." This strategy seeks to prompt calls for humanitarian aid and ceasefires, jeopardizing strategic diplomatic relationships, including that between the US and Israel – escalating an already tense situation.

How can the international community negotiate with Hamas for the release of Israeli hostages? Hamas consistently demands in exchange the release of terrorists with blood on their hands.

Shockingly, among these individuals are those previously released from Israeli prisons who went on to committed further acts of terror. This pattern was evident in the exchange for Gilad Shalit in 2011 when Israel freed 1,027 prisoners in return for one Israeli soldier, illustrating the high cost of such deals.

Hamas's abduction of innocent Israeli civilians, including

children, women, and the elderly is leverage for their demands.

Despite this, Hamas refuses to release the hostages unless Israel agrees to a comprehensive ceasefire. Can any sovereign nation risk the safety of its citizens by acquiescing to such terms, potentially leading to future massacres?

Why does the international community not demand the unconditional release of the hostages, instead of prolonging the conflict by tying it to humanitarian aid, which is often hijacked by the terrorists?

Failure by global leaders to recognize Israel's battle against an irrational adversary resistant



**Abbas**

to conventional diplomacy threatens to unleash a surge in global instability fueled by escalating terrorism.

Yet, there remains an opportunity to avert this perilous outcome through a strategic shift, targeting Hamas leaders at their core vulnerabilities: survival, Arab respect, and financial backing.

It's imperative to shift the narrative to underscore Hamas's failed agenda and prioritize support for Israel in its justifiable struggle. Israel's isolation in the international arena only serves to further Hamas's aims, leveraging international pressure for a ceasefire.

By standing firm with Israel,

affirming its adherence to international norms despite challenges, not only does the international community combat terror but also uphold global stability. The repercussions of Israel's downfall would extend far beyond its borders, with jihadism posing a direct threat to European nations and the United States.

Leaders must recognize that Israel stands as the final bastion against a global onslaught on terrorism.

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**IDF soldiers operate in the Gaza Strip**

# Sports



Plateau United

## NPFL: Plateau United wallop Doma rivals 4-0

By ANDRE BISYIT

IN their quest to secure the Continental ticket, Plateau United Football Club of Jos have walloped visiting Doma United Football Club of Gambia 4-0, in the match day twenty-nine of the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL), played at the New Jos Stadium recently.

David Onovo scored the opener in the twentieth minute of play which gingered the Peace Boys to take total control of the game. Their persistence paid off as in the thirtieth minute, David Barnabas netted the second goal while Sunday Anthony and Bernard Mundi sealed the game.

Commenting after the encounter, Coach Mbwas Mangut of Plateau United expressed happiness with the brilliant performance of his boys, saying that, after losing three straight matches, this result would motivate the

team. He further stressed that relying on a particular player in scoring goals was not healthy for any team because all players were expected to be good at scoring.

"In a team where every department can convert goal-scoring opportunity, it is good for the team. Some days back, we only had particular players scoring. But recently, players from different positions [have] converted goal-scoring chances. I'm happy with that," he noted.

The coach promised to work harder on the team's scoring ability, especially as they urgently needed to win their away matches to enable them achieve set targets.

On his part, Akinade Origbinde, Manager of Doma United Football Club of Gambia, revealed that they came with the intention of winning the match but lost due to defensive errors committed by his boys and refuted the claim

that his team were defeated due to fatigue.

## ... As Shooting Stars win in Kano to boost top three prospects

Shooting Stars pulled off a sensational 2-1 away victory against Kano Pillars at the Sani Abacha Stadium ySunday to boost their chances of finishing the 2023-24 Nigeria Premier Football League season in the top three. It was a Match day 29 tie and it was Sai Masu Gida that started the game with more urgency probably to atone for their 5-0 disgrace in the hands of Enyimba in Aba last Wednesday. It was no surprise they took the lead through their legendary Rabiu Ali in the second minute of the game following.

Reports revealed that, Shooting Stars came out smoking in the second half to equalized in the 48th minute

NIGERIA'S representatives at the CAF Confederation Cup. Rivers United have been knocked out following a 2-0 loss to USM Algiers on Sunday, Soccernet.ng reports.

Rivers United traveled to the Stade Omar Hammadi to take on USM Algiers in the second leg of their CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal, which ended 1-0 in Nigeria with a superb strike from Augustine Okejephah. The goal could have been much bigger, but Rivers United were very profligate in front of goal, recorded 30 goal attempts, but just seven were on target and only one was converted.

The second leg was tough for Rivers because of USM Algiers' home advantage and the North African teams' dominance on the continent.

The Algerian giants

## CAF Confederation Cup: River United ousted by USM Algiers

dominated the first half, took the lead via a strike from Abdoulaye Kanou. In the second half, USM Algiers continued with their brilliant play, and Kanou eventually scored the second goal for the Algerians in the 74th

minute. After going down by two goals, Rivers United tried to spark a comeback, but they could not muster a goal and had to settle for the 2-0 loss and 2-1 aggregate defeat which knocked them out of the competition.



Rivers United

through Taye Muritala before Christian Pyagbara managed to get the match-winning goal in the fourth minutes into added time.

The win has taken the Oluyole Warriors to the sixth spot with 46 points from 29 games while Pillars who remain winless slipped to the ninth spot with 41 points.

In Aba, Heartland FC returned to winning ways with a 3-1 victory over Sporting Lagos, goals through Stephen

Chukwude's double and Chukwudi Esobe while Junior Lokosa got the Noisy Lagosians' solitary goal.

It was a seven goal thriller in Katsina between Katsina United and Enugu Rangers but the visitors captured the three points by edging past Katsina United 4-3. The Chanji Boys are now seventh on the log with 44 points while Rangers gap at the top has been closed by Lobi Stars who beat Enyimba 1-0 in Lafia to ascend

to 51 points but are second on goals difference. Rangers remain on top with 51 points.

Kwara United had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home to Bendel Insurance who recovered from a disappointing 3-1 home loss to Niger Tornadoes on Wednesday while Niger Tornadoes walloped Gombe United 5-0 to continue their recent resurgence. The Ikon Allah Boys are now in 10<sup>th</sup> position with 39 points and are gradually leaving the drop zone for good.



Shooting Stars

## Iwobi breaks Mikel's Premier League record

FULHAM forward, Alex Iwobi, has eclipsed John Obi Mikel's English Premier



Iwobi

League record, Soccernet.ng reports.

In Fulham's recent 1-0 defeat to Newcastle, Iwobi featured for the full 90 minutes under manager Marco Silva, surpassing Mikel's longstanding record.

The former Super Eagles captain, who debuted for Chelsea in 2006, held the record since then, until his departure from the club in 2016-2017.

Despite notable Nigerian players like Nwankwo Kanu, Yakubu Aiyegbeni, and Joseph Yobo also gracing the Premier League, Mikel maintained the record.

However, Iwobi, who started

his Premier League career with Arsenal before moving to Everton, where he became a regular starter, and now in Fulham, has steadily accumulated minutes, culminating in his record-breaking feat.

After his appearance against Newcastle, the former Everton star has now played 16,289 minutes in the league, surpassing Mikel's 16,218 minutes.

With seven games remaining in the 2023-24 Premier League season, Iwobi has the opportunity to further solidify his record as the Nigerian with the most minutes played.

### NPFL Table

Rank	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Enugu Rangers	29	15	6	8	41	27	14	51
2	Lobi Stars	29	15	6	8	34	26	8	51
3	Remo Stars	28	15	4	9	34	25	9	49
4	Enyimba	29	15	3	11	35	25	10	48
5	Plateau Utd	29	10	2	12	44	28	16	47
6	Shooting Stars	29	13	7	9	35	28	7	46
7	Katsina Utd	28	12	8	8	29	26	3	44
8	Kano Pillars	29	12	5	12	35	36	-1	41
9	Niger Tornadoes	28	11	6	11	26	25	1	39
10	Bendel	29	10	8	11	25	24	1	38
11	Aba Warriors	28	11	5	12	29	31	-2	38
12	Doma United	29	10	7	12	21	30	-9	37
13	Sport Lagos	29	9	8	12	28	30	-2	35
14	Sunshine Stars	28	8	11	9	27	30	-3	35
15	Bayelsa United	29	9	8	12	33	38	-5	35
16	Kwara United	28	7	12	9	22	27	-5	33
17	Rivers Utd	23	8	7	8	25	22	3	31
18	Akwa United	29	8	7	14	27	30	-3	31
19	Heartland	29	9	11	13	27	37	-10	28
20	Gombe United	29	7	7	15	15	50	-35	22

By CHRIS GYANG

In a piece titled, 'Plateau: In Search of Courageous Leadership', I had written, "In times of crises, citizens look up to their leader for protection, respite and direction. A leader who takes

had set the tone during his May 29, 2023, inauguration speech.

He punctured and demystified a previously held, state-sponsored, subsidised and widely circulated misconception about the attacks on the Plateau.

the implication is that a genocide is being perpetrated against Plateau citizens by people whose identities are quite verifiable.

No more shall the intelligence of citizens and victims be assailed by the false narrative that the

## FRAGMENT

**"Driving this 'true narrative' is the fact that, first, at last the state government is on the same page with the victims. Second, there are extraneous, powerful forces outside the state funding and inspiring these terrorists whose agenda is anchored on territorial expansion. And, above all, tackling the ailment can start in earnest now that it has been clearly and unambiguously diagnosed. But it must be said that arriving here has taken uncommon courage and determination."**

CHRIS GYANG

## Now, a courageous leader in the saddle

charge from the front, securing the values, identity and posterity of his/her people. And the people trust and support him with the assurance that he would neither lead them astray nor abandon or betray them.

"From antiquity to the present day, these are some of the most fundamental grounds on which the legitimacy of leaders and their relationship with their followers are founded." (See *DAILY POST*, August 28, 2021.)

I added that the leadership of the state at the time had not lived up to that billing. As a result, not only had the people lost hope in it, they had literally become sitting targets for extraneous forces bent on dislodging them from their ancestral lands.

I was writing in the wake of the August 25, 2021, brutal attack on Yelwan Zangam in which not less than 36 innocent people were murdered in their sleep, most of them woman and children.

Sadly, it appears the state is not yet free from such horrors. The attacks appear to have been ramped up, perpetrated by the same elements that are bent on conquering and making parts of the state their colonies in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

In the last three months or so, Mangu, Barkin Ladi and Riyom local government areas have come under well-coordinated, massive attacks that have left hundreds of people dead, homes razed to the ground and lush farmlands viciously mowed down or maliciously grazed upon by cows belonging to Fulani herdsmen.

Many who were forced from their homes are now living in official and unofficial Internally Displaced People's camps or with relatives and loved ones all over the state.

However, there appears to be a refreshing paradigm shift in the comprehension of these attacks and the approach towards tackling them. Unlike the tradition in the last eight years, the current leadership is neither prevaricating nor whitewashing the crisis for the sake of political correctness or to save its skin.

To be sure, in the less than three months that Governor Caleb Mutfwang has been in the saddle, he has earned the positive reputation of hitting the nail on the head as far as these horrendous acts of violence are concerned. He



Lagbaja

That patent and self-serving sophistry was that it was a conflict between two actively contending groups.

Governor Mutfwang had publicly declared, to the acclaim of patriotic Plateau people: "We must break this vicious circle of hate and attacks and refuse to allow people brand us negatively.... All we ask for is that those who live within the borders of Plateau must agree to live with us in peace and with utmost respect for our values and traditions...."

"We know that there are persons who do not seek the welfare of people... They stood by unconcerned when our people were murdered in cold blood. They even callously labeled such genocide as 'farmers/herders clash' to the chagrin of the whole world."

That was the strongest rebuke of those killers and their shadowy sponsors yet to come from government in recent years. But, most significantly, it was the first time Government House, Rayfield, would debunk the widely peddled misconception that what has been happening here is a conflict between farmers and Fulani herdsmen.

It was also the first time the killings had been rightly described as 'genocide' by constituted authorities in the past eight years. Taken together,

gruesome killings are being carried out by faceless 'unknown gunmen', 'miscreants', 'bandits' and 'criminals'.

And close to three months down the line (coupled with the benefit of more briefings and insights from the various security chiefs conversant with the situation on the ground), the governor has doubled down. Which is a clear indication that he has been able to further confirm his earlier position of May 29, 2023.

During a meeting with Plateau elders on Monday, August 21, 2023, Governor Mutfwang reiterated that stand thus: "What we did upon coming on board... was to put out the true narrative for the world to know that there was no Plateau community fighting another community. It

was an insurgency and a reign of terrorism.... I stand here as governor of the state to tell you... that what has confronted us is a terrorism that has come from outside."

Driving this 'true narrative' is the fact that, first, at last the state government is on the same page with the victims. Second, there are extraneous, powerful forces outside the state funding and inspiring these terrorists whose agenda is anchored on territorial expansion.

And, above all, tackling the ailment can start in earnest now that it has been clearly and unambiguously diagnosed. But it must be said that arriving here has taken uncommon courage and determination.

Mr. Mutfwang has not come with a magic wand that will make this terrorism disappear in the twinkling of an eye. No. In fact, the attacks will escalate. These merchants of evil will put on a very strong resistance now that the man in the saddle has exposed their true nature and is determined to face them head-on.

It's a grim, precarious and dangerous task that requires grit, perseverance and sheer political will to accomplish.

Therefore, Plateau people must brace up for more vicious onslaughts. The situation will escalate before it starts to gradually simmer down. It is the ability of his leadership to sacrificially and valiantly take the lead in gingering its people and inspiring them with hope to withstand and ultimately prevail that will mark the acme of the governor's courage.

Victory will certainly come at a very huge cost. On their part,

citizens must be bold, patient, resilient and give the governor and his administration all the support he needs to stand against the terrorists trying to overturn the state's social structures.

Security analysts say that the governor has further bolstered his security agenda by appointing an experienced and renowned expert on Security and Homeland Safety to advise him in that area, working assiduously to reinvigorate the state-owned Operation Rainbow security outfit and making the Plateau Peace Agency more proactive in its *modus operandi*.

Citizens are anxiously waiting to see how these novel steps will bring respite and give them peace and tranquility. A peace that will take them back to their ancestral homes and give them the economic, social and political stability for which they once prided themselves as free Plateau citizens.

A peace that will give them equity and justice in a Nigeria where no one is discriminated against or abandoned to the brutal whims of other state and non-state players on the bases of their tribe and religion.

We shall close with this excerpt from that article of August 28, 2021: "Courage, sacrifice and integrity are the universal hallmarks of great leadership. It is these outstanding qualities that make leaders and their people survive periods of collective adversity and come out even stronger."

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