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FG rescues over 1000 abductees without ransom

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Malam Nuhu Ribadu, says the Federal Government has rescued over 1,000 victims of verified mass abduction across the country without paying ransom.

Ribadu said on Monday in Abuja while receiving 22 rescued students and Federal University Gusau staff that the covert operations were conducted in the last few months.

He said the successful rescue operations were testimonies to the

efforts of the government to free all those being unlawfully held in captivity.

"We have so far released over a thousand such victims without noise and in complete respect for their privacy and safety.

"Thousands, but never

-NSA

said a word and we thank God for that, and maybe that is why we are so successful.

"This occasion marks a final juncture in a series of rescues we have undertaken in the last

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First lady empowers North Central women

By PETER TITLE

THE Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI), a pet project of the wife of the President of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Bola Tinubu, under the 'Renewed Hope Initiative, Women Agricultural Support Programme,' has empowered women in the North Central Geo-Political zone with N70million.

Presenting cheques of N10 million to the RHI State Coordinators which are the wives of Plateau, Niger, Nasarawa, Kogi, Benue, Kwara State Governors, including Federal Capital Territory, for onward presentation to the beneficiaries, at the New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos on Tuesday, Senator Tinubu charged them to utilise the funds judiciously in order to move the economy forward.

According to her, the RHI was part of President Bola Tinubu's campaign agenda and promised to pursue the programme to the letter which would be for the betterment of all women.

The wife of the president further explained that similar programme was ongoing in all the geo-political zones of the country, adding that President Tinubu was in support of women empowerment across the nation.



Tinubu

Senator Oluremi Tinubu, who was represented by the wife of Chief of Staff to the President, Mrs Salamatu Gbajabiamila, used the occasion to commiserate with the people and government of the state, over the killings in the state, describing it as unfortunate.

Governor Caleb Mutfwang poured accolades on Mrs Tinubu for her efforts in bringing women out of poverty and commended her for coming to the plight of people of the state for the second time this year.

According to him, the gesture was coming at the right time, saying Plateau people don't tolerate the culture of begging, and as such, this empowerment would make them to fend for themselves.

He congratulated the

Continued on page 2



Representative of the First Lady, assisted by Governor Mutfwang presenting a cash donation of N100,000 to a physically challenged person yesterday during the launching of RHI Agricultural Support Programme for the North Central Geo-Political Zone at the Victoria Gowon Multi-purpose Hall, New Government House Rayfield, Jos
Photo: DANLADIDUK

Plateau First Lady warns against selling treated nets

FG begins disbursement of N200bn palliative loans

News

FG rescues over 1000 abductees without ransom

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-NSA

few months to free victims of recent cases of mass abductions that are verified.

"It is making a difference, it is a matter of time and we will see the outcome of the work we are doing," he said.

The NSA said the victims were rescued unhurt and without any of the female abductees molested, adding that it was a marked departure from what had been the case in the past.

According to him, going forward, the government is strengthening law enforcement and security measures to prevent further abductions.

He added that the government would strengthen physical security across vulnerable communities.

"This work is done by our security forces, our armed forces, our police, our intelligence

agencies.

"All of us collectively have done this work together and we all are fully participating and this is the outcome of it," he said.

Ribadu commended the leadership of President Bola Tinubu for working assiduously to address insecurity in the country.

According to him, the efforts have led to great improvement in recent times in taming terrorist attacks.

Recall that those rescued were abducted from the school on Sept. 22, 2023, when bandits attacked three off-campus students' hostels at Sabon Gida in Gusau.

Those kidnapped from the university included female students, some male artisans, a private security guard and a protocol officer.

NAN

PLATEAU State First Lady, Barrister Mrs. Helen Mutfwang, has warned the beneficiaries of free insecticide treated mosquito nets against selling them.

Mrs. Mutfwang gave this warning Saturday while monitoring the on-going distribution of the nets at Jos South Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State.

She said that the state government, together with the Federal Ministry of Health and the malaria elimination team, flagged-off the malaria eradication campaign in the state last Friday.

Mrs. Mutfwang pointed out that the campaign was part of the efforts of The Time is Now

Plateau First Lady warns against selling treated nets

By JIDAUNA DARING

administration and its partners to eradicate malaria across the state.

She noted that the flag-off marked the commencement of the distribution of the nets to benefiting households, stressing that this same exercise kicked-off across the 17 LGAs of the state from April 13 to 19, 2024.

She maintained that as the 2024 state mosquito nets ambassador, she would continue to monitor the distribution and encouraged those who had registered to take their token slips to

the distribution points to collect their free mosquito nets.

The First Lady also encouraged the beneficiaries to make good use of the nets, saying that this would go a long way to reduce cases of malaria in the state to its barest minimum.

Earlier in his remarks, Commissioner of Health, Plateau State, Dr. Cletus Shurkuk, appreciated Mrs. Mutfwang for finding time to monitor the on-going distribution exercise.

He emphasized the need for transparency



Mutfwang

across the distributing centres and charged the beneficiaries to use the nets for the purpose they were meant for so that the state would become malaria-free.

First lady empowers North Central women

Continued from page 1

beneficiaries and enjoined them to use it judiciously for the benefits of all.

In her welcome address, the RHI state Coordinator and wife of Plateau State Governor, Barrister Helen Mutfwang, welcomed all the beneficiaries to Plateau State, pointing out that it was not a coincidence but out of love that the First lady always touches lives.

Represented by the Commissioner for Higher Education, Dr Kachollom Gang, said women

played a crucial role in agriculture, stressing that with this assistance, the challenges faced would be overcome.

FG begins disbursement of N200bn palliative loans

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment says it has begun disbursement of the Presidential Conditional Grant Scheme to verified applicants after an exhaustive selection process.

The government, through the Bank of Industry, had said it

would be disbursing three categories of funding totalling N200bn to support manufacturers and businesses across the country.

In a progress report posted on the trade minister's official X (formerly Twitter) handle yesterday, Doris Aniete stated that an unspecified number of beneficiaries

have received their grants, adding that by Friday, April 19, another significant disbursement will be made to a substantial number of verified applicants.

She said, "We are pleased to inform you that the disbursement process for the Presidential Conditional Grant Programme has

officially commenced. Some beneficiaries have already received their grants, marking the beginning of our phased disbursement strategy."

Three of my graduate

"By Friday, 19th April 2024, a significant disbursement will be made to a substantial number of verified

applicants. It is essential to understand that disbursements are ongoing, and not all applicants will receive their grants on this initial date. However, be rest assured that all verified applicants will eventually receive their grants in subsequent phases."

This is coming more than eight months after President Bola Tinubu announced the grant for manufacturers and small businesses and two weeks after applicants were directed to submit their National Identification Numbers as part of the requirements to obtain the grant earmarked to cushion the effect that recent economic reforms have had on businesses in the country.

In the address, the president said he was determined to strengthen the manufacturing sector, increase its capacity to expand, and create good-paying jobs.

Israel seeks diplomatic sanctions against Iran



Katz

Israel launched a "diplomatic offensive" against Iran yesterday, calling on 32 countries to impose sanctions against

the Revolutionary Guards and their missile programme.

Last Saturday, Iran carried out an

unprecedented direct attack on Israel, using more than 300 drones, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles, in retaliation for a deadly April 1 air strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus.

The Israeli military said it intercepted 99 per cent of the aerial threats with the help of the United States and other allies, and that the attack caused only minor damage, including to a military base in the country's south.

Foreign Minister Israel said he had launched a diplomatic offensive to counter Iran.

"Alongside the military response to the firing of

the missiles and the UAVs, I am leading a diplomatic offensive against Iran," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X.

"This morning, I sent letters to 32 countries and spoke with dozens of foreign ministers and leading figures around the world, calling for sanctions to be imposed on the Iranian missile project and that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps be declared a terrorist organisation."

Katz didn't specify which governments he had asked to impose sanctions against the Revolutionary Guards, who are already blacklisted as a terrorist organisation by the United States and are subject to EU sanctions.

New electricity tariff will worsen Nigerians' woes -Atiku



Atiku

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

Former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, has said that the new electricity tariff recently announced by the Federal Government will worsen the suffering of Nigerians.

Atiku stated this in Abuja while expressing regret that the increase came at a time when Nigerians were going

through excruciating difficulties occasioned by the withdrawal of subsidy on Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and floating of the domestic currency.

He further lamented that the government had not successfully dealt with the pains associated with the implementation of those measures, and now this. The former vice

president warned that the hike would create more difficulties for citizens as inflationary pressure would rise.

According to him, the manufacturing sector would be impacted negatively, because "Not only are they paying higher interest rates on their bank loans but also paying higher wages as a result of the new minimum

wage."

Atiku maintained that President Bola Tinubu was pushing the nation's economy into a deeper crisis and noted that his reforms were without a human face. "It is important that we understand the root cause of the inefficiencies in the power sector before unleashing another dose of reforms," he cautioned.



Lamentations of Nigerians

ONE of the most resilient people on planet earth are Nigerians. Our story is summarised thus: 'Living in plenty but starving.' You can put it this other way too: Rich country, poor citizens. Very pathetic! Imagine a house full of food stuff but everything is kept out of the reach of the children. They can see the bounty but can't touch it.

The children can only watch as their parents live in luxury, sparing no expense. It has reached a level that they regard locally made goods and services as underneath them. That was the genesis of medical tourism. Meanwhile, they preach that their children should patronise made in Nigeria goods and services. Lip service.

During the recent Sallah celebration, a child of about three was seen wandering about unattended at the Jos Wild Life Park when people were already heading home. The attention of the authorities was drawn and he was taken to the Rantya Police Station. As the police could not extract any information out of the child, they kept him in their custody in anticipation of his parent's arrival.

Shortly thereafter, they arrived but instead of handing the child to them, the DPD ordered for their arrest and they were locked up. This was meant to serve as a deterrent to them. Likewise, is the story of Nigeria. Unfortunately, most of our leaders are above the law.

The children of the poor have become bait for their parents, a means to an end. Most of their parents send them to work with total strangers as house helps or house boys. A new trend of child labour. Children as young as 10 have been yanked off the cradle to fend for their families.

Thank God for government intervention to check child labour and trafficking. It has been observed that children sentenced to the life of house boy or girl, are treated like slaves, with their rights infringed upon. They are deprived of education, which is one of their fundamental rights. On top of all this, some of them undergo dehumanizing treatment like physical assault at the slightest provocation.

Two years ago, the market community in the heart of Jos confronted a woman who had come around to make some purchases. She had with her an 8-year-old who was so battered, he had a dislocated hand and both sides of his head were so swollen that it looked like he had horns. There were also injuries around her eyes, inches away from her eyeballs.

These traders took time out of their business and enquired of the woman about the 8-year-old. She was almost lynched when it was finally discovered that the girl was a relation of hers whom she had requested to be brought to help her with house chores.

'What happened to the girl?' Everyone was interested. She lied that she had an accident. But after much pressure from the mammoth crowd that had gathered, they discovered that the 8-year-old had

been brutalized by madam, who was also her first cousin. It was discovered that the girl had only been with her 2 months.

The attention of the police was sought. And it was decided that women journalists should be involved to serve as a deterrent to the woman and also ensure justice was served. At the end, the young girl was re-united with her family and the woman handed to the police.

The 8-year-old was not enrolled in school. The woman claimed she could not take her to school because she brought her in early October. That reason does not hold water.

From every indication, the girl was expected to act beyond her age. Her mistress was so impatient with her that she turned her into a punching bag.

But who do you blame? The 8-year-old's parents should have been arrested to face the full wrath of the law. They treated their daughter as a property and infringed on her fundamental human rights for instant gratification. They mortgaged their daughter's future for stipends.

A young man that grew up in a foster home said he was elated when a family came to adopt him. He could not imagine having a home, someone to call his father and mother. His very own family. He was just about 12. He thought that his woes were over but it was the beginning of a new, bitter, era in his life.

Narrating his ordeal, he said the joy of having a room to himself was short-lived as he only enjoyed it for one day. After that, on the second day, his adopted father paid him a visit in the middle of the night. He felt hands all over him before he was ordered to strip naked and turn around. It was the most painful experience of his life.

Unfortunately, it became a daily routine for as long as he remained with that family until he was able to run away. This young boy was intimidated and told that if he told a soul, he would be killed.

This is the country we live in. The only country we have but it has been hurting us. We live in lack when we know our daddy is rich. Does he not see our pain? Some people say the nannies are the ones putting us through all this. But who is in charge?

I know that my redeemer lives! Hope is not lost. This is a wake-up call to all parents to be responsible enough to take care of their children. Why not plan your family and give birth to only the mouths you can feed?

It is no more fashionable to have a big family. That used to be helpful when the mainstay of our nation was farming. Having a big family meant having more hands on the farm. It was the farm produce that would serve as food and a means of earning money to meet other needs.

But all that has changed. The world has moved on from that primitive level. So, we must change with the times if we must survive.

News

Mutfwang restates commitment to fighting malaria

By DUMAH RANDONG

PLATEAU State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, has restated his administration's commitment to fighting malaria across the state.

He stated this while flagging-off the distribution of 2.9 million treated mosquito nets in the state.

Represented by his deputy, Mrs. Josephine Piyo, the governor reiterated his commitment toward ensuring access to quality and affordable health care services in the state.

He added that such move, among other initiatives, informed his decision to invest huge sums of money in the health sector.

"In alignment with national efforts, the Plateau State Government, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health, the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP), and other partners, including the US President's Malaria Initiative, has intensified its drive to increase access to durable and cost-effective treated mosquito nets as it is pivotal in preventing mosquito-borne malaria.

"Today, we launch the distribution of over 2.9 million nets across 1,080 distribution points, spanning our state's 325 wards, the health and lives of our citizens remain a priority of the present administration.

"Our collective investment in this campaign underscores our commitment to reducing Plateau State's malaria burden from 19 percent to single digits and ultimately eliminating it," he stated.

The governor implored citizens



Mutfwang

to protect themselves from malaria by embracing the campaign and using the nets consistently.

Earlier, the National Coordinator, National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP), Dr. Godwin Ntadom, commended the government's unwavering political will and support to the health sector, specifically to anti-malaria programmes.

He revealed that the NMEP, in collaboration with the Against Malaria Foundation (AMF) and other partners, had procured over 2.9 million nets valued at 9 million Dollars to bolster malaria elimination in Plateau State with an investment exceeding N900 million.

In a speech, wife of the governor, Barr. Mrs. Helen

Mutfwang, who was decorated as the Net Ambassador by the Deputy Governor, stated that one of the critical elements needed to win the fight against malaria was the change in behavior and social norms with regard to sleeping inside insecticide-treated mosquito nets.

She said that as the Net Ambassador, she would be a role model for the correct and consistent use of insecticide treated nets and continue to build support for the campaign at the state and local government levels.

The First Lady thereafter decorated wives of the 17 local government transition committee chairmen as Net Advocates to ensure universal coverage of the populace in the state.

PPBA engages stakeholders on curbing insecurity

By KENNETH DAKOP

As part of efforts at mitigating the persistent attacks on communities of Bokkos, Mangu and Barkin Ladi local government areas, the Plateau Peace Building Agency, PPBA, Monday, convened a multi-stakeholder dialogue session with critical stakeholders from the aforementioned areas.

The one-day engagement, which was in collaboration with the Plateau Debate Guild (PDG) and supported by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), brought together community and religious leaders, youth and women groups, representatives of ethnic nationalities as well as Persons Living with Disabilities, amongst others.

The Director General, PPBA, Dr. Julie Sanda, described the resurgence of unprovoked attacks on communities in the affected areas as not only worrisome but had the potential of derailing the hard-earned peace in the state.

"We are gathered here particularly because of the resurgence of violence in Bokkos, Mangu, Barkin Ladi and other parts of the state. Our mandate in PPBA is to ensure cordial and harmonious relationship among the people of the state and to ensure the

de-escalation of these conflicts.

"That is why we are here to engage critical stakeholders to review the peace and security architecture in the state to respond to this menace by building a multi-stakeholder approach. It will help us to draw lessons that will result to actionable points that we all will be committed towards addressing the violent conflicts in the state", Sanda stated.

In their separate remarks, the Transition Implementation Committee, TIC, chairmen for Bokkos and Mangu LGAs, Hon. Monday Kassah and Hon. Markus Artu respectively, lamented the violent attacks on their communities, stressing that they had negatively affected the socio-economic spheres and livelihoods of their people.

The council bosses called on their people to collaborate with the PPBA and other stakeholders to find enduring solutions to the persistent attacks which had left scores dead and property worth billions of naira destroyed.

In a remark, the representative of USIP, Mr. Terfa Hemen, commended the PPBA and PDG for taking the time to organize the

engagement, saying that it could not have come at a better time considering the resurgence of attacks in parts of Mangu, Bokkos and Barkin Ladi LGAs.

Mr. Hemen also said that USIP would continue to partner PPBA and other relevant organisations to support initiatives aimed at promoting peace and the security of lives and property in the state.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Acting Director General, Plateau Debate Guild (PDG), Arc. Isaac Sanda, said the initiative would not only promote the ideals of peace and peaceful coexistence in the state but also give rise to good governance.

Sanda maintained, "This is why initiatives like these are key to having sustainable growth and development in our state."

The NIGERIA STANDARD reports that the one-day multi-stakeholder engagement resolved to, among other things, further explore pathways to deepening the ideals of peace and peaceful coexistence amongst the diverse ethno-religious groups in the state.

News

First lady commends CWF for raising godly women

By JIDAUNA DARING, Gindiri



Helen

CHURCH of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship (CWF) has been commended for raising godly women that are useful to their families, Church and the entire society.

Plateau State First Lady, Mrs. Helen Mutfwang, gave the commendation at the closing of the CWF 2024 Biennial Convention held at the Boys Secondary School (BSS), Gindiri, recently.

She also congratulated CWF for organizing such a wonderful programme which targeted at training leaders of the fellowship to enhance their spiritual growth.

She described women as assets and gifts to the Church and society, hence the need to give them the necessary support while carrying out their duties in the home and society.

The First Lady opined that the theme of the biennial convention, 'A leader as a role model for holy living', was apt and urged the participants to make good use of all they gained from the programme.

"As spiritual leaders, you have a great task ahead of you, and I pray that God will give you the courage and wisdom as you carry out the responsibility of shaping and moulding the

spiritual lives of the women in the fellowship at all times," Mrs. Mutfwang charged.

She assured the women of her willingness and commitment to continuously support the growth and development of the women fellowship in particular and women as a whole.

In his remarks, the COCIN President, Rev. Dr. Amos Musa Mohzo, thanked the CWF for its tremendous contributions to the success and progress of Karl Kumm University Mission, among others.

He pointed out that Christian women, as role models on the home front, must live exemplary lives

at home and the society at large so that through their holy living, the Church, society and the world would be transformed for Christ.

CWF Coordinator, Mrs. Kitgakka, maintained that it was important to equip themselves with the necessary skills, knowledge and virtues to make meaningful impact on the lives of the women they lead.

Director, Church Growth, Rev. James Ayizeh, appreciated the First Lady for finding time to grace the convention and assured of the Church's readiness to give Governor Caleb Mutfwang the needed support and cooperation to move the state forward.

Poultry farmer kills former worker for stealing

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

ETO Baba (Nabor) community of Jos North Local Government Area was recently thrown into turmoil when one Ezekiel Nuhu, popularly known as 'Gani' was found dead.

The unfortunate incident is said to have happened at about midnight, April 2, 2024, when Mr. Obinna Chijioke, aka 'Chief', the owner of a poultry farm in the area, allegedly caught late Nuhu with stolen products from his farm, which provoked him into beating the deceased to death.

Our correspondent gathered that the deceased had worked with Chijioke as a security guard on his poultry farm for less than a year, until that fateful morning when the community heard of his death.

As a result, an angry mob burnt down Chijioke's residence,

including the poultry farm.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD investigations revealed that the deceased, who hailed from Bauchi State, was an indigene of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area and was 37 years old.

He had a family of 4 and was a resident of Angwan Rukuba and a soft-spoken person who was said to be calm and gentle.

Our correspondent gathered that at present, the family of Chijioke was in hiding because of the threat to their lives from members of the community.

It was reliably gathered that the corpse of the deceased had been deposited at the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), permanent site mortuary.

However, the family of the deceased is pleading with the government to release the corpse to them to enable them bury their late son.

According to an eye witness, who pleaded anonymity, investigations were ongoing while the Eto Baba community was calling on parents, guardians and caregivers to warn their children or wards not to engage in any criminal acts that may result in the breakdown of law and order.

Citizens urged the security agencies handling the case and the government to speed up the investigations to enable justice take its full course and called on the community to be calm and to give any relevant information to the authorities for further investigation and prosecution.

Random Musings
with PAUL JATAU
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Giving education its pride of place

IT is common to see poor children roaming our streets, not being able to attend school because they do not want to, but because their parents cannot afford to pay the exorbitant fees charged by shylock owners. Even government owned schools which used to provide respite for the poor have joined in fleecing parents. It is unfortunate that our society has come to this pass at this point of our growth where education occupies a very important and key place in the development of the individual and the society.

But how did we get to this pass? First, it should be stated clearly that a large percentage of our present day leaders had their education in government owned institutions. Secondly, they enjoyed a convivial atmosphere provided by past governments to study for free giving them the opportunity to reach heights they could not have imagined had such schools not been well managed. Unfortunately, now that it is their turn to do same, they have deliberately shied away from providing similar opportunities for those without the means to sponsor their children and wards to these institutions which are now a ghost of their former selves.

Private individuals have unwittingly been allowed to take over the education space and are dictating what should and should not be done while government watches helplessly putting those without means at peril. Sometimes one cannot help but think that it is a deliberate policy to ensure that some people are left to wallow in the poverty circle so as to provide a ready army for the political class each time their political ambition is threatened. Or else how can it be justified that government cannot do anything in the face of the threat these schools provide? After all, government makes the laws governing the establishment of these institutions.

What is even most vexing is the fact that

teachers in government schools are better paid. Those who are academically qualified, yet they pay scant regard to what they are paid to do. They are not properly supervised like it used to be done in times past. The supervisors no longer engage in field work like they used to, all because they are not mobilized to do so. In those good old days, all went about their responsibility with all seriousness ensuring that everything worked. But that cannot be said of the present crop of people in the education sector. They no longer carry the badge of honour when doing their jobs. That needs to be addressed.

Private schools feed on the neglect of the sector by those paid to do so. These schools, in most cases, do not have the minimum requirement to operate. Some of their teachers are not qualified to teach yet they are given

“ Government needs to supervise more, put proprietors on their toes and pay attention to standards. But that can only be done when government puts a lot more into its schools. When government schools are properly and adequately run, they will provide competition for all the mushroom schools that litter our society. That too will make the proprietors charge reasonable fees not what obtains at the moment. ”

are not properly supervised because they are not paid salaries that are commensurate with their qualifications. Some of the institutions cut corners and because they bribe to get their schools recognized, they are not monitored like they should. Some of these schools do not have sports facilities yet education is supposed to be wholistic.

Government needs to do more super vision, put proprietors on their toes and pay attention to standards. But that can only be done when government puts a lot more into its schools. When government schools are properly and adequately run, they will provide competition for all the mushroom schools that litter our society. That too will make the proprietors charge reasonable fees not what obtains at the moment.

As a step towards resolving this long-standing neglect, public officers must be compelled to enroll their wards and children in public owned schools. This would make them ensure that these schools are well run and supervised.

Indeed, mission schools that are supposed to provide succor to the public are themselves engaging in the unfortunate fleecing of the populace. Mission schools charge exorbitantly and do not seem to care that their primary responsibility is catering for the souls of the people. They too seem to be in competition with secular institutions in ensuring that only those that have the means enjoy their services yet they preach to people and make them contribute funds to establish these institutions that they, the citizenry, cannot afford to send their children to.

Since education determines to a large extent what a society will look like, it behooves on all of us to ensure that we pursue what is right. We cannot continue to live in denial and pretend that all is well. We must work to ensure that the next generation benefit from what we do today.

Politics

Chibok: Nigeria will no more pay ransom

By **BOLA TINUBU**

TEN years ago yesterday, 276 girls were abducted in the night from their school in Chibok, northeastern Nigeria. The attack by Boko Haram pricked the conscience of the world. From London to Washington, protesters held placards reading **#BringBackOurGirls**—the hashtag the girls' families had posted to pressure their idle government into action. It would take almost three weeks for then-Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan even to make a public announcement. Critical time had been lost.

When this March, 137 children were tragically taken from a school in Kaduna, northwestern Nigeria, the shadow of Chibok lay ever-present. Why, Nigerians and the world asked, after the passage of a decade was such an atrocity still happening?

This time, unlike Chibok, the girls and boys were brought back a fortnight later, and the security and intelligence agencies deployed immediately to rescue them. Nevertheless, legitimate concerns over kidnappings persist in Africa's most populous country. Success in Kaduna has brought families relief and praise for the military, yet the government bears no illusions: The scourge of kidnapping must be routed once and for all.

It begins with recognising the changing nature of the threat. Boko Haram translates to "Western Education is Forbidden" and reflects an ideological impetus as jihadi insurgents opposed to the very idea of a Nigerian state. Today, Boko Haram are splintered, and mass abductions are primarily the work of criminal gangs. There is no ideology here: kidnapping has become an illegal industry rewarded with ransoms. Within days of the Kaduna attack, the abductors were demanding 1 billion naira (\$600,000).

Nothing was paid. As president, I have been clear that ransoms stop. Resolution through payment only perpetuates the wider problem. This extortion racket must be squeezed out of existence. Meanwhile, the costs for perpetrators must be raised: They will receive not a dime, and instead security services' counteraction.

But compressing the kidnap for ransom market only



Tinubu

addresses the pull factors. If we are to avoid funnelling the same people into other crimes that cause normal Nigerians to feel insecure, we must address the push factors: poverty, inequality, and a paucity of opportunity. Criminal gangs can find easy recruits among those without either a job or the prospect of one.

Some 63 per cent of Nigerians are multidimensionally poor. They are bearing the economic consequences of a failure by successive governments to get to grip on the Nigerian economy. Fiscal and monetary albatrosses have grounded the country's flight when surging demographics demand high economic growth to just maintain current standards of living.

A decades-old fuel subsidy was exhausting paltry public finances. By 2022, the cost had ballooned to \$10 billion—more than the government's combined spending on education, health care, and infrastructure in a budget of \$40 billion. Currency controls that artificially propped up the naira deterred investment and led to shortages of foreign exchange. For decades we have been financially ransoming ourselves. When my government took office last May, we faced a pile of debt

obligations.

Just as with kidnappers, we had to be tough with the economy. Unsustainable market distortions had to be removed. As expected, floating the naira caused it to plunge. Given Nigeria is a net food importer, the average shopping basket has consequently risen in price. The removal of the fuel subsidy, in a country where many businesses and households rely on generators for power, has also had far-reaching effects. These reforms have caused pain across Nigeria; they are still painful. Yet there is no better alternative: These and other

difficult reforms are necessary to arrest the economic rot that lies at the heart of insecurity.

Green shoots are now visible. In the first quarter of this year, foreign currency inflows have almost matched those for the whole of last year. A multi-billion forex backlog at the Central Bank has been cleared, giving foreign investors' confidence to invest in Africa's largest economy, safe in the knowledge they can repatriate earnings. The naira has begun to stabilize after its initial downward trend and has made huge gains against the dollar.

Talk of macroeconomics might seem remote from the challenge of insecurity. But

without the fundamentals in place, it is impossible for an enabling environment where the private sector thrives, jobs are created, and opportunity is spread across the country. It is how we ensure children can go to school without fear.

For any who may have doubted our direction, it should now be clear. There will be no more ransoms paid—not to kidnappers, nor toward those policies which have trapped our people economically. Nigerians, and their economy, will be liberated.

Bola Tinubu is president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Source: Newsweek

“
But compressing the kidnap for ransom market only addresses the pull factors. If we are to avoid funnelling the same people into other crimes that cause normal Nigerians to feel insecure, we must address the push factors: poverty, inequality, and a paucity of opportunity. Criminal gangs can find easy recruits among those without either a job or the prospect of one.
 ”

Editorial

A dangerous trend

THE July 16, 2022, conferment of the *Sarkin Fulani* traditional title on the repentant kidnap kingpin and terrorist, Ado Aliero, by the Emir of Birnin Yandoto, Zamfara State, Aliyu Mafara, sparked nationwide outrage. The traditional ruler had reportedly taken that step to prevent his subjects from further attacks by the dreaded Aliero and his criminal gang.

BUT an angry Governor Matawalle promptly suspended the emir. In 2021, the governor had taken a similar measure against not less than three traditional rulers for alleged involvement in banditry. Sadly, the situation remains the same till today.

AND although the emir was later exonerated and subsequently reinstated, it emerged that Ado Aliero had been declared wanted by the Police in Katsina State for alleged homicide, terrorism, armed robbery and kidnapping. He was said to have killed over 100 residents of Kadisau village for which the police had put a N5 million bounty on his head.

THAT terrorism, banditry, mass kidnappings for ransom and imposition of illegal levies and taxes on innocent citizens by these hoodlums have persisted in both Katsina and Zamfara states (and indeed the entire North-East) is a pointer to the counter-productiveness of the emir's action.

IN fact, conferring traditional or any other titles on such elements who do not value human life or obey any lawful authorities only emboldens them and their ilk into indulging in even more horrendous acts because they know that, rather than punishment, only rewards await them.

THAT is why Nigerians were horrified when, on April 7, 2024, the convicted kidnapper and gunman, Hamisu Bala, aka Wadume, was accorded a hero's welcome at his home town, Ibbi, in Taraba State, after serving a 7-year prison term. He was driven in a long convoy of vehicles round town as a mark of respect.

BUT as could be gleaned from reactions on the social and other conventional media, most Nigerians were scandalized that a criminal in whose hands security agents and other innocent citizens had lost their lives was being feted by a community some of whose members must have been his victims.

THAT is the depth of the moral depravity into which some of our societies have sunk in order to pamper apparent criminals simply because they peddle power, affluence and wealth, albeit dubious.

BUT, as if that moral turpitude was not bad enough, Wadume was hosted to a special reception by the traditional ruler of his home town, Alhaji Garba Salihu.

IT is worthy of note that this same Wadume made this confessional statement in 2019: "I am Hamisu Bala also known as Wadume. The police came to Ibbi and arrested me. After arresting me, they were taking me to Abuja when soldiers went after them, opened fire and some policemen were killed. From there, the soldiers took me to their headquarters and cut off the handcuffs on my hands and I ran away. Since I ran away, I have been hiding until now that the police arrested me again."

IT was before this individual that an entire community and its traditional ruler were groveling and competing with one another to please and win his acceptance.

BUT these are not isolated cases. All over Nigeria, traditional titles are bought by people with questionable character because it confers a semblance of prestige on them. This is because we put wealth and affluence before morals.

IN a world where the pressures of modern life have worn ethical values thin, our traditional institutions have become our most valued moral compass. But when the custodians of these ethos are seen to be hobnobbing with the elements threatening the very existence of our country, where else should society look to for guidance?

THIS dangerous trend brings to question the much wider issues of the core values that underpin our existence as a people and country.

THAT the ignominious celebration of a high profile kidnapper was coming just a few days to the tenth anniversary of the abduction of the Chibok girls, 89 of whom are still unaccounted for, is highly symbolic of the way our society views such crimes - which have left countless families and communities traumatized forever.

IT has been suggested that these traditional rulers resort to such desperate and unwholesome practices to placate the criminals in order to safeguard their domains from attacks. This is, therefore, a wake-up call to governments to take the responsibility of safeguarding the lives and property of citizens more seriously.

KINDLY allow me space in your widely read newspaper, THE NIGERIA STANDARD, to highlight the significance of unity in strengthening relationships in the society.

Unity is one of the most important forces in the world. It brings people together, creates a sense of belonging and gives us the strength to overcome challenges. Whether it's a community coming together to rebuild after a disaster, a workplace uniting to achieve a common goal or a family supporting each other through tough times, unity is what makes us stronger.

The power of unity can be



Unity helps in overcoming challenges

expressed in many different forms. For example, in the aftermath of a natural disaster, communities often come together to help each other recover.

Whether it's clearing debris, rebuilding homes or providing support to those in need, the collective effort of a united community can make all the difference.

Another example is in the workplace where teams that work together are more productive and efficient than single individuals. The team is also more likely to find creative solutions to problems and

achieve their goals. Within families, unity can provide comfort, support and strength.

Even though unity can be incredibly powerful, it doesn't always come easily. It takes efforts, communication and a shared sense of purpose to bring people together. In the wake of a disaster, it takes strong leadership and organization to coordinate the relief efforts.

In the workplace, effective teamwork requires a clear vision and goals as well as trust and respect among team members. Within families, open

communication and a willingness to listen are essential for building unity. When these elements come together, the result can be amazing.

The benefits of unity are far-reaching, both for individuals and society as a whole. On an individual level, unity can boost self-esteem, reduce stress and improve overall well-being. It can also lead to greater happiness, since social connections are a key predictor of happiness.

On a larger scale, a unified society is more likely to be stable, peaceful and prosperous. It's clear that the power of unity is something we should all strive for, both in our personal lives and in communities. When people come together and share their unique perspectives, they can spark new ideas and create innovative solutions to problems.

This is because diversity leads to a greater variety of ideas, and people from different backgrounds can approach a problem in different ways. This kind of creative thinking is essential for the advancement of society.

The power of unity is undeniable. It's something that we all need, in our families, our workplaces and the society. It takes efforts and commitment to achieve, but the rewards are worth it. Unity brings strength, happiness, and a sense of purpose to our lives. Let's remember the power of unity and make efforts to strengthen the bond that connects us to each other.

As we go through our daily lives, let's remember the power of unity. We should look for ways to build connections and strengthen our bonds with others.

Acts of kindness and compassion can make a difference. With little efforts, we can create a world that is stronger, happier and united than ever before.

Jummai Musa, Department of Mass Communication, Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State

Mutfwang, halt rising cases of banditry in Agingi

PLEASE permit space in your widely read newspaper, THE NIGERIA STANDARD, to express my concern over the frequent attacks on our community by bandits.

In the last few weeks, the Agingi area in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State has been under frequent attacks by bandits. Unlike what we used to experience in the past, hardly does a week pass without a case of kidnapping being recorded.

Consequently, the residents of this once peaceful area have been overburdened with ransom payments to these criminals to secure the release of their loved ones in captivity.

On assumption of office, the present administration expressed its desire to tackle headlong the security challenges in the state. This had become necessary following the unabated cases of unprovoked attacks against innocent and vulnerable rural dwellers in the state.

Truth be told, the state has lost

thousands of innocent lives since the commencement of these attacks against various communities on the Plateau. Though the present governor has been trying his best to halt this calamity, the rising cases of kidnapping have become very worrisome.

For us in Bassa LGA, particularly in Agingi, the situation is getting out of hand.

That is the more reason why we are calling on Governor Caleb Mutfwang to urgently tackle this problem so as to save the citizens from endless suffering.

More security posts should also be established in these areas so as to restore the confidence of the rural populace. Lastly, I wish to commend our dear governor for doing his possible best towards transforming the state to make it one of the best in the country.

I wish our governor more wisdom and God's blessings.

Danjuma Wakili, Agingi, Bassa LGA, Plateau State

STANDARD CARTOON



Focus

Eid-ul-Fitr: Meaning and significance

By **USTAZ SANI IBN SALIHU**

IN The Name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful. This is wishing Nigerians Happy Sallah as we mark this year's Eid-Ul-Fitr.

Eid-ul-Fitr, also known as the "Festival of Breaking the Fast," marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting and is a time of celebration and gratitude for the successful completion of the month-long fasts. Eid-ul-Adha, also called the "Festival of Sacrifice," commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God and it honours the concept of sacrifice and demonstrates devotion to God.

Eid-ul-Fitr finds its origins in the early years of Islam when the Prophet Muhammad(SAW), who received the revelations of the Quran, taught his followers about the importance of fasting during the holy month of Ramadan hence, fasting from dawn to sunset during Ramadan is considered one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The month of Ramadan holds immense significance for Muslims as it is believed that during this month, the Glorious Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad(SAW) over a period of twenty three years and at the end of Ramadan, the joyous celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr takes place, marking the successful completion of the month-long fast.

On the other hand, the history of Eid-ul-Adha dates back to when Abraham or Prophet Ibrahim(AS) kept having a recurring dream of slaughtering his beloved son, Isma'il (AS), to fulfil the wishes of Allah. Ibrahim(AS) spoke to his son regarding this dream, explaining to him how Allah wanted him to make the sacrifice and Isma'il (AS), who was just as much a Prophet of Allah, agreed with his father and asked him to comply with the wishes of Allah. Shaitan (the devil) tempted Ibrahim(AS) and tried to dissuade him from making the sacrifice but he tried to shun it away by pelting it with stones. Allah saw Ibrahim's absolute devotion and sent Jibreel (Angel Gabriel), the Archangel, bearing a sheep for slaughter. Jibreel

told Ibrahim that Allah was pleased with his devotion to him and sent the sheep to be slaughtered in place of his son. Ever since then, sacrifice is a major part of Eid-ul-Adha celebrations which not only commemorates Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and Isma'il's(AS) love for Allah but also shows that one is willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of what they love dearly, for the sake of Allah.

Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated immediately after the end of Ramadan, on the first day of the 10th Islamic month i.e. Shawwal and it begins with the sighting of the new moon, signifying the start of a new lunar month. Eid-ul-Adha, on the other hand, takes place on the 10th day of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah, the last month of Islamic lunar calendar and following the completion of the Hajj pilgrimage.

Rituals and Practices: Eid-ul-Fitr begins with a special prayer called Salat al-Eid, which is performed in congregation at mosques or open prayer grounds and it is customary to give Zakat al-Fitr, a form of charity, before the prayer and then families and friends come together to celebrate, exchange gifts and enjoy festive meals. On the other hand, while Eid-ul-Adha also begins with the special prayer of Salat al-Eid, it is immediately followed by the sacrifice of an animal (usually a goat, sheep, cow or camel) as an act of Qurbani and the meat is later distributed in three proportions: poor people, relatives and themselves or among family, friends and the less fortunate, emphasising the spirit of sharing and charity.

During Eid-ul-Fitr, Muslims often wear new or traditional clothes, visit relatives and friends and partake in festive activities while sweet delicacies and traditional dishes are prepared and shared. Celebrating Eid-ul-Adha by sacrificing a cattle is very akin to the practice of self-sacrifice which is an act of offering gratitude to Allah and it is believed that during a lifetime, we give up a number of things that are important to us for a bigger purpose and in a similar way, sacrificing the animal is a symbol of willingness to stay true on our path and not be lured by earthly love and affection. On Eid-ul-Adha too, Muslims may dress in their best attire and attend communal prayers

but the Qurbani is a significant aspect before families engage in activities such as visiting loved ones, exchanging greetings and participating in community events.

In short, while Eid-ul-Fitr is widely celebrated around the world, marking the end of Ramadan and fasting and is a time for Muslims to

come together and rejoice, Eid-ul-Adha holds particular importance in the Hajj pilgrimage as it coincides with the completion of this significant Islamic obligation but both Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha are joyous occasions in the Islamic calendar, with distinct meanings, rituals

and practices. Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and fasting while Eid-ul-Adha commemorates the concept of sacrifice and Prophet Ibrahim's devotion and understanding and appreciating the differences between these two celebrations deepen the cultural and religious significance of these

festivals for Muslims worldwide.

Participation in the Eid Prayer is highly recommended for all the Muslim Ummah both men, women, children and even menstruating women, because Allah Forgives all those present at the Eid Prayer.

PROBATE NOTICE

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

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Chidima Jicolia John (Also Known as) Chidima Jicolia John, late of Plateau State, died on the 15th February, 2024, at Kanke LGA Plateau State.	Chidima Kirotnen John of Gada Biyu, Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Victor Sarki, late of Plateau State, died on the 10th March, 2024, at Abuja, FCT.	George Victor Yusuf & Dal Samsom Victor, all of Ganawuri Riyom LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
Yakubu Musa late of Plateau State, died on the 20th July, 2019, at Birbyang, Kanam LGA Plateau State.	Habibu Ali Gwani of Birbyang Kanam LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Mustapha Umar late of Yobe State, died on the 16th August, 2023 at Yobe State.	Abdulkadir Umar Mustapha of C Division Barrack Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Damini Tini (Also Known as) Tina Damina, late of Plateau State, died on the 20th May, 2023, at BHUTH, Jos Plateau	Ayuba Sunday Tini of Gada Biu Jos North LGA Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.	Rifkatu Mangai Adams late of Plateau State, died on the 5th November, 2016, at Bachit, Riyom LGA, Plateau State.	Dennis Adams Mangai of behind COCIN LCC Kophat Fanni Lamba Jos South LGA Plateau State, lawful son of the said deceased.
Mangset Clifford late of Plateau State, died on the 16th November, 2023, at Gen. Hosp. Shendam LGA Plateau State.	Patrick Jonathan Mangset of Mper Kombun Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Alexander Gitse late of Plateau State, died on the 20th December, 2023, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Chorshaka Clatus Gitse & Mary A. Gitse of Opp. College of Mary Immaculate Zawan, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son / daughter of the said deceased.

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

Change of Name

MUSA	AYUBA	SIMON	SHOKLE
I, formerly known as YILKAHAN NANKLING DANUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA NANKLING PETER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as STEPHEN ABIGAIL , now wish to be known and addressed as AYUBA ABIGAIL PANAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as LUKA GRACE , now wish to be known and addressed as SIMON GRACE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SHOKLE DASEN NANNA , now wish to be known and addressed as SHOKLE SUZANA DASEN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
JOSEPH	DINGTONG	BENTONG	DINGTONG
I, formerly known as DABISH MWANRET JOSHUA , now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH MWANRET JOHNSON . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as SUNDAY HANATU TANIMU , now wish to be known and addressed as DINGTONG HANATU TANIMU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as IBRAHIM BENTONG DIKWAT , now wish to be known and addressed as BENTONG DIKWAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as DAJOKOP CHINPLANG HARUNA , now wish to be known and addressed as HARUNA CHINPLANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

HAYILU	BAMSHAK
I, formerly known as BULUS LOIS SUNDAY , now wish to be known and addressed as HAYILU LOIS LONGKAT . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	I, formerly known as JORO SYLVIA PAMA , now wish to be known and addressed as BAMSHAK SYLVIA YAMTU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

Makinde's achievements surpass predecessors' feats - SPANCI

From **MUSLIJUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan**
A human rights group, Save the Poor and Needy Charity Initiative (SPANCI) has declared that the achievements recorded so far by Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State has surpassed that of his predecessors. The Non-Governmental Organisation, NGO, made this declaration via a statement made available to journalists at the weekend in Ibadan, the state capital. SPANCI President, Comrade Yemi Bello, in the statement said that the organisation appreciated the good works of

the governor in moving the state forward, which could be attested for by his developmental projects. He maintained that the governor had beaten all past governors' records in terms of his inputs in the agricultural, educational, infrastructural, health and other sectors in the state. Bello maintained, "The IGR the state now generates is a great achievement which is being spent wisely. We appreciate his kind of commitment towards service." They commended him "for his support in making the

efforts of the state's taskforce on Real Property Protection and Anti-land Grabbing Law through which justice is being achieved and the offenders prosecuted, which has drastically reduced land grabbing." SPANCI also appreciated the governor for signing into law the Rule of Law Enforcement Authority and appointing Justice Aderemi as the chairperson. Bello disclosed that this is where offenders are quickly prosecuted and mobile courts are in place to reduce traffic of cases.

Change of Name

<p>KAMSHEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as KAMSHEN DENBAK, now wish to be known and addressed as KAMSHEN DANJUMA DENBAK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHUKS</p> <p>I, formerly known as OBINNA NWAFOR, now wish to be known and addressed as CHUKS KOFI PRECIOUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>IDI</p> <p>I, formerly known as IDI JULIANA, now wish to be known and addressed as IDI PHILOMINA. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ROSE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ROSE DAVID, now wish to be known and addressed as ROSE DUNG SUNDAY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SARATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as SARATU AYUBA ALI, now wish to be known and addressed as SARATU ZUHUNAN EDWARD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHUNG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVOU CHUNDUNG HANNAH, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. CHUNG CHUNDUNG HANNAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>MALLO,</p> <p>I, formerly known as TAJAN MARK, now wish to be known and addressed as MALLO, MARK TAJAN. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAM LYDIA EZEKIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as PAM LYDIA ZAKKA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>NANKPAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANKPAN SELBOL, now wish to be known and addressed as NANKPAN YILCHANG MWANBONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>EGUM</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANRAKI NUHU, now wish to be known and addressed as EGUM NUHU ABANI. Correct date of birth is 2/9/2007. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ONAYIGA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ONAYIGA TAIYE TEMIDAYO, now wish to be known and addressed as ONAYIGA TAIYE TEMITAYO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>FRANCIS</p> <p>I, formerly known as ARDO, BIZONNE ESTHER LAMI, OBA ESTHER LENMAIYA BIZONNE, now wish to be known and addressed as FRANCIS ESTHER BIZONNE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>MAKUT</p> <p>I, formerly known as ADAMS IBRAHIM MAKUT, now wish to be known and addressed as MAKUT IBRAHIM ADAMS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>OBADIAH,</p> <p>I, formerly known as LONGS OBADIAH, now wish to be known and addressed as OBADIAH, TUSKA LONGS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>TATE</p> <p>I, formerly known as INUWA MUHAMMADU AMINU, now wish to be known and addressed as TATE MUHAMMADU AMINU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>USMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as IBRAHIM GARBA PANKWAL, now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN GARBA PANKWAL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHAMWA</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHAMWAR RIFKATU, now wish to be known and addressed as CHAMWA NASHE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ISHAKU</p> <p>I, formerly known as DASAN JUMMAI DASHUN, now wish to be known and addressed as ISHAKU JUMMAI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>HAPPINESS</p> <p>I, formerly known as HAPPINESS OKON, now wish to be known and addressed HAPPINESS GODWIN OKON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BITRUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as BITRUS MERCY, now wish to be known and addressed BITRUS MERCY DAUDA. Correct date of birth is 15/05/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YAKUBU</p> <p>I, formerly known as PIROM RAHILA BADAU, now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU RAHILA BADAU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IKEDIALA</p> <p>I, formerly known as IKEDIALA IGNATIUS, now wish to be known and addressed IKEDIALA IGNATIUS MBACHILEM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAVOU</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVOU MARYAMU, now wish to be known and addressed DAVOU MARYAMU BANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ISMMAIL</p> <p>I, formerly known as IBRAHIM UMMUTMAN ISMAIL, now wish to be known and addressed as ISMMAIL UMMI IMANIBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MARKUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARKUS LUCKY VILENG, now wish to be known and addressed as MARKUS VILENG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>RECHARD</p> <p>I, formerly known as ROSE DANTER, ROSE ANSHINA YAKTU, now wish to be known and addressed as RECHARD ROSE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JULBYEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as JULIANA NANCHAT, now wish to be known and addressed as JULBYEN NANCWAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YILSEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as BENEDICT TANKO YILSEN and YILSEN BENEDICT D. TANKO, now wish to be known and addressed as YILSEN DABWON TANKO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AISHATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as AISHA SALIHU AHMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as AISHATU SALIHU AHMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>FATIMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as FATIMA UMAR HASSAN, now wish to be known and addressed as FATIMA UMAR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>VONKAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as VONKAT NANYA MERCY, now wish to be known and addressed as VONKAT NANYA NISSI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DEBORAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOSEPH DEBORAH AZI, now wish to be known and addressed as DEBORAH PATARALLA STEPHEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KWA</p> <p>I, formerly known as KWA MARY MAUNTU, now wish to be known and addressed as KWA MARY MUTU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AGUNE</p> <p>I, formerly known as AGUNE EMMANUEL TERWASE, now wish to be known and addressed as AGUNE TERWASE EMMANUEL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ADAMU</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAHAYA ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as ADMAU YAHAYA MUHAMMAD. Correct date of birth is 14/4/2002 not 22/12/1987. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABIGAIL</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABIGAIL BITRUS, now wish to be known and addressed as ABIGAIL SELZING PENNAP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MAREN</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAREN PATIENCE ALFRED, now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTOPHER PATIENCE MACHIEF. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BODANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as TIMOTHY MAUREEN, now wish to be known and addressed as BODANG MAUREEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GODSAVE</p> <p>I, formerly known as DIHILAN TAPDYEN MANASSEH, now wish to be known and addressed as GODSAVE TAPDYEN MAKPLANG. Correct date of birth is 27/3/1998 not 6/5/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DASHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as EZEKIEL CHRISTIAN RAYMOND, now wish to be known and addressed as DASHI CHRISTIAN RAYMOND. Correct date of birth is 6/4/1986 not 6/4/1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PAUL</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAJOT PEBANG JACOB, now wish to be known and addressed as PAUL PEBANG JIDAUNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MONDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as I, formerly known as YUSUF POMAK DAFIT, now wish to be known and addressed as MONDAY POMAK WILLIAMS. Correct date of birth is 4/4/1990 not 1/1/1990. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MANGET</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMUEL SIMI SARAH, now wish to be known and addressed as MANGET-SAMUEL SIMI SARAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MANYON</p> <p>I, formerly known as DACHIN DORCAS, now wish to be known and addressed as MANYON DORCAS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LINDA</p> <p>I, formerly known as LINDA LYDIA STEVEN, now wish to be known and addressed as LINDA DARAMOLA STEPHEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KWEKYES</p> <p>I, formerly known as LUKA JOHNSON, now wish to be known and addressed as KWEKYES JOHNSON LUKA. Correct date of birth is 28/12/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANBAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANBAM JANAH BAKZAK, now wish to be known and addressed as NANBAM JONAH BAKZAK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>LINDA</p> <p>I, formerly known as LINDA LYDIA STEVEN, now wish to be known and addressed as LINDA DARAMOLA STEPHEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>MAIMAKO</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANLADI NMEN, now wish to be known and addressed as MAIMAKO NMEN DANLADI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MOSES</p> <p>I, formerly known as MOSES PHILIP PWAJOK, now wish to be known and addressed as MOSES PHILIP NYAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DALENG</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALENG YAKUBU, now wish to be known and addressed as DALENG LUGARD YAKUBU. Correct date of birth is 4/12/1963 not 12/12/1970. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MAZABURO</p> <p>I, formerly known as MAZABURO AMINU, now wish to be known and addressed as MAZABURO HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MARY</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARY DAVID BABUJE, now wish to be known and addressed as MARY DAVID. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EZRA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAYIL SHUWAMWUL, now wish to be known and addressed as EZRA LOVELYN DAYIL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>IFEOMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as OJI JOVITA IFEOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as IFEOMA JOVITA OSITA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ESTHER</p> <p>I, formerly known as ESTHER JOHN EMMANUEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ESTHER EMMANUEL ANEJUKWO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MAISAMARI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZAKKA MAISAMARI RABO, now wish to be known and addressed as MAISAMARI ZAKKA DAURA. Correct date of birth is 15/03/1962 not 06/12/1960. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>APPOLOS</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAMSUM SENDI, now wish to be known and addressed as APPOLOS PANKYES SENDI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BAKFUR</p> <p>I, formerly known as TIPTU BENCHIN KADUNA, now wish to be known and addressed as BAKFUR BENCHIN NCHIK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAKUR</p> <p>I, formerly known as HAPPINESS SHEDRACK, now wish to be known and addressed as DAKUR HAPPINESS BULUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>

PROBATE NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.
AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and address and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a *NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (21) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Davou Deme late of Plateau State died on the 1st May, 2012 at PSSH, Jos Plateau State.	Rev. Dauda Davou Deme of Victory Baptist Church Mapol 44 Barracks Abuja. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Danasabe Salisu late of Plateau State died on the 7th September 2023 at OLA Hospital Jos Plateau State.	Danasabe Praise & Ibrahim Bature of No. 140 Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother/daughter of the said deceased.	Jang Azi Augustine late of Plateau State died on the 20th October 2020 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Jang Esther Augustine of Behind J.M.D.B. Quarters Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Michael Onaru Aboyi Tenufa late of Kogi State died on the 19th April 2023 at Jos Plateau State.	Mary Felicia Tenufa, Clement Onuya Tenufa & Richard Daniel Tenufa of No. 7 Julius Bata Crescent Old Legislative Quarters Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow/Daughter/Son of the said deceased.	Marcel Gouquat Gokum late of Plateau State died on the 7th November 2020 at General Hospital Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Filibus Marcel Gokum of Mile 8 Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Danjuma Joshua late of Plateau State died on the 14th January 2024 at OLA Mercy Hosp. Imo State.	Gideon Joshua & Rebecca Joshua of Namua Abattoir Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son and widow of the said deceased.
Gwamzhi Manshik Yamap late of Plateau State died on the 24th January 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Gwamzhi Jinah Manshik of Little Rayfield Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Daring Filibus late of Plateau State died on the 24th September 2018 at Jos, Plateau State.	Philip Benle of New Abuja Near Sumary Hotel Dadin kowa Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Auba Audu late of Plateau State died on the 31st July 2023 at Kasuwan Ali Gindiri, Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	Abdullahi Shualbu Ajala of Kasuwan Ali Gindiri Mangu LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Bojo Hwok Gwang late of Plateau State died on the 3rd May 2023 at Ganawuri Riyom AGA Plateau State.	Hwok Bojo Hwok of Ganawuri Riyom LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Emmanuel Oayelome Uyakonwu late of Owerriolubar, Delta State died on the 18th January, 2024 at Jos Plateau State.	Charity Uyakonwu & Anthony Uyakonwu of Sabon Barki Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased.	Pam Kevin Dung late of Plateau State died on the 14th June 2021 at Path Kuru Jos South LGA Plateau State.	Simi Pam Anthony of Dagwom Palace Kuru Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Shem Abalas Samaila late of Plateau State died on the 11th February 2018 at Jebbu, Bassa LGA Plateau State.	Abalas Yakubu Samaila G.R.A. Jebbu Bassa, Bassa LGA Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	SGT Pam Daniel late of Plateau State died on the 5th January 20218 at Heipang Barkin Ladi LGA Plateau State.	Daniel Anea Pam & Pam Raymond of Heipang Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow/son of the said deceased.	Johnson Zingtim late of Plateau State died on the 12th April 2021 at Langtang LGA Plateau State.	Johnson Ruth Zingtim of Lpchoh Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Widow of the said deceased.
Pam John Davou late of Plateau State died on the 26th August 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Benedict Pamkal & Esther Ashime Pamkal of No. 5A Pamkal Street Kabong Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	Sylvester Dama late of Plateau State died on the 2nd April 2022 at OLA Hospital Jos North LGA Plateau State.	Sylvester Dabat Cebus Dama, Kabong, Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Mark Wyclifford late of Plateau State died on the 3rd September 2021 at Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Fortunetus Wyclifford of Mangu LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Eithan Zachariah late of Adamawa State died on the 21st September 2005 at Fort-Harcourt.	Zachariah Maryam of No. 2090, Kufang Niango Road, Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Shedrach Titus Goyit late of Plateau State, died on the 6th November, 2023 at Minna Suleja, Niger State.	Meshak Titus Goyit of ECWA Goodnews Church Anglo-Jos, Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	Yinusa Rakia Ibrahim late of Plateau State, died on the 21st October, 2023 at National Hospital, Abuja.	Yinusa Umaru Farouk, Adamu Hadiza Iyoma & Salim Ibrahim Ufadojo all of No. 20 Brown Lane of Kadiri Street Lagos State. Lawful son/brother/sister of the said deceased.
Grace Dung late of Plateau State, died on the 14th January, 2021 at Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	George Waibe Stephen of COCIN LCC Mile 8 Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Deodat Bature Idris late of Plateau State, died on the 16th May, 2015 at Jos, Plateau State.	Amina Bala of No. 19 Behind Seminary Laranto Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Ajibo Helen late of Lagos State, died on the 12th November, 2018 at Lagos State.	Umeh Tobechukwu Benedicta & James Chuknuezu Emmanuel of No. 1 Wazobia Off Celebration Chapel Jebi Abuja FCT. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.
Samuel Nathaniel Sunday late of Plateau State, died on the 15th September, 2023 at OLA Hospital, Jos Plateau State.	Oluwasemilore Nathaniel & Gambo Dachelom Dadon of Rahwol Kanang Bukuru Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son/daughter of the said deceased.	Dominic Alex late of Plateau State, died on the 16th December, 2022 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Samuel Nankyer Sarpiya of No. 19 Landere Kabong Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Gyang Dung Jah late of Plateau State, died on the 27th November, 2015 at Vom Christian Hospital, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Hudung Dung Jah of COCIN LCC Gazok Farin Lamba Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Joseph Gana (also known as Gana Joseph Pampap) late of Plateau State, died on the 27th December, 2022 at Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	Emmanuel Poesn'ab Joseph & Gana Laifu Joseph of RCM Catholic Church Lifidi Mikang LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased.	Neriman Mishikka Deshi late of Plateau State, died on the 30th December, 2006 at Kabala, Kaduna State.	Shorgak Deshi Mishikka T.C.N.N Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	Job Chedrum Dikkong late of Plateau State, died on the 25th October, 2022 at Pushit, Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	Job Zughumnan Dikkong of Mararaba Pushit Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Bossan Lydia Abi late of Plateau State, died on the 6th November, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Bossan Pethuel Paul New JUTH Lamingo Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Nimyel Nansel late of Plateau State, died on the 17th February, 2024 at Taraba State.	Nansel Nantim of Sabon Kasuwa Total Shendam, Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Dagong Thomas Mangbakh late of Plateau State, died on the 30th March, 2022 at PSSH, Jos Plateau State.	Makshwar Thomas COCIN LCC Lingpang Jing, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Osourji Veronica Ngozi (also known as) Osourji Veronica Ngozi late of Abuja, FCT late, died on the 9th February, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Nnamdi Osourji of No. 25 West of Mines Jos, Plateau State. The lawful nephew of the said deceased.	Nwosu Martin Okechukwu late of Plateau State died on the 11th Dec, 2022, at Jos, Plateau State.	Nwosu Benjamin Chinyere Ugo of Canaan Street Diye Zaramaganda Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Assyin Abukash Akudung late of Plateau State, died on the 21st March, 2023. At Dengi, Kanan LGA Plateau State.	Anthony Ibrahim Wupal & Wupal Fatsen Anthony of Toff. Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/daughter of the said deceased.
Tosin Comfort Odofin late of Plateau State died on the 16th Oct, 2023. At BHUTH, Jos Plateau.	Henry Otowo & Emmanuel Otowo of Brightway Junction Rukuba Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son/husband of the said deceased.	Sunday Lange late Plateau State died on the 29th July, 2020, at Faith Alive Hosp. Jos Plateau State.	Daiyop Sunday Lange of GSS Kabong Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Vwetniang Diben David late of Plateau State, died on the 27th May, 2022, at Kerang, Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Vwetniang Andy David of COCIN Timkum Kopal Mangu LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Ratji Dakup Gowok late of Plateau State died on the 3rd August, 2023, at JUTH, Plateau State.	Ratji Dakup Lydia Nenpinmwa of flat D7 Old JUTH Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.			Gambo Usman late of Plateau State, died on the 28th February, 2019, at Zabol, Bassa LGA Plateau State.	Joshua Sugana Gambo of Zabol, Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

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

IMAGES

NIGERIA'S FIRST LADY LAUNCHES WOMEN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME IN JOS

Nigeria's First lady, Sen Oluremi Tinubu, initiator of the Renewed Hope Initiative represented by wife of the Chief of Staff yesterday, launched the Renewed Hope Initiative women Agricultural Support Programme for the North Central Geo-political Zone at the Victoria Gowon Multipurpose Hall, new Government House, Rayfield, Jos



Governor Mutwang (left) in a hand shaking with the representative of the First Lady, Mrs. Salamatu Gbajabiamila, wife of the Chief of Staff



HoS. Barr. Rauta Dakok (right) with commissioner for Women Affairs, Hon. Caroline Pangiang Dakur



Plateau State Governor (middle), wife of the CoS, Mrs. Gbajabiamila, wife of Nasarawa State Governor, Hajiya Silifat Abdullahi Sule (right), representative of wife of Plateau State, Dr. Kachollom Gang and Deputy Governor, Ngo Josephine Piyo



Governor Mutwang with other dignitaries



A cross section of members of the State Assembly



Mrs. Salamatu Gbajabiamila (middle) assisted by Governor Mutwang presenting a cheque of N10m to the wife of Nasarawa State Governor and RHI Coordinator, Hajiya Silifat Sule



From left are, Speaker, PLHA, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Dewan, Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo with the representative of Plateau State First lady, Dr. Kachollom Gang, Commissioner for Higher Education



Representative of RHI Plateau State (left), with the wife of the Chief of Staff

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

IMAGES

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Governor Mutwang and his Deputy, Hon. Piyo at the occasion



From left are, representative of wife of Kwara State Governor, Deputy Governor Benue State and the FCT RHI Coordinator, Pastor Adedayo Benjamins-Lanly



Wife of the Speaker, PLHA, wife of Deputy Speaker and wives of government functionaries



Governor Mutwang making his speech



First lady, Sen. Tinubu, represented by Mrs. Gbajabiamila, presenting a cheque of N10m to the RHI Coordinator of Plateau State



Wife of Kwara State Speaker, receiving the cheque on behalf of the governor's wife



Mrs. Gbajabiamila presenting to Benue State Deputy Governor and the RHI Coordinator, Scolastica Terngu Ben-Sor Benue State cheque



Chief Simon Tangni, Chairman, Local Government Service Commission (left) with Hon. Yijap Abraham, Special Adviser to the Governor on Good Governance

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Feature

Cooperative societies as agents of change

By **KENNETH DARENG**

COOPERATIVE societies in Plateau State have over the years witnessed changes and transformation, having evolved from mere associations of few individuals to modern-day business enterprises.

Plateau State alone can boast of over 2 million members scattered across different organisations and communities - with a very strong capital base worth several millions of naira in both liquidity and assets.

Viewed against this background, a genuine cooperative can be identified through certain characteristics, as explained by Professor Likita Ogba. He featured recently as Guest Speaker at a one-day workshop organized by the Plateau State Cooperative Federation, PLASCOFED, held at the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences hall, Tudun Wada, Jos.

He said, "Cooperatives as an autonomous body must be free from government or external control or domination in order to allow members to own and take decisions that would help promote the welfare of their members."

Accordingly, the objectives of the group must be geared towards meeting members' economic, social and cultural aspirations. These can be achieved through ensuring that the enterprise is owned as a partnership while the benefits must be shared based on the equity contribution of each member.

However, the values of every cooperative movement should be deeply rooted in members' social ideologies and religious belief systems which have metamorphosed over the ages. It is therefore necessary to point out that in every cooperative society, members do not have to wait for government or other external pressures to solve its immediate problems.

In the same vein, the cooperative movement must value the principle of equality by treating all members as equal partners without recourse to any form of discrimination based on sex, race, religion, political class, financial position or power.

The need to also ensure equity cannot be over emphasized. This is because if members are not rewarded based on their participation, it can be counter-productive. Which means that no member should gain at the expense of another. In the same vein, employees, suppliers, creditors, even non-members and customers should be treated with respect and dignity through giving each an operational opportunity to express their God-given abilities.

It is worthy of note that cooperative societies should be based on democratic principles. This also means that they should



Cross section of cooperators at the workshop



PLASCOFED Board members

operate on the basis of free decision making. This value is opposed to autocracy and dictatorship.

It is important to note that no cooperative movement can make any meaningful progress if members do not demonstrate solidarity with each other. According to Professor Ogba, members must strive to meet each other's needs. This means ensuring unity which must be anchored on mutuality, independence, community and love. He captured it thus: "All for each and each for all."

The members and officials of cooperative societies are expected to be honest and dedicated to duty and welfare of members. They should also be morally bound to avoid dishonesty, secrecy, anti-social behaviors and selfishness in all of

their dealings with each other. As a guiding principle, cooperatives are expected to display openness by regularly briefing members and forwarding relevant information on their operations and performance to the public and government.

Besides inspiring themselves through meeting their obligations through the attainment of their social corporate responsibility within various communities, cooperative societies in Plateau State, under the umbrella of PLASCOFED, are working with both government and private organizations towards enhancing economic growth and development in the state.

As part of that engagement, the Plateau State Government has expressed its desire to commence a pilot program for a

massive production and processing of Irish potatoes and a variety of grains for both domestic consumption and export as part of its economic blueprint for the state.

The Plateau State Commissioner of Commerce and Industry, Musa Sule, made the disclosure when he declared open the PLASCOFED workshop.

According to Sule, the present socio-economic challenges facing the country required a change of approach in order to take the nation out of the woods, noting that cooperative societies can serve as the right economic compass for growth and societal development.

He emphasized the need for concerted efforts to be made to make the cooperative movement a platform for initiating economic policies that would add value to the policies and programs being

implemented by the Mutfwwang administration for the overall benefit of citizens.

He assured that the Plateau State Government would support cooperative societies to become a driving force for pushing forward the proposed massive grain production in order to boost the revenue base of the state and open the space for investment and wealth creation.

As members of the various cooperative societies came together to share their common ideals and expectations, the need to also understand the concepts that would shape their thoughts on the purpose, objectives, benefits, limitations, operations, finances and other plans for a better future under the watch of PLASCOFED was underscored.

For the Record

That outreach programme of the National Museum, Esie

By **FATILE JONATHAN**

OUTREACH programme means an organization's involvement with or influence in the community, particularly in relation to social welfare. For museums, this involves working with audiences using museum collections but staged in non-museum location. It refers to the idea of bringing museum-achieved experiences to remote places in order to transmit its knowledge. Museum outreach programmes encompass a wide range of initiatives designed to engage communities, promote accessibility and foster a deeper connection with cultural heritage.

Typical venues for outreach programmes include schools, community halls, shopping centres, ports, hospitals, prisons, old people's homes, libraries and so on. These can be in form of workshops, lectures, tours and hands-on activities aimed at different age groups and interests. These programmes often aim to make museums more accessible and relevant to the public while promoting education and cultural appreciation.

Overall, museum outreach programs play a vital role in making cultural institutions more accessible, relevant and engaging to diverse audiences. By offering educational experiences, forging community partnerships, embracing digital innovation, and prioritizing accessibility, museums can fulfill their mission of preserving and sharing our shared cultural heritage.

Successful outreach programmes often collaborate with schools, community organizations and local artists to reach a broader audience and create meaningful experiences. Outreach has become fundamental to the process of changing the role of museums within their communities, establishing relationships with new audience and turning museum from inward facing to outward looking organization.

Museums often engage in community outreaches. Outreach involves providing professional service or services of specific expertise to a group of people who may not otherwise have access to those services. It is performed where those in need are located. This is done in tandem with the assertion that "if Mohammed refuses to go to the mountain, the mountain should go to Mohammed."

By the Act establishing the Museum, it is open to the public of all ages and categories of vulnerable people, even people with special needs. However, is the museum really open to the public? Series of factors come into play regarding accessibility to museum such as location. Is it in the heart or outskirts of the town? How accessible is it to the public? Is the road safe? Is the security of visitors guaranteed? Are the gate fees affordable to commoners? What of the operational hours 9-6pm, will it be comfortable or accommodating to people with special duties such as busy executives like doctors, bankers, ethnic minorities, prison



Mr. Fatile doing justice to the topic



Educators and the members of staff

inmates, refugees, slaves, poor and unemployed persons.

The museum activities are in three folds/categories these are intra-mural, extra-mural and cross programme. The intra-mural are those museum activities that take place within the museum premises such as gallery tours, exhibitions, etc, while the extra- mural are those activities organized outside the museum premises such as outreach programmes, mobile museum, etc. Whereas the cross programmes are those activities that can be organised both within and outside the museum premises. Examples are film shows, workshops, symposia, quiz, debates, etc.

On 29 March, 2024, the Education Unit of the National Museum, Esie, embarked on a community outreach programme to the Anglican Grammar School, Esie Iludun, Kwara State, under the leadership of Mrs. Olorunade M.J., the Head of Department, and her educators team. The theme of the programme was 'sensitisation' while the topic was: How to survive the present economic situation in Nigeria. Mr. Fatile Jonathan presented a paper on the above topic.

Other educators in attendance were Mrs. Odekunle E.O., Mr. Omotayo R.O. and Mrs. Agbara C.B. The school principal, Mrs. Adebayo H.O., opened the floor by introducing the Museum staff to the

students. The total number of people present, both teachers and students, was 150.

The lecture focused on economic development in Nigeria in those years when things were going on well and everything was rosy due to the oil boom and Udoji award. That was when Nigeria was truly the Giant of Africa. It also examined the present-day economic hardships, which is a product of economic maladministration, the unpleasant implications of the economic hardships and how to cope with the hardships. In addition, the paper outlined a step by step approach to solving the economic maladies. The lecture made recommendations and finally proffered solutions towards solving the economic problems.

The paper took a critical look into the economic situation of the past and also revealed that the present economic situation had been caused by inflation and debt, inadequate power supply, corruption, inconsistent economic policies, poor human capital development the nature of the Nigerian market, unemployment, especially among young graduates, non-diversification of the economy, economic recession and general insecurity of lives and property.

According to the paper, the above economic conditions unleashed lots of hardships on the entire citizenry which make life unbearable for

them. This was further aggravated by scarcity of food stuff, skyrocketing prices of goods/services and so on. This ordeal made people live from hand to mouth while some could not even afford three square meals a day. All hope seemed to be lost, especially when oil subsidy was removed. The economic recession, which some people believe is as a result of the drop in the oil prices on the global market. Activities of militants and pipeline vandals in the Niger Delta region of the country also caused significant reduction in the volume of crude oil production, which further aggravated the recession.

From the writer's point of view, the lack of sound economic policy is a major reason for the current recession, especially, the removal of oil subsidy, which, he said, broke the camel's back. Through this singular action, government seems to have lost control of governance.

With the present economic hardships, government could not afford to watch things getting out of hand. Therefore, something positive must be done to save Nigeria from this precarious situation. The question is, how can we improve the economy of Nigeria? He suggested the following eight ways through which the Nigerian economy can be revived: fiscal and debt management, monetary policy,

structural reforms, human capital development, economic diversification, investor confidence, social safety nets, technology and innovation.

Having set out the ways to improve Nigeria's economy, below are some of the methods to be used: identification of the problem, gathering relevant data, applying economic models, generating and evaluating solutions. Also, to further solve the economic problems, there should be collaborative efforts between well to do individuals and government. The government should create an enabling environment for philanthropic activities, offering incentives to encourage the private sector to support social causes.

From the ongoing discussions, industrialization holds the key to unleashing Nigeria's full potentials. We can strengthen our economy by investing in industries and promoting local production which will help reduce our dependence in imports. The Federal Government must not only minimize importation but inform citizens about the benefits of growing the Nigerian economy. This will help growing our foreign reserves, raise revenues and strengthen the naira against foreign currencies like the Dollar, Pound Sterling and Euro.

The lecture admonished the participants to see the current situation in Nigeria as a general phenomenon and not as a personal issue because everybody's problem is nobody's problem. They were asked to keep their minds off unpleasant news and situations so as to avoid high blood pressure and spend more time watching comedies and videos that would make them laugh away their sorrows.

The students were equally advised to live within the income range of their parents, avoid unnecessary display of affluence, desist from trying to impress others and avoid 'I pass my neighbour' syndrome. They were advised to cut their coat according to the size of their cloths and be contented with whatever their parents made available to them. They were also tasked to be there for their parents and give them their maximum support at these time of economic hardships. The students were advised to serve and adore God their creator more than ever before. The participants were advised not to commit suicide or for any reasons take their own lives as death is not the end of life, neither is it the solution to any problems.

In conclusion, the participants were hopeful that things would not continue the way they were because tough times never last but tough people do. They came away with the assurance that tomorrow would be better than today because no condition is permanent. Therefore, when there is life, there is hope.

The paper also inferred that if all the highlighted steps and solutions are strictly adhered to, the economy of Nigeria will be revived and things would change for better in Nigeria.

Jonathan is the Chief Museum Education Officer, National Museum, Esie

Foreign Commentary



Netanyahu

Khamenei

Haniya

Iran and Israel: Is the denial game over?

By ASHARQ AL-AWSAT

THE recent influx of body bags from Damascus has reignited a crucial question in Tehran's political circles: "Will things be different this time?" These bags carried the remains of 13 Iranian diplomats and military officers, among them two senior commanders from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, Gen. Mohammad Reza Zahedi and Gen. Mohammad Hadi Haji Rahimi. They fell victim to an Israeli airstrike on a supposed consular building in Syria, adding to a series of similar attacks targeting Iranian officers, as well as Lebanese, Iraqi, Syrian, Pakistani, and Afghan mercenaries within Syria.

The trend of these attacks has been escalating since 2015 and reached its pinnacle in 2020. While official figures from Iran estimate around 5,000 casualties, specific numbers regarding Iranian officers and mercenaries assassinated to date remain undisclosed. Initially, Tehran manipulated the issue of body bags from Syria for propaganda, organizing grand processions in honor of the fallen. As losses mounted, the propaganda angle waned, and burials became subdued. This shift can be attributed, in part, to the influence of the late Gen. Qasem Soleimani, who aimed to avoid direct conflicts with Israel or the US, even hinting at establishing communication channels with the Israelis through figures like Gen. David Petraeus, the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

However, recent events suggest a departure from this delicate equilibrium. Israel's open acknowledgment of its punitive assault on Iran marks a crucial shift. For the first time, Israel targeted a building bearing Iran's official flag, breaking from prior strikes on bases and facilities housing Iranian personnel in Syria. This new dynamic complicates Tehran's ability to

deflect responsibility, as these strikes now directly affect Iranian diplomatic installments. Amid mounting calls for retaliation from Iranian officials and the populace, Iran's supreme leader faces a challenging dilemma. The breach of the unspoken agreement between the involved parties heightens pressure on Tehran to respond decisively. With the imminent demands for revenge, [Ayatollah Ali] Khamenei finds himself at a crossroads, torn between upholding strategic patience and delivering a crushing response. The outcome of this delicate situation holds significant implications for future actions and the fragile balance of power in the region.

Israeli policies have inadvertently shed light on the Palestinian struggle in recent months, showcasing undeniable evidence of the Israeli army's heinous crimes against innocent civilians. Through audio and video recordings, the world has witnessed atrocities such as the killing of children, blocking access to essential supplies, and targeting hospitals. This stark reality has debunked Israel's self-proclaimed image as a modern democratic state, revealing the underlying racism within its leadership. These revelations have surpassed any previous efforts by Palestinians to bring attention to their plight since the conflict with Zionist groups predated the establishment of Israel.

As a result, Israel's close allies may now reconsider their support, not because they were unaware of the war crimes or racism, but because Israel has lost its ability to conceal its actions from the world. The once formidable façade has crumbled, leaving Israel's friends vulnerable to scrutiny on the world stage. In addition to exposing Israel's true nature, recent events have also highlighted the incompetence of its intelligence agencies. The unexpected Hamas strike on Oct. 7 caught Israeli authorities off

guard, revealing a lack of foresight and strategic planning. The notion of Israel's "invincible army" has been shattered, rendering it a subject of ridicule rather than fear among Palestinians. Israel's oppressive tactics, though brutal, have clearly failed to achieve their intended goals.

The rising Palestinian generation now views the Israeli army not as a force to be reckoned with but as a tool for destruction and intimidation that ultimately falls short of its objectives. This shift in perception marks a significant turning point in the ongoing conflict, underscoring the need for a reevaluation of Israel's actions and policies.

I was not surprised at all by the crude and direct incitement orchestrated by the leaders of the Hamas movement against the Jordanian public. Their actions sought to destabilize the region, throwing it into the fiery chaos that had ignited in the Gaza Strip following their ill-advised endeavor on Oct. 7 under the banner of [Operation] al-Aqsa Flood. The catastrophic consequences we witness today are a direct result of their actions. My lack of surprise at Hamas's conduct arises from my firm conviction and informed understanding of the Muslim Brotherhood and its operating mechanisms. The Brotherhood's reckless agenda places human safety and security as secondary concerns, utilizing strong religious emotions to manipulate public sentiment. Hamas's demagogic discourse, driven by unbridled emotion and inverted reality, often leads to disastrous outcomes.

The ongoing humanitarian and military crisis in the Gaza Strip was hoped to be a turning point, a lesson learned, and an opportunity for self-reflection. However, Hamas failed to heed the disastrous results of their actions, paving the way for the Israeli occupier to further

suppress the Palestinian cause. By spreading incendiary rhetoric, Hamas directly aimed to destabilize neighboring countries, particularly Jordan, inciting chaos and disregarding sovereignty. Hamas leader Mohammed Deif's audacious incitement of Jordanians to revolt shows the depth of Hamas' manipulative tactics. Their inflammatory narrative only fuels the fire of conflict, using ordinary people as pawns in a larger game. Hamas portrays the war against Israel as a battle of enthusiasm and emotion rather than strategic planning, undermining the true complexities of the conflict. This demagoguery serves only as a political lesson to those who fail to grasp reality or evaluate situations with a clear mind. Hamas must acknowledge the consequences of their actions and the misguided adventures they undertake. By targeting neighboring countries and inciting the masses, Hamas only drives the region further into turmoil.

The motivations behind Hamas's incitement must be scrutinized, particularly considering the timing of their actions. Khaled Masha's call for a battle of Al-Aqsa Flood and subsequent visit to Iran reveal a larger agenda at play. Hamas's alignment with Iranian interests and the Safavid agenda raise concerns about their true intentions and loyalties. If Hamas truly cared for the Palestinian cause, it would hold Iran and other supporters accountable for their promises and hollow threats. The Brotherhood's agenda thrives on chaos and discord, seeking to subvert religious texts for their own gain. The consequences of power in the hands of groups like the Brotherhood are evident in the plight of Sudan today, a cautionary tale of the destruction wrought by unchecked extremism.

American officials are cautiously anticipating Iran's response to

Israel's recent strike on the Iranian Consulate in Damascus. They expect Iran to refrain from targeting American forces, as a result of the decision to cease attacks on US bases in Iraq and Syria following a warning from Washington issued last February. The warning was communicated to Tehran during talks in Oman, with the threat of potential retaliation within Iran itself. Reuters reported on directives from Quds Force commander Esmail Qaani to militias, including Hezbollah, to avoid escalating tensions. President Joe Biden's administration believes the warning remains in effect, despite Iranian accusations against the US regarding the consulate bombing. Washington quickly distanced itself from the Israeli strike, denying prior knowledge or involvement. Similarly, Tehran denied any connection to Hamas' attack on Israel in October. These incidents highlight a complex dance between the two countries, both eager to avoid direct conflict. The strikes can be seen as part of a nuanced power play, with each side leveraging proxies and allies to advance their interests. The US relies on Israel and intelligence networks to exert influence, while Iran supports militias in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and the Houthis in Yemen. The Damascus consulate strike, while seen as an indirect assault on Iran, is unlikely to provoke direct retaliation against America. Various theaters provide potential battlegrounds between Iran and Israel, from Iraq to Syria to Lebanon. However, the intricate web of alliances and geopolitical considerations may prevent direct confrontations. Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen could be conduits for retaliation, but the overall strategy remains shrouded in secrecy and intricate planning. Ultimately, revenge by the Revolutionary Guards is a complex calculus. The possibility of delayed retaliation remains, as Iran carefully weighs its options in response to recent provocations.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Feature

Tin City Metro Buses: Government to the rescue

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

IT is one thing to lead and another to understand the needs of the led. Great leaders imbued with hindsight govern in accordance with the wishes of the people.

One can easily notice such a leader from the first steps he takes in office and how quickly he solves the problems confronting the people. This, no doubt, brings to mind the leadership qualities of Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State.

On assumption of office, he was immediately confronted by the challenges occasioned by the petroleum subsidy removal. One of the measures he put in place to cushion the effect of the subsidy removal was to ameliorate the transportation problems this caused the masses.

It would be recalled that the prices of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), popularly known as petrol, and Diesel skyrocketed. These shot up the costs of transportation and other household items and services generally.

Knowing how important the Yuletide and New Year celebrations were to his people, Governor Mutfwang, in the heat of the hardships, offered free transportation to convey citizens who wanted to travel to their respective hometowns.

The governor also eased the plight of travelers by ensuring the smooth movement of goods and other essential commodities through the resuscitation of the Plateau Express Services, popularly known as 'Plateau Riders'.

Above all, German-made luxury buses have been procured by the state government, which will soon be commissioned, to further ease and cut down the cost of transportation within the Jos and Bukuru metropolises.

This is known as the Tin City Metro Bus Services. With the slogan, 'RIDE TO THE NEW HEIGHTS', this transportation hub has the potential of boosting the socio-economic lives of citizens who have come under severe strain through the effects of the removal of fuel subsidy.

Until now, successive administrations in the state have tried to resuscitate the old Jos Tin City Bus Services without much success. That had been probably due to paucity of funds or lack of proper planning.



Tin City buses to be commissioned soon

It would also be recalled that, in the early 80s, there existed a private transport company owned by Ambassador Yahaya Kwande known as the Kwande Bus Service. It was able to complement the transportation needs of citizens.

The company had an exceptionally organised system that kept to its take-off time and was comfortable and affordable. Its operations were well cherished and valued by passengers traveling within Plateau and present Nasarawa states.

Unfortunately, it gradually faded away and finally disappeared.

It would not be out of place to say that children born in the late 80s can only remember what Tin City buses used to be only as part of their History lesson in school.

Unfortunately, the Tin City Bus Service also went under, possibly due to either mismanagement or negligence on the part of the authorities concerned. Then came the most recent one - Plateau Express Services Limited. It also struggled with lack of sufficient and functional buses and also became moribund.

But with the coming of Governor Mutfwang, the Plateau Express Services Limited is being given a new lease of life. Preparations are in top gear for the transport company to officially launch the new buses.

Similarly, renovation work is ongoing at the Jos Terminus market for the immediate flag-off of the new buses as bus stops have been earmarked in the Jos and Bukuru metropolises.

While inspecting the sites at the Jos Terminus market recently, the Secretary to the Government of the State, (SGS), Architect Samuel Nanchang Jatau, who is also the chairman of the committee set up by the governor to midwife the introduction of the Tin City Metro Bus Services, disclosed that the buses were purchased to cushion the effects of the hardships citizens were going through.

He said, "We have few issues we need to sort out. One of which is why we are here today. You can see how congested the Terminus area is. So, we need to clear off this place because the buses are huge and the roads are narrow. So, we need to get for them a befitting parking space."

Also highlighting the other

measures being put in place for the smooth take off of the project, the General Manager, Plateau Express Services Limited, Samuel Jok Bot, disclosed that they were assessing the extent of work so far done, describing the service as a huge milestone and thanked Governor Mutfwang for having the masses at heart.

He further explained: "Here is a digitalized transport system that is safe, affordable and reliable. We have a good customer care system where commuters can give us feedback in case of any issues with our bus services."

"Card readers are going to be installed and adverts will be out on the routes the buses will be plying and we already have twenty thousand cards ready that can be pre-ordered and get by home delivery or through authorised vendor locations."

He added: "Anybody can also input the amount at a minimum of ₦1,000. Each card comes with free ₦200 because each card at the moment is ₦200 for any destination you are going to, whether far or near. This is the system at the moment."

"People are hereby encouraged to stay tune to radio stations, social media

handles and television stations for detail explanation by the Plateau Express Services Limited in conjunction with the Plateau State Government on information."

The General Manager listed some of the routes as follows: Angul 'D' Junction to Vom; Polo Roundabout to Zawan; Terminus to Zawan; British/America Junction to JUTH; Terminus through Rayfield to Yeiwa Hotel Junction; Terminus through Tudun-Wada, Domkat Ball, Solomon Lar Amusement Park, Low-cost to Wildlife Park respectively.

Others include: Terminus through Bauchi road to Farin-Gada; and British America Junction through Angwan Rukuba, Etobaba, Bauchi Junction to Farin-Gada and back. He assured that, with time, more buses would be added to cover additional routes.

The Tin City Metro Bus Service is a subsidiary of the Plateau Express Services Limited, which is a limited liability company that intends to market itself as a modern transportation outfit. Each bus has a sitting capacity for 82 passengers (42 sitting and 40 standing) as well as two spaces for wheelchairs.

By JIDAUNA DARING

CULTURE represents the customs, arts and social behaviors of a particular group of people. Recently, the Gus people of Jere District of the Pengana Chieftdom, Bassa Local Government Area, came out in large numbers to celebrate and showcase their rich culture through the annual festival tagged, 'Gus Day 2024'. The colourful event was held at the Government Secondary School (GSS) Fuskan-Mata, along Zaria Road, Jos, Plateau State.

The epoch-making occasion, which was celebrated in grand style, has over the years remained a rallying point for the Gus people. It also served as an avenue for bringing together people who had lost touch with each other for a long time.

Interestingly, the Gus people, who are widely known for their peaceful disposition and hospitality, are also a hard working ethic group. Farming forms a significant source of their livelihood. They mainly cultivate crops such as maize, sorghum and cowpea, among others.

In his remarks at the event, chairman of the occasion and a consultant with the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), Dr. Simji S. Gomerep, commended the organizers of the festival and emphasized the need for the Gus people to continue according great value to their cultural heritage to enable the younger generation appreciate it.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, Gus National Development Association (GUNDA) President, Sunday E. Dakama, expressed delight and thanked God for making the event a huge success. He appreciated all the invited guests for gracing the

occasion.

Dakama stated that the Gus people were friends and brothers to all tribes on the Plateau and beyond and gave kudos to Governor Caleb Mutfwang for supporting the Gus people in sustaining peace and tranquility within their domain.

He further praised the governor for finding two of their people, Elisha Bisidi and Mrs. Dorcas Gamaji Pankyes,

agrarian farmers, the festival was meant to usher the people into the new farming season.

Dakama appealed to the Plateau State Government and National Assembly legislators from the zone to assist the people with fertilizers, seedlings, agro chemicals and modern agricultural machines.

He pointed out: "We are faced with several challenges



suggested the need to redesign it in order to confer on it a distinctive identity." As

On their part, some traditional rulers who are the

Showcasing the Gus cultural festival



Gus traditional rulers and its citizens at their festival

and other illustrious sons and daughters of the larger Bassa LGA worthy to serve in his administration.

He explained that because the Gus people were mostly

particularly the need for the rehabilitation of the Zallaki-Fuskan-Mata Banda road, which is in bad condition."

While unveiling the Gus traditional attire, Dakama

we unveil the attire, we hope to emphasize the utilization of our colours to re-design it as we plan to establish a big symbol with a bold logo," he noted.

custodians, of GUNDA culture advised their people to embrace peace, saying that without peace there can never be meaningful development.

In their separate remarks, Elisha Bisidi and Dorcas Gamaji Pankyes thanked Governor Mutfwang for appointing them as Liaison Officer, Pengana Constituency, and Special Assistant, Media, respectively. They assured of their unalloyed support to his administration so as to move the state to enviable heights and promised that they would not relent in serving Gus land selflessly.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that the event featured cultural dances by the Isharuwa, Ajoh and Rilauri dance troupes and many other side attractions.



Cross section of invited guests

EYE'S WORLD

With PALANG KASMI

Living

By PALANG KASMI

NAWOJ: Touching lives through the 'Humanity First' Initiative

THE National Association of Women Journalists, NAWOJ, has put smiles on the faces of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Plateau State.

This was done during a visit to the House of Recab, a home for OVC in Jos, Plateau State, under the NAWOJ Humanity First Initiative (NAHFI).

The House of Recab was established 10 years ago to house and take care of indigent individuals and children displaced by crisis in Nigeria. Orphans in the home are mostly from the North East and Barkin Ladi Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State.

During the visit, NAWOJ National Chairperson, Aishatu Ibrahim, said the gesture was aimed at showcasing the love of Christ to humanity during the Easter celebrations.

The National Chair, represented by former National Secretary of NAWOJ, Mrs. Lucy Chindaba, said that NAWOJ was created to serve as a voice for the voiceless, protect the downtrodden and give succor to indigent and vulnerable people, especially women and children.

"The focus of NAWOJ is women and children, that we speak up for them, especially in cases where human beings are trampled upon, or their rights are being violated. NAWOJ has been able to come in, and take care of them," she said.

According to the NAWOJ chairperson, the association was playing its role not only as a professional body but as mothers who feel the pulse of children displaced and facing challenges as a result of conflict in many parts of the country.

"That is why we are thinking that as mothers, we should come in and take care of these children," the national chair said.

Wife of the founder of the home, Mrs. Marilyn Akaka, expressed happiness with the kind gesture, stressing that the move had strengthened them spiritually and physically.

Akaka further disclosed that some of the wards of the home who had excelled academically and were currently studying Medicine, Engineering and other courses in tertiary institutions all over the country. This, according to her, was a great source of encouragement and pride to them.

"Some of them have lost their fathers, mothers, uncles, and generally some of the women and girls are abducted and taken away, so we have some of



Chindaba, presenting the items



the children here, and are taking care of them," she added.

With 130 children residing in the home, Akaka said the vision to start the home was hatched by her husband whose primary desire was to train them to grow in the way of the Lord, according to Biblical teachings. She appreciated the National Chairperson and her executives for coming up with such a humanitarian initiative that has impacted greatly on their lives.

Excited by the visit, children of the home showed their appreciation to their guests through some presentations, recitation of memory verses

from the book of Psalms. Climax of the visit was the presentation of food items, drinks, detergents and toiletries to the Home.

Plateau State is not the only beneficiary of NAHFI. In a statement by the National Secretary of NAWOJ, Wasilah Ladan, the visit was initiated by the National Chairperson to have a direct impact on the lives of the indigent in the county. She said that the project had touched many lives, especially children in an orphanage in Plateau State by putting smiles on their faces.

According to her, the project is a promise kept by the national chairperson who was

Responsible (CSR) of the Association, in March 2023 in Borno State.

The initiative, according to Aisha Ibrahim, National Chairperson of (NAWOJ), is targeted at feeding both women, men, children and extended families during religious and other festivities such as Easter, Sallah and Christmas across the country.

"The initiative has been the pet project of the National Chairperson for over 20 years and she now wishes to bring it to the association as part of its corporate social responsibility to humanity," she said. Therefore, the benefits of the Humanity First Initiative, according to the national chairperson, include spiritual healing and fulfillment of one's social responsibility to the community and society at large.

The maiden event fed about 150 people and about 1000 more would be fed at the end of the exercise. Therefore, the Easter NAHFI had been done in Plateau State and Sallah in Kano while Christmas would be hosted in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

As part of the unveiling in Borno State, some Islamic clerics delivered a 30-minute lecture before breaking the Ramadan fast. Christian clerics would also be invited to do same during their own religious festivities across the nation.

NAWOJ, in the statement used the forum to enjoin all well-meaning people to key into the project, describing it as "Service to humanity."

elected this year. "Recall the program was launched in Maiduguri at the beginning of the fasting period when she hosted 150 persons to a Ramadan *Iftar*. The national chairperson, during the launching ceremony, announced that the gesture would be extended to other religious festivities.

Background of NAHFI

A statement by Wasilah Ladan, NAWOJ National Secretary signed on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 revealed that the National Secretariat of the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) unveiled NAHFI, a Corporate Social



Opinion

Nigerians caught in moments of trials

YOU do not need a soothsayer to tell you that, presently, Nigerians are in dire straits.

Access to basic needs such as food, shelter and Medicare, amongst others, has almost become a mirage. And where and when they are available, their prices have skyrocketed, making them unaffordable. It is, therefore, no exaggeration to posit that Nigerians are literally living in hell here on earth.

For a country that boasts, and rightly too, of having almost everything in terms of both human and natural resources in abundance, the situation becomes an unacceptable paradox. Feeding three times a day in most households has become practically impossible, access to Medicare is too much of a responsibility while the payment of school fees is a Herculean task.

Added to these are the bloody activities of Islamist terrorists - Boko Haram, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), etc - which have wreaked unimaginable havoc on communities all over northern Nigeria. These have been further accentuated by banditry, kidnapping for ransom and armed robbery in other parts of the country.

Insecurity in all the nooks and crannies of Nigeria has become a thriving industry so much so that the security apparatuses are simply overwhelmed. Every day, Nigerians are inundated with the news of more and more dastardly acts and atrocities committed by these heartless individuals. To say that the country has suddenly become a land overtaken by savagery is not an

By VICTOR ALI

overstatement.

But where did our country get it so wrong? Needless to say, diverse reasons have been advanced to explain why and how Nigeria walked its way into this cul-de-sac. One of the most popular reasons was given by the celebrated literary icon, the late Chinua Achebe. In his small but insightful book, *The Trouble with Nigeria*, he postulated that ours is "simply and squarely the problem of leadership."

Yes, to a large extent, that sounds reasonable. What about the followership? This certainly is subject for another discourse. However, it is awfully worrisome that corruption has eaten very deeply into almost every

fabric of the Nigerian nation. Greed, avarice and selfishness have taken the centre stage of our political space while patriotism has been relegated to the background.

The ground norms of ethics deeply rooted in other societies are sorely missing here. As a result, the concomitant repercussions of the several missed opportunities are what is bedeviling the country at the moment. Sadly, in moments of trials like this, Nigerians are quick to recoil to their cocoon of blame game. The latest being the removal of subsidy on petroleum.

No doubt, petroleum, being the mainstay of the Nigerian economy, is vital to our nation's overall existence. There is always a spiral effect on other sectors once

petroleum is tampered with. But is that the only cause of the present economic predicaments facing Nigerians?

The answer, to my mind, is an emphatic No! Before now, there have been several economic policy somersaults, fiscal and monetary policy 'abortions', budget padding and, of course, the hydra-headed monster - corruption. How then do we expect to get it right?

Interestingly, while majority of Nigerians are wallowing in abject poverty, disease, penury and want, a few individuals are shamelessly displaying their unexplained opulence through flashy cars, mansions and medical tourism, amongst other. It is simply a case of one country two nations.

While the rich are relishing in the oasis of their riches, the poor are managing their poverty and engaging in what the legendary Afro beat maestro, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, aptly referred to as "suffering and smiling."

Indeed, in moments of trials like this, a typical Nigerian has the capacity for resilience and endurance, patience and hope. But it must be pointed out that there are limits to these virtues. An implosion may set in if the leadership continues to pretend that all is well with the country and her citizens.

After all, the age-long saying that a hungry man is an angry man is still has some potency, even today. And what is the panacea? The leadership should do the needful by fashioning out workable policies which would get Nigeria and Nigerians out of this economic quagmire.

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Interestingly, while majority of Nigerians are wallowing in abject poverty, disease, penury and want, a few individuals are shamelessly displaying their unexplained opulence through flashy cars, mansions and medical tourism, amongst other. It is simply a case of one country two nations. While the rich are relishing in the oasis of their riches, the poor are managing their poverty and engaging in what the legendary Afro beat maestro, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, aptly referred to as "suffering and smiling."

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Shaibu's impeachment: History repeating itself

By KANU OBIEZU

PHILIP Shaibu has been impeached as the deputy governor of Edo State and replaced by 38-year-old Omobayo Godwin. He has declared his impeachment illegal, but until a court of law follows suit, such a declaration would remain beyond his fiat as an erstwhile deputy governor.

In Nigerian politics, the heads that are reared up too soon are swiftly cut off and served in style as the prize for ambition in a gathering of power.

Since he indicated his intention to become governor, he has become the number one enemy to power in the state. Godwin Obaseki, the governor, has been open in his opposition to Shaibu's bid. Obaseki's grouse that Shaibu did not tell him, has quickly become fierce opposition to his bid in all respects. It is a

strange case of a governor State spilled into public being in the opposition disagreement is a remaking together with the legislature, of the impossible remit of the all arrayed in battle against Nigerian deputy governor. An one man.

Snippets from Shaibu's side of the story, which have come more out of compulsion than actual consternation or contempt, betray feelings of betrayal. Having sunk his resources into a joint ticket, he feels he should now be the first name on what is a testament to its success story. But that is not how things work. In the cut-throat world of Nigerian politics, loyalty is often a knife sharpened for one's back.

What iniquitous offence did Shaibu commit to impel his impeachment? What has changed to make a pariah out of a man who has claimed to have bankrolled elections in 2016 and has not been challenged?

Shaibu's fate sealed from the moment private disaffection over the next governor of Edo

State spilled into public disagreement is a remaking of the impossible remit of the Nigerian deputy governor. An office hamstrung by the Constitution itself is often made impossible by the clownish tendencies of governors who act like emperors, and crave control of everything.

What is happening in Edo State is history repeating itself. In 2010, as President Musa Yar'Adua dangled between life and death from the threads of a terminal illness, his closest aides and family members cared less than to check his inevitable replacement by the vice president to the office. This was until death checked them all.

Imo, Lagos, Osun, Akwa Ibom and Bauchi have all been impeached for farcical offences. It is a battle that is never far away from government is with the prudent question being wherenext.

It is disruptive that a governor should spend his last days in office orchestrating the impeachment of his deputy rather than consolidating his legacy.

The clearest lesson for Shaibu and other deputy governors may yet be that in a duel of big dogs, it is impolitic to show sharp teeth.

"What is happening in Edo State is history repeating itself. In 2010, as President Musa Yar'Adua dangled between life and death from the threads of a terminal illness, his closest aides and family members cared less for the president's survival than to check his inevitable replacement by the vice president to the office. This was until death checked them all."

There is also a sense in which those who have treated Shaibu so shabbily are heedless and reckless students of history.

Edo voters recognised a system synthesised to oppress and deployed their voter power to foil it. They may yet queue behind Shaibu as he seeks to shame his executive and legislative oppressors. But before they can, Shaibu may have to leave the PDP lest fortune

tramples cowards underfoot fails to foil his fate.

Culled from Daily Trust

Sports



Governor Nutfwang presenting trophy to the winners

Team Mangu clinches Plateau State Governor's Cup

From
**PETER TITLE
AND ANDRE BISYIT,
Mangu**

TEAM Mangu of Mangu Local Government Area, LGA, of Plateau State last Saturday lifted the 2023 Governor's Cup, defeating Team Jos North Local Government Council by a lone goal.

The finals, which was played at the Mangu Mini Stadium under a heavy downpour, saw Team Mangu scoring the lone goal during the first half of play under the watchful eyes of dignitaries from all walks of lives.

Determined to equalize during the second half, the Jos North team mounted pressure but were not lucky as the game ended 1-0 in favour of Team Mangu.

Presenting the trophy to the winners, Governor Caleb Nutfwang commended the local governments for participating in the showdown, saying hidden

talents had been discovered. He urged all teams to see Plateau as the ultimate winner of the competition, promising that next year's edition would be better in all facets.

While observing a minute's silence in honour of the innocent people recently killed in parts of Mangu and Bokkos LGAs, Governor Nutfwang promised to improve and build more sporting facilities in the state.

He splashed the winners with N3 million while each player was promised 10 bags of fertilizer. Team Jos North, who emerged second, received N2 million and five bags of fertilizer for each player, and Team Shendam, who placed third, went home with N1.5 million with three bags of fertilizer for each player.

Hon Suleiman Yahaya Kwande, Chairman, Plateau State Football Association, PFA, expressed gratitude to Governor Nutfwang for giving them the support to succeed.

He maintained that even though they were elected only six months ago, they had been working tirelessly to fulfill their vision and mission of building a sustainable football culture for the state.

He stressed that the venue of the final was conceived even before the knock-out stages in fulfillment of their promise of taking football to the grassroots and to also let the whole world know that peace had returned to the Mangu LGA.

He further disclosed that they had organised series of youth development programmes, including the Plateau State Under-13, 15 and 17 football tournaments, both for males and females, the Speaker's Cup and the ALGON Cup, amongst others, and commended Governor Nutfwang's pragmatic leadership style which had resulted in series of infrastructural development.

From
ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

MKYROC wins Ramadan football tourney

MKYROC Football Academy, Wunti Bauchi, have lifted the trophy of the 2024 third edition of the annual Ramadan fasting football competition which kicked off on the first day of the commencement of fasting.

The competition was initially organized and sponsored by Coach Hafizu Barde in 2021 with 8 football teams drawn from Bauchi metropolis.

Sixteen teams featured in this year's tourney, which was the third edition.

The final match, which kicked-off at 4 pm, was between Lion Zamad Kobi Football Club of Bauchi and MKYROC Academy Wunti Bauchi. It took place behind the Open Air Theater playground, along Chris Abutu Garuba Road Bauchi and saw the home team, Lion Zamad, taking the kick-off.

Both teams started like hungry lions but all efforts to register early goals proved abortive as several attempts by both sides missed their targets.

Fifteen minutes later MKYROC Academy took total control of the game, displaying soccer skills which demoralized Lion Zamad.

Twenty-five minutes into play, Abubakar Ibrahim Dune registered the opening goal for MKYROC Academy and the first stanza ended 0-1 in favour of the visiting MKYROC.

On resumption, Lion Zamad



Muhammed

seemed to have been instructed not to allow the MKYROC Academy settle until they equalized. They aggressively penetrated the defence box of the Academy several times but to no avail.

Abubakar Dune of MKYROC increased the tally when he scored the second goal 78 minutes into play and sealed the fate of Lion Zamad when he registered the third goal in the 88th minute. The match ended 0-3 in favour of MKYROC Academy.

In an interview shortly after

the presentation of the trophy to the winning team, the MKYROC FC Chief Coach, Musa Ali, expressed gratitude to God for giving his team the opportunity to win the competition.

He said, "From the pitch to the hearts of orphans our football club, named in honour of MKYROC Bauchi, lifted the Ramadan Cup trophy but the greatest achievement is to put smiles to the faces of our children, applauding their compassion and team work."

2026 World Cup: Nigeria to battle Benin Republic

FOR their 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers match day four clash, Nigeria will face the Benin Republic inside the Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, Soccer.net.ng reports.

As hosts of the encounter, Benin were looking to trade tackles with the Super Eagles at their national stadium, the 35,000-capacity Stade de l'Amitie in Cotonou.

However, the Benin Football Federation could not convince the Confederation of African Football, CAF, that the facility could host a match of that magnitude.

As a result, the Benin FF has been forced to move the gameweek four tie to neighbouring Cote d'Ivoire, where they will hope to have enough local support to inspire

them to a memorable win over Nigeria.

Interestingly, the Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium in Abidjan is familiar territory to the Super Eagles.

Nigeria played three of their seven games at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations earlier this year at the stadium, winning all three while scoring four goals and conceding none.

The Super Eagles' first game at the venue was a 1-0 win over Guinea-Bissau in their last group match on January 22 before shooting down Cameroon 2-0 in the first knockout round five days later.

The same stadium hosted the quarterfinals meeting between Nigeria and Angola, which the Super Eagles edged by the slimmest of winning margins.

It is noteworthy that Atalanta

forward Ademola Lookman is Nigeria's chief butcher at this famous slaughter slab, as he scored three of Nigeria's four goals there.

Before facing Benin, Nigeria will have their work cut out against AFCON bronze medalist South Africa also in June.

The two nations, who met in a gripping tie at the semifinals of the continental championship, will go again for each other's jugular at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium, Uyo, on Friday, June 7.

It is a must-win clash for Nigeria as the Super Eagles are yet to record a victory in the qualifiers after they only managed to draw their opening two games against Lesotho and Zimbabwe.

EPL Table

Rank	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Man City	32	22	7	3	76	32	44	73
2	Arsenal	32	20	5	5	75	26	49	71
3	Liverpool	32	21	8	3	72	31	41	71
4	Aston Villa	33	19	6	8	68	49	19	63
5	Tottenham	32	18	6	8	65	49	16	60
6	Newcastle	32	15	5	12	69	52	17	50
7	Man United	32	15	5	12	47	48	-1	50
8	West Ham	33	13	9	11	52	58	-6	48
9	Chelsea	31	13	8	10	61	52	9	47
10	Brighton	32	11	11	10	52	50	2	44
11	Wolves	32	12	7	13	46	51	-5	43
12	Fulham	33	12	6	15	49	51	-2	42
13	Bournemouth	32	11	9	12	47	57	-10	42
14	Crystal Palace	32	8	9	15	37	54	-17	33
15	Brentford	33	8	8	17	47	58	-11	32
16	Everton	32	9	8	15	32	48	-16	27
17	Notm Forest	33	7	9	17	42	58	-16	28
18	Luton Town	33	6	7	20	46	70	-24	25
19	Burney	33	4	8	21	33	68	-35	20
20	Sheffield United	32	3	7	22	30	64	-34	16



Super Eagles



By **CHRIS GYANG**

FEW political leaders in present-day Nigeria have had the privilege of influencing and benefitting from the Buhari dispensation the way Nasiru Ahmed El-Rufai did. Not until recently, though.

Buhari had in a nationwide broadcast directed that only the N200 notes would continue to be legal tender till April 10, 2023, while the old N500 and N1,000 would no longer be accepted in accordance with an earlier order by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

arrested by the authorities and convicted, it is not an issue. What the Fulani never forgets is when he is innocently targeted and killed and the authorities do nothing. He will never forget and he will come back for revenge. This is it."

FRAGMENT

"Only a month or two earlier, this same Rufai had been one of the closest allies of the president. Their bond was extraordinarily unique because it was strengthened by their shared primeval impulses of tribe and religion. How duplicitous politicians can be!"

CHRIS GYANG

Portrait of Tinubu's disgraced hatchet man (I)

In most of the last eight years that he was governor with his kinsman, Buhari, as president, El-Rufai carried on in the true tradition of those core northern political elite who sufficiently believe they own Nigeria.

No wonder, Bola Ahmed Tinubu (the infamous *Emi Iekan* exponent), conscripted him to serve as one of the key hatchet men in leading the campaign towards his emergence as president.

What are El-Rufai's true colours? What are some of his antecedents and why was he bellyaching that time about a sinister plot from within the APC to deny him his heart's desire of making Tinubu president?

Perhaps by gaining little insights into the temperament and character of this man, we may be able to get a greater understanding of the individual he so tenaciously rooted for - President Tinubu.



El-Rufai

On February 5, 2019, El-Rufai went on national television to issue a rather morbid threat to foreigners who may want to 'meddle' in that year's general elections. The United States, European Union and the United Kingdom had expressed doubts about the credibility of the polls. President Buhari had just sacked the Chief Justice of the Federation, Walter Onoghen, under very murky circumstances.

The US, EU and the UK saw that as an affront on the independence of the judiciary. So did local rights groups, other political parties and organisations which drew the attention of the international community to this arrant disregard for the separation of powers and due process.

But El-Rufai fumed: "Those that are calling for anyone to come and intervene in Nigeria, we are waiting for the person that would come and intervene, they would go back in body bags."

Yet, it was this same El-Rufai that threatened brimstone and fire because of what he and their supporters perceived as President Buhari's disobedience of a Supreme Court order regarding the currency swap introduced prior the APC presidential primaries.

PM NEWS reported on February 17, 2023: "Kaduna State Governor, Nasiru Ahmed El-Rufai has attacked President Muhammadu Buhari for flagrantly violating the Supreme Court's order that the old notes should remain legal tender pending the determination of the case before it."

But El-Rufai issued this counter order in a statewide broadcast: "For the avoidance of doubt, all the old and new notes shall remain in use as legal tender in Kaduna State until the Supreme Court of Nigeria decides otherwise. I therefore appeal to all residents of Kaduna State to continue to use the old and new notes side by side without any fear."

Only a month or two earlier, this same Rufai had been one of the closest allies of the president. Their bond was extraordinarily unique because it was strengthened by their shared primeval impulses of tribe and religion. How duplicitous politicians can be!

On July 15, 2012, at precisely 7.51 PM, El-Rufai tweeted this insidious threat in response to the crisis in Plateau State between his Fulani kinsmen and indigenous communities: "We will write this for all to read. Anyone, soldier or not, that kills the Fulani, takes a loan repayable one day no matter how long it takes."

Once again, that disturbing warning rattled Nigerians, even his own Fulani tribesmen on whose behalf he thought he was writing as it portrayed them as an unforgiving and violent people. Which was why, on May 6, 2021, he was still pressured to clarify that potentially inflammable statement during a webinar organised by the Africa Leadership Group.

Still, he was unrepentant: "If a Fulani man dies in war, it is different. If a Fulani man is

It is this extremist posturing by political leaders and elite such as El-Rufai that the fiery Bishop Hassan Kukah was referring to when he warned: "Today, in Nigeria, the noble religion of Islam has convulsed. It has become associated with some of the worst fears among our people..."

"This is because, in all of this, neither Islam nor the north can identify any real benefits from these years that have been consumed by the locusts that this government has unleashed on our country. The Fulani, his innocent kinsmen, have become the subject of opprobrium, ridicule, calumny and obloquy."

Notwithstanding, the then governor of Kaduna State had made a final declaration on retributive justice. But from whose perspective and in whose interest? Pray, does retaliation for continuously and deliberately grazing your cattle on a poor subsistence farmer's mature crops constitute an injustice to you?

And are the wanton killings, destroying the possessions of indigenous peoples, sacking them and occupying their ancestral lands proportionate to the supposed injustice done the Fulani? Those who have lost countless loved ones, the wounded and dispossessed all over the country who have tasted, and are still experiencing, that raw and brutal brand of justice still seek answers to these questions.

However, Mr. El-Rufai once again resorted to this ruse of an

eye for an eye to justify and make light some of the most horrendous acts of brigandage visited on citizens in recent times. He explained away the Fulani aggression against the indigenous peoples of Southern Kaduna as retaliation for crimes committed against them.

In December 2016, he claimed, "Many of these [Fulani] people were killed, cattle lost and they organised and came back to revenge. We got a group of people that were going round, trying to trace some of these people from Cameroon, Niger Republic and so on to tell them that there is a new governor who is Fulani like them and has no problem paying compensations for lives lost and he is begging you to stop the killing."

What the governor was trying to tell the world was that, first, the Fulani attacking the indigenous communities were also on revenge missions which, as we have seen above, was justified; two, they were mainly from neighbouring West African countries known to El-Rufai and his government; three, the government was now begging them to stop the mayhem because one of them, a Fulani man, had become governor; and four, they were paid monetary reparations for the wrongs done them and their cattle.

The Senator representing Southern Kaduna at the time, Danjuma La'ah, picked holes in the governor's position. He maintained that at no time were the Fulani and their cattle from Mali, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Senegal killed in Southern Kaduna.

He said: "This is silly and an absurd lie. Southern Kaduna is not a junction of these countries. So how could they have all converged on Southern Kaduna on their usual migration back home? The governor just invented this lie to make excuse for his imported murderous Fulani kindred to continue their extermination of our people and the occupation of our lands."

As a result, Southern Kaduna remained a simmering cauldron of violence when El-Rufai was governor, with the indigenous communities largely at the receiving end. In fact, due to what was seen as the governor's failure to equitably address the Southern Kaduna massacres, the national body of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), the umbrella organisation of all lawyers in the country, withdrew an invitation

to him as one of its key speakers at its 2020 annual general conference.

VANGUARD (August 20, 2020) reported that some lawyers on social media had condemned the inclusion of El-Rufai as one of the key speakers while human rights lawyer, Femi Falana, in a letter to the chair of the planning committee, called for his name to be struck off the list of speakers over the Southern Kaduna crisis.

"He [Falana] had also pleaded with the committee not to give its platform to someone who has a penchant for promoting impunity," **VANGUARD** added.

Writing in **TODAY'S CHALLENGE** magazine (November 2022), J.M. Ade-Zaky, a Southern Kaduna man who was school mate with El-Rufai at Barewa College, Zaria, in 1974, disclosed that majority of their people deliberately refused to vote for El-Rufai in 2019.

"They voted the opposition party, probably due to the uncanny intuition that both he and his principal in Aso Rock would not be fair to them judging from antecedents," he explained.

So, the governor took exception to this mass revolt that he assumed office "with a vengeance against [the people of] Southern Kaduna." Here we go again, talking about vengeance. But it appears that we cannot avoid repeatedly coming back to this theme. Mr. Ade-Zaky dug up an incident that may explain this dark streak in the governor's nature.

"In his autobiographical narrative, *The Accidental Public Servant*," Ade-Zaky wrote, "Nasiru Ahmad El-Rufai... tells an intriguing incident that unwittingly betrays his vindictive and unforgiving character, even as a youngster in primary school."

In the book, he narrated how he tormented a bully called Sunday into total submission. Sunday had the misfortune of beating the diminutive boy on his first day at the LEA Primary School, Kawo, Kaduna.

He subjected Sunday to vicious and systematic physical and psychological violence and torture, even after he had apologized following the separate interventions of the class and head teachers, for more than three months. "Peace finally came when Sunday's father met with El-Rufai's uncle and pleaded a cease fire," Ade-Zaky said.