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Website address: <http://thenigeristandard.ng>
Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

From prison to The Presidency. This sums up Bassirou Diomaye Faye's travails and ultimate climb to power as Senegal's new leader. The 44-year-old president, the youngest in that country's annals, was released from prison on March 14, 2024.

Ten days later, he swept to victory on a popular wave of change - largely driven by equally youthful voters who had become disenchanted with the status quo.

The West-African sub-region, the Sahel and Northeast Africa have witnessed disruptions in democratic governance for close to a decade now. The military coups in Mali in 2020 and 2021 were followed by those in Chad, Guinea and Sudan in 2021, with two more in Burkina Faso in

Front page comment

January and September 2022. The army also struck in Niger and Gabon in 2023.

These grim statistics left little room for hope as the military suffocated democracy and trampled upon all forms of human rights. But coming on the heels of the January 22, 2024, peaceful hand

Minister and candidate of the ruling coalition, Amadou Ba, in the first-round. His predecessor, Macky Sall, had incurred the wrath of citizens when he ordered the arrest of hundreds of opposition supporters in 2021 when their veteran leader, Ousmane Sanko, started his standoff with the authorities.

Those nationwide unrests led to some fatalities as security forces cracked down on protesters. That chaos precipitated Sall's decision to

shift the presidential vote to December, which plunged the country into its worst political crisis in decades. Political commentators believe that he sought to hold on to power after the expiration of his two-term tenure.

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From Senegal, a breath of fresh air

over of power to the democratically elected government of Joseph Boakai in Liberia, the latest transition from Macky Sall to Faye in Senegal is indeed a very invigorating breath of fresh air.

Despite the fact that he never held any political office in the past, Faye beat former Prime

Two killed, houses burnt as Benue boils

At least two people were killed in a fresh communal crisis which broke out at North Bank, a suburb of Makurdi metropolis in Benue State.

Many houses were burnt and residents sustained injuries when fighting broke out between Tiv and Jukun natives on Sunday and Monday.

Commander of a local vigilante known as Operation Shara (Sweep) in North Bank, Nura Umar, told our correspondent that two

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Christian faithful during the annual Jos Easter rally organised by the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Plateau State Branch, on Monday
Photo: YAKUBU KANGHA



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News

Two killed, houses burnt as Benue boils

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persons who were involved in menial jobs were killed in the heat of the crisis.

Umar said, "It's really bad. Many houses were burnt in Agatashi community at the river bank of old bridge around timber shade and abattoir side. It's a fight between Jukun and Tiv."

"Two persons selling things on wheelbarrow were victims of the crisis. They were caught and killed. On Sunday, two people were shot while in church. They didn't die; they are in the hospital."

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Benue, SP Catherine Anene, did not yet respond to calls put through her telephone as at the time of filing this report.



Alia

Operatives of the Adamawa State Police Command have arrested a suspected kidnapper identified as Roland Raymond.

The command disclosed this via its X handle.

According to information by the command, Raymond, a resident of Detti village, Ganye Local Government Area, was nabbed while attempting to collect ransom.

The Adamawa police also said that the 32-year-old suspect was apprehended with the collaborative efforts of hunters.

The statement read, "The Adamawa State Police Command has arrested one Roland

Kidnapper arrested during ransom collection

Raymond, 32 years, a resident of Detti village, Ganye LGA, for the offence of criminal intimidation associated with kidnapping.

"The suspect was arrested following a report by Alhaji Yahaya Congo and Abraham Paul, who stated that the suspect called them via phone and demanded the sum of N600,000 risk being kidnapped."

"Upon receipt of the complaints, the police in Ganye Division, in collaboration with hunters, swiftly mobilised

and arrested the suspect at the point of collecting the demanded money.

"The suspect will be charged to court after investigation."

This is the second time in the space of two months, that security agents would arrest kidnappers at the point of collecting ransom.

In February, troops from 93 Battalion under 6 Brigade of the Nigerian Army nabbed a suspected notorious female kidnapper, Janet Igohia in Taraba state in the same manner.

The troops said Igohia

was arrested while trying to pick up a ransom paid by relatives of an abducted victim in Taraba.



Egbetokun

Troops free nine kidnap victims in Delta

It was a huge relief for the families of some abducted Delta residents on Monday, as the Joint Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta, Operation Delta Safe rescued nine kidnap victims abducted by armed gunmen on March 29 along Ugheli-Patani axis of the East-West road.

Rear Admiral John Okeke, Commander of the joint military force deployed to Niger Delta, confirmed the development to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday night.

Okeke said that 10 suspected kidnappers were arrested during the rescue of the victims who included an NYSC member and a Navy rating.

"In continuation to ensure safety of lives and property in the Niger Delta Region, the gallant troops of the Joint Task Force South South Operation Delta Safe (OPDS), comprising troops of Quick Response Force (QRF) of Headquarters OPDS, Land, Maritime and Air Components on Monday, April 1, 2024, rescued nine

kidnap victims.

"The freed victims were kidnapped on 29 March 2024, along Patani-Ugheli Road in Delta State.

"During the rescue operation, 10 suspects in connection with the kidnap incident were arrested. Amongst the rescued victims is a Naval Rating and an NYSC member," Okeke said.

The JTF Commander subsequently warned criminal elements within the Niger Delta region to desist from their nefarious

activities as there will be no safe haven for them in the region as troops will not leave any stone unturned in ensuring a conducive environment for the safety of lives and properties.

Okeke also commended the troops for their gallantry and efforts in the rescue operation.

He urged the general public to always provide useful information to security agencies on criminal activities within their communities.

Suspected herdsmen abduct 2 varsity students

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

TWO students of the Federal University, Wukari, Taraba State, were abducted late Monday night at the school premises by suspected Fulani herdsmen.

The institution's Chief Security Officer, Sule Gani, confirmed the incident yesterday, saying that the male and female students had graduated

but stayed behind to remedy some of their courses.

According to him, the incident occurred around 11pm within the school premises.

Gani added that the two students had gone out to purchase something "and some suspected Fulani took them away."

The Nigeria Standard made efforts to reach the Taraba State police spokesman but he did not answer his phone.

We'll pursue gender issues until discriminatory practices cease -Dazyam

By JIDAUNA DARING

CHAIRPERSON, Gender and Equal Opportunities Commission (GEOC), Plateau State, Barrister Olivia Dazyam, has reaffirmed the organisation's readiness to vigorously pursue gender cases until discriminatory practices, abuses and violations are reduced to the barest minimum in the state.

Dazyam, who was represented by the Director, Programmes and Public Complaints of

the commission, Mr. Gideon Poki, stated this at a one-day seminar organized by the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), to commemorate the 2024 International Women's Day held at CSDA hall, Rayfield Road, Jos, recently.

She explained that, in line with their mandate, they were deeply troubled by the growing cases of violations and abuses which, if left unchecked, would be breeding grounds for negative social practices in the state.

She called on the media, parents, guardians, security agencies, traditional rulers, critical stakeholders, public and private organizations as well as religious leaders to partner with them to make Plateau State free from all harmful and dangerous cultural and patriarchal practices.

Chairman of the occasion, Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Plateau State, Mrs. Caroline Dafur, who was

represented by the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mr. Alex Anlong, commended NAWOJ for being the voice of the voiceless in the society, particularly women and the girl-child.

She noted that the

ministry was interested in investing in the women and stressed that investing in women accelerated social development.

Earlier in her welcome remarks, NAWOJ Chairman, Plateau State

Chapter, Mrs. Nene Dung, disclosed that the International Women's Day was celebrated annually not only to draw attention to the plight of women but celebrate the contributions made by women all over the world.

Dung maintained that it was members' responsibility to accord attention to women's issues in the media space in order to create awareness through putting out the relevant information.

Treat your wives as you treat yourself

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan

THE Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Is'haq Oloyede, has advised Muslim men to treat their wives the same way they treat themselves.

He added that they should treat their wives as their equals, with respect, kindness and fairness.

The former Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin, made these calls while delivering this year's National Ramadan Lecture of the Muslim Association of Nigeria (MAN), Ibadan branch, at the weekend.

Oloyede, while speaking on the topic, 'The Man in Woman: An Exploration of the Responsibility of Muslim Male in the

Emancipation of Womanhood,' said that one of the most valuable deeds a man could do is to treat his wife in a way that transforms him into a virtuous person.

The JAMB registrar explained that this could be achieved when a man understands his wife's behaviour and desires.

"Provide accommodation for your family, the same style as your own," he pointing, adding that "The Holy Prophet Muhammad urged us to feed them as we also feed."

Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, in his speech, commended religious groups for keeping the peace in the state.

The governor, who was represented by his Special Assistant on

Islamic Affairs, Alhaji AbdRasheed AbdAzeez, said the understanding and harmony existing among groups had banished religious acrimony from the state.

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, in a

remark, described the topic of the lecture as a vital one that could not have come at a more auspicious time.

He advised states interested in establishing Sharia courts not to hesitate to apply to the Federal Government for permission.



Dazyam



Oloyede

NEWS

PEPSA flags off evacuation of township drainages

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

PLATEAU Environmental Protection and Sanitation Agency (PEPSA) has commenced desilting of blocked drainage systems in the Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

The exercise was flagged-off around the ECWA Goodnews, Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos, where makeshift structures were removed to make way for clearing the blocked drainages.

PEPSA Director-General, Samuel Nathaniel Dapiya, revealed that the agency had engaged additional staff to assist in the exercise which would last 10 days.

According to him, the campaign was taking place preparatory to the onset of the rains to ensure free flow of water in drainages to prevent incidences of flash floods within the Jos and Bukuru environs.

Dapiya also called on citizens, particularly the youth, to take ownership of



Mutfwang

the exercise by mobilizing friends, neighbours and groups to clear drainages, stressing that their obstruction could impact negatively on the environment.

The General Manager of the Jos Metropolitan Development

Board, Hard Dankat, described the exercise as timely, considering the indiscriminate dumping of waste which was capable of causing floods.

Govt. engages stakeholders in implementation of free education

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

IN its efforts to restore the lost glory of education in Kogi State, the state government has engaged with critical stakeholders to brainstorm on the effective implementation of education laws and policies.

The Commissioner for Education, Wemi Jones, disclosed this at the stakeholders' meeting with parents and principals of public secondary schools held recently at Government House, Lokoja.

The stakeholders included the All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS), Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs) and the Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools (ASUSS), among others.

Jones explained that the initiative was driven by the commitment and determination of Governor Ahmed Ododo to give education a pride of place in the state.

"We have to come together to discuss and chart a way forward in line with the thinking of our governor so that we can manage education on a sustainable basis," he said.

He noted that the immediate past governor, Alhaji Yahaya Bello, had

recorded significant milestones in the education sector, stressing that the present governor was building on that foundation.

The ANCOPPS President, Kogi chapter, Mr. Suberu Omananyi, appreciated the commissioner for the meeting, saying that it was timely and commended the state government for revamping education at all levels through infrastructural and human resources development.

NSCDC uncovers firearms factory in Abuja

From JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja

THE Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) said it has uncovered a firearms manufacturing factory in Abuja and arrested seven suspects during the operation.

According to the corps, the suspects were manufacturing semi-automatic rifles and pistols around the National Stadium when they were arrested.

A statement in Abuja by the spokesman of the NSCDC, Babawale Afolabi, explained that the arrest followed a tip-off and a credible intelligence information.

The suspects are Amos Iyawa - 29, Jonah Manaseh - 27, Ezekiel Nannim - 20, Naifa Pandora - 26, Faith Gadang and Philemon Karam - 26.

The statement added: "From confessional statements volunteered by the suspects, we gathered that Amos Iyawa is the leader of the team and that he recruited others to participate as manufacturers of the rifles."

Items recovered were 5 already fabricated rifles, 1 pistol, 1 unfinished rifle, 7 empty cartridges, 2 boots, rods and welding machine, among others.

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

TARABA State Governor, Dr. Agbu Kefas, has approved the sum of N1 billion for the payment of backlog of gratuities to retired workers.

The Nigeria Standard gathered that the last payments were made in 2011, 13 years ago.

A statement by the Special Adviser, Media and Digital Communications, to the Governor, Emmanuel Bello, said that the governor, while signing the approval, directed the Ministry of Finance to ensure immediate payments of the overdue entitlements.

He regretted the delays and assured that his government would not abandon workers who had served their fatherland diligently.

He said, "Apart from the initial one billion Naira, the governor also approved that a sum of 200 million be set aside each month to offset the backlog and continue the payments."

"It would be recalled that Dr. Agbu Kefas, during his campaign, promised to

Gov. Kefas approves N1bn for gratuity payments



Kefas

offset pensions and gratuity in spite of the huge backlog."

The governor noted that it was wrong to deny workers who had slaved over the years their

entitlements and pointed out that his government would continue to service and make prompt payments of salaries, pensions and gratuities.

SFH admonishes women on child-spacing

From EZEKIEL DONTINNA, Mangu

spacing to ensure a better and healthier future.

The Social Behavioural Change and

Communication (SBCC) Officer, Delivering Innovation in Self Care DISC Project, Society for Family Health (SFH), Asanato Joyce Isaac, gave

the advice while on a sensitisation tour to Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau recently.

She disclosed that the self-care intervention was meant to empower women to take charge of their reproductive health to reduce the pressure on them and health workers.

Commending the Society for Family Health, the Director of Primary Health Care, Mangu Local Government Area, Mrs. Martha Hassan, said women now had no excuse to avoid child-spacing, knowing what the intervention meant to their health.

She added that since health workers had been trained on empathy-based counselling to support women in their self-injection journey, there was need for them to learn and discover their potentials by fully participating in order to develop themselves.

On his part, the Social Mobilisation Officer of Mangu Local Government Health Authority, Mr. James Tambes, reiterated the need for women to make a difference in their lives by appreciating the intervention to enjoy the benefits.

The sensitization tour was organised by the Society for Family Health, Delivering Innovation in Self-Care Project (DISC) in partnership with Plateau State Primary Health Care Board and the Mangu LGA Health Authority to mark the 2024 edition of the International Women's Day.

Alia charges BSIEC on free, fair, credible LG polls

Chairman and members of the Commission.

He urged them to immediately commence the processes for the conduct of local government council elections in the state and assured them of government's commitment to uphold the independence of the Commission.

"I entrust upon you the responsibility of ensuring the consolidation of democracy at this vital level by conducting elections that are free, fair credible and accurate reflecting the will and aspirations of the people of Benue. Our people deserve nothing less than a system where their voices are heard through their votes."

"I want to assure you of government's commitment to upholding the independence of the Benue state Independent Electoral Commission (BSIEC). You can count on the full support of government in the discharge of your duties," the governor assured.

While thanking members of the state electoral umpire for accepting to serve, Governor Alia implored them to consider the crucial role they would play in laying the foundation for democracy in the state, especially as local government councils and

council wards serve as primary interface between government and the people.

He called on the people to join hands with the Commission to ensure the success of the democratic process.

Responding, chairman of the commission, Dr. John Chen, said they understood the duties of their offices and yearnings of the people of Benue state.

While promising not to disappoint them, he disclosed that they had a very clear vision of what was expected of them.

Those inaugurated were Dr. John Chen, Chairman, and Terhemem Shom, Theodore Iordye, Aikighe Deva, Isaac Edache, Gloria Clement and Peter Ogagbolo as members.



Alia

News

Easter Road mishap: FRSC confirms 13 deaths

From
AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), has confirmed that 13 persons died while 2 others were critically injured in an automobile accident which occurred at about 7:30 pm on Easter day at Obajana Market, Kogi State.

Samuel Oyedeji, Kogi State Sector Commander of the FRSC, who confirmed the accident, said the accident involved a commercial Sharon bus and an articulated cement truck.

He added that the bus had parked by the market so that some passengers would alight when the cement truck experienced brake failure and rammed into it from behind.

"As soon as the truck rammed into the bus, it immediately went up in flames and burnt virtually all the passengers inside it, in addition to two trucks and a motorcycle," he explained.

The bus was reportedly heading to Abuja from the



Oyedeji

southern part of the country.

The FRSC boss added: "Our personnel, who were on rescue operations with Red Cross Nigeria and police officers, couldn't save the situation due to the fierceness of the fire.

"But the charred remains of the affected persons were collected while the two injured persons have been taken to Fisayo Hospital, Obajana for

medical attention."

He expressed worry that no hospital in Kogi agreed to take the charred bodies which might force the authorities to give them a mass burial if no relations come to claim them.

The sector commander, who described the incident as "Very sad and unfortunate," cautioned motorists against speeding and poor maintenance of vehicles.

North Central PDP poised to reclaim national chairmanship

By **PETER TITLE**

THERE are strong indications that the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the North Central Zone is poised to reclaim the National Chairmanship of the party, following the ousting of the former Chairman, Professor Iyorchia Ayu.

This followed a meeting of the North Central Zone of the party led by Honorable Theophilus Dakas Shan, Plateau State PDP Chairman, Chris Hassan, and other national officers held at the behest of the Plateau State Governor, Barrister

Caleb Mutfwang, at the state Liaison Office, Abuja recently.

According to Shan, despite the hiccups faced in the past, the zone had regrouped, re-strategized and now speaks with one voice in anticipation of recapturing the National Chairmanship of the Party, as they proposed June this year for the National Convention.

The National Vice Chairman, while congratulating Mutfwang on his well-deserved victory, urged him to be a leader for all and commiserated with the governor over the killings of innocent people that

occurred in some local government areas of the state.

Responding, Governor Mutfwang applauded the dedication and steadfast support of the PDP officials in the zone which, he said, was promoting unity in the party.

According to him, the zone remained a stronghold of the party since its inception, attributing it to its ideology which had impacted positively on the people.

He expressed gratitude to the zonal officials for their commitment during the 2023 general elections, assuring them that their support would not go unrecognised.

Guest Writer

Today, things are hard

Continued from page 20

MUCH as we try to pretend, persecution is rife in our country through brutal and subtle means whether by outright denials of basic rights or threats and blackmail. In all this, we cling to the words of the great song, Onward Christian soldiers which says, Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the Church of Jesus constant will remain. Those who preach a discounted Christianity, focusing on quick solutions, miracles, drama and theatre, claiming that we were not born to suffer, suggesting that we were destined for prosperity, must choose between their cross-less Christianity and a Christ-less cross of human suffering which tyrants often afflict their people. Both have no salvific value.

Today, things are hard. Really very hard in Nigeria. I see it on the faces of our people every day. We are in one of the most difficult phases of our national life. But we are not alone. However, I am optimistic that our country will heal from the scars of hunger and destitution, that the wounds of physical and psychological violence will heal.

But, first, we Christians must wake up to our duties and responsibilities of what it is to be Christian as an individual, a family, a community or in public life. There are tough times ahead. Politics alone will not change the fate of our country, neither will all the right economic policies or positive ratings by the world's agencies.

We need to do more. Nigeria has lost its soul and the evidence lies before us all. The mindless corruption and debauchery in high places is merely a symptom of a deeper rot. It is not the real disease. We must recover our lost soul. Christians cannot discount our high moral values simply because, this is Nigeria and, things are hard or everyone is doing this or that. With nothing but the moral force of faith in the risen Jesus, 11 semi-illiterate men, pursued by the roman authorities, finally converted the empire itself. If you doubt the force of true believers, think again. Not by power nor by might, but by my spirit, the Lord says.

The evil that we see around us is a consequence not a cause. We have relied on tools of social sciences to create all kinds of doomsday scenarios about the impending end of Nigeria. In the 90s, the pessimists told us that we were on the road to Rwanda. Time passed

and we never got to Rwanda. Then the experts wrote so many opinion and editorial articles claiming that rather than Rwanda, we were heading for Somalia.

We have arrived at none of these destinations not due to poor map reading but due to superficial and scaremongering reading of history and analysis of social dynamics of society. Faith renews a people and a nation. St Paul said it all: To have faith is to be sure of the things that we hope for, to be certain about the things we cannot see.....No one can please God without faith (Heb. 11:1,6). I leave you with four points to ponder on.

First, the Federal Government must come up with a robust template for how it wishes to reverse and put us on a path of national healing. This must include a deliberate policy of inclusion that will drastically end the immoral culture of nepotism. The government must design a more comprehensive and wide-ranging method of recruitment that is transparent as a means of generating patriotism and reversing the ugly face of feudalism and prebendalism.

There is need for a clear communications strategy that will serve to inspire and create time-lines of expectations of results from policies. There is need for clarity over questions of the Who, What, When, and How national set goals are to be attained and who can be held accountable. This will take us away from the current communications-by-announcement-of-appointments policies as if this is all that government is doing.

Second, the notion of rejigging the security architecture is a hackneyed cliché that is now at best, an oxymoron. It is difficult to fathom our current situation regarding the ubiquity of the military in our national life. It is impossible to explain how we can say we are in a civilian Democracy with the military literally looking like an army of occupation with an octopus-like spread across all the 36 states and Abuja. This has very serious consequences both for its professionalism, its integrity and perceived role in protecting society.

No other person than the immediate past Chief of Defense Staff, General Lucky Irabor, who recently referred to the military as facing the dilemma of what he called, see finish. It is now difficult to say whether the persistence of insecurity is a cause or a consequence of military ubiquity. Trillions of Naira continue to go into

bottomless pits with little measurable benefits.

Our military's professionalism cannot be diluted by the recruitment of hunters, vigilante groups and other unprofessional and untrained groups. This is not sustainable because it leaves the military open to ridicule and perceptions of surrender. Fighting insecurity is now an enterprise. I believe our security men and women can defeat these criminals in a matter of months. All we hear and see are fingers pointing to the top. No, this must end. The alternative is too frightening to contemplate. The time was yesterday, but today is still possible.

Third, it is cheering to hear that the President has announced that kidnapping and banditry are now to be treated as acts of terrorism. If so, we need to see a relentless and implacable plan to end this menace with a definite date line for bringing these terrorists to their knees, no matter what it will take.

Without a timeline for eliminating these evil, despicable, malevolent and execrable demons from among us, our future as a people will be imperiled. I commend the government over its promise to stop paying ransom to bandits and kidnapers. However, merely going to the forest and returning with victims leaves the government open to suspicion from citizens. The government needs to show results of a well co-ordinated plan and time lines to bring back all citizens in captivity and give us back our country.

Fourth, I encourage the President to continue on the path of probity, to take further steps to cut down the overbearing costs of governance and to put in place more comprehensive plans towards achieving both food and physical security across our nation. Merely distributing money through already corruption riddled structures is not enough and diminishes the dignity of our citizens.

No one needs to line up to receive aid when we are not in a war. Give our people back their farms and develop a comprehensive agricultural plan to put our country back on the path of honour and human dignity.

May our blessed Mother who stood by the cross of Her son, watched Him die and laid to rest and rejoiced to see Him rise, intercede for our dear country.

Nigeria must embrace the blessings of the risen Christ so as to heal again.

Kukah is the Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Sokoto



Ayu

Politics

Plateau Assembly: The young man in the saddle

BY GIDEON
MATTHEW DUNGRITDI

For political systems to be seen to serve their purposes, all parts of society must be included. When young people are disenfranchised or disengaged from political processes, a significant portion of the population has little or no voice or influence in decisions that affect members' lives and interests.

A key consequence of this is the undermining of political systems' representativeness. As disastrous as it could be, it is possible to avoid taking that road. To work effectively, life lines must be opened to all players and young people allowed to take the gauntlet to run in the political process. Here in Plateau State, Gabriel K. Dewan is one of such.

He was elected as member of the Plateau State House of Assembly on the platform of Young Peoples Party (YPP) and rose to become Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly last year. Since his assumption, he has left no one in doubt as to his capacity to deliver. He may have been waved aside by some power blocks, but he has trudged on, believing in his capacity to deliver.

Without a doubt, the Rt. Hon. Gabriel K. Dewan is making both the youth and state proud by his representation and track record as a young legislator and Speaker of the 10th Plateau State House of Assembly. And he deserves to be celebrated and appreciated.

To make a difference in the longer term, it is essential that young people are engaged in formal political processes and have a say in formulating the roles they are to play in politics. Inclusive political participation is not only a fundamental, political and democratic right but is also crucial to building a stable and peaceful society by developing policies that respond to specific needs of the younger generation.

For young people to be adequately represented in political institutions, decision-making and, in elections particularly, they must know their rights and be given the necessary knowledge and capacity to participate in ways that are meaningful and relevant at all levels.

If there are obstacles to participating in formal and institutionalized political processes, young people will always be disadvantaged and disempowered as many tend to believe that their voices will not be heard or not be taken seriously, even if they are heard.

The problem becomes circular as politicians may lose interest



Dewan

in responding to the aspirations of young people if they cannot win their votes. This, in turn, leads to young people being increasingly excluded from taking part in decision-making or in debates about key socioeconomic and political issues. That is, despite their sensitivity to the demands for social equity and justice, environmental protection and cultural diversity.

It is on record that in 2022, Dewan contested to represent Pankshin North in the House of Assembly under the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. But, sadly, after the primaries, he came a distant third. He was, however, not discouraged as he went ahead to contest again on a different platform. He had, shortly after his PDP experience, decamped to the Young Peoples Party (YPP) and got the ticket to contest in the 2023 general elections.

After he secured the ticket, not many gave him the benefit of the doubt as they laughed him to scorn. They didn't think that he had the political muscle to wrestle power from either the PDP or the APC. But they got it all wrong as he beat both the candidate of the PDP and APC to clinch the ticket.

No doubt, providence lurked at the corner and smiled at him lavishly. Had he picked the PDP ticket and won in the general elections, the fate that befell PDP Plateau legislators at the Appeal Court in Abuja would have swept him along with the other sixteen members.

It has been stated by those who have followed his movement to the YPP that it was a divine intervention to help him prepare

for the task ahead of him in the House. But the ways of God cannot easily be changed, they are prepared for a purpose.

As we look forward in to the 2027 elections, having seen his dance steps, the youth will now begin to work towards ensuring that Rt. Hon. Gabriel Dewan is returned as an elected member. More young people with competence, character and capacity should be on the ballot in 2027. There should also be an increase in both the proportion and quality of young people in governance and the decision-making process.

To have Rt. Hon. Gabriel K. Dewan lead the Plateau State legislature as Speaker is a clear indication that Plateau youths are formally and well represented in the political process.

As the youngest Speaker in the history of the state, Rt. Hon. Gabriel K. Dewan has actively contributed in bringing democratic values to Plateau State. This is very clear his contributions and alliances made with respect to the development of the state.

As a matter of fact, political developments of the past could have made the youth feel despondent and significantly frustrated. This is especially so if they are not included in formal decision making processes.

It is good to give kudos to the former House of Assembly members from PDP who voluntarily resigned their positions before they were removed from office by the Court of Appeal in Abuja late last year. That development was like a

thunderbolt never expected to happen, given that many political analysts had concluded that the takeover by the All Progressives Congress, APC, members of the House was a fait accompli. Since then, he has taken charge of proceedings effectively well.

It is to the credit of the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang for his fatherly role in appointing an appreciable number of young people into positions of governance in Plateau State. They are yet to disappoint. They are, rather, adding value in their place of primary assignment.

Plateau State and indeed other electoral stakeholders have a great role to play in promoting young people's participation in formal decision-making processes. For this role to be effective, it is necessary to understand the interconnectedness of the obstacles encountered by young peoples' participation in these processes.

Globally, youth participation and representation in institutional political processes and policymaking is relatively low, despite advancements in political consciousness. People from the ages of 25 to 35 are rarely found in parliaments, public administration and decision-making bodies such as committees on peace-building and constitution building.

On May 31, 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the Not Too Young to Run Act into law. The Act expanded opportunities for young people

to participate in Nigeria's governance and politics by playing greater roles in elective capacities. That law has made the youth to play greater roles in Plateau State's decision making process.

The Act amended the Nigerian Constitution to lower the eligibility age for candidates to run for president or offices of the Federal House of Representatives and the state legislatures, each by five years.

This means that the young people do not have to wait until they are 30 years old to run for state or federal office or 40 years old to run for president. More importantly, the Act increased opportunities for youth participation in governance and decision-making, above all.

Rt. Hon Gabriel K. Dewan has established a rapport with the young and the old since his school days. But that has been more so since he became Speaker of the House. He has assisted even more people in the last three months, knowing that things are difficult for most families. That show of understanding to assist is even more evident given that he is a young man who has shared his life more with the rural people than the urban dwellers.

The endemic social issues that face the society have become his major concern. Because these issues affect youth the most, he has more reasons to concentrate on leveraging these group of people so that they can engage in productive ventures.

He has also served as a breath of fresh air in the area of education and sports for the youth. Even before becoming a legislator, a sports competition which has had his imprimatur which has become a meeting point for young people from all the wards of his constituency.

The potentials of young people cannot be hidden. The Hon. Speaker is aware of this because he himself is currently in that age bracket. And being genuinely interested in lifting the burdens off the shoulders of his contemporaries as well as indigent families, the future is bright and hopeful for them.

As he continues to gain mileage on this journey, his generation has more to offer even in this age where people are disillusioned and frustrated by what they experience on a daily basis.

It is in his rising popularity and acceptance that even better things will come the way of this humble and amiable young man - Rt. Hon. Gabriel K. Dewan.

Dungritdi is the Media Coordinator of the Rt. Hon Gabriel Dewan Political Movement

Editorial

From Senegal, a breath of fresh air

There were also growing concerns that he could be taking an egregious cue from sit-tight African leaders such as Teodoro Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea, who has been in power for 43 years; Paul Biya of Cameroon (who has ruled with an iron fist for 40 years); and Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of Congo (whose 38 years' autocratic rule has virtually silenced all opposition). Yoweri Museveni of Uganda is still tenaciously clinging on after his 36-year reign has foreclosed all hopes of any youth succeeding him - whenever he chooses to quit.

Therefore, President Sali's tinkering with the election timetable was seen as a big minus for a country that had stood as a leading bastion of democracy in the region and Africa as a whole since it gained independence from France in 1960. African leaders such as Mbasogo purport to abide by the tenets of democracy but are essentially depots of the highest order.

Thus, the pushback in Senegal was swift, overwhelming and widespread. Hundreds of thousands of citizens, especially the youth, took to the streets, and persisted, for months. The Constitutional Court finally saved the day by ruling that the elections must hold as scheduled - within 2 weeks.

There are two poignant lessons here: First, the demonstrations displayed the fact that peaceful protests could still yield positive results even in the most oppressive conditions. That is, if they are peaceful and the goals well-defined and in the overall national interest.

Second, the judiciary, being one of the most critical pillars of democracy, must strictly ensure that all other arms government and stakeholders, no matter how powerful, are brought under the ambit of the rule of law.

It is, however, praiseworthy that even after the bitterness and acrimony that greeted Mr. Sali's actions in the run-up to the vote, he was among the first to congratulate Faye as soon as it emerged that he would win. He described Faye's win as "a victory for democracy."

This should serve as a huge lesson for Nigerian politicians. Most of them find it very difficult to concede defeat - even when the outcomes of elections are obvious and reflect the general feelings and yearnings of the majority of the electorate and citizenry. We must move away from the culture where accepting the sacrosanct verdict of the electorate is seen as anathema.

On a continent where the older generation finds it almost impossible to willingly bow out in favour of the younger folk, the emergence of a 44-year-old as president has generated a lot of controversy, especially in Africa. At 90, Paul Biya of Cameroon is the oldest president in Africa and has not indicated whether or not he will still contest in the next election due for February 2025. He is closely followed by Alassane Quattara of Ivory Coast, who is 81. Most of their other colleagues are either their peers or just slightly younger.

Alarmed by this trend, Nigerian youth and rights groups had launched a robust campaign to ensure a much larger space for Nigeria's millennials on the leadership turf. This led to the signing of the Not Too Young to Run law by then President Buhari on May 31, 2018.

But as if to reinforce the futility of his own very action, Mr. Buhari had instructed the youth from the 36 states of the federation who had gathered to witness what they believed was an historic event at the Presidential Villa: "You can aspire for President but please postpone your campaign till after [the] 2019 [presidential] election."

He was gunning for a second term in 2019 - which he eventually got. Unfortunately, little has changed since then. The current president (who is 72), and indeed most other politicians who won the last elections, are still predominantly of a relatively older stock.

But statistics show that Nigeria has the largest number of youth in the world: about 70% of the population is 30 while 42% is below 14 years.

It is instructive that Faye rode on the shoulders of the about 50-year-old veteran opposition leader, Ousmane Sankó, to clinch that historic win. They had formed the Pastef political party in 2014 but it was dissolved in 2023. Faye was imprisoned in April of that year. Sankó joined him in July charged with, among others, calling for insurrection.

Following their release on March 14, Sankó killed his own long-standing personal ambition to further the national interest by giving the much younger Faye the opportunity to lead their nation. Selflessness and patriotism at their best, no doubt.

In a country where 75% of the 18 million population is under 34, Sankó's decision was also a clear reflection of the urgent need to give power to the true, active, majority.

With an unemployment rate of 25%, the new president, who belongs to the new generation of politicians who wish to establish a fresh order away from what obtained in the past, has promised to fight corruption, lower the cost of living and restore national sovereignty by abandoning the CFA franc, which is widely seen as a vestige of French colonialism, among others.

However, analysts say that his greatest challenge would be bridging the unemployment gap (which stands at 25%). This has led many youth into undertaking the perilous journey to Western Europe - most of which have ended tragically on the Mediterranean Sea.

The successful Senegal election and the peaceful transition have boosted the credentials of an otherwise disreputable African democracy.

Above all, these political events present an opportunity for African leaders, the political elite and their followers to reflect on such gains and find ways of consolidating on them for the overall development and progress of the continent.

Certainly, Nigeria and Africa can learn a lot of lessons from this relatively tiny country. Sometimes big, profound, lessons can emerge from even the smallest, most unlikely, places.

I wish to use this medium to commend the Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang, for the impactful changes he has brought to bear on the states since his assumption of office.

It is very cheerful that the people of the state have no cause to regret going out and standing under the heat of the sun to vote for him as our leader.

It is interesting to know that since Mutfwang assumed office, the streets of the metropolis have changed for the better. Current roads renovations are being done without ethnic or religious considerations of the communities but for the benefit of all.

Beyond this, the governor recently bought many Coaster luxury buses to help reduce the transportation difficulties experienced by citizens of the state.

To ensure good governance, the governor has warned government workers and those in the private sector to justify the remunerations they receive with sincerity of purpose. Most importantly, Mutfwang's decision to reabsorb workers earlier employed by the immediate past administration has depicted his

humility and intention to keep the state on the path of progress without any administrative frictions.

If there is any area in which the governor has exhibited his sterling leadership qualities, it is in the way and manner he handled the crisis in Mangu Local Government Area of the state.

However, I have come to understand that despite these efforts, there are several communities facing the same problem of insecurity in the state. In the past few days, the Agingi community in Bassa Local

Gov. Mutfwang, Agingi community needs help from the menace of bandits

Government Area of the state has been held hostage by the nefarious acts of criminality carried out by bandits.

In most of these cases, these criminals kidnap innocent citizens only for them to collect huge ransoms at the end of the day. This situation has put many people of the area in serious and unimaginable pain and frustration. These criminals come with sophisticated weapons, such as AK 47 rifles, to terrorize their victims and



demand for their hard earned monies.

To avoid the situation from deteriorating into what is currently happening in some parts of the North Eastern region of the country (where bandits extort huge amounts of monies before freeing their victims), the state government must immediately come to the aid of these vulnerable areas, among which is Agingi.

We therefore appeal to Governor Mutfwang and other

relevant security organizations to come to intervene in such areas and, if possible, establish a police station and embark on patrol of all the affected areas within the community.

I pray for peace on the Plateau State and may God grant our dear Governor Mutfwang more wisdom to leave behind a lasting legacy at the end of his tenure.

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

Insecurity: The need for state police

NIGERIAN citizens have continued to express concern over the resurgence of insecurity in the country and the need for the establishment of state police to restore peace and stability in areas affected by kidnapping and banditry.

The kidnapping of 287 students on March 7, 2024, in Kuriga, a dusty town in the northwestern state of Kaduna, was the first mass abduction in Africa's most populous nation since 2021 when more than 150 students were seized from a high school in Kaduna.

The April 14, 2014, kidnapping, during which members of the Islamist militant group, Boko Haram, abducted 276 female students in a nighttime attack at Government Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State, prompting domestic and international outrage.

Since then, kidnapping and various forms of attacks have continued across the country, leaving the vast majority of citizens at the mercy of the abductors with little or no protection from the government whose primary responsibility is to protect the lives and property of its citizens.

The bandits who abducted

the 287 school children from Kuriga, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, had demanded a N1 billion ransom to set their captives free. Similar kidnappings had taken place across parts of the country, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, which has now also become very unsafe for citizens.

Kidnapping in Nigeria today is not only a growing trend associated with militancy and, or, banditry alone. It is now a lucrative enterprise amongst desperate (frustrated), idle, youths in our society which is impacting negatively on almost every segment of society - both individuals, families and businesses! Also, the perpetrators of this crime are becoming more and more emboldened and cruel, considering their modes of operations.

They even post videos of their atrocious cruelties on social media, even as they demand ransom payments from their victims' families and friends.

Ransoms are usually demanded in millions of naira. Sometimes, they even demand that the ransom be paid in foreign currencies from

the families and friends of victims who cut across different strata of society. These include children, women, pupils, men, undergraduates, lecturers, traditional rulers, government officials, farmers, medical practitioners, etc. Even military officers as well as police officers are not spared.

Sometimes, some of the people kidnapped are unlucky as they get killed, despite meeting the kidnappers' demands. There have also been situations where the kidnapped victims get killed while their loved ones are still running around to raise money to pay for their ransom.

A clear example of this is was the recent case of 10 victims seized from their homes inside an estate in Abuja. The victims were from the same family. The public was enraged when the news broke out that three of the abducted victims, a 13-year-old girl, had been killed, even as the criminals raised ransom from the initial N60m per victim to N100m.

However, the public believes that government should give traditional institutions a role to play in curtailing criminal activities within their domains since they are the custodians

of our traditions, culture, norms, values and history. The criminals who live within their localities could be arrested if the traditional rulers are given constitutional backing through the introduction of state police.

Therefore, state police would serve as a link between the traditional rulers and their localities in the task of checking criminal activities at the grassroots since most of the kidnappings are carried out in the rural areas and suburbs of cities.

Moreover, the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies should reinvestigate their efforts in information gathering and quick response to security threats.

The government needs to give traditional institutions the constitutional backing to enable them take full control of their localities so as to be able to effectively report and expose the criminal activities in their domains.

Establishing state police should be a national consensus that should involve all and sundry in order to speedily address the issue of insecurity that has continued bedeviling our country for many years now.

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

Standard Cartoon

PLATEAU STATE GOVT. PLANS TO PAY GRATUITY TO PENSIONERS



COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY KURGW, PLATEAU STATE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR



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STAFF REQUIREMENTS FOR ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Accounting (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Business Management (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Biology (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Technology II	02	Candidate should possess a Higher National Diploma at credit level certificate in relevant discipline plus NYSC certificate

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Economics (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Chemistry (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer Soil Geography	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in geography (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Assistant Lecturer BSc. Practical Geography	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Practical Geography (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.
3.	Assistant Lecturer BSc. General Geography	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in General Geography (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate..

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Geology and Mining (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Lecturer III	03	Candidate should possess a good M.sc, degree in Geology and Mineral Science in relevant discipline plus two Conference/Seminar Papers and one Journal Articles Publication with at least three years teaching/research or industrial experience.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A degree in English (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Physics (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Lecturer III M. Sc Physics/Electronic/SLT	03	Candidate should possess a good M.Sc, degree in Physics/Electronic/SLT plus at Least one Conference/ Seminar Papers. Candidates should possess a good BSC degree in SLT (minimum of second class lower division) in relevant discipline plus two Conference/ Seminar Papers and one Journal article publication with at least three years Teaching / Research or Industrial experience plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ELECTRONICS

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Electrical Electronics (a minimum of second class, lower division), HND Electrical Electronics or Power Machine plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Lecturer III M. Sc Physics/Electronic	03	Candidate should possess a good M.Sc, degree in Electrical Electronics plus at Least one Conference/ Seminar Papers. Candidates should possess a good BSC degree (minimum of second class lower division) in relevant discipline plus two Conference/ Seminar Papers and one Journal article publication with at least three years Teaching / Research or Industrial experience plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Computer Science (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCELABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in S.L.T (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPCASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc, degree in Mathematics (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Lecturer III	03	Candidate Should Posses M. Sc Degree In Mathematics with at least one conference/seminar paper.

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Change of Name

<p>OGUIKE</p> <p>I, formerly known as OGUIKE JULIET ANAKA, AMAKA OGUIKE JULIET, now wish to be known and addressed as OGUIKE, JULIET CHIAMAKA. Correct date of birth is 18/1/1998 not 18/1/1995. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>VIVIAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as VIVIAN AMARACHI MBAEGBU CHRISTIAN, now wish to be known and addressed as VIVIAN KIM PWAJOK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>NOVENNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NNENNA NWOBODO, now wish to be known and addressed as NNENNA GRACE OPARA. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>EZEKIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as ANTUGBO OBINNA EZEKIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as EZEKIEL OBINNA. All former documents remain valid. First Bank. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DANIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAUL JENNIFER NGUKAT, now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL JENNIFER CHUNG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MODUPE</p> <p>I, formerly known as MODUPE GRACE MICHAEL, now wish to be known and addressed as MODUPE GRACE BWEDE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ALICE</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAFURATU AHUDA, now wish to be known and addressed as ALICE ADENIKE AKINDOYE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HAUWA'U</p> <p>I, formerly known as HAUWA ABDULLAHI, now wish to be known and addressed as HAUWA'U ALIYU JIBRIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>HOSEA</p> <p>I, formerly known as NAOMI HOSEA, now wish to be known and addressed as HOSEA RUTH NAOMI. Correct date of birth is 15/02/1978 not 15/02/1989. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ANAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as JIBRIN ANAS now wish to be known and addressed as ANAS JIBRIL MUSA. Correct date of birth is 10/12/1991 not 01/01/1994. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>AUDU</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMES CHRISTOPHER ARDIRMU, now wish to be known and addressed as AUDU CHRISTOPHER JAMES. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>KUMYE</p> <p>I, formerly known as KUMYE MAKSHAT TOKWAM, now wish to be known and addressed as KUMYE ABIGAIL TOKWAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>NGAL</p> <p>I, formerly known as BERNES COMFORT, now wish to be known and addressed as NGAL COMFORT BERENG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ISA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JEREMIAH SUZANA, now wish to be known and addressed as ISA SUZANA JEREMIAH. Correct date of birth is 21/3/1980 not 14/1/1980. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>JULIANA</p> <p>I, formerly known as JULIANA INUSA BISHTU, now wish to be known and addressed as JULIANA BENSHEK DAKIK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ANYALEWECHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as NWOSU CHINWENDU VICTORY, now wish to be known and addressed as ANYALEWECHI CHINWENDU VICTORY N. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>ZUBAIRU</p> <p>I, formerly known as SHAKIRAT ABDULLAHI, now wish to be known and addressed as ZUBAIRU SHAKIRAT ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. NIN, all concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>EMMANUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as EMMANUEL KWALTOMAI DASHE, now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL KWALTOMAI WOKDUNG. Correct date of birth is 01/10/2003 not 16/08/1975. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ENOCH</p> <p>I, formerly known as ENOCH KACHIRO SOLOMON, now wish to be known and addressed as ENOCH SOLOMON. Correct date of birth is 26 February 1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUHAMMAD</p> <p>I, formerly known as BABALELE IYAMIL, now wish to be known and addressed as MUHAMMAD IYAMI BABALELE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>WAZIRI</p> <p>I, formerly known as BITRUS NENLAP, now wish to be known and addressed as WAZIRI NENLAP BITRUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUSTAPHA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUSTAPHA TAHIRU, now wish to be known and addressed as MUSTAPHA SALISU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EMMANUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as EMMANUEL DONGKET AMOS, now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL AMOS DONG DONGKET. Correct date of birth is 6/3/1988 not 3/4/1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DONGKUM</p> <p>I, formerly known as SINGDEP NANKUR CHIRMAK, now wish to be known and addressed as DONGKUM NANKUR SINGDEP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>PETER</p> <p>I, formerly known as SELNAN NIMDUL, now wish to be known and addressed as PETER KARGWAK SELNA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DAVID</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVID GODWIN DOMO, now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID GODWIN OJODOMO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DALYOP</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALYOP, SAMUEL GABIK, now wish to be known and addressed as DALYOP, SAMUEL GABIK SIMIDAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DALYOP</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALYOP, YEIPYENG GRACE, now wish to be known and addressed as DALYOP, YEIPYENG GRACE SIMIDAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GOLAR</p> <p>I, formerly known as JIWUL MUNKOPBA GOLAR, now wish to be known and addressed as GOLAR MUNKOPBA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>HENRIETTA</p> <p>I, formerly known as HWERE HWERE JACOB, now wish to be known and addressed as HENRIETTA JACOB HWERE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>GREGORY</p> <p>I, formerly known as GREGORY REGINA, now wish to be known and addressed as GREGORY REGINA MKPANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHANGLA</p> <p>I, formerly known as YILCHANG NDAM CHANGLA, now wish to be known and addressed as CHANGLA YILCHANG FANKUR. Correct date of birth is 05/11/2001 not 01/01/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JIROTGAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as DYK JIROTGAK, now wish to be known and addressed as JIROTGAK DYK GOTAU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NAANMA</p> <p>I, formerly known as LONGSHANG BALAT, now wish to be known and addressed as NAANMA, PETER BALAT. Correct date of birth is 5/9/1996 not 7/9/1980. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ILIYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ADAMU DORCAS, now wish to be known and addressed as ILIYA DORCAS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHRISTOPHER</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHRISTOPHER DAMIAN DAVEL, now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTOPHER DAMIAN BIPLANG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>JOSEPH</p> <p>I, formerly known as IGYEM ABOK, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSEPH IGYEM ABOK. Correct date of birth is 27/05/2004 not 1/9/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DANIEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as BLESSING DANIEL DAUDA, now wish to be known and addressed as DANIEL BLESSING COMFORT. 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 DANLADI, now wish to be known and addressed as ESTHER ANASA DANLADI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NELSON</p> <p>I, formerly known as NELSON BLESSING NANFE, now wish to be known and addressed as NELSON TITUS NANFE. 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 YAKUBU APPOLONIA DAKUP, now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU APPOLONIA SHALLAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SIMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ZOMO WALKYES YAHANNA, now wish to be known and addressed as SINAN WALKYES YAHANNA. Correct date of birth is 14/07/2003 not 14/07/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>SWARKWAP</p> <p>I, formerly known as AGNES DANIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as SWARKWAP MILAT AGNES. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AMSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DANJUMA JUMMAT, now wish to be known and addressed as AMSA JUMMAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANZING</p> <p>I, formerly known as NAZING HELEN, now wish to be known and addressed as NANZING HELEN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>RUTH</p> <p>I, formerly known as RUTH YILKAT DORTEN, now wish to be known and addressed as RUTH ALHAMIS. Correct date of birth is 16/08/1979 not 18/08/1977. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MATAWAL</p> <p>I, formerly known as MATAWAL JANE DAMENG, now wish to be known and addressed as MATAWAL JALLY DAMENG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOSHUA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAKWAT ILIYA NYAHAS, now wish to be known and addressed as JOSHUA ILIYA. 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 addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (21) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
John Istifanus late of Plateau State, died on the 14th December, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	John Sarah Istifanus FGC Jos North LGA, Plateau State. widow of the said deceased.

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
File John Kessam (variously known as) Firluk John Kessam & Firluk John late of Plateau State, died on the 7th November, 2018 at Penkshin LGA, Plateau State.	Festus Francis Firluk of Abattior Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

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PROBATE NOTICE

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

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column.
 AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (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
Garba Mutari late of Plateau State died on the 10th January 2019 at Funtua, Katsina State.	Babaille Yero & Najib Mutari of No. 20A Mavo Road Wase LGA, Lawful son/brother of the said deceased.	Gyang Badung Boyi late of Plateau State died on the 20th May 2023 at Vwang, Jos South LGA Plateau State.	Badung David Boyi of Assembly of God Turu Loh Vwang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Insp. Victoria Istifanus (also known as) Istifanus Victoria Gokic. Late of Plateau State died on the 28th December 2023 at Bukuru, Jos South LGA of Plateau State.	Lillian Auta Rotkang of Satellite Market Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful Sister of the said deceased.
Yohanna Damina late of Plateau State died on the 8th December 2022 at Abia State.	Hosea Damina Yohanna of SDA Church Angwan Gabar Jengre Bassa LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Samaila Agwom late of Plateau State died on the 3rd September 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Iliya Samaila Agwom of Haske Quarters Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Nmet Enoch Mundi late of Plateau State died on the 11th December 2022 at Mangu LGA Plateau State.	Nmet Furan Enoch of Kambilong Ampang West Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
Nandom Kyempur Dimdam late of Plateau State died on the 1st January 2024 at Langtang North LGA Plateau State.	Nandom Nansel Lohmak Langtang North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Akporoti Maria late of Plateau State died on the 8th December 2023 at Jos Plateau State.	Juliet Elizabeth Alexander of No. 17/6 Afodume Street Jos Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Gaius Paul late of Plateau State died on the 24th December 2023 at Bokkos, LGA Plateau State.	Malesheh Rose Paul of Kwatas Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Lyop Gyang late of Kaduna State died on the 3rd August 2023 at Abuja, FCT.	Peter Gyang of No. B 93, Behind Police Station Abattoir, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	Alexander Jibrin late of Plateau State died on the 18th February 2024 at Kwande Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State.	Jibrin Alexander Fredrick of Kwande Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Daniel Kariwhi Jugo late of Plateau State died on the 9th January 2024 at Jos, Plateau State.	Hannatu Siye Jugo No. 21 New GRA ECWA Staff Farin Gada Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Juliana Pam late of Plateau State died on the 8th February 2021 at OLA Hospital, Jos Plateau State.	Chuwang Francisca Pam of No. 6D Dogon-Dutse Jos North LGA Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Yohanna Jan Velshik late of Plateau State died on the 6th March 2022 at Kurgwi Qua'an-Pan LGA Plateau State.	Beatrice Yohanna Velshik & Topdang Yohanna Velshik of SHIKRET Clinic Angwan Mission Kargwi Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter and widow of the said deceased.	Nyam Markus Itse late of Plateau State died on the 23rd January 2024 at Allah Nakowa Hosp. Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	Stephen Markus Azi of COCIN II Ntam, Mangu LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Bot Markus Gyang late of Plateau State died on the 12th October 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Bot Anna Ladi of Abattoir Jos South LGA Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Ishaya Dan Dayak late of Plateau State died on the 17th July 2021 at Barkin Ladi LGA Plateau State.	Ishaya Damkat Dayak of Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Garnde Bontur late of Plateau State died on the 5th August 2016 at Sabo Layi Langtang North, Plateau State.	Kenneth Nantim Lugard of Albekang Tudun Wada Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful nephew of the said deceased.
Umaru Rahab late of Plateau State died on the 1st December 2023 at Faging Bokkos, LGA Plateau State.	Aaron Umaru Arandong of Faging Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Benice Ukoro late of Plateau State died on the 15th February 2024 at OLA Hospital Jos North LGA Plateau State.	Morris Chikwadi Mba of Angwan Jumma Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Shuaibu Dabagal (also known as) Dabagal Shuaibu Abubakar late of Plateau State died on the 6th Feb. 2024 at Jos, Plateau State.	Dabagal Pasuma Shuaibu No. 13, 7th Street Federal Low-Cost Jos, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Daluk Abraham Silas late of Plateau State died on the 24th December 2023 at Bokkos LGA Plateau State.	Rhoda Silas Abraham of Van Lamingo Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Sabina Nashut Yop late of Plateau State died on the 7th August 2008 at JUTH Plateau State.	Dung Zipporah Vou of Latva Village After COCIN Church Guratop Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	William Rwang David late of Plateau State died on the 27th April 2022 at OLA Hosp. Jos Plateau State.	William Dung Abraham of former ATM Quarter Rayfield Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Adamu Ahassan late of Plateau State died on the 31st July 2015 at JUTH Plateau State.	Haruna Ahassan Adamu of NMDC Staff Quarters Zaria Road Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Ibrahim Titus Gwzap late of Plateau State, died on the 3rd March, 2022 at Bokkos LGA, Plateau State.	Titus Aman Ibrahim of COCIN LCC Mabel Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Dadung Choji Matong Benjamin Dung Choji late of Plateau State, died on the 23rd May, 2023 at Helpan, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Akukwa Paul Agarash late of Plateau State, died on the 13th December, 2022 at JUTH, Jos Plateau State.
Yusuf Ahassan late of Plateau State, died on the 27th October, 2023 at Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	Longshik Yusuf James of Jannaret Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Larima Buji late of Plateau State, died on the 3rd February, 2021 at Hotel Goodluck Jonathan Road Inc Jos, Plateau State.	Larima Audu John of Alheri, opposite Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Doyo Soja late of Plateau State, died on the 8th August, 2020 at Zuku Village, Bassa LGA, Plateau State.	Michael Soja & Elisha Soja of Uni-Jos, Senior Staff Quarters, Bauchi Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
Gopaldasani Kishin Devjimal, late of Oyo State, died on the 27th February, 2021 at UCH Ibadan, Oyo State.	Gopaldas Gopaldasani of No. 8 Onireke Layout Ibadan Oyo, State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Unda Joseph Chuwang, late of Plateau State. Died on the 4th November, 2018 at PSSH, Jos.	Faith Timothy Ulo of Busa Buji Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	INSR Daniel Audu late of Plateau State, died on the 15th June, 2023 at BRUTH, Jos, Plateau State.	Mary Duna of Angwan Doki Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Capt. Nanfa Joseph Ramli late of Plateau State, died on the 19th January, 2024 at Jos, Plateau State.	Nirman Nanfa Ramli & Rotkang Nanfa Ramli of RD & Haske Quarters Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased.	Joshua Davot late of Plateau State, died on the 5th December, 2022 at Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Sarauta Fetpomwa Davot of Angwan Galadima Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Isiyaku Ahmedu late of Plateau State, died on the 7th December, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Ahmed Yahaya Isiyaku of No. 30B Mallam Gambo Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Dawam Cygrian Chindo late of Plateau State, died on the 26th December, 2021 at Virgilius Memorial Catholic Hospital, Namu, Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State.	Dawam Maxwell Godena'an of Jos University Teaching Hospital, Gate four (4) Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Johnson Omelara Fumilayo (also known as) Johnson Omelara Fumilayo Virtue, late of Plateau State, died on the 11th April, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Johnson Duseun Ariyo of No. 6B Temple Road Kufang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Muhammad Uwa Adamu late of Plateau State, died on the 20th January, 2023 at Abuja FCT.	Mohammed Suleiman Adamu of No. 3 Dogon-Dutse Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Dawam Cygrian Chindo late of Plateau State, died on the 26th December, 2021 at Virgilius Memorial Catholic Hospital, Namu, Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State.	Dawam Maxwell Godena'an of Jos University Teaching Hospital, Gate four (4) Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Johnson Omelara Fumilayo (also known as) Johnson Omelara Fumilayo Virtue, late of Plateau State, died on the 11th April, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Johnson Duseun Ariyo of No. 6B Temple Road Kufang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Muhammad Uwa Adamu late of Plateau State, died on the 20th January, 2023 at Abuja FCT.	Mohammed Suleiman Adamu of No. 3 Dogon-Dutse Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Dawam Cygrian Chindo late of Plateau State, died on the 26th December, 2021 at Virgilius Memorial Catholic Hospital, Namu, Qua'an-Pan LGA, Plateau State.	Dawam Maxwell Godena'an of Jos University Teaching Hospital, Gate four (4) Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Johnson Omelara Fumilayo (also known as) Johnson Omelara Fumilayo Virtue, late of Plateau State, died on the 11th April, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	Johnson Duseun Ariyo of No. 6B Temple Road Kufang Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Muhammad Uwa Adamu late of Plateau State, died on the 20th January, 2023 at Abuja FCT.	Mohammed Suleiman Adamu of No. 3 Dogon-Dutse Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.

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

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Aliyu Ishaku Dallaji late of Plateau State, died on the 1st April, 2021 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Nashimu Yakubu of Bauchi State. Lawful cousin of the said deceased.

IMAGES

AGRIC MINISTER RECEIVES GOVERNOR MUTFWANG

The Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari, recently received on a courtesy call the Governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang, and his entourage in Abuja



Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Kyari, welcoming the governor



Governor Mutfwang delivering his message



Cross section of the governor's entourage



The Minister, Governor Mutfwang, Permanent Secretary, directors of the ministry and the governor's entourage in a group photograph

Photos: DANLADI DUJK

MUTFWANG HOSTS NORTH CENTRAL PDP STAKEHOLDERS

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, recently hosted the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) stakeholders from the North Central Zone, led by their zonal chairman, Theophilus Dakas Shan, at the Plateau House, Abuja



Governor Mutfwang listening to the speech by Hon. Dakas Shan



The Governor putting heads together with Hon. Dakas Shan



Cross section of PDP stakeholders



PDP State Chairman, Hon. Chris Adukuchili Hassan, with Governor Mutfwang

Photos: DANLADI DUJK

IMAGES

MUTFWANG AT EASTER SERVICE

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, on Sunday attended the Easter Service at the Church of Christ in Nations, COCIN, Headquarters, Jos



Governor Mutfwang (left) with Sen. Jonah David Jang



Governor Mutfwang and the First Lady, Barr. Helen Mutfwang



COCIN Women Fellowship of the Church singing



The church Choir rendering songs

PDP ELDERS IN BREAKFAST MEETING WITH GOVERNOR MUTGWANG

The Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, on Monday held a breakfast meeting with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Elders at the Banquet Hall, old Government House, Rayfield, Jos



Governor Mutfwang with the chairman, PDP Elders Forum, Chief Raymond Dabo



Governor Mutfwang (standing) making his remarks



PDP Zonal National Chairman, North Central, Hon. Theophilus Dakas Shan (left), with the former Minister of Youth and Sports, Chief Damishi Sango



Sen. Jonah David Jang (right) with Amb. Yahaya Kwande

Photos: DANLADI DUK



Mutfwang to partner Agric Ministry for food production

From PETER TITLE, Abuja

PLATEAU State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, has promised to collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to boost food production in the country.

Identifying agriculture as a critical sector of the economy that needs to be given attention for the overall good of the people.

Disclosing this during a visit to the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Sen. Abubakar Kyari, in Abuja recently, Governor Mutfwang expressed optimism that tapping into agricultural potentials could address the nation's food security and ongoing food crisis.

According to him, Plateau's favourable climate for farming is an asset, and efforts were underway to enhance production of commodities like Irish potatoes, coffee and beef for export.

"Agriculture is no longer a mere talking point on the Plateau; it's a critical endeavour. Our future hinges on our agricultural success, and we're approaching it with renewed vigour this year," he declared.

Mutfwang explained that



Mutfwang

economists had agreed that Africa holds the key to future wealth and food security, prompting Plateau to focus on sectors like horticulture and seeks collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture to position Nigeria on the global horticulture map.

He assured that lands left fallow last year due to insecurity would be cultivated to contribute to national food security.

Sen. Abubakar Kyari,

condoled with the governor over the tragic incidents that occurred in the state last December and expressed hope for a peaceful future.

He lauded Governor Mutfwang's initiatives and actions aimed at enhancing security and agriculture in Plateau, pledging the Ministry's support in realising the state's agricultural potential for improved food security.

THE Federal Government has announced an increase in the wholesale price of gas to power plants by 11 per cent from \$2.18 per MMBTU (Million British Thermal Unit) to \$2.42/MMBTU.

The gas companies had since January this year reduced supply to power plants following year's unpaid invoices amounting to over \$1.2 billion. The government intervened last month by paying \$120 million to the companies, as power supply across the country dwindled.

The government in a notice issued by the Chief Executive, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), Engr Farouk Ahmed, also raised the commercial wholesale gas price from \$2.42/MMBTU to \$2.92/MMBTU.

The Authority in the notice titled "Announcement on establishment of the 2024 domestic base price and applicable wholesale price of natural gas for strategic sector", said the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021, gave it the powers to set domestic base prices for the local market.

"In line with Section 167, of the year.

"Price pressures remained elevated in March. The rate of purchase price inflation hit a fresh record high for the second consecutive month, largely due to the impact of currency weakness," they said.

"There were also some reports of higher transportation costs. Employee pay was also increased in response to cost-of-living pressures, resulting in the sharpest rise in staff costs since last November," they added.

FG increases price of gas to power plants



Ahmed

the Third and Fourth Schedule of the PIA 2021, the Nigerian Midstream & Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) is mandated to determine the Domestic Base Price (DBP) and the marketable wholesale price of natural gas supplied to the strategic sectors."

It added: "The Domestic Base Price at the marketable gas delivery point under Section 167 (1) and other provisions of the PIA shall be determined based on regulations which incorporate among such other matters, the following principles: a) The price must be of a level to bring forward sufficient natural gas supplies for the domestic market on a voluntary basis by the upstream producers.

b) The price shall not be higher than the average of similar natural gas prices in major emerging countries that are significant producers of natural gas. c) Lowest cost of gas supply based on three tier cost of supply framework. d) Market related prices tied to international benchmarks.

"Accordingly, after due consultation with key stakeholders and taking into cognisance the provisions of the PIA, as well as the gazetted Gas Pricing and Domestic Demand Regulations. The NMDPRA hereby establishes the Year 2024 Domestic Base Price as USD 2.42 / MMBTU and wholesale prices of natural gas in the strategic sector."

Employment declines as business activities stagnate

EMPLOYMENT declined for the second straight month as business activity in Nigeria was unchanged last month, according to the latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

The latest monthly PMI by Stanbic IBTC Bank released on Tuesday showed the headline index remained unchanged at 51.0 in March from 51.0 in the previous month. Readings above 50.0 signal an improvement in business conditions, while those below show deterioration.

"The headline PMI was unchanged at 51.0 in March, the joint-lowest in four months. The latest reading points to a slight improvement in business conditions during the month, and one that was softer than the series trend," the index report said.

It said the impact of currency

weakness on the Nigerian private sector was evident again in March and that purchase costs rose at the sharpest rate on record, meaning companies increased their selling prices at an unprecedented pace.

"The rate of expansion in business activity ticked higher, but steep price rises acted to limit demand and the pace of new order growth eased to a four-month low. Meanwhile, employment decreased for the second month running," it added.

The PMI index, which measures the performance of the private sector, is derived from a survey of 400 companies from agriculture, manufacturing, services, construction and retail sectors. It is a composite index based on five individual indexes with the following weights: new

orders (30 percent), output (25 percent), employment (20 percent), suppliers' delivery times (15 percent), and stock of items purchased (10 percent), with the delivery times index inverted so that it moves in a comparable direction.

According to authors of the report, confidence in the year-ahead outlook for business activity strengthened from the previous month's record low, but remained relatively weak at the end of the first quarter

Local investors control 88.22% of N1trn stock

LOCAL investors accounted for 88.22 percent of equities worth N1.009trillion traded on the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) in two months to February 2024.

According to recently released data on domestic and foreign portfolio participation in Nigeria's equity trading, foreigners traded equities worth N118.92billion or 11.78 percent in the review two-month period while domestic investors traded stocks worth N890.48billion or 88.22 percent.

Foreign inflow into equities worth N40.71billion while foreign outflow from equities was N78.21billion. Domestic retail investors accounted for stock trading worth N447.52billion while domestic institutional investors accounted for N442.96billion.

On a monthly basis, Nigeria Exchange Limited (NGX) polls trading figures from market operators on their Domestic and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) flows.

Total transactions at the



Anite

nation's bourse as at February 29 decreased by 45.07 percent from N651.52billion (about \$479.99million) in January 5 2024 to N357.88billion (about \$231.70million) in February 2024.

The performance of the current month when compared

to the performance in February 2023 (N188.91billion) reveals that total transactions increased significantly by 89.44 percent. In February 2024, the total value of transactions executed by domestic investors outperformed transactions executed by foreign investors by

circa 64 percent. Looking at the total transactions executed between February and prior month (January 2024), it reveals that total domestic transactions decreased by 51.20 percent from N598.41billion in January to N292.02billion in February 2024. However, total foreign transactions increased by 23.91 percent from N53.11billion (about \$39.13million) to N65.81billion (about \$42.61million) between January 2024 and February 2024.

Retail investors outperformed institutional investors by 10 percent. A comparison of domestic transactions in the current and prior month (January 2024) revealed that retail transactions decreased by 43.29 percent from N285.58billion in January to N161.94billion in February 2024. The institutional composition of the domestic market decreased by 58.40 percent from N312.83billion in January 2024 to N130.13billion in February 2024.



Onyejeocha

Focus

The untold burdens of the core North

By CHRIS GYANG

Concluded from last week

AND to the newspaper's assertion that the onus was now on the president to tame the bugbear of insecurity in the country by "personally take charge of the counter-offensive against terrorists, in the north or elsewhere in the country," we say, in the words of Kukah, that the north has reached this desperate state because this "is what happens when politicians use religion to extend the frontiers of their ambition and power."

However, Kukah still referred back to the Sultan: "Again, the Sultan got it right: let the northern political elite who have surrendered the space claim it back immediately." But have they? Certainly not.

That is why the country is teetering on the brink of total collapse. Jonathan Ishaku, the late Obadiah Mailafia and Bishop Kukah had at various times in the past warned that Nigeria had become a failed state because the Buhari administration had consistently failed to deliver on the key departments of governance, most especially its inability to curb insecurity, and the pursuit of objectives that are openly geared towards Islamization. These failures are more widespread and well entrenched in the core north because of the centuries' old inequities that feudalism had wrought on the lives of the masses.

In 2017, Bishop Kukah declared that the sense of alienation felt by citizens generally was the result of state failure as manifested in loss of monopoly of legitimate use of violence, loss of capacity to make and enforce collective will of the state, inability to provide social and welfare services to citizens, inability to guarantee safety of citizens, domination and control of environments by criminal gangs and mafias, inability of regulatory agencies of government to levy and collect taxes, rise in population

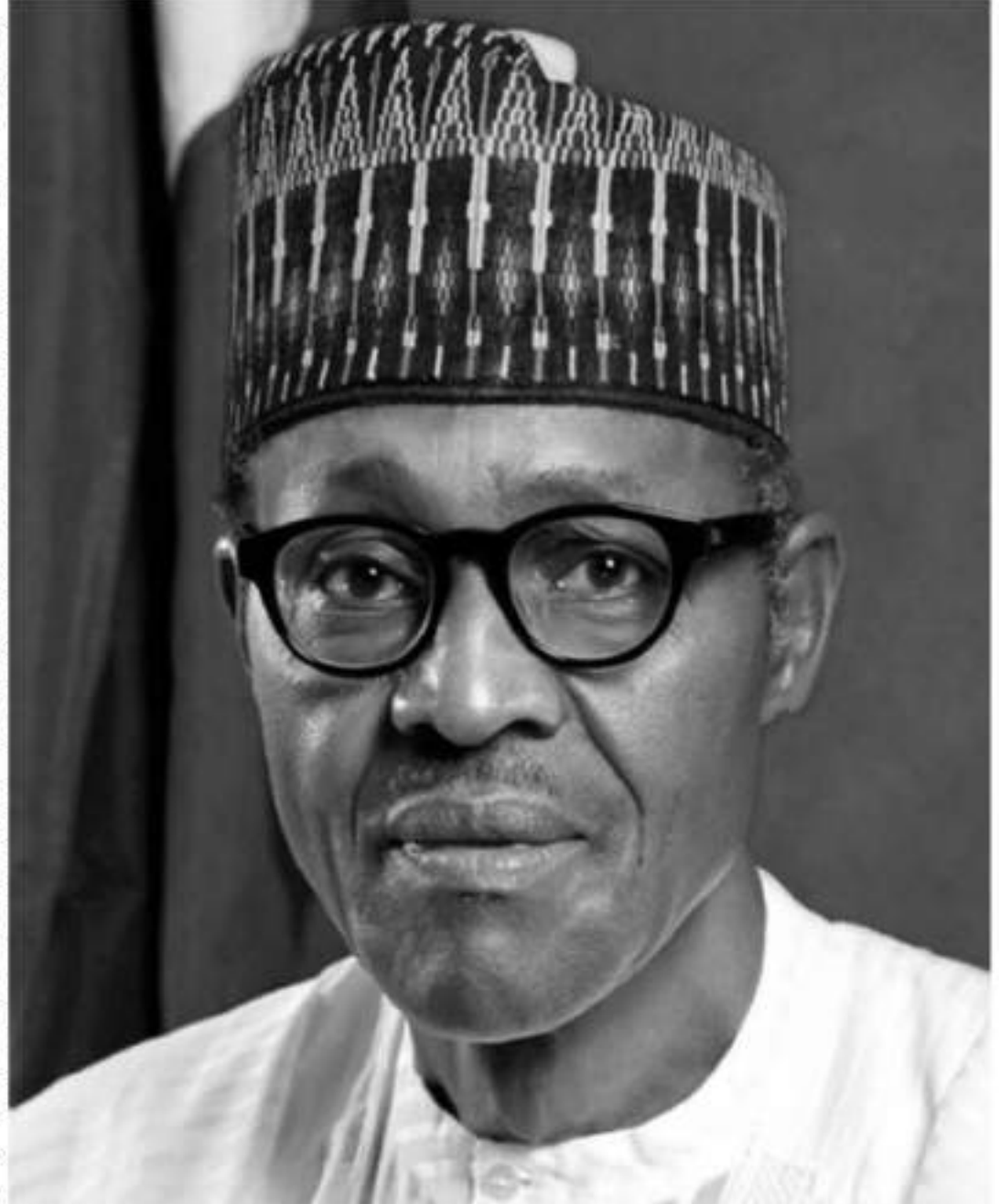
of displaced and homeless persons even in peace time, circles of violence and instability, increase in lack of respect for the state and its law enforcement agencies, etc.

This state of affairs, according to Kukah, breeds "a season of anomie, disorientation, helplessness and despair among citizens. Citizens feel increasingly unsure of the rules and they create their own rules for survival... They have no collective plan and do not need one. All they know is that the current order must fall... Their powerlessness breeds resentment and hate for the state, its agencies, individuals, other groups, or institutions." The demagogue, bandit, terrorist, kidnapper thrives most abundantly in this swirling miasma of hate and confusion. That is the dire condition of today's Nigeria that *Daily Trust* dares not reveal to Nigerians, especially the desperate masses of the core north.

Jonathan Ishaku reckoned that "the evident failure of the Nigerian state to guarantee basic security and safety to its citizens qualifies it to be a termed a fragile or, indeed, failed state." The veteran journalist and writer further asserted: "In my opinion, one area the nation has been playing politics with national security management is the issue of Fulani herdsmen's terrorism."

Writing in the *PUNCH* newspaper (August 30, 2021), Obadiah Mailafia distinguished between 'fragile states', 'crisis states' and 'failed states' and rationalized that "...State collapse is closely associated with the phenomenon of political decay, defined by the eminent political scientist, Samuel Huntington, as a chaotic and disorderly situation where the rate of social modernisation is accelerated ahead of progress in political and institutional development."

Although these gentlemen raised these red flags between 2017 and 2021, nothing has positively changed. Rather,



Buhari

things are on a downward spiral. But former president, Olusegun Obasanjo, is not surprised by this ominous trend. On December 14, 2021, the *Daily Post* reported the former president as saying that Nigerians should not expect anything more from President Buhari because what he has so far done as president is the best he can offer. In other words, Mr. Buhari has no capacity to go beyond what he has so far 'achieved' in his about seven years in office.

Obasanjo declared: "The truth is this: President Buhari has done his best. That is what he can do. If we are expecting anything more than what he has done or what he is doing, that means we're whipping a dead horse and there is no need." He advised Nigerians to begin looking ahead of the Buhari era by searching for a better replacement that would rights the wrongs committed by this administration.

But Sonala Olumhense is not so lenient and would not allow Mr. Buhari complete the remainder of his second tenure. He demands instant measures: "Buhari should resign." This message, which happens to be the title of his syndicated column, was incidentally published on the back page of the *Daily Trust* edition under review here.

He ends his piece on this dire note: "Buhari received a blank cheque in 2015. He squandered it. I repeat my message from about four years ago: He should be man enough to resign. Let someone else do it."

Apparently, all the palpable indexes about this era are coming down to this: Mr. Buhari

is going down in history of Nigeria as a leader who not only failed to inject the milk of human kindness in his dealings with Nigerians he swore to protect and enhance their overall welfare, he has divided the country in a way never before seen in its annals.

It is this damning legacy of his presidency that *Daily Trust* (through that predictable editorial), other institutions and individuals who have egged him on all this while are struggling to run away from. They are beginning to realize that the Buhari presidency is one of the heaviest burdens of the core north.

Now that a terrible judgement is beckoning, they want to steer clear of him and place themselves on the positive side of history - along with the dehumanized peoples of Nigeria, especially those of Mr. Buhari's core north.

But can this be possible at this late hour?

This piece was first published in the NIGERIAN TRIBUNE, December 31, 2021

"...State collapse is closely associated with the phenomenon of political decay, defined by the eminent political scientist, Samuel Huntington, as a chaotic and disorderly situation where the rate of social modernisation is accelerated ahead of progress in political and institutional development."

Continue from page 7

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

S/NO	POST/RANK	CONPASS LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS
1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc. degree in Statistics (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc. degree (a minimum of second class, lower division) in Psychology plus NYSC discharge certificate.
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc. degree in Public Admin (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Lecturer III	02	Candidate should possess a good B. Sc. degree (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc. degree (a minimum of second class, lower division) in Political Science plus NYSC discharge certificate.
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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree in History (a minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Lecturer III	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree (minimum of second class, lower division) in History plus NYSC discharge certificate, 2 conference/seminar papers and one journal article publication with at least three years teaching experience. Candidate should possess M. A. degree with at least one conference/seminar paper.

DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC/RELIGIOUS STUDIES

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree in IS (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Lecturer III	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree (minimum of second class, lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate, at least two conference/seminar papers and one journal article publication with at least three years teaching experience. Candidate should possess M. A. degree with at least one conference/seminar paper.

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree in Literature in English (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Lecturer III	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree (minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus 2 conference/seminar papers and one journal article publication with at least three years teaching experience. Candidate should possess M. A. degree with at least one conference/seminar paper.

INSTRUCTOR CAREER

1.	Instructor I	02	Candidate should possess an III Class degree in the relevant discipline/Higher National Diploma at minimum of credit level or equivalent qualification from a recognised institution in Chemistry/Biology/Biochemistry/Physics plus NYSC discharge certificate.
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DEPARTMENT OF HAUSA

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree in Hausa (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.
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DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree in B.A Old Testament (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.
2.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree in B.A New Testament (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.
3.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree in B.A Church History (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.
4.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. A. degree in B.A Christian Education (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. Sc. degree in Sociology (a minimum of second class, lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORKS

1.	Assistant Lecturer	02	Candidate should possess a good B. Sc. degree in Social Works (a minimum of second class lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.
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STAFF REQUIREMENT FOR NON-ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

S/N	DEPARTMENT	POST/RANK	CONPASS SALARY LEVEL	REQUIREMENTS		
1.	REGISTRY	AO II (ADMIN)	09	Candidate should possess a good Bachelor's degree (minimum of Second Class Lower Division) preferably in Arts, Social Science or Humanities plus NYSC discharge certificate.		
		AO I (ADMIN)	10	Candidate should possess a National Diploma in relevant discipline.		
		CLERICAL OFFICERS	03	Candidate should possess Senior Secondary School Certificate with four Credit level passes including English Language obtained at one sitting or five credits at two sittings.		
		PORTERS	01	Candidate should possess Senior Secondary School Certificate or equivalent qualification with passes in at least three subjects including English.		
		GARDENERS	03	Candidate should possess the Senior Secondary Certificate or equivalent with passes in at least three subjects including English Language.		
		PROVISIONER	03	Candidate should be physically and mentally fit.		
		PROGRAMME/TECHNICAL ANALYST	08	Candidate should possess a good B. Sc. degree in Computer Science/Statistics (minimum of second class lower division) plus NYSC discharge certificate.		
		DATA PROCESSING OFFICER	08	Candidate should possess a good B.Sc. degree/HND in Computer Science plus NYSC discharge certificate.		
		SEARCH DATA PROCESSING ASSISTANT	05	Candidate should possess Senior Secondary School Certificate or equivalent qualification with passes in three subjects at a sitting or four passes at two sittings including English.		
		CORPORAL/LABOURER (CLEANER)	05	Candidate should be physically and mentally fit.		
2.	PROVIDENT	SECURITY GUARD ASST.	05	Candidate should possess the first school leaving certificate plus evidence of training in a security job either in Nigeria Police or any of the disciplined services.		
		SECURITY PATROL SUPERVISORS	05	Candidate should be ex-police Inspector or Sergeant with at least 5 years experience.		
		CURR. ATTENDANCE REGISTER (SUBSISTANT)	05	National Diploma in Nursing or its equivalent.		
		ASSISTANT LAB. TECHNICIAN/PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNICIAN	05	Candidate should possess a National Technical Certificate or National Diploma at credit level.		
		HEALTH RECORD ASSISTANT/REG. (ACCOUNTS)	05	Candidate should possess senior school certificate with four credits at a sitting or five at two sittings in relevant area.		
3.	WORKS	ENGINEER II	08	Candidate should possess registerable BSc degree/ HND (minimum of second class lower division) in relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate.		
		A.T.O	06	Candidate should possess a recognised National Diploma at Credit level or its equivalent in relevant discipline.		
		DIESEL MECHANICS DRIVER	05	Candidate should possess the Junior Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent, a valid Class C Drivers License plus at least three years satisfactory post-qualification driving experience.		
		ELECTRICIANS	03	Candidate should possess either: (a) National Technical Certificate or its equivalent (b) Government Trade Test Certificate grade II.		
		CARPENTERS	03	Candidate should possess either: (a) National Technical Certificate or its equivalent (b) Government Trade Test Certificate grade II.		
		WELDERS	03	By direct appointment of a candidate possessing either: (a) National Technical Certificate or its equivalent (b) Government Trade Test Certificate grade II.		
		PLUMBERS	03	By direct appointment of a candidate possessing either: (a) National Technical Certificate or its equivalent (b) Government Trade Test Certificate grade II.		
		4.	LIBRARY	LIBRARIAN II	CONPASS 02	Candidate should possess BSc. in Library Science or its equivalent.
				LIBRARY OFFICER	CONPASS 05	Candidate should possess a National Diploma at Credit level in Library and Information Science/Technology.
				LIBRARY ASSISTANT	CONPASS 03	Candidate should possess senior school certificate or its equivalent.
				LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIAN/SCIENTIST/LABORATORY ASSISTANT	05	Candidate should possess National Diploma at Credit level in either Chemistry/Physics/Biochemistry/Microbiology.
				LABORATORY ASSISTANT	03	Candidate should possess senior school Certificate at two sittings, two of which must be Chemistry/Biology or Physics. A certificate in IGC will be of advantage.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applicants are to obtain the College employment form on the payment of #2,000.00 at the Bursary Department, Kurgwi or <https://castedu.ng>. For online applicants, after obtaining the form candidates should complete same and attach their curriculum vitae and relevant credentials to the form before submitting same to the Registrar, College of Arts, Science and Technology Kurgwi not later than five weeks from the date of this Publication. The curriculum vitae include the names of their referees who must either be a senior civil servants or senior officers in the Military and Para-military forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Solicitors and Advocates of Nigeria or the Clergy. The referees should be requested to submit confidential reports on the applicants to the College under Confidential Cover, to reach the Registrar not later than five weeks from the date of this publication. Applicants are to note that only shortlisted candidate will be contacted for further information.

Lamba Zakka (MCFM)
Registrar



'Be not only hearers of the word...'

"DO as I say, not as I do," is a very popular saying, well accepted in schools, homes and even religious settings. In Nigerian schools, where hierarchy is well established, the seniors are usually above the law whenever they are not within the range of the watchful eyes of the school authorities. However, they will mercilessly punish any junior student that breaks the law.

Ethically, this is referred to as hypocrisy. Surprisingly, it is a common practice among those at the helm of affairs. I have witnessed a pastor's son getting married where the couple was exempted from the mandatory medical tests before the knot was tied to verify the bride's health.

Unfortunately, that oversight exposed the church to ridicule. Barely 8 months later, the pastor's daughter-in-law gave birth. Their bias was exposed as the pastor could not sweep the shame under the carpet.

Some years back, a marriage almost broke up when the children made a discovery. The kids had observed that for days their dad was obsessed with his phone. He would sit for a long time, his attention riveted to a particular video on his phone, full of excitement.

Curiosity got the better of them. So, late one night, they got hold of their father's phone and went straight to the videos. Most of the videos revealed to them their father's sexual appetite. However, what threw them overboard was a sex video of their father, the pious Alhaji, and their housemaid. It was so ugly.

Full of wisdom, their mother did not confront their father. She took the housemaid for shopping before quietly sending her off to her village.

Similarly, a marriage hit the rocks when a woman discovered that her husband had a secret life he had hidden behind the facade of godliness. Because this lady loved and respected her husband, she assumed that the feeling was mutual.

She was the model Christian woman. Any time she collected her salary, the moment she got home, she would kneel down and present it to her husband. "Daddy, here is my salary," she would say. He would take the lion share and hand her the remainder, which she would receive with gratitude.

Apart from being a salary earner, she was very enterprising. So she was a very successful business woman. Thanks to this woman, they bought a car, built a house and were living well.

However, their boat hit the rocks the day her man was forced by NEPA's erratic nature to leave a video cassette he was watching late the previous night in the video player.

It is usually said that there are 99 days for the thief but one day for the owner. That was exactly what played out here. Just as the children were getting dressed to go to school the following morning, power was restored and the video cassette immediately continued playing (it was not switched off from the socket

on the wall). The kids were shocked to see their father being celebrated as the father of twins. He was accompanied by a strange woman with whom he wore ashe-ebi (identical clothes). The children thought their father acting a role, so they called their mother's attention.

The woman said that she refused to believe that her holier than thou husband, the man who shared religious tracts every time, was the same man she was seeing as the husband of another woman who had twins for him. As she watched, she saw some of her own in-laws enjoying themselves at the naming ceremony. To say that she was hurt, was to put it mildly.

Unfortunately, the man of the house got wind of what was happening. He came out thinking it was going to be business as usual. But to his greatest surprise, his submissive wife seized him by the collar with an iron grip. It took the intervention of several neighbours to set him free.

That day, Mr. High and Mighty came down from his high horse. It was discovered that he had been keeping a secret family in a satellite town in Abuja, not too far from his home. His extended family members knew about it, likewise a few trusted friends. His wife and children were the last people to know.

How did he succeed in keeping two families? Every month, he would tell his wife that he was going on official duty to Lagos. She would see him off and even ensure that he was seated in the bus before he would send her back home in tears. Sitting in the luxury bus until he sent her home was the closest he went to Lagos. Immediately she left, he would come out of the bus and go to his concubine's house, his second home.

In the office, his colleagues call him 'pastor' because he was always distributing religious tracts that preached salvation, warned against sinful habits, etc. When the wife informed the office about her discovery, they could not reconcile his two identities.

She felt cheated because she believed he was using her money to take care of his second home. And, true to her word, that was exactly what had been happening. In a twinkle of an eye, love turned to hatred, especially when she discovered that he had all along been telling her lies about official trips as he was never sent on any because he was a junior staff.

As things currently stand, the man can't feel free at home. His children are hurt and disappointed in him. He has lost his respect at home, office, community and the church. But most of all, he has lost both families. His wife would have nothing to do with him. The concubine could not take the heat, so she took the twins and ran off. He is now back to square one.

Who said that one can eat his cake and have it? Certainly, "He who sows the wind, will reap the whirlwind."

Opinion

Incessant power grid collapse: Time to shift gear

BY KENNETH DAKKOP

ACCORDING to a report released by the International Energy Agency, the Nigerian National Power Grid collapsed 46 times between 2017-2023. Add that to the two times the grid collapsed in 2024 and that will give you a total of 48 with the year 2023 being the worst hit as the entire country was plunged into darkness 12 different times when the grid collapsed.

What led to these series of collapse and what are the attendant consequences on the socio-economic development of the country?

In the last few years, the collapse of the national power grid in Nigeria has become a quarterly ritual where total or partial interruption or suspension of electrical power supply usually resulted in widespread outages or blackouts. In one instance in February 2024, the grid went from 3,852MW around 6am to as low as 59MW by noon of that fateful day.

Recall that on December 12, 2023, it was reported that Nigeria witnessed a system collapse of its national grid leading to a crash in power generation from 4,032.8MW to 43.5MW the following day.

Power generation figures obtained from the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) at the time showed that electricity on the system moved up to 115.4MW around 3 pm on December 11, 2023, before rising further to 240.9MW at about 4 pm.

Similarly, Thursday March 28, 2024, witnessed yet another episode when the national electricity grid collapsed at 4:30 pm, throwing millions of homes and businesses into darkness. During that latest episode, data from the TCN indicated that the grid collapsed at about 4:00 pm and dropped from 2,984 megawatts (MW) to zero in an

hour, with all 21 plants connected to the grid ceasing operations by 5:00 pm.

That grid collapse followed a similar pattern to previous ones recorded in the previous years. Homes and businesses were plunged into darkness, leading to colossal loss and damages of unimaginable proportions.

Quite a number of reasons have been advanced by experts as responsible for this incessant occurrence that is almost becoming a national embarrassment. Some of these include fire outbreaks, as was the case in the September 2023 episodes and insufficient gas supply and other technical glitches that were responsible for the February 4 and March 28, 2024, nationwide blackouts.

Interestingly, according to a report released by the National Bureau of Statistics in early 2024, the electricity consumed by Nigerians rose to 12.12million in the fourth quarter of 2023. With this figure, it is amazing, if not bewildering, that a country with an estimated population of more than 200 million, can only boast of providing this essential service to a paltry 12 million citizens. This is at best laughable. Even at that, the supply is epileptic and you do not require a soothsayer to tell you what the situation will be in the days ahead.

One of the issues that has continued to plague the Nigerian nation is adequate power or electricity supply. This knotty issue has remained in the front burner of local, state and national discourse for as long as one can remember. The persistent epileptic electricity supply has remained an albatross to the socio-economic wellbeing of the

country.

Countless attempts have been made in the past to find enduring solutions to the crisis. But it appears that the more the relevant stakeholders make attempts towards evolving a solution, the knottier the problem gets. This brings to mind spirited attempts by past governments to address the situation.

These have ranged from name change - from National Electricity Power Authority, NEPA, to Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN. Later government adopted the so-called liberalization of the sector or unbundling of the PHCN which gave birth to TCNs (Transmission Companies of Nigeria) and the DISCOs (Distribution Companies). Sadly, all of these appear not have solved the problem.

Perhaps these solutions have failed because the authorities are fixated on one solution and may not have explored other alternatives that abound out there. For instance, alternatives that are equally competitive compared to the hydro-based power generation system are readily available.

It was once believed that the liberalization or unbundling of the power sector by changing its stake holding from public to private concerns would put paid to the perennial power outage in the country. That has been done. But many years down the line, the problem is still with us and the wound seems to be festering by the day.

There are insinuations that the government may still be subsidizing the power sector. If that is so, then this calls to question the credibility of funding a private entity with tax payers' money. Moreover, an entity that seems to have defied all measures

to cure it of its terminal illness.

Back to the issue of exploring other alternatives of generating and distributing power or electricity. In more advanced climes, various options are exploited to generate electricity: nuclear energy, solar energy and other sources like ethanol, to mention but these few.

In Nigeria, the solar or wind energy that is abundant in the northern region is a rich resource that could be utilized for the generation of power or electricity for both domestic and industrial use. One may not be an authority in this respect, but the abundant sunlight and wind that are making the desert to encroach into villages can be effectively tapped for more useful purposes in this wise.

Many years ago, the International Atomic Energy Agency gave Nigeria the nod to enrich its uranium reserve in order to develop its economy through industrialization. Nuclear energy is used for peaceful means such as space exploration, electricity generation, medical diagnosis and treatment, criminal investigation as well as agriculture.

Specifically, the two uses of nuclear energy, that is, electricity generation and agriculture (ethanol) are other alternatives that Nigeria can deploy to address its age-long electricity problem.

Ordinarily, Nigerians should be complaining that nutrition and food are the greatest challenges confronting the country. This is because 24.9 million Nigerians are facing the grim prospects of hunger and starvation. This alarming figure is partly linked to lack of infrastructure such as electricity, roads, insecurity, agricultural inputs, etc.

Therefore, in order to address the perennial scarcity of electricity

supply in the country, Nigerians must rise above political docility and intellectual laziness and confront the vexing challenge of electricity generation and supply head-on and creatively.

It is, however, heartwarming that the current House of Representatives has demonstrated some level of political will towards proffering solutions to the problem. Following the recent collapse of the national grid, the House at plenary "insisted that sustainable energy is essential to any modern economy, and Nigeria is no exception, as stable electricity supply ensures that industries remain viable, powers homes, and facilitates significant economic growth and industrial progress."

Hon. Billy Osawaru (Edo), who moved the motion, stated that the House was "also worried that frequent grid collapses this year have negatively impacted the economy, reducing industrial output and raising manufacturing expenses, while firms are forced to invest in alternate power sources, thus, raising operational costs and leaving end users with exorbitant prices, which citizens cannot afford, especially with subsidy removal effects."

The grim image painted by the House gives a rare glimpse of the devastating effects the continuous nationwide grid collapses are having on the country. These are increasing the already daunting economic woes Nigerians are going through, occasioned by the removal of petrol subsidy and the floating of the Naira.

If there was any better time to address this lingering power problem in Nigeria, it is now!

Political appointees in a changing world (I)

By FWENGJI GOAR

THERE is no doubt that political appointments often come with authority and decision-making powers. This invariably allows the individual(s) to be able to influence policies and make significant changes in society.

Those who seek these political appointments are motivated by a wide range of reasons and are also influenced by a combination of personal, ideological and practical factors. In short, these reasons vary just as our faces are different. No doubt, there is always something that propels people to go seek political appointments.

In this piece, I intend to focus on what political appointees need to do, how they need to conduct themselves in order for the people to enjoy good governance and the dividends of democracy, as is popularly referred to in Nigeria. Our economy and other aspects of life in Nigeria are begging for urgent attention to the extent that they could be declared emergencies.

A political appointee is anyone who is appointed by the president, vice president or agency head. That is also to say that those appointed by a governor, deputy governor or agency head at the state level also fall into that bracket. The local governments are not left out. They serve mostly for the duration of the tenure of the person who gave them the appointment in

the first place.

It was the desire of many in Nigeria that our political appointees would largely be made up of technocrats and such other professionals. That is, people who have proven their worth to society and have a lot to offer, not just those who are into politics because they have no other thing to do.

It must be pointed out that those who see politics as 'their career' won't be of much help to the person who appointed them. Mostly, they have no conviction, just ambition, and very little to offer.

For us on this side of the Globe, especially those of us in Nigeria, a lot comes into play when appointments are being made; things like zoning, and not real competence. This, however, is not to say that zoning is bad as it has worked for us in Nigeria and is still relevant, going forward.

What I am saying here is that sometimes you have the best man or woman for the job coming from a different zone. That is something that has not really helped our development as a nation.

The track record of our political appointees cannot be said to be properly documented. We could do with a proper monitoring mechanism, as is the case in other parts of the world. For instance, in 2016, the United States of America launched the Political Appointee Tracker. It

has been following roughly 800 of the 1,200 political appointees whose positions require Senate confirmation - including Cabinet secretaries, chief financial officers, general counsels and ambassadors.

The tracker also provides the most comprehensive data and analysis about the political appointments process and has played a key role in providing the public with up-to-date information about the nomination and confirmation status of nominees for critical government roles. In addition, the information provides historical comparisons to the previous administration and illustrations of the data that reveal key confirmation and nomination trends.

This kind tracking mechanism, I believe, would do us in Nigeria more good than harm. There are a lot of these political appointees who are doing very well and are tremendously instrumental to the successes recorded by their principals.

But for lack of a proper monitoring mechanism, their good works often go under the radar. These are the ones we can say play critical roles in ensuring good governance.

Just like in other climes and democratic settings, political appointees hold a significant responsibility in translating the aspirations of the citizenry into tangible

benefits through effective governance. Their roles encompass a spectrum of duties aimed at fostering transparency, accountability and service delivery to the public.

To ensure that citizens reap the dividends of good governance, political appointees must embody integrity, competence and a commitment to the public interest. In doing so, there are key roles that they need to fulfil.

Political appointees have a duty to safeguard and strengthen democratic principles and institutions. They must respect the rule of law, promote inclusivity and protect civil liberties to ensure that citizens' rights are upheld.

In practice, many political appointees find this difficult. This is not because it is impossible but simply that it hasn't been the practice, they say.

Policy formation and implementation are other pivotal roles played by political appointees. They need to engage in evidence-based decision-making, considering expert opinions and public input in coming up with sound policies that would be geared towards addressing the needs and concerns of the people. People are much more informed these days and can easily spot loopholes in shoddy and haphazardly formulated policies.

To be continued

Foreign News

Soussana recounts sexual assault at hands of Hamas

Released hostage Amit Soussana, 40, was sexually assaulted and attacked by her Hamas guard during her captivity in Gaza, she told The New York Times in an interview published last week Tuesday, marking the first time a freed hostage has spoken publicly about experiencing sexual abuse.

Soussana, who was released from captivity on the last day of a weeklong truce in late November, recounted to the newspaper how she was held alone, chained up in a child's bedroom in darkness where she was forced to commit sexual acts for her Hamas captor, who she said went by the name Muhammad.

Sometime around October 24, he attacked her while she was briefly unchained in order to use the bathroom, she recounted.

"He came towards me and shoved the gun at my forehead," Soussana said. "He sat me on the edge of the bath. And I closed my legs. And I resisted. And



Amit Soussana

he kept punching me and put his gun in my face," Soussana stated. "Then he dragged me to the bedroom."

She recounted being forced to remove her towel while Muhammad groped her, before being marched at gunpoint back to the bedroom, where he forced her to "commit a sexual act on him."

The Times added that Soussana's account of

what happened is consistent with reports viewed by the newspaper that she gave to medical professionals and a social worker immediately following her release.

Dr. Julia Barda, the social worker who spoke to Soussana upon her release, told the newspaper that the freed hostage "spoke immediately, fluently and in detail, not only about

her sexual assault, but also about the many other ordeals she experienced."

Her account is the first time that a released hostage has publicly spoken about being sexually assaulted by Hamas terrorists while in captivity.

Soussana said that in the lead-up to the assault, her guard asked personal questions, including questioning her about her

sex life, and asking when her period was due. When it ended around October 18 after only a day, she said she tried to delay him by lying that it continued for nearly a week.

"Every day, he would ask: 'Did you get your period? Did you get your period? When you get your period, when it will be over, you will wash, you will take a shower and you will wash your clothes,'" she recounted him saying to her in captivity.

The freed hostage also said he would visit her in the room, lift her shirt, and touch her.

After he sexually assaulted her, Soussana said the guard told her, "I'm bad, I'm bad, please don't tell Israel," as if to show remorse. She rejected initial offers of food, but eventually relented in order to appease her abusive captor.

"You can't stand looking at him — but you have to: He's the one who's protecting you, he's your guard," Soussana stated. "You're there with him and you know that every moment it can happen again. You're completely dependent on him."

Soussana also described how she was tortured a few days after being moved to a different apartment bloc, where she was handed over to a man called Amir, and was held with four other hostages.

Soussana said her head was wrapped in a pink shirt by guards, then forced to sit on the floor where guards pummeled her with the butt of a gun. Then, her hands were tied and hung up "like a chicken" from a stick linking two couches, causing immense pain.

Soussana said the guards continued to beat her, focusing on the soles of her feet while interrogating her for information they thought she was hiding. She stated the chief guard pretended to poke her with a spike, pulling away right before it hit her eye.

"It was like that for 45 minutes or so," she recounted. "They were hitting me and laughing and kicking me, and called the other hostages to see me." One of the other hostages became so frightened after a guard threatened to kill Soussana if she didn't provide information, that she asked Soussana if she had any final messages for

her family.

Earlier this month, the United Nations published a report indicating that rape and gang rape likely occurred during the October 7 Hamas terror onslaught, and said that there is "clear and convincing" evidence showing that hostages were raped while being held in Gaza, and that those currently held captive are still facing such abuse.

Soussana spoke to the UN investigator who issued the report during her visit to Israel in late January.

President Isaac Herzog praised Soussana for her testimony, stating that she "speaks for all those who cannot speak," in a post on X.

"She speaks for all the victims of Hamas's despicable sexual crimes and abuse. She speaks for all women everywhere. The whole world has the moral duty to stand with Amit — and all the victims — in condemning Hamas's brutal terror, and in demanding the immediate return of all the hostages," he wrote.

IDF spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said last week Tuesday evening that Soussana's interview was "very important and brave."

"Amit's courage, and her choice to share this difficult testimony with the world, is worthy of deep appreciation," said Hagari. "Amit is a true hero. Her testimony is another reminder of the obligation of the IDF and the security services to work in every manner to bring home all the 134 hostages home."

Basem Naim, a spokesperson for Hamas, sent a 1,300-word response to the *Times* stating that it was impossible to investigate Soussana's testimony under "the current circumstances," while expressing skepticism over the account.

Naim said it was "difficult to believe the story unless it was designed by some security officers," questioning why Soussana had only come forward months after her release.

Amit was kidnapped from Kfar Aza, one of the kibbutzim targeted on October 7 when Hamas-led terrorists burst across the Gaza border and murdered close to 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 253 hostages.

New York Times

IDF reveals Islamic Jihad terrorist's confession

The IDF on Thursday put out a video of a Unit 504 interrogation of an Islamic Jihad terrorist named Manar Mahmoud Muhammad Qasem in which he explicitly confesses to and describes his rape of an Israeli woman on October 7.

From the interrogation video, Qasem did not seem to know much about the invasion of Israel in advance, but he was told by one of his fellow Islamic Jihad counterparts that they were going to attack Israel when he arrived at their regular base.

Despite being trained for naval combat, he and his

counterpart joined in the invasion on land. Qasem noted to the interrogator that his counterpart was wounded in the head after they crossed into Israel, but that he proceeded into a Kibbutz with a handgun and two grenades.

Next, he said, he entered a house alone; it initially appeared empty, but he then found a woman in one of the side rooms.

"I started to strip her clothes off, and I did what I did"

He said she was terrified of him and that he threw

her on the couch when she asked for help.

Qasem described her as wearing a blue miniskirt, a white shirt, and sandals.

After he threw her on the couch, he told the interrogator, "Satan took over me, I lay on top of her on the bed, I started to strip her clothes off, and I did what I did."

He said that he had also removed her pink bra and pink underwear.

When the interrogator asked him to specify what exactly "he did," Qasem said, "I went to sleep with her."

The interrogator then asks him if all they did

was go to sleep.

At this point, in the initial recording, it seemed that the interrogator and the terrorist were speaking at the same time, and one cannot hear the terrorist's voice, but the subtitles say that he said, "I raped her."

When the *Jerusalem Post* noted the anomaly to the IDF, the military said it worked on improving the sound and sent out a revised video in which the terrorist's voice could be heard when the subtitles say, "I raped her."

Next, Qasem said, "She pushed me, and it didn't last very long, and then I heard yelling outside."

Pressed on how long the rape lasted, Qasem said around 60-90 seconds.

Next, he said that the two put their clothes back on and that two other terrorists entered and took the woman and her mother (who had also appeared) away.

After this, Qasem said he heard gunfire nearby and opened fire on an Israeli male civilian.

He said he hit the man in the lower part of his body, but did not know whether the man survived or not.

He also said he threw one of his grenades at two other Israelis, and then fled.



Muhammad

Feature

Jega's comedy over Plateau media aides

By TIMOTHY GOLU

We read with an incredible inertia and huge surprise what could be best perceived as dry jokes and comedies that was written by one of the nation's ace columnists, Mallam Mahmud Jega, on the back page of *ThisDay* in his 'View From The Gallery' column that was published on Monday 18th March, 2024, with the caption, 'Assigning Mutfwang's 204 Media Aides'.

I refer to it as dry jokes because the 13-paragraph piece is riddled with funny content that would appropriately be passed for a relief therapy for relieving tension that has been the challenge confronting the nation today.

No doubt, Jega is a creative veteran and writer of history. But one had thought that the piece was just for dousing tension and making people laugh in order to relieve stress. However, the issue under discourse, the appointments of 204 media aides by the Plateau State Government, was the subject matter of Jega's column that is widely read.

The columnist had alleged that a committee set up by the Plateau State Government to assign specific job descriptions and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to the newly appointed 204 media aides to Governor Caleb Mutfwang, having exhausted all ideas, had approached him to assign duties to the newly appointed aides. Having worked through the night for two days, according to him, the committee had contacted him through a top government functionary and offered him a consultancy job to complete the assignment.

In his words, "A contract appointment letter, signed by a very senior Plateau State Government official," stated, Mr. Jega, "we have no idea where to deploy these newly appointed media aides, we are confident that you will bring your decades-long experience in six media houses to bear by advising us on how and where to deploy these 204 media aides. You should submit your invoice for payment after completing the assignment."

For Jega to jump into believing in an offer of consultancy job without checking through with relevant officials of the state is reflective of desperation on his part, even when it seems clear he was dealing with dubious minds. Bringing such matter as subject of his column is not only inscrutable but runs against the grain of every reasoning that is the bastion of media practice.

Is it that those who nebulously hired Jega for the job refused to pay him and he, attempting to extract his pound of flesh, has resorted to the use of his column to ridicule and portray the Plateau State Government in bad light, and in the most contemptuous manner? That a respected columnist of Jega's standing would commit his column in discussing something that is in the realm of fantasy, is quite unfortunate and disturbing.

In times like this when creative thinking and counsel, strategic relations and constructive engagements are needed for



Jega

national progress and redress, a whole national discourse should not be centred on needless semantics.

Jega's riddles, dry jokes and comedies as contained in his column was a low dropper and constituted a deliberate effort at ridiculing the high esteem of the Plateau State Government before the national and global community on a matter that is not on the table. Without any form of equivocation, the Plateau State Government never set up any committee to assign job descriptions and KPIs to the recently appointed 204 media aides. No Plateau State Government official contacted Jega for any consultancy engagement to assign and train appointees under whatever guise.

Plateau State prides itself as home to one of the nation's reputable media practitioners in print and broadcast media, with social media activists in abundance. No one would have contacted Jega to assign roles and train appointees when it was clear on the basis upon which they were appointed. The 10-month-old government of Barr. Mutfwang is not confused as Jega wants the public to think, neither is it in any fix as to what to do with its appointees.

Recognising communication as the livewire in which democracy thrives, the recent appointees are to serve as basis for effective communication in order not to leave anyone behind in the new Plateau State that is the dream of Governor Mutfwang. The columnist needs to be reminded that this is not the first time a governor in Plateau State is appointing such numbers of media aides in the state. A random comparative analysis of the Mutfwang-led Administration, with the immediate past APC government in Plateau State headed by Simon Bako Lalong, will suffice.

The appointment of 204 communication agents is not a

mistake in any way, just like other policies of the government that are impacting positively in the state. It is well calculated and well-intended to fill in the gap in effective communication and information dissemination across the state.

It is on record that the Lalong administration appointed over 400 media aides, but with no focus on governance, as they were mostly social media guards who attacked anyone who raised issues against the government of the day. They had no time to get the people informed about what the government was doing, probably because they themselves did not know what the government was doing as they were aware that the then government was doing little or nothing actually.

The need to appoint capable and competent youthful hands under this administration is to properly resurrect and redirect the focus of information dissemination to the people; something the data boys employed by the Lalong government could not give. The commitment by Governor Mutfwang to give opportunities to our vibrant and competent youths and encourage them to get involved in governance and prepare themselves for future leadership cannot be over stated. The previous administration could not achieve that because of it has a different mindset.

Going through Jega's column, one gets the impression that his write-up was a product of a third-party beer parlour gossip. Every decision or policy of the government is unique to each government. Any inquiry by anyone on the matter is best directed at those who should know and not those who speculate or assume. No doubt, Jega may have been interacting with speculators who have no business in the affairs of the present government.

But at his level, he should know who is holding what position in Plateau State. The present Plateau Government, headed by Governor

Mutfwang, comprises enlightened, intelligent, experienced, calm, organized and focused minds, with full mental and physical energy that is above speculation and assumption.

Its popularity is attained not by speculations and assumptions, but by what is being done and what the people see on ground, especially the beautiful performances that are changing the narratives of governance in Plateau State.

This time around, the scope and objectives are positively different. The new government is prepared for excellence in governance. The new administration neither has time to waste nor does it entertain frivolities in the midst of urgent issues seeking attention. Governor Mutfwang's 'Time Is Now' agenda is leaving no stone unturned on its readiness and willingness to perform.

It came prepared to usher in the much-needed change in every sector of the state. Look at the new face of the city: is it the massive urban road rehabilitations, the decongestion of the city to make traffic flow easy, the improvement in the provision of portable drinking water, the provision of over 1, 000 hectares of land for additional food security, the unbelievable payment of forgotten pension debts from time immemorial, the efficient land administration system being put in place, etc?

A lot is being done and achieved within the shortest time by the Mutfwang administration and the beautiful stories of these feats need to be told and spread to all the nooks and crannies of the state. Feedbacks are also very important for the government to know what the people are saying and how the various policies are being implemented by those charged with those responsibilities. That informed Governor Mutfwang's decision to appoint 204 aides for effective information dissemination to deepen

participation in democracy.

These aides are expected to properly communicate the policies and programmes of government to the public and correct wrong notions of misunderstandings and misrepresentations. The Plateau people appreciate the idea of getting youths engaged with such productive ventures which will not only keep them busy, but also fruitfully occupied in developing essential thought patterns needed for a balanced and holistic comprehension, development and understanding of transformational leadership.

Perhaps, Jega wants to apply for the training of these young people in the art and science of strategic communication skills, a field he is competently qualified for. We have no problem, but he should come through the right door. It is so funny that Jega would go on to raise matters and be in a monologue over an issue the Governor Mutfwang-led administration has a clear roadmap.

How else can one describe it when he alleged that a faceless, unnamed top government official would sign a contract with him on the training of the newly appointed communicated change agents? Who is the top government official and where is the contract agreement? He needed to have published the agreement letter alongside his write up for the people to see and for the governor and government to know the particular contract agreement.

By the way, whose responsibility is it to sign contractual agreements with anyone for the state? Both the Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice and his information counterpart are not aware of this strange consultancy job by Jega. No government official or office is aware of it. Which government official will ever enter into a contractual agreement with any person or entity on behalf of the government without the government knowing?

It's so ridiculous and funny that these issues are being raised openly when the author knows very well that they are not true. He should support his claims with documentary evidence. Perhaps it's an attempt by some persons outside Plateau to dupe him, who knows?

In any case, even if there was a contractual agreement for such a deal, what is the import or objective of making it public before those who are not a party to it? Was it an attempt to blackmail the Plateau state government or to diminish the value of the laudable policy of getting more hands in communicating government policies to the people?

It is our fervent belief that Jega is either playing pranks, pulling the legs of the Plateau state government or merely embarking on a joke and taking it out of proportion. I am very sure he is expecting this rejoinder because such a complete falsehood can never be ignored, certainly not in a democratic setting where reckless, unintelligent, blind, and unimpressive falsehood feeds a large chunk of the opposition.

Jega's piece as contained in his column is best confined to the dustbin of unimaginative fabled writers.

Dr. Golu is the Special Adviser to the Plateau State Governor on Strategic Communications

EYE'S WORLD

With PALANG KASMI

Living

By PALANG KASMI

Still on the IWD

ALTHOUGH the 2024 edition of the International Women's Day (IWD) was marked on March 8, with the theme 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress', many organizations are still holding events to celebrate women and draw attention to the problems confronting them.

Among these is the Center for Gender and Women Studies, University of Jos, which marked the day with a panel discussion and paper presentation titled, 'Women's Participation in Politics: Feminization of Corruption'.

The event, which took place at the Aliyu Akwe Doma Indoor Hall, Permanent Site, University of Jos, on March 13, had in attendance women groups, students, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), university dons and other stakeholders.

The former Minister for Water Resources, Mrs. Sarah Ochekepe, former member, Plateau House of Assembly, Hon. Simi Dusu, a seasoned administrator and Executive Secretary of the Plateau State Local Government Staff Pensions Board, Mrs. Helen Dabub, among others, also graced the occasion.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor (VC), University of Jos, Prof. Tanko Ishaya, commended the Center for celebrating the contributions of women to the society through its laudable programmes over the years.

Describing himself as a supporter of women, he disclosed that, under his leadership, the university had broken records by having the first female Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) Academic and the first female Registrar.

"Be more innovative to ensure women are really empowered because when they are, we are" the VC declared, recalling the prominent role his sisters, mother, wife and women generally have played in his entire life and career.

He also disclosed the privilege he enjoyed as the only male among his siblings which brought about the choice of his name 'Tanko' and advised women to continue working together and aim for greatness.

In her welcome address, Director of the Center, Prof. Irene Isoken Agunloye, noted that women had recorded great strides as it was the first time the institution was having two female principal officers.

Agunloye, who is equally a professor of African Drama, Gender, Women and Film Studies, however disclosed that there were still gender gaps as women were still under-represented in leadership positions.

"Gender stereotypes and cultural barriers prevent women from achieving their potentials," she disclosed.

She added, "Verbal attacks, physical assault and sexual assault is another challenge that affects women who dare to enter into the political arena and it scares them away."



UniJos VC, Ishaya

The gender expert cautioned against the negative media portrayal of women, stating: "The media is always portraying the personal appearance of women, and contributing to the feminization of corruption, particularly when it comes to women in leadership positions, you see the media using sensationalism in its reportage."

The keynote speaker, a social development expert, and the Executive Director of Inter-Gender Nigeria, Prof. Dennis Ityavyar, who presented a 99-page address titled, 'Women's Participation in Politics: Feminization of corruption', stated that, having taught for 44 years in the university, he was glad to groom students and women who had become great people in the society.

He pointed out that women like Margaret Ekpo, Mrs. Fumilayo Ransome Kuti and many others of blessed memory suffered a lot during their time when they confronted the colonial masters regarding harsh colonial taxation.

"This phase took women through political, social and educational development during the pre-independence times. Therefore, the more women participate in politics, the more they are able to put pressure on government to address their concerns. As you can see, women have struggled for long and it was because of this struggle that they were able to vote today," said Ityavyar.

He said that it was commendable that about 20 years after independence, women professionals in Nigeria had requested for 5 percent participation in governance during the military regime and noted that, during the Beijing conference, they requested for 35 percent affirmative action.

The seasoned university don however commended the

military regime of President Ibrahim Babangida for allowing women to have a voice through its policies, the pet project of his wife ('Better Life for Rural Women'), for abolishing women wing of parties, nominating women into leadership positions of political parties which resulted in the emergence of over 29 women as chairmen and deputies in the two main political parties - NRC and SDP.

The keynote speaker pointed that in the current Fourth Republic, women have achieved a lot with more feminists, activists and educated women springing up and participating in all spheres of human endeavour.

The gender expert also commended former Nigerian presidents - Olusegun Obasanjo, for appointing 9 female ministers, and late Umaru Yaradua, for appointing 7 female ministers - "While Goodluck Jonathan gave 35 percent affirmative slots and more to women that broke the records."

He however decried the feminization of corruption which, he said, was a challenge that must be addressed because, based on statistics, Nigerian men were more engaged in corruption than women. "Women are worst hit as victims of kidnapping and insecurity," Ityavyar asserted.

While lamenting the persistence of corruption and bad governance, the keynote speaker said Nigeria has over 20 million out of school children, the lowest paid teachers in the world, an increasingly worsening state of insecurity and is said to be a failed state.

"Bad governance and poor leadership have led to kidnapping of 280 children and their teachers in Kaduna, kidnappings in Borno, killings in Benue, Plateau and other states which is worrisome. About 1618 school children have been kidnapped in the country with 5 million IDP's across the country,



Prof. Agunloye



Prof. Ityavyar

there is no food because herders do not allow farmers to farm," he said.

He therefore called on women to help the country by taking up leadership positions, even as he gave Singapore as a template for Nigeria to use in choosing its leaders.

"The way leaders are appointed based on their track records should be adopted for the development of Nigeria. Women and Nigerians should ensure this is done by championing the new Singaporean agenda as a template to be adopted in the country for leaders to emerge. Women should also demand for good governance and participate in delivering it," he advised.

The DVC, Academics, Prof. Rahila Plangnan Gowon, represented by the former Director of the Center for Gender

and Women Studies, Dr. Plangsat Dayil, said that Nigerian women were facing enormous challenges that were inhibiting their overall development.

She called on women to take a bold step by uniting, getting into different political or social platforms, voice out their challenges and break the gender stereotypes militating against their progress.

The event was spiced with the presentation of a play by students of the Theater and Film Arts Department of the institution titled, 'More than Dancing', written by Prof. Ogunloye.

The play decried the use of women chiefly as dancers during political engagements and demanded for them to be placed on the table of decision making processes of their political parties and to be given key positions in governance.

Sports



Falcons

Falcons begin preparation in Abuja

CAPTAIN of the Super Falcons, Rasheedat Ajibade, are among the early callers at the Falcons' camp which opened on Monday ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games women's football African final qualifying fixture against Banyana Banyana.

Reports disclose that, the two teams, are at each other's jugular for one of the two tickets from Africa for Paris 2024 Olympics women's football, with the first leg holding at the MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja on Friday.

Ajibade, whose skills helped the Falcons to the round of 16 at last year's FIFA Women's World Cup has been joined by home-based goalkeeper Linda Jiwuaku and defender Jumoke Alani.

Young defender Shukurat Oladipo, veteran goalkeeper Tochukwu Oluochi, Japan-based Chidinma Okeke and Spain-based forward Gift Monday are expected in camp Tuesday. The rest of the squad will be in by Wednesday, except USA-based, Asisat

Oshoala, who is expected to join the team on Thursday.

South Africa's delegation, made up of 24 players, will land in Abuja this evening.

The Super Falcons are motivated for this fixture, having not beaten the Banyana Banyana in regulation time for many years now.

Nine-time African champions, Nigeria, still calls the shots at that level though, with nine of 12 titles contested so far, and with a squad brimming with youth and experience, and the bounce of having been Africa's best performer at the last World Cup finals - unbeaten in regulation time until their exit via penalty shootout defeat to England.

The full list of players invited for the two-legged affair are goalkeepers Chiamaka Nnadozie (Paris FC); Tochukwu Oluochi (Shuelat Alsharqa FC, Saudi Arabia); and Linda Jiwuaku (Bayelsa Queens).

The defenders are Osinachi Ohale (Pachucha Club de

Futbol, Mexico); Jumoke Alani (Edo Queens); Shukurat Oladipo (FC Robo Queens); Michelle Alozie (Houston Dash, USA); Nicole Payne (Portland Thorns FC, USA); and Chidinma Okeke (Mynavi Sendai Ladies, Japan), while Deborah Abiodun (University of Pittsburgh, USA); Halimatu Ayinde (FC Rosengard, Sweden); Christy Ucheibe (SL Benfica, Portugal); Jennifer Echegini (Juventus Ladies, Italy); Rasheedat Ajibade (Atletico Madrid FC, Spain); and Toni Payne (Sevilla FC, Spain) are the midfielders.

The forwards in the squad are Omorinsola Babajide (Coasta Adeje Tenerife Egatesa, Spain); Esther Okoronkwo (Changchun FC, China); Ifeoma Onumonu (SLC Utah, USA); Asisat Oshoala (Bay FC, USA); Uchenna Kanu (Racing Louisville, USA); Gift Monday (Coasta Adeje Tenerife Egatesa, Spain); and Chinwendu Ihezue (Pachucha Club de Futbol, Mexico).

MADUKA Okoye was in inspiring form as his brilliance helped Udinese secure a commendable 1-1 draw at Sassuolo on Sunday, **Soccernet.ng reports.**

The two teams, in poor forms, having won one game apiece in their combined last ten matches, went into the game looking for the win that would boost their attempt at avoiding relegation.

However, they cancelled each other out with Grégoire Defrel's 41minute opening goal for Sassuolo, neutralised by Florian Thauvin's equaliser three minutes later.

Udinese would have Maduka Okoye to thank, though, for being able to leave the field with a point.

The goalkeeper showed his quality several times, making at least four difficult saves in the 90 minutes of play, a performance that made him one of the best players in the match.

According to **Sofascore**, the Super Eagles goalkeeper ended the game with a 7.8

Okoye helps Udinese avoid defeat

rating - the best of any Udinese player inside the MAPEI Stadium.

For the combined Sassuolo-Udinese players, only Sassuolo midfielder Kristian Thorstved (7.9) had a better rating than Okoye.

Okoye has kept three clean sheets and conceded 17 goals in 13 Serie A appearances for an Udinese side battling to avoid the drop to Serie B.

While the 24-year-old goalkeeper has become a regular starter at Udinese, he remains on the outside looking inside the Nigeria national team.

The former Sparta Rotterdam goalie missed the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Cote d'Ivoire, where Chippa United star Stanley Nwabali became Nigeria's undisputed number one.

Caretaker coach Finidi



Okoye

George also snubbed Okoye for Nigeria's two friendlies against Ghana and Mali in March despite winning Udinese's Best Player award for February.

Okoye will look to find favour with the next Super Eagles coach when the Nigeria Football Federation appoints one this mon

Eagles star threatens to commit suicide

SUPER Eagles striker Olanrewaju Kayode has brought forth grave accusations against his wife, Dora Kayode, alleging fraud and adultery involving Pastor Tobi Adegboyega, **Soccernet.ng reports.**

According to reports circulating on PM News, the turmoil surrounding Ezinne Dora Kayode involves a web of controversies, including allegations of infidelity, deceit, and even kidnapping.

The saga unfolds with revelations that Mrs. Kayode misled her husband regarding her age, concealing the fact that she was seven years older than him at the time of their marriage.

Furthermore, it is reported

that Pastor Tobi Adegboyega, purportedly introduced to Mrs. Kayode through a connection with socialite Daddy Freeze, is alleged to have engaged in an extramarital affair with her.

Mrs. Kayode frequented orgies and spent extended periods away from home, allegedly in the company of Pastor Adegboyega.

Additionally, it is alleged that she conspired with individuals, including broker Ugochukwu Igboanugo, Jennifer Max Nduaguibe, and Lynda Dike Anulika, to unlawfully seize Mr. Kayode's assets.

Adding to the complexity of the situation, the whereabouts of Mrs. Kayode's three children have become unknown to the Nigeria international since Sunday, March 24, 2024.

Efforts by the Nigerian Police FCID Adegbon, under the supervision of AIG Idowu Omohunwa, to address the numerous complaints and petitions have thus far proven fruitless, with the stolen vehicles, properties, and kidnapped children remaining unrecovered.

Distressed by the ordeal, Mr. Kayode has reportedly attempted to take his own life twice and has allegedly terminated his football contract out of fear for his safety, citing threats from unidentified individuals, including purported members of law enforcement.

After a youth career at Marvellous FC, Kayode was on the books of Red Bull Ghana, ASEC Mimosas, and Heartland FC before leaving for Europe in 2013 to join Israeli club Maccabi Netanya.

Kayode moved to Switzerland in 2015 to sign for Austria Wien, where he enjoyed the most prolific period of his career, scoring 30 goals in 67 league games.

Manchester City were impressed with Kayode, and the English Premier League giants signed him on a four-year deal but immediately loaned him out to Girona for the 2017-18 season.

At the international level, Kayode was a key member of the Golden Eaglets squad that reached the final of the 2009 FIFA U-17 World Cup hosted by Nigeria.

He was promoted to the Flying Eagles and subsequently to the Super Eagles, making his debut for the senior team in a 1-1 draw with Senegal on 23 March 2017. The 30-year-old has four caps for the three-time African champions.

After Kayode married Dora, a trained lawyer and self-acclaimed first FA-licensed female football agent in Nigeria, she began representing her husband as his agent.

Gov. Mutwang attends FA Cup final

BY ANDRE BISYIT

PLATEAU State Governor, Barrister Caleb Mutwang attended the Federation Cup final organized by the Plateau State Football Association between Plateau United Football Club of Jos and their home rivals, Mighty Jets International Football Club, played at the Zaria Road Stadium, recently.

Governor Mutwang, who took the opening kick to much applause and cheers from the spectators, returned to his seat from where he watched the proceedings with keen interest.

In the first stanza of the game, both teams cautiously traded tackles to avoid unnecessary mistakes that would create any openings for their opponents.

But Plateau United, who are one time champions of the Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL) and currently playing in the League, dominated the match but missed a lot of goal-scoring chances. The game ended in a

1-1 draw with both goals scored through penalties awarded by the center referee during the match.

Without extra time, the game went straight into the penalty shootout in which

Plateau United triumphed over Mighty Jets 3-1.

Highpoint of the tournament was the presentation of the trophy to the winners by the governor.

Meanwhile, the Chairman,

Plateau State Football Association, PFA, Hon. Suleiman Yahaya Kwande, has disclosed that the Governor's Cup finals between Jos North and Mangu local governments areas will be played at the

Mangu Mini Stadium on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

He made this disclosure in a statement signed by the Association's Assistant Secretary, Wapdiyel Kelfas, which was made available to **THE NIGERIA STANDARD** Sports Desk, noting that choosing Mangu was to attest to the world that peace had returned to the local government area.

According to the statement, "We picked Mangu instead of the usual Jos in order to show the whole world that peace has returned to the Local Government Area and also to fulfill our promise of taking football development not only to the Local Government Areas but to districts and wards."

Kwande further stated that he wouldn't have got this far without the vibrant inputs of his executive council members who had worked with him round the clock towards ensuring the achievement of their mandate.

He commended Governor Mutwang's resilience and foresight for transforming not only sports but all other



Gov. Mutwang in a hand shake with the players



Quest



writer

MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH

FRAGMENT

"Our military's professionalism cannot be diluted by the recruitment of hunters, vigilante groups and other unprofessional and untrained groups. This is not sustainable because it leaves the military open to ridicule and perceptions of surrender. Fighting insecurity is now an enterprise. I believe our security men and women can defeat these criminals in a matter of months."

MATTHEW HASSAN KUKAH

Today, things are hard

I am sure that many Nigerians are already used to the fact that during the annual celebration of the two most important events in the Christian calendar – Christmas and Easter – I have the practice of writing a national message in which I reflect on the meaning of the Christ-event for us as a people and nation.

While I am aware that many people look forward to reading my messages every year, as I have done over the past many years, there are those, I believe, who must be wondering what Bishop Kukah is going to say again or whether he is not tired of speaking with Buhari now gone.

My messages will continue for some time and have nothing to do with whoever is in power.

Every religious leader has an obligation to deliver these messages to his people. In doing this, I am only joining my voice with that of thousands of Priests and Bishops here and elsewhere.

I know there are many who think that when I speak, I am attacking government or that I am taking sides with some imaginary opposition. Unfortunately, people erroneously believe that God and Caesar do not mix.

The truth is that, God is the Creator of All, including Caesar! Caesar's obligation is to be inspired by the way and will of God and govern according to His will. When those who govern seek the will of God, public service becomes a call to use the resources of state for the good of all.

In keeping with my discipline as a priest of the Catholic Church, I do not carry the partisan flag of any political party or hold brief for or against one set of politicians or another. What I try to do is to highlight the issues facing us as a Nation, provide moral clarity, and offer some policy options from where I stand. From where I stand, I often see missed opportunities, wrong turns likely to lead to cul-de-sacs. I try to differentiate between mistakes of the head and those of the heart.

Often, our destination may be the same, but the routes often differ and what I believe I should do in conscience is offer perspectives. I allow for the fact that of course, I could be wrong, but then, Democracy is about letting our voices be heard. While those in power and politicians talk to the people, as a priest, I talk

with the people.

But when our voices and views are taken together, we can compose a beautiful melody for a united nation. In this way, government's vision and policy become our vision and policy, thus creating a common threshold of trust. In keeping with the exhortation of St. Paul, we must preach this Gospel, welcome or unwelcome. So, fellow citizens, a very happy Easter to you all.

The great Bishop Fulton Sheen, in his timeless book, *Life of Christ*, stated: There are only two philosophies of life. One is the feast and then the hangover, the other, the fast and then the feast. Deferred joys purchased by sacrifices are always the sweetest and most enduring. Against this backdrop, it is easy to see why the Nigerian dream has turned into a nightmare over the years. Our leaders chose the feast rather than the fast. We are today reaping what we sowed yesterday.

For over sixty years, our leaders have looked like men in a drunken stupor, staggering, stumbling and fumbling, slurring in speech, with blurred visions searching for the way home. The corruption of the years of a life of immoral and sordid debauchery have spread like a cancer destroying all our vital organs. The result is a state of a hangover that has left our nation comatose.

Notwithstanding, Easter is a time to further reflect on the road not taken. It is a time to see if this Golgotha of pain can lead us to the new dawn of the Resurrection. Nigeria can and Nigeria will be great again. Let us ride this tide together in hope.

Many Nigerians are wondering and asking questions such as, what time of day is it? Where are we? How did we get here? Where is here? Where are we going? How long do we still have to travel and are there any map readers to tell us if we are on the right path?

Neither I nor anyone can answer all these questions, but together, we can think through them. Let us not all pretend to be ignorant. It is not so much who knows what. It is rather a matter of accepting the challenges, having the honesty to ask the most difficult questions, and holding each other accountable.

In this way, the road may be long, but it will be easier to travel together in faith and confidence.

Even though it is not daybreak yet, all of us must agree that the night is far gone. The only reason why I am confident that daybreak may not be too far away is because of my faith in God and the power of the risen Christ. There could not be a better metaphor for addressing the situation we are in now than to turn our attention to the meaning of Easter and the promises that are contained in the meaning of Christianity.

St. Paul said: The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light (Rom.13:12). With the risen Christ, we can dispel encircling clouds of doom.

The belief in the resurrection is what sets Christianity apart from other world religions. It was inconceivable, unfathomable, indescribable, preposterous and incomprehensible. How could a dead man rise from the dead? Unfortunately for us, those soldiers who had been stationed at the tomb, men whose careers and life depended on carrying out the task of guarding the tomb confessed that they were like dead men because, at the resurrection, His appearance was like lightning and clothes were as white as snow (Mt. 28:3).

The accusers of Jesus and his enemies, rather than seeking trial for them for their negligence became fraudulent conspirators. We hear that: The chief priests met with the elders and gave large sums of money to the soldiers and said, you are to say that the disciples came at night and stole the body while we were asleep (Mt. 28:12-13).

The resurrection confirmed that indeed, Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ promised by the prophets for hundreds of years. The event of the resurrection split human history, becoming the marker of time and events. Everything else in human history from took place either before Christ (BC) or after Christ (AD).

Consider the following: His birth announced peace to ALL men and women of good will (Lk. 2:14). Salvation is to be found only through him alone. In all the world, there is no other name through which salvation is given (Acts 4:12). It is the reason why

at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow and all proclaim that Jesus is Lord (Phil. 2:10).

If we Christians take the resurrection of Jesus to heart, then we will appreciate that suffering is a prelude to a better and more rewarding life. It might be argued that Nigerians have suffered enough. True, but the good life is a shifting aspiration with no finishing post. The important thing is to make it feasible for every generation to pursue happiness with less stress. We Christians still face the challenge of following Jesus truly.

Millions of people say that they believe in Jesus. Merely calling Jesus Lord is not enough because Jesus said: Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 7:21). Millions of people believe in Jesus, but this is not enough because their perception of Jesus is often flawed. There are those who call him one of the prophets of God. Some call him a good man.

Others think He was a teacher who worked miracles and of course, the Jews who considered him a blasphemer because of His claims to being God. However, what people believe about my father is not important. It is what I know about my father that is important. As such, too many Christians are often misled by the perceptions of others who say they believe in Jesus but are not Christians.

It is the resurrection that confirmed Jesus as being the Christ, the son of God. Jesus is not the Son of God in a biological sense, but is so in the incarnation, that is, God taking the human form without sin. Had he not risen, he would have been Jesus, a good man who perhaps lived and preached in a particular period of time. The world would have since forgotten of him or remembered him like other good men.

The coming of Jesus was foretold by prophets over seven hundred years before He came. The world expected Him. The only challenge was no one knew when it would be. His place of birth (Bethlehem), circumstances of birth (by a virgin) were foretold. The lord himself will give you a sign, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, his name shall be Emmanuel (Is. 7:14).

The Lord says, Bethlehem, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you will come a ruler of Israel (Mic. 5: 1-2). The whole of the book of Isaiah chapter 53 gives a detailed account of the sufferings that would be endured by the Messiah. He is like a lamb led to the slaughter, never uttering a word.

He was arrested and sentenced and led off to die and no one cared about his fate. He was placed in a grave with the wicked...the Lord says, it was my will that he should suffer, his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness (Is. 53: 7-10). These prophecies were his letter of credence, the proof of the claims that had been made.

Against this backdrop, the early Christians faced a dilemma. Jesus, their Master had died the painful and horrible death meant for criminals. Against the run of play, He had risen indeed as He and the prophets before Him had said He would. The event generates controversies. His bedraggled apostles were still reeling from it all when Jesus says they are to proclaim His message to the whole world (Mt. 28:15).

They have neither a headquarters nor do they even have a start-up capital. Jesus tells them to simply depend on the good will of people, but merely eating whatever is set before them (Lk. 10: 8). Their only currency of exchange is faith and peace. Whatever house you enter, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house' (Lk. 10:5).

Preaching the resurrected Christ is not merely a statement of a historical fact that has become associated with the Easter celebrations. Easter is about coming to the terms with the complex reality that: God's ways are not our ways, His thoughts not our thoughts (Is. 55:8). Preaching and bearing witness to the resurrection came with a heavy price for the early Church.

The apostles were imprisoned, tortured, flogged, humiliated and killed. As far as confronting the throne of power is concerned, as far as challenging the structures of injustice and abuse of power are concerned, nothing has changed. Today's Pilate is still firmly on his throne of arrogance, hubris and egotism. The persecution of Christians is still rife all over the world.

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