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THE Nigeria Standard



TRUTH EXALTS A NATION

VOL. 13 NO. 826

WEDNESDAY, May 1, 2024

N250

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Email: nigeriastandarddailynewspaper@yahoo.com

NANS to protest fuel scarcity, electricity tariff hike

THE National Association of Nigerian Students has said it would organise a nationwide protest on May 7, 2024 owing to the ongoing fuel and electricity crisis.

The body lamented the failure of the government to address the challenges

affecting the power sector.

In a statement made available to newsmen yesterday by the body's Senate President, Akinteye Babatunde, NANS said the move was a response to the dire circumstances inflicted upon Nigerian students by the ongoing fuel and

electricity crisis.

"Our primary objective is to demand the removal of key officials whom we hold accountable for exacerbating these issues," the body said.

They also called for the immediate removal of, the Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian National Petroleum

Corporation Limited, Mele Kyari, and, the Minister for Power, Bayo Adelabu as it is evident to us that their leadership has contributed to the mismanagement and mishandling of vital energy resources, plunging the nation into turmoil."

NANS said to amplify its

message and ensure widespread participation, it has strategically organised the protest to take place across various zones of the country.

"Each zone will host its demonstration at designated locations to maximize visibility and impact as follows; Zone

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Babatunde



The Plateau State Deputy Governor, Ngo Josephine Piyo, who represented Governor Caleb Mutfwang, test driving one of the 20 vehicles purchased for the Plateau Express Services Ltd
Photo: Courtesy Deputy Governor's Press Secretary's Office

Tariff hike: You've failed Nigerians
-Falana

Human Rights lawyer, Femi Falana, has slammed the Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, over failure to deliver constant supply of electricity despite increasing tariff for Nigerians using Band A.

In what he described as "the illegality of tariffs", Falana said the federal government and Adelabu could not defend the impunity that formed the hike, adding that they have failed Nigerians.

Falana said this while appearing as a guest on a Channels TV programme.

Recall that the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) had increased the tariff paid by Band A customers from

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News



NANS to protest fuel scarcity, electricity tariff hike

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A: Abuja Junction along the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway; Zone C: Airport Road in Abuja; Zone D: Lagos-Ibadan Expressway; Zone F: Onitsha-Asaba Head Bridge; Zone E: Wuntin Dada along the Bauchi-Jos Road on Tuesday, May 7th, 2024.

Speaking further, NANS said, "It is a collective stand against the systemic failures and neglect that have perpetuated the cycle of hardship and suffering among the populace.

"We firmly believe that the removal of Mele Kyari and Honorable Adelabu is essential to address the root causes of the fuel scarcity and electricity crisis. We demand accountability, transparency, and decisive action from the government to alleviate the plight of Nigeria students.

"As students united in our resolve, we urge all Nigerians to join us in this protest and stand together in the fight for a brighter future for all."

Tariff hike: You've failed Nigerians -Falana

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N68/kWh to N225/kWh.

NERC also said Band A customers are expected to receive between 20-24 hours of electricity supply daily while subscribers under Band B enjoy 16 to 20 hours of power supply and those in Band C receive 12 to 16 hours daily.

Meanwhile, Nigerians have lamented that the electricity supply has not been steady despite the increased tariff as promised by Adelabu.

Reacting to the endemic national issue, Falana said the hike was imposed on the Nigerian government by the International Monetary Funds and the World Bank.

"The Minister of Power, Mr Adebayo Adelabu has failed to address the question of the illegality of the tariffs," Falana said.

"Section 116 of the

Electricity Act 2023 provides that before an increase can be approved and announced, there has to be a public hearing conducted based on the request of the Discos to have an increase in the electricity tariffs. That was not done.

"Secondly, neither the minister nor the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission has explained why the impunity that characterised the increase can be allowed."

The renowned lawyer also expressed concern over what he described as impunity on the part of the FG and NERC, stressing their actions were not backed by laws.

He said, "I have already given a notice to the commission because these guys are running Nigeria based on impunity and we



Falana

PLATEAU State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang yesterday commissioned 20 Sienna Buses for Jos to Abuja route equipped with state-of-the-art tracking system and a Mobile Booking App.

This represents a critical step forward in his relentless pursuit of a robust and improved transport network in the state.

The modern technology will also ensure passenger safety, and providing real-time monitoring of their locations which would provide reliable and comfortable transportation options for commuters traveling between Jos and Abuja contributing to increased mobility and economic activities in both cities.

Represented by the state deputy governor, Mrs Josephine Piyo, the governor said: "This Rebirth Project reflects our government's recognition of the importance of modernizing and improving transportation infrastructure in Plateau State. This serves as a testament to the collaborative efforts

Gov Mutfwang commissions buses with modern technology

By DUMAH RANDONG

between the government and private sector to address transportation challenges and drive progress. It also highlights our commitment to supporting initiatives that promote economic growth, job creation, and improved quality of life for our people," he noted.

The establishment of Plateau Express Logistics, a subsidiary of Plateau Express Services, according to the governor, underscores his administration's commitment to providing efficient and effective logistics solutions. The advanced tracking systems for the fleet of vehicles, and the logistics arm he added, will employ cutting-edge technology to optimize route planning, minimize delivery times, and ensure the secure and timely transaction of goods.

He implored the people of Plateau State to seize the opportunity and make good use of the buses designed to enhance passenger safety and security.

Group Managing Director, Plateau Express Services Limited, Samuel Gwot announced to the delight of the passengers that the restructuring and rebranding efforts have begun to yield tangible results.

Disclosing that they have upgraded their services and passengers now have

two options to travel with the Gida- GIDA Express that goes for 5000 Naira. These 25 seater bus will move from Abuja to Jos every 12. noon every day while the second option is the Air condition Toyota Sienna bus which will operate between 6:am and 4:pm for 9000 respectively.

He said operating independently as a limited Liability Company has positioned them to be innovative and entrepreneurial. The opened five revenue channels approved by the governor and were currently being registered included: Plateau Riders Services Ltd, Tin City Metro Services Ltd, Plateau Express Learning Road, and Plateau Express Automobile Ltd.

The GMD disclosed that the Jos- Abuja route has been changed from Gidan Waya axis to Akwanga.

In a remark, Speaker, Plateau State, House of Assembly, Gabriel Dewan commended governor Mutfwang for giving youths and women the opportunity to serve in his government noting that they have been the ones neglected by successive administrations.

He said as legislators, they will help legislate to give them more legal backing in whatever decision they will take in rebranding the organization.

Commissioner of Transport, Davou Jatau



Mutfwang

said what is happening on the Plateau is a testament to the fact that there's leadership in place noting that the governor came at a time when transportation was in dire need and called for more attention to be given to the ministry. Jatau said the railway services will commence as soon as grey areas are sorted out with the NRC.

Also in their good-will messages, General Manager, Jos Metropolitan Development Board (JMDB), Architect Hart Bankat and his Plateau Environmental Protection and Sanitation Agency, PEPISA, counterpart, Samuel Daya assured of their commitment to ensuring a cleaner environment and warned operators of illegal motor parks to desist forthwith as the law will soon catch up with them noting that street traders especially in terminus, Gada- Biu and Faring Gada have been cleared following the Executive Order given by the governor.

Fuel queues will be cleared today -NNPCL

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd. (NNPCL) has assured Nigerians that the ongoing fuel scarcity and queues will be cleared out by today, May 1.

Chief Communications Officer, NNPCL, Mr Olufemi Soneye stated this on yesterday in Lagos.

According to Soneye, the company currently has an availability of products exceeding 1.5 billion litres, which can last for at least 30 days.

"Unfortunately, we experienced a three-day disruption in distribution due to logistical issues, which has since been resolved.

"However, as you know, overcoming such disruptions typically requires double the amount of time to return to normal operations," he said.

He said: "Some folks are taking advantage of this situation to maximize profits.

"Thankfully, product scarcity has been minimal lately, but these folks might be exploiting the situation for unwarranted gain

"The lines will be cleared out between today and tomorrow," Soneye assured.

Similarly, Mr Hammed Fashola, the National Vice President of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), expressed hope that the queues in Lagos and Ogun would ease off this week, relying on the words of the NNPCL.

Fashola, however, stated that the queues in Abuja might tarry a bit due to the distance to Lagos.

"The information available to us from the NNPCL was that there was a logistics problem, and when that happens, it will disrupt the supply chain.

"That might be a delay in the movement of ships from the mother vessel to the daughter vessel before it gets to the depot tanks.

"Before we can correct that, surely it will take some days. I think by Tuesday or Wednesday, there will be more products available for lifting by marketers.

"It might take time before it can ease off in Abuja, considering the distance to Lagos and the bad roads; Lagos might be calm this new week," Fashola assured.

NAN correspondent who

monitored the situation on Monday reports that stranded motorists and commuters have expressed concern over frequent fuel scarcity in the Lagos metropolis.

This has resulted in a few commercial vehicles, which led to a hike in fares.

The situation within Lagos metropolis showed that only a few filling stations were selling, with long queues in most parts.

NAN reports that this was also the same situation within Abule -Egba and environs, Abbatol Road in Agege, Akowonjo Road, Bariga, Fola- Agoro and the popular Lasu-Igando Road.

The few filling stations that dispensed petrol had long queues of vehicles stretching some meters.

Across the metropolis on Monday, petrol queues were seen at filling stations like Mobil, NIPCO, TotalEnergies, Forte Oil and ConOil along Ikorodu Road.

North West at Maryland, Gbagada, NIPCO along Ijeda road, Ikorodu, and TotalEnergies at the NNPCL bus stop in Ejigbo stretched to about 500 metres from the pumps.



How do I iron my clothes?

NIGERIANS are in dire straits. Electricity that used to be as cheap as water, now costs so much. One thousand Naira used to procure 32 unit of power, but the same amount can only purchase 4 units. Our case is so bad that it is now an offense in most houses to leave the deep freezer on overnight, play music while watching film. The worst offense is ironing one's everyday clothes except Sunday or special clothes to wear for events. To guard against ironing clothes every day, most workers now go for 'wash and wear' clothes. It has become so bad that parents are advocating for 'wash and wear' uniforms that will not require ironing.

For the past month, I have been wondering how do I iron my clothes? We used to have someone who comes around to iron our clothes on weekly basis. The charges for power then were reasonable. Our meter was not prepaid but estimated. But we didn't mind because the charges were affordable then.

However, with the new metering system, and arbitrary increment by distribution companies, ironing one's clothes in the family glare has become a big offense only in my family. It is forgivable to iron a shirt, dress or trousers, but not over 3 things. No one wants to hear the lecture about the high cost of units. God help you if someone had already ironed his/her clothes before you came along with your 2 or 3 things to iron. You would feel like you should start wearing leaves.

Bayo is a student who lives in a self-contained one room apartment in a compound with similar accommodation for students. Since they started using prepaid meter, it is an offense for one to use boiling ring, electric iron, electric stove and electric kettle. This is because all of them in the compound use only one meter. And they contribute to buy units. As students, they all co-operate so that their units would last.

However, he confessed that anytime he needed to iron, he would wait till very late in the night or very early in the morning. Even so, he usually does it very fast so that he won't be the reason their units would get exhausted. Unfortunately, they all discovered they were all ironing in secret. And every one has been banned from using electric iron. He is now asking, 'How do I iron my clothes?'

Betzom is from a very large family. They are a family of about 30 and about 40 during holidays, especially Christmas. Due to the arbitrary increase in power tariff and the fact that they use prepaid meter, their father has come up with some ground rules. They include: 'No ironing. No using of boiling ring. No using of electric kettle or stove and the freezer has to be on 2 days and off 1 day.

To make sure they keep to the rules, their father has confiscated their boiling rings, kettles, electric iron. In their place, he has bought enough fire wood to boil water outside the kitchen in a gigantic pot for everyone electric; and he has replaced the iron with charcoal iron.

"We were managing well until we started burning our clothes with the charcoal iron", Betzom stated. "The last straw on the

camel's back was burning my dad's expensive kaftan", she lamented.

"Without saying a word, Dad disposed of the charcoal iron. We are now facing a dilemma. How do we iron our clothes?" she asks.

It is not easy but one has been forced to visit the dry cleaners with ones Sunday clothes. Sunday came, and one was forced to wear everyday clothes.

The laundry man said erratic power supply and the rains were his challenges. After about a week plus, the clothes were finally ready. But one got a minus and a plus. The same one that one meant to wear on Sunday didn't come back. In its place, was an old wrapper. The laundry man had argued until he saw the photograph taken of the clothes one gave. The picture was taken in his presence and he and his friend were laughing and saying that it was not necessary. Till date, he is playing hide and seek about the lost cloth. Who can one trust again? The problem is: How do I iron my clothes?

Did one do wrong giving clothes to a young boy to iron? About 20 at the cost of two hundred Naira. The next morning, his father woke us up impolitely and called us names. He didn't leave until he was given one thousand naira as payment for units for his house electricity. One felt cheated. The problem is that: How do I iron my clothes?

One recalls that in our days in secondary school, we improvised by smoothening our uniforms after washing. We used to fold them neatly and put them under our mattresses. By morning, they would look somewhat ironed. On top of the fact that we didn't sleep well because the bed was bumpy, we became a laughing stock when we went out.

Those bold enough told us that our clothes looked as if they were pulled out of a horse' mouth. It was annoying. Thankfully, a God sent rain fell and one was the soaked by the time one reached office. People sympathized with us and mother nature smiled at us again. The sun came out in its brilliance and dried ones clothes. It surprised one that no one else laughed at our clothes again. The lines were straightened. But is that how I will be ironing my clothes?

It is affordable because it comes at no cost. The households without pipe borne water look forward to the rain. It does not depend on power supply which is erratic and beyond the reach of the masses. It is not partial- it falls on both the rich and poor; the good and the bad, the old and the young. The rain is no respecter of status. It is a blessing and rarely, a curse. How long will power distribution companies blame erratic power supply on blessed rain? The problem still remains, how do I iron my clothes?

Power is consistent in high brow areas. And if at all there is power outage, the alternative source immediately picks up. For most of them, it is not only industrial generator but solar energy.

My problem still remains, how do I iron my clothes? How do we iron things out?

News

I'm committed to returning IDPs back home

By DUMAH RANDONG

-Mutfwang

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State has reaffirmed his resolve to return all Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, in the state back to their ancestral homes.

He stated this while receiving on a courtesy visit the founder of Fola Adewumi Foundation, Folashade Adewumi, at the Old Government House, Jos, recently.

The governor stressed that people could not continue to be refugees in their own land, hence the constitution of a Resettlement Taskforce to ensure the safe return of IDPs back to their original place of abode.

Mutfwang, who was represented by his deputy, Mrs. Josephine Piyo, expressed deep appreciation to individuals and groups for their humanitarian gesture towards reducing the suffering of the people affected by crises in the state.

He wondered why some people take delight in destroying lives they never created and assured all citizens that he would protect and defend them.

The governor pointed out that because the period for politicking was over, it was time to provide good governance to citizens, irrespective of party, ethnic or religious affiliations.



Mutfwang

Earlier, the founder, Fola Adewumi Foundation, Folashade Adewumi explained that they were in the state to support the over one thousand IDPs, cutting across women and children in Bokkos Local Government Area of the state.

The foundation, she explained, got support from within and outside the country, noting that they would continue to provide

support through love and care to the vulnerable people.

While praying for God to give the governor and his deputy the courage and wisdom to provide good leadership to the people, Adewumi charged the people not to be discouraged but remain faithful as the will of God would prevail over the forces of evil against the state.

PLASU reopens May 2 in batches

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE management of the Plateau State University, Bokkos on Friday, 19 April, 2024, management has reviewed the situation. This, vis-a-vis efforts put in place by the management, the Plateau State Government, security agencies and other stakeholders has decided that the university is to reopen for students on Thursday, 2nd May, 2024.

This was disclosed through a press statement signed by the university's registrar, Yakubu F. Ayuba, and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, the Plateau State capital, recently.

The statement disclosed that, "Arising from the suspension of

academic activities in Plateau State University, Bokkos on

Friday, 19 April, 2024, management has reviewed the situation. This, vis-a-vis efforts put in place by the management, the Plateau State Government, security agencies and other stakeholders has decided that the university is to reopen for students on Thursday, 2nd May, 2024.

"The resumption is to be in batches, beginning with 200 and 300 level students who

are to resume on Thursday, 2nd May, 2024, while their

examinations will continue from Monday, 6th May, 2024.

"100 and 400 level students are to resume on Monday, 20th May, 2024, preparatory to continue their examinations from Wednesday May 22, 2024."

The registrar explained that the review of the semester examination timetable was available in the respective departments, faculties and on the university's website: www.plasu.edu.ng.

Sounding a warning to all students, Ayuba emphasised: "All students are to pay a token of seven thousand Naira (N7,000.00) each as cost of properties damaged during the riot of 19th April, 2024.

"The procedure for the payment is available on the university website and notice boards.

"Only students who have paid their school fees are to resume and continue with their examinations.

"Each student is to bring a letter, undertaking to be of subsequent good behaviour; witnessed by a traditional ruler not below the status of a District Head. Students who are not of Plateau State origin are permitted to bring the stated letter from a recognised community leader.

"A copy of the letter is available on the university's website for download and subsequent processing by each student.

"Kindly note that all conditions outlined above are to be STRICTLY adhered to before access would be granted to the university and



Best

News

Community commends Mutfwang for appointing son

By PETER TITLE



Mutfwang

THE Chigwi community of Vwang District in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State has appreciated the Governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang, for appointing their son, Mr Gyang Bere, as the Director of Press and Public Affairs (DOPPA).

The people, who were led by Da Gwom Chigwi, Atyos Mandung, made their feelings known on a courtesy visit to the DOPPA in his office recently at the New Government House, Little Rayfield, Jos.

Da Mandung, who extolled the virtues of Mr. Bere, said he was a grassroots mobilizer that the community was proud of and assured that the governor would never regret working with him.

According to him, they held their son in high esteem because he took every assignment with seriousness and urged him to extend that attitude to the government of the state under the leadership of Mutfwang.

Mandung assured the governor of their total support, saying that with the developmental strides witnessed within a short

stay in office, he believed that more development was in the offing for the people of the state.

Responding, Gyang Bere, who was full of appreciation for the visit, said he would not disappoint them while carrying out his assignment.

He thanked the governor for finding him worthy to serve in his government, assuring him that he would put in his best to support Governor Mutfwang in the

task of leaving Plateau better than they met it.

Bere urged them to preach peace in their homes and domains, saying that if there was peaceful coexistence, the country would be peaceful where everyone would want to live in.

The Da Gwom later offered special prayers for the DOPPA to succeed in his assignment and the success of the government as a whole.

Troops clear terrorists' hideout, rescue kidnap victims

From VICTOR GAL, Jalingo

TROOPS of the 6 Brigade/Sector 3 Operation WHIRL STROKE operating in Taraba and Benue states, have dislodged terrorists, recovered a significant amount of arms and ammunition, arrested a suspected kidnapper and rescued some kidnapped persons.

Spokesman of the Brigade, Lt. O. Oni, disclosed this yesterday in a statement made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD, stating that the operation took place from April 27 to 29.

According to the statement, the troops acted on information that the terrorists were gathering and shooting sporadically and added that the superior firepower of the troops forced the terrorists to flee in disarray.

The statement read: "Troops from the 93 Battalion Sub-Sector 3B OPWS, stationed at Fikyu on 29 April 2024, swiftly responded to reports of suspected terrorists firing sporadically in the Pukun area of Fikyu in Ussa Local Government Area. The troops engaged them with superior firepower, forcing their retreat. Further search of the area led to the recovery of 1

AK 47 Magazine with 10 rounds of 7.62MM special ammunition.

"Additionally, troops deployed at Kufai Amadu and Kasuwan Haske, in collaboration with troops from Sub-Sector 1A OPWS, acted on intelligence regarding the hideout of terrorists in Vingir Village of Katsina-Ala Local Government Area, Benue State. The terrorists were engaged with superior firepower, leading to their withdrawal in disarray.

"The troops arrested a suspected kidnapper named Dogo Manu, who was found in possession of 2 Techno mobile phones and forty thousand Naira (#40,000). A search of their camp resulted in the recovery of 1 AK 47 rifle.

Furthermore, the troops successfully secured the release of kidnapped victims, Dr. James Raphael and his son, in Gbeji, Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State."

Also, one Junaidu Isliaka was apprehended by the troops with 4 sacks of weeds suspected to be Cannabis Sativa and in connection with terrorists' activities in Ball Local Government Area of the state.

The statement disclosed that the "suspect has been on the watch list of the security agencies for his involvement in illegal drugs deal and supplies to terrorists and other criminal elements operating within the general area."



Lagbaja



Is neutrality possible?

BEING neutral signifies not being involved and clearly not taking sides. It means not aligned, not being part of and not participating in an event that would probably shape a particular situation making the non-participant look at the whole process from the standpoint of someone capable of making dispassionate and clear judgement about the situation. But is it possible for a grown adult to stand aloof and watch his society drift away and do nothing to stem the tide?

True, it is often very difficult to stand by and watch without doing anything or contributing, no matter how small, especially in contemporary Nigerian politics. This is because most political actors have shown a lack of capacity to lead. Yet, the responsibility of reporting the society lies squarely on the journalist who is expected to be fair to all manner of people and present all shades of opinion. But is neutrality possible?

The answer is both yes and no. Yes, because the ethics of the journalism profession expects the person on the field to keep his opinion and reflect only that of the news maker whether or not he believes in it. On the other hand, because the journalist is a part and parcel of that society, he cannot stand by and watch his society drift and does nothing to stem the drift. If he does, history will not be kind to him at the end of the day because he did nothing when he was expected to act.

This is the dilemma in which the journalist finds himself when faced with the reality of politics. He is compelled to report events he believes or does not believe in for the sake of his society and is often at the receiving end of societal backlash when things are not done as expected. The 2023 elections provided a litmus test for the journalism profession. A number of journalists were enlisted as publicists for people running for political offices. I do not have a problem with that.

Whether we like it or not, somebody must do the job. What is our major concern here, however, is whether as professionals, we are able to meet the requirements of the society and help it grow. I would not concern myself with the theories here but would prefer to speak to the morals and allow us judge for ourselves. Can we in truth be trusted to stand in the gap for the people? Do we have the moral high ground on which to stand, moralise and challenge society to tow the path of justice, truth and fairness?

This is often the difficult and not so easy task society expects from the journalist. Often, publicists have been called journalists. This is not right. What is even more challenging is the evolution of online platforms that have tended to drag journalism into disrepute. Many of these online platforms are, to say

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The answer is both yes and no. Yes, because the ethics of the journalism profession expects the person on the field to keep his opinion and reflect only that of the news maker whether or not he believes in it. On the other hand, because the journalist is a part and parcel of that society, he cannot stand by and watch his society drift and does nothing to stem the drift. If he does, history will not be kind to him at the end of the day because he did nothing when he was expected to act.
 ”

the truth, owned by single individuals who are their own reporters, sub-editors and gatekeepers. There are often no second eyes to question certain postulations they put out on their platforms. For instance, anything can be churned out without cross-checking and dished out to the reading public. This does a lot of harm to the people and, if not checked, causes trouble for the larger society. And because a large number of publicists now own blogs, society is put at the tipping point.

Fake news has become the order of the day since the owners of these platforms are the content providers, the gatekeepers and the all in all. As a result, neutrality becomes a difficult ingredient in the service of the society. That underscores the performance of the press in the present circumstances where biases and taking sides have become the order of the day. Also, ownership determines to a large extent the focus of the various media platforms. The biases of the owners often shape the content of the outfit.

Lately, what we see gracing the various platforms is not palatable at all. Charlatans have taken over the media space and are doing great disservice to the once cherished profession. Something needs to be urgently done to rescue the situation. The things being churned out to the reading public are not healthy at all. Divisive and hate literature have become the order of the day. Visit any site and you will understand what I am talking about.

Our fault lines are being taken advantage of and the divisions are being thrown to our faces. It appears all these years nothing positive has happened to us as a people. Yes, our leaders have shown that they do not have the capacity to steer the ship of state to safety but can we as a people not act and take back our heritage? The time to turn a new leaf is now. We should be determined to change the narrative and do what is expected of all of us.

News

Edo governor takes lead, announces new minimum wage

GOVERNOR Godwin Obaseki of Edo State has announced a new minimum wage of N70,000 for civil servants in the state amidst ongoing negotiations between labour unions and the federal government over new minimum wage.

The outcome of the federal government tripartite committee on the new minimum is expected to be announced by President Bola Tinubu today.

However, Mr Obaseki, while commissioning a new Labour House in Edo State on Monday, announced the new minimum wage of N70, 000, suggesting that the governor made a unilateral decision without



Obaseki

waiting for the outcome of the meeting of the National Minimum Wage Committee.

According to Nigeria's

law, the national minimum wage is expected to be reviewed every five years. The current N30, 000 was last reviewed in 2019.

Stop mixing fantasy with democracy

THE Oyo state government has charged opposition political parties in the state to "stop mixing fantasy with democracy."

The government gave the charge in a statement by the state Commissioner for Information, Prince Dotun Oyelade, after the release of the local government elections result in the state recently.

According to Prince Oyelade, surprisingly, the opposition party started rehearsing their complaints barely 30 minutes to the commencement of the elections.

The commissioner stressed that the victory of all PDP candidates in the local government elections was predictable considering the outstanding performance of Governor Seyi Makinde in the last five years.

He emphasized that the outstanding performance

of Makinde administration in the last five years was the major reason the election turned out to be in favour of PDP, the commissioner also attributed the election result to the quality of the candidates which the ruling party presented.

"This is a glowing tribute to the governor and his government as this is the last election under his watch till 2027 when he and the just elected LG

chairmen and councilors will end their tenures", he said.

The commissioner then lauded the commitment of the security team, the

- Oyo government

OYSIEC chairman and his team for daring to make a difference after the challenges of the past two local government elections.

Senate plans action on Naira

From JIDAUNA YANUNG Abuja.

THE Senate Committee on Finance has expressed worry over the instability and continuous depreciation

of the naira.

Chairman of the committee, Senator Mohammed Dani Musa, in a statement in Abuja recently said the

committee is monitoring the situation and is committed to working with relevant stakeholders to implement effective

policies and strategies to tackle the issue.

He explained that the committee is exploring a range of policy options to mitigate the impact of naira depreciation and foster economic stability.

According to the senator, the Nigerian economy is facing significant challenges exacerbated by both internal and external factors, stressing that the recent depreciation of the naira underscores the need for proactive measures to safeguard its stability.

The committee expressed hope that the economic managers will adhere strictly to the norms and standards set by the administration to ensure that the desired outcome is achieved in taking Nigeria to economic growth and prosperity.

Senator Musa further stated that, as Nigeria navigates these uncertain times, Nigerians would remain vigilant and resilient, because together we can overcome the challenges facing the economy and chart a new path towards prosperity for all.

Uni-Jos TETFund to support student's technological innovations

By HOSEA NYAMLONG

THE University of Jos Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) Centre of Excellence in Food Security has said that the centre is set to support students who utilize the power of technology for creative innovations and solutions that address some of the world's most pressing problems through cutting edge research.

This was contained in a press release signed by Abdullahi Abdullahi, Senior Deputy Registrar (Information and Publications), University of Jos, and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, recently.

The statement added that the Director of the Centre, Professor Paul Amaza, stated this during a public lecture organized for postgraduate students of the institution in collaboration with Arifa Innovation Platform at the Innovation Hub of the centre in the university's Naraguta campus.

While welcoming participants to the training, Professor Paul Amaza said

that the capacity building programme tagged "Fit-for Purpose Action Research: Exploring the Knowledge Economy," aimed at igniting critical thinking and innovation among postgraduate students of the university while challenging conventional norms and enabling them to explore new horizons.

He explained that the programme provided a forum for scholars, researchers and students to develop exceptional ideas, contemporary research findings in line with emerging trends with focus on disseminating research outputs for adoption by the private sector including farmers, industry players and other end-users.

Azama pointed out that the adoption of such research outputs would in turn contribute towards enhancing food security and improved livelihoods in the North-Central states and other parts of Nigeria with emphasis on addressing the diverse challenges that affected food security including low crop yields and poor livestock productivity.

He said that other challenges identified were poor access to agricultural markets, low value addition to agricultural produce, land degradation, climate change, pests and diseases as well as inconsistent government policies.

Azama commended the facilitators for their initiative and revealed that those students to be supported were required to submit their project topics and registration details to the TETFund Centre of Excellence on Food Security before publishing their papers.

Earlier in a lead paper presentation, Dr. Nanvyat Nannim explained that open science involves making research data, methods and findings freely available to the public, thereby facilitating collaboration and transparency in the scientific community that could help to accelerate the pace of research.

This, according to Nannim, would enable researchers build on each other's work more easily leading to reduction in duplication and plagiarism as it allowed researchers to publish in multidisciplinary journals with open access, open peer review and indexed journals in open databases.

Nannim stressed that interdisciplinary research was essential for addressing complex problems that required diverse perspectives and expertise, adding that by combining the insights and methods of different fields, researchers could generate new insights and solutions that would not be possible with a single-discipline approach.

He said, "With climate change and other

environmental issues becoming increasingly urgent, researchers are turning their attention to developing sustainable solutions to the world's problems" and "this includes everything from developing new materials and technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to developing sustainable agricultural practices that can feed the world's growing population without damaging the environment."

In another presentation titled, "Statistical Methods: Exploring the Knowledge Economy," Dr. Simi Goyal of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Jos, explained that food security is a situation where all people enjoy physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meet their food preferences and dietary needs at all times, for an active and healthy life.

According to her, effective use of research results would help to solve real life problems, adding that food security decisions must be backed by statistical data so as to avoid guesswork or mere intuition because without statistics, much of the groundbreaking research in the sciences would be impossible.

The lecture was attended by postgraduate students from various departments in the university, staff of the centre as well as staff from across

Edo: Idahosa dumps PDP

Democratic Party (PDP) member of the Board of Trustees (BOT).

"As a representative of the South South Nigerian region, this decision comes after considerable contemplation and reflection on my personal and political journey."

"Throughout my tenure within the Peoples Democratic Party, I have

been privileged to contribute to its vision and mission.

"However, after careful consideration, I believe it is time for me to pursue new paths and opportunities beyond the party's confines."

Idahosa was the political Adviser to Governor Adams Oshiomhole from 2008 to 2016.



Idahosa



Makinde

Editorial

Marking May Day, sparing a thought for farmers

THIS year's Workers' Day is coming at a time of great economic turmoil in Nigeria. Those who toil day and night to produce the goods and services that sustain our lives are bearing the greatest brunt.

COINCIDENTALLY, the 2024 event is happening as the federal and most sub-national governments are planning to celebrate their first year in office. The near-convergence of both occasions affords workers, the political elite and the citizenry the opportunity to collectively assess the current state of our nation.

ALTHOUGH the Naira has continued to make unprecedented gains against the US Dollar, Nigerians are yet to see or feel the impact. With inflation at an all-time high (31.70%) and unemployment hitting the ceiling (at 5%) in the third quarter of 2023, up from 4.2% in the second quarter, the suffering of Nigerians is becoming almost unbearable.

THESE exert undue pressure on the Spartan minimum wage the few workers in the labour market draw. It was last reviewed on September 1, 2023, since 2019. Economic analysts posit that the much-vaunted gains from the naira's recovery are being eroded even before they become manifest.

BUT President Tinubu's economic team remains upbeat, insisting that the positive outcomes of this and other economic policies (such as the removal of petrol subsidy and hike in electricity tariff) would come gradually. Nevertheless, some cynics and experts alike say the naira's rebound cannot be sustained as it is caused by the manipulation of the currency to deceive citizens that the government is succeeding where their predecessors failed.

WHATEVER the case, Nigerian workers yearn for a robust wage that would meet their basic needs and improve the quality of their lives. Therefore, the new minimum wage must reflect the prevailing double digit inflationary trend which has seen food prices, the costs of transportation, education, health care, and more, continue to soar.

IT is widely believed that the Nigerian Labour Congress, Trade Union Congress and their affiliates have not lived up to the expectations given the dire straits in which the country finds itself. The perception is that the top echelons have merely barked without doing much biting as the Tinubu government continues to churn out policies that have significantly added to the misery of Nigerians.

MEMBERS hope that the stalled minimum wage negotiations would immediately resume with renewed vigour and commitment from both sides.

TODAY, it is also crucial to spare a thought for Nigerian farmers. According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Nigeria has an estimated 34.5 million farmers, which is about 70% of the country's labour force. About 80% of them engage in subsistence farming. Regrettably, we forget this critical mass of Nigeria's informal workforce in our May Day rituals.

IT's imperative to reflect on them because they are facing an existential threat of epic proportions. From the North East and North West down to the Middle Belt, farmers have become victims of banditry, kidnapping for ransom, herdsman's and Islamists' terrorism, etc.

ALL of these have combined to force millions of them from their ancestral lands, most of which have been forcibly occupied - as has happened in parts of Plateau State.

ACCORDING to the United Nations, there are about 2.1 million displaced persons in Benue State alone, most of them farmers. It is as a result of these widespread displacements and decimation of entire communities that the FAO has warned that about 14.4 million Nigerians currently face food crisis.

THESE farmers live from hand to mouth. But frenzied gangs impose illegal taxes and levies to allow them cultivate their lands and harvest their crops. These hapless citizens' homelands have become ungoverned spaces left at the mercy of purveyors of violence.

AS governments at all levels consider ameliorating the plight of workers, they must also make concerted efforts to solve the lingering security challenges threatening this critical pillar of our economy - farmers.

ON the occasion of this May Day, THE NIGERIA STANDARD strongly emphasizes the importance of both the formal and informal sectors of the economy in all strategies to confront the prevailing economic and security challenges bedeviling Nigeria.



Address the disturbing trend of pre-paid metres distribution

I wish to appeal for a space in your widely read newspaper, THE NIGERIA STANDARD, to express my concern on the distribution of pre-paid metres in Jos North Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State. When the news of digitalized electricity rating system came, citizens of Jos North LGA received it with joy and waited patiently and anxiously for the time it would come because the system was said to be cheaper.

According to reports from those who benefited from this new system, the consumption rate is minimal compared to the former analogue system that was more or less dispensing estimated bills to customers. But the pre-paid metres, to a large extent, generated interest and the demand became so high to a point that some officials decided to hoard and sell to people who could not get them during the flag-off.

Only Jos South LGA has benefited much because 90% of households have

these pre-paid metres with Jos North having only 10%. Unfortunately, thereafter, the story has changed completely as the metre has become like hot cake and only the rich can afford it. The metres are presently being sold to customers at the rate of N80,000 for single phase while the double phase goes for N150,000.

This goes contrary to the statement made by the management of the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDC) recently cautioning its customers against paying for the installation of the prepaid metres. According to their Metre Asset Provider (MAP) Desk Officer, Mr. Faskari, "Customers within our network coverage in Bauchi, Gombe, Benue and Plateau should not make any form of payment for the installation as it is absolutely free of charge."

He further said that the process of acquiring a metre with the company entailed the opening of an account to register the client's details. The

procedure for acquiring metres, he added, did not exceed 24 hours and was also free of charge. Faskari further explained: "Clients are meant to have filled a form which is stamped by a licensed electrical contractor who wired the house to certify that the wiring of the house or structure is up to standard."

"After the acquisition of the account with the company, the customer is supposed to subscribe to the Metre Asset Provider (MAP), a programme initiated by the Federal Government for customers who want to acquire metres," he further explained.

However, we want to appeal to the JEDC authorities and the government to listen to the cries of the people of Jos North LGA so that they would be able to enjoy this privilege. This will reduce the heavy weight placed on households in the area to a minimal level.

Ngang Tuwan, Jos North LGA

Standard Cartoon

WHEN WILL FG START THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE



Change of Name

AYUBA I, formerly known as AYUBA RUTH UHARU , now wish to be known and addressed as AYUBA RUTH YAYOCK . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	MUSTAPHA I, formerly known as MUATAPHA AHADIZA , now wish to be known and addressed as MUSTAPHA AHADIZA MUHAMMED . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	ASEMA I, formerly known as ASEMA PEACE CELESTINE , now wish to be known and addressed as ASEMA PEACE KOSISOCHI . All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	BACBI I, formerly known as DANJUMA MAICHIBI JAMA , now wish to be known and addressed as BACBI DANJUMA JAMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	LIKE I, formerly known as LARABA BULUS DANGYANG , now wish to be known and addressed as LIKE LARABA BULUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	GYOK I, formerly known as FILIBUS NWAGONG BADUGU , now wish to be known and addressed as GYOK FIBUS BADUGU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
PYAT I, formerly known as LAMI PYAT MWAGONG , now wish to be known and addressed as PYAT LAMI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	LAMI I, formerly known as LAMI MWANTIRI DALYOP , now wish to be known and addressed as LAMI MWANTIRI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	TANKO I, formerly known as NVOU ALAMBA TANKO , now wish to be known and addressed as TANKO NVOU . All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	ZAKKA I, formerly known as NORO ZAKKA BADUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as ZAKKA NORO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	NERAT I, formerly known as NERAT JONATHAN BARNABAS , now wish to be known and addressed as NERAT BARNABAS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.	JAMES I, formerly known as PYAT DANJUMA DAWENG , now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES DANJUMA HWAGWONG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.
BATURE I, formerly known as BULUS BATURE DAGUL , now wish to be known and addressed as BATURE BULUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NYAM I, formerly known as NYAM ADAMU DARIAN , now wish to be known and addressed as NYAM ADAMU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	AYUBA I, formerly known as JUSTINA JANG DALYOP , now wish to be known and addressed as AYUBA JUSTINA DANJUMA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	KARA I, formerly known as MELODY JONATHAN BALA , now wish to be known and addressed as KARA MELODY HABILA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DACHUNG I, formerly known as FAITH ABEDNEGU DANJUMA , now wish to be known and addressed as DACHUNG FAITH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JATAU I, formerly known as ESTHER PAM LUKA , now wish to be known and addressed as JATAU ESTHER BATURE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
DORIS I, formerly known as KACHOLLOH ILIYA PETER , now wish to be known and addressed as DORIS ILIYA PETER . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DALYOP I, formerly known as BRISKILA DANBWARANG JOSEPH , now wish to be known and addressed as DALYOP BRISKILA DAUDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NYAM I, formerly known as NYAM GRACE FONGOL , now wish to be known and addressed as NYAM GRACE GYANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DUNG I, formerly known as SUNDAY DUNG , now wish to be known and addressed as DUNG CHUNG SUNDAY . Correct date of birth 13-12-1983 not 13-12-1985. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	FRIDAY I, formerly known as BINBOL DURVEN , now wish to be known and addressed as FRIDAY DURVEN FADIP . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	IRMIYA I, formerly known as IRMIYA QUEEN , now wish to be known and addressed as IRMIYA QUEEN ANSAM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
PAUL I, formerly known as GODSPOWER PAUL , now wish to be known and addressed as PAUL GODSPOWER ESHIOBUMHE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	IBEABUCHI I, formerly known as WAKFI P. SHANGTOKMWA , now wish to be known and addressed as IBEABUCHI ELIZABETU SHANGTOMWA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	GAMBO I, formerly known as WILLIAMS NANJUL GANS STRIKER , now wish to be known and addressed as GAMBO NANJUL . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	YOHANNA I, formerly known as YOHANNA CECILIA KUYEV & YOHANNA ZIRA CECILIA K. , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA CECILIA ZIRA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	NGWU I, formerly known as OZIOKO JOSEPH , now wish to be known and addressed as MGWU JOSEPH OZIOKO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SAIDU I, formerly known as MAUZU HASSAN MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as SAIDU HASSAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
PHILIP I, formerly known as PHILIP RONDO SUNDAY , now wish to be known and addressed as PHILIP SUNDAY RONDO . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	YAKUBU I, formerly known as OBADIAH TINA , now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU TINA OBADIAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	DAZANG I, formerly known as SOLOMON SARATU DAZANG , now wish to be known and addressed as DAZANG SARATU . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	JOHN I, formerly known as SAMUEL LILIAN JOHN , now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN LILIAN . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	MA'AN I, formerly known as JIBA RINRET MA'AN , now wish to be known and addressed as MA'AM RINRET . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	HEZEKIAH I, formerly known as GONA PATIENCE MUSA , now wish to be known and addressed as HEZEKIAH PATIENCE NANDOM . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
EMMANUEL I, formerly known as DAPAR YOSSE EMMANUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL YOSSE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	YUSUF I, formerly known as MUSA CHRISTIANA DAUDA , now wish to be known and addressed as YUSUF CHRISTIANA DAUDA . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	RETYIT I, formerly known as RETYIT HAPPINESS OBADIAH , now wish to be known and addressed as RETYIT PAUL OBADIAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	CLEMENT I, formerly known as SAMUEL NANDI , now wish to be known and addressed as CLEMENT NANDI . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	ZILLAI I, formerly known as INUWA LILLAI , now wish to be known and addressed as ZILLAI BULUS . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	SAMUEL I, formerly known as DAVWAM ASABE SAMUEL , now wish to be known and addressed as SAMUEL ASABE . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.
YOHANNA I, formerly known as TITUS SARAH , now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA SARAH . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	RAYMOND I, formerly known as LEAN RINDI , now wish to be known and addressed as RAYMOND RINDI DABANG . All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.	PUBLIC NOTICE			

FAMILY CHANGE OF NAME

This is to notified the general public that the underlisted family members wish to change their Maiden/Middle name as follows:

- From:**
1. CHUKWUDI OFOEZE EMMANUEL
 2. OGECHI OFOEZE MAUREEN
 3. CHINEDU OFOEZE GIFT
 4. CHUKWUEMEKA OFOEZE EMMANUEL
 5. EZENWA OFOEZE PROSPER
 6. AFAM OFOEZE VICTOR

Now wish to be known and addressed as:

1. CHUKWUDI ANIOBICHUKWU EMMANUEL
2. OGECHI ANIOBICHUKWU MAUREEN
3. CHINEDU ANIOBICHUKWU GIFT
4. CHUKWUEMEKA ANIOBICHUKWU EMMANUEL
5. EZENWA ANIOBICHUKWU PROSPER
6. AFAM ANIOBICHUKWU VICTOR

All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

LIGHTENING THE WORD INITIATIVE CAC/IT/NO. 7305079

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for removal of Trustees under Part 'F' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

NAMES OF TRUSTEES RETAINED AND REMOVED ARE:

1. MUSTAPHA JOY KUCHOHFFE - Retained
2. ORNANA KADUWE NEMINAKA - Retained
3. EFFIOM EFFIOM OFEM - Retained
4. ETAH LAWAL FRIDAY - Retained
5. FRIDAY MBANG - Retained
6. SAMUEL SAUL - Removed

AIMS & OBJECTIVES REMAIN THE SAME:

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

SIGNED: SECRETARY

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notified the general public that the Original Offer Letter issued to **UMAR HABIBAT** by **SAGAMA CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING LTD.** on the 16/02/2020 is missing. All efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive. Concerned authorities and the general public to please take note

Signed: UMAR HABIBAT

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

SPACE FOR SALE

Change of Name

<p>ABUBAKAR</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR MUSA ADAMU, now wish to be known and addressed as ABUBAKAR MUSA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KAMDANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as KADDANG MAGDALENE RAMOND, now wish to be known and addressed as KAMDANG MAGDALENE RAYMOND. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>LYDIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABOK ATAKO, now wish to be known and addressed as LYDIA AZI ABOK. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>YAKUBU</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAKUBU KETE BABUJE, now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU BABUJE KETE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>BATURE</p> <p>I, formerly known as BATURE SIMI RACHAEL, now wish to be known and addressed as BATURE SIMI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SAMUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMUEL KYAUTA, now wish to be known and addressed as SAMUEL PROVERB KYAUTA former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>ISHAYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ISHAYA SABULU NGYANGME, now wish to be known and addressed as ISHAYA SABULU GYAME. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>WETSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as WETSA BULUS, now wish to be known and addressed as WETSA ANNA BULUS. Correct date of birth is 18/7/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>CHINEDU</p> <p>I, formerly known as CHINEDU FIDELIX AKPUDO, now wish to be known and addressed as CHINEDU FIDELIS AKPUDO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>HANATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as HANATU LUKA GYAMBAL, now wish to be known and addressed as HANATU GYAMBAL LUKA. Correct date of birth is 14/4/1968 not 14/3/1970. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>CHINKINAAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as RAJI OLUWAKEMI DEBORAH, now wish to be known and addressed as CHINKINAAN OLUWAKEMI DEBORAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>IBRAHIM</p> <p>I, formerly known as IBRAHIM ADAMU JOSHUA, now wish to be known and addressed as IBRAHIM ADAMU GALADIMA KANO. Correct date of birth is 15/5/1976 not 15/15/1968. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>DABEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVOU MARY JOHN, now wish to be known and addressed as DABEN MARY GODFREY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>AKPI</p> <p>I, formerly known as AHILE AKPI, now wish to be known and addressed as AKPI AHILE ADINGBU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>JULBYEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as JULIANA NANCWHAT, now wish to be known and addressed as JULBYEN NANCWAT. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>MARYAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARYAM ABDULLAHI, now wish to be known and addressed as MARYAM HARUNA. Correct date of birth is 16/3/1960 not 22/2/1965. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>AISHA</p> <p>I, formerly known as AISHATU HARUNA NAMUDA, now wish to be known and addressed as AISHA MAHHUDA. Correct date of birth is 1/1/2001 not 4/5/1999. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SAFIYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAFIYA SANI, now wish to be known and addressed as SAFIYA HARUNA. Correct date of birth is 9/9/1978 not 1/1/1970. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>RUKAYYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as RUKAIYA IDRIS, now wish to be known and addressed RUKAYYA YUNUSA. Correct date of birth is 17/1/1962 not 1/1/1960. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GLADYS</p> <p>I, formerly known as GLADYS JOHN DAJAN, now wish to be known and addressed GLADYS DAJAN NYAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IZANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as IZANG BULUS, now wish to be known and addressed as IZANG BULUS NYAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YOHANNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as KADERNU ILIYA YOHANNA, now wish to be known and addressed YOHANNA ILIYA KADERNU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUTKWOET</p> <p>I, formerly known as YOHANNA DEBORAH BULA, now wish to be known and addressed MUTKWOET DEBORAH SABA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>VENMAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as SOKZING VENMAK, SOHZING VENMAK, now wish to be known and addressed as VENMAK SOHZING MAMVEN. Correct date of birth is 17/1/1988 not 10/11/1995. 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 LANTANA MOHAMMAD/LAMNTAN, RIDWAN MUHAMMAD, now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU LANTANA RIDWAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public</p>	<p>BULUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as ADAM MUSA SAMUEL, now wish to be known and addressed as BULUS MUSA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MAFWALAL</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN GODWIN, now wish to be known and addressed as MAFWALAL GODWIN JOHN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHUWANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOY PATRICK DYE, now wish to be known and addressed as CHUWANG JOY PATRICK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ELIZABETH</p> <p>I, formerly known as ELIZABETH SAMUEL, now wish to be known and addressed as ELIZABETH ONYIBA OCHEJE ELIZABETH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as WENG SHEDRACK SUNDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY WENG BADUNG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DAYIL</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN SARAH DAYIL, now wish to be known and addressed as DAYIL SARAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GODWIN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ANNA PHILLIP, now wish to be known and addressed as GODWIN ANNA GORIP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BARMINAS</p> <p>I, formerly known as USENI PLANGNAN MONDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as PLANGNAN BARMINAS USENI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>USENI</p> <p>I, formerly known as USENI MONDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as USENI MONDAY SENAAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SHINLENG</p> <p>I, formerly known as KOPSAM SIMLA, now wish to be known and addressed as SHINLENG DADE SIMLA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>BALA</p> <p>I, formerly known as BALA DORCAS VANESSA, now wish to be known and addressed as BALA DORCAS NSUTUN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>ONMEJE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ONMEJE LUCY IREAGBU, now wish to be known and addressed as ONMEJE LUCY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DEBORAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as DEBORAH JOHN, now wish to be known and addressed as DEBORAH JOHN MARAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GRACE</p> <p>I, formerly known as GRACE MUSA CHAIMANG, now wish to be known and addressed as GRACE CHAIMANG DACKSON. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>TALATU</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS TALATU JOHN YASHIM, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS TALATU ISA MARAFA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SALE</p> <p>I, formerly known as TANGKAT NANLOP SALEH, now wish to be known and addressed as SALE NANLOP LUCY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GRACE</p> <p>I, formerly known as UHWET GRACE GANDU, now wish to be known and addressed as GRACE DINCHI GANDU. All former documents remain valid. Sterling Bank Nigeria Plc, all concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>NIMAC</p> <p>I, formerly known as NIMAC DAVID ERIC, now wish to be known and addressed as NIMAC E. DAVID PONSAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KWARSHAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as PARBE LAMI KANIN, now wish to be known and addressed as KWARSHAK, MERCY KEVIN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>OCHIORAH</p> <p>I, formerly known as OCHIORAH VIRGININ OGOCHUKWU, now wish to be known and addressed as OCHIORAH GINA OGOCHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JAMES</p> <p>I, formerly known as JAMES MAREN YOHANNA, now wish to be known and addressed as JAMES YOHANNA. Correct date of birth 1/1/1992 not 12/10/1996. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ASHAWAT</p> <p>I, formerly known as AWANDASH HAPPY MARK, now wish to be known and addressed as ASHAWAT ACHUBE ALAKWAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YALSHEP</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAKUB YALSHEP, now wish to be known and addressed as YALSHEP PIUS DAKUP. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>ZARBUT</p> <p>I, formerly known as GOCHUK BALIZARBUT, now wish to be known and addressed as ZARBUT DUL DANJUHA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SABO</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR AHMAD SULEIMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as SABO AMADU. Correct date of birth is 1/1/1997 not 1/4/1997. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CECILIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as CECILIA GIDEON, now wish to be known and addressed as CECILIA MABUR TAJAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>UMMULKULSUM</p> <p>I, formerly known as UMMULKULSUM DASHE SHAFIU, now wish to be known and addressed as UMMULKULSUM MUHAMMAD SHAFIU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>DUSHU</p> <p>I, formerly known as PAUL GODIYA MANGUN, now wish to be known and addressed as DUSHU GODIYA PAUL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SILVIA</p> <p>I, formerly known as WUYEP REJOICE FAMAQ, now wish to be known and addressed as SILVIA BINDAN FAMAQ. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>LAMGWAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as LANGWAK KUDIK LAMKO, now wish to be known and addressed as LANGWAK LABONG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>FANGINAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as GANGINAN NEHEMIAH DASHE, now wish to be known and addressed as FANGINAN MIRI DASHE. 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 GYANG CHUHWAK, now wish to be known and addressed as DAVID CHUHWAK MANDYENG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SELBYEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SELBYEN NDAM JANGTUR, now wish to be known and addressed as SELBYEN NANNIM JANGTUR. All former documents remain valid. GT Bank, all concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KUNFA</p> <p>I, formerly known as KOPPA NANJI, now wish to be known and addressed as KUNFA NANJI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>CHAK'AN</p> <p>I, formerly known as PHILIMON NANLOP, now wish to be known and addressed as CHAK'AN NANLOP PHILEMON. 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 (2) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
Adigi James late of Plateau State, died on the 2nd March, 2004 at Richa, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State.	Sagai James of Takai Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Grace Regina Bature late of Plateau State, died on the 10th September, 2021 at Maraban Jama's Kuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Chollom Wash Melchizedek of Maraban Jama; Kuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Martina Uzuegbu late of Plateau State, died on the 9th September, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Fredrick Nnamdi Uzuegbu of Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Daniel Micheal Auna late of Plateau State, died on the 9th August, 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	Samuel Daniel Auna & Auna Elizabeth Nandir of Former Uma Bread Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased	Gwet Felicia late of Plateau State, died on the 22nd December, 2021 at Jos, Plateau State.	Patience Kankemwa Dimka of COCIN Church Dorowa Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	Ayuba Ibrahim late of Plateau State, die on the 24th January, 2024 at Jos, Plateau State.	Sadiq Ibrahim Ayuba of Al 10 Nasarawa Gwong Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Maurice Banwar Dagwa late of Plateau State, died on the 15th September, 2021 at BHUTH, Jos Plateau State.	Juliana Banwar Dagwa & Maurice Nandom Dagwa of Fwali, Opp Police Mounted Troop, Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son/widow of the said deceased	Nathaniel Motunbade Adeyemi late of Plateau State, died on the 5th March, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	Adeyemi Kalafite Helen of No. 5 Davou Manjei Street Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Bala Saleh late of Plateau State, died on the 17th April, 2021 at Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	Kangyang Bala of Catholic Church K/Vou, Jos south LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Musa Ntuhun late of Plateau State, die on 23rd August, 2019 at Cottage Hospital, Dyeroc Chip.	Rangge Justin Musa of Chip Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Adamu Gyang late of Plateau State, died on the 29th September, 2023 at General Hospital, 8/Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	Adamu Peter Gyang of Heipang Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Dauda Baiba Sane late of Plateau State, died on the 2nd February, 2024 at Jos, Plateau State.	Jack Dauda Baiba of Mungwell Behind WAEC Office Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
Job Davou Pam late of Plateau State, died on the 25th January, 2022 at Vom Christian Hospital, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	Jidauna Job of Vom Christian Hospital Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased	Sarah Geoffrey Damirim late of Plateau State, died on the 5th February, 2023 at General Hospital, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	Damirim Bala Geoffrey of COCIN LCC Bwarak, Pankshin LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband of the said deceased.	Isaac Auta Atagiri late of Plateau State, died on the 26th January, 2024 at Jos, Plateau State.	Mary Isaac Makhroum of No. 8 39 Dachom Giring Abattior Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Jallo Abdullahi Garba late of Plateau State, died on the 23rd February, 2024 at General Hospital, Dengi LGA, Plateau State.	Jallo Ubaidu Abdullahi of Dengi Kanam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Dung Patrick Dalyop late of Plateau State, died on the 16th February, 2024 at Jos, Plateau State.	Philip Patrick Yal of Dachom Village Behind PMF Giring Abattior Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	Martins Istifanus, late of Plateau State died on the 19th Oct, 2023. At Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hosp. Bauchi State.	Meluta Christiana Ishaku & HyeInaya Martinas of Kyan Rikkos Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughters of the said deceased.
Mocrey Binbut Dalen, late of Plateau State, died on the 26th Dec, 2020. At JUTH, Plateau State.	Dalen Pirshal Sunday of No. 56 Fudawa Jos North LGA, Plateau State. The lawful son of the said deceased.	Ishaku Iliya, late of Plateau State, died on the 20th March, 2020. At Jos Plateau State.	Gabriel Ishaku Jatau & Anointing Ishaku of Rukuba Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.	Bawa Titus Dazor, late of Plateau State died on the 13th Jan, 2024. At JUTH, Plateau State.	Elizabeth Titus of Zaramaganda Jos South LGA. Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.
Jogo Luper James, late of Plateau State, died on the 1st Sept, 2023. Jos, Plateau State.	Jogo Msughter & Dose Jessica Jogo No. 16 I.S Tarkaa way K/Ala Benue State. Lawful Brother/Widow of the said deceased.	Dr.Francis Elisha Sa'Ayinzat (M2G Consulting NIG, LTD) late of Plateau State, died on the 2nd March, 2023. At Jos, Plateau State.	Dinatu Ayinzat of House Adjacent Rockfield, Motel Rayheld Road Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	Pius Tonka Yilluk, late of Plateau State, died on the 17th Oct, 2020. At Pankshin, LGA Plateau State.	Yilluk Joel Nantok offwor Pankshin LGA Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.
Ignatius Inuwa Wen, late of Plateau State, died on the 16th Dec, 2013. At: JUTH, Plateau State.	Wen Mahan Ignatius of behind central primary school, Daffo, Bokkos LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.				

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

Take notice that the original Right of Occupancy Certificate No. **PL 19790** in the name of **EMMANUEL AYUBA SHEHU** which has been in possession of **COL. PETER MAIRABO SHEHU (RTD)** is missing at his residence in **DADIN KOWA**, Jos Plateau State. All efforts made to trace the whereabouts of the said document has proved abortive. The general public, Ministry of Lands, Survey and Town Planning Plateau State should take note please.
Signed: COL. PETER NAIROBO SHEHU (RTD).

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the Right of Occupancy No. **PL 4269/23** dated 19th May 1982 granted by the Plateau State Ministry of Lands, Survey & Town Planning Jos in favour of **MICHEAL DUNG ZANG** (now assigned to **JOSEPH MANGTUP DIN**) is missing. If found, kindly inform **STELLA DIN JACOB**, the Administrator of the Estate of **JOSEPH MANGTUP DIN** through the family's solicitor, **EDWIN O. OKORO SAN** of NO. 51C Barracks Road Jos Plateau State.
Signed:
EDWIN O. OKORO SAN
Solicitor
No. 51C Barracks Road Jos, Plateau State.

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH ON INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT

I, ALIYU ABUBAKAR MADIN wish to state that my correct date of birth is **07-12-2006** and not **07-12-2002** as wrongly captured on my International Passport. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.

IMAGES

PLSG COMMISSIONS VEHICLES FOR PLATEAU RIDERS

Governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang, through his Deputy, Ngo Josephine Piyo, yesterday commissioned 20 vehicles for the Plateau Express Service Ltd, at its terminal in Jos



Ngo Piyo addressing dignitaries before commissioning the vehicles



The deputy governor(right) with the General Manager, Plateau Express Service, Samuel Gwott, and the Commissioner for Transport, Jatau Davou Gyang



From left are the General Manager, JMDB, Arc Hart Bankat, DG, PEPSA, Samuel Nathaniel Dapiya, Chairman, PSIRS, Jim Pam Wayas, and CMD, Plateau Specialist Hospital, Prof. Chris Yilgwan,



Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Gabriel Dewan (left), with the Special Adviser to the Governor on Strategic Communication, Dr. Timothy Golu



Head of Civil Service, Barr. Rauta Dakok, with the Plateau State PDP Deputy Chairman, Bitrus Golen



General Manager, Plateau Express Service, Samuel Gwott (left), with the Director of Press and Public Affairs, Gyang Bere



Representative of Governor Mutfwang cutting the tape to officially commission the 20 vehicles



The vehicles commissioned

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

IMAGES

PLSG HOLDS MONTHLY PRESS BRIEFING

The Plateau State Government, through the Plateau State Ministry of Information and Communication, is currently holding monthly press briefings at the Conference Hall, Ministry of Education, JD Gomwalk Secretariat, Jos



Commissioner for Information and Communication, Musa Ibrahim Ashoms, delivering the opening remarks



Commissioner of Transport, Davou Jatau Gyang, presenting his score card to journalists



Commissioner for Lands, Survey and Town Planning, Peter Nyam Gai, presenting his score card, flanked by the permanent secretary (right), and the Information Commissioner



A cross-section of civil servants at the occasion



From left are Permanent Secretary, Youth and Sports, the NUJ Chairman, Ayuku Pwaspo, NUJ National Auditor, Ladi Emmanuel, and the Independent Publishers Chairman, Chief Nanyah Daman



Palang Kasmi, NUJ Assignment Committee Secretary (left), with Christy Tamai Wassak of the Ministry of Information chapel



Cross section of Ministry of Information staff anchoring the event



Commissioner of Information, Musa Ibrahim Ashoms (left), putting heads together with a senior government functionary

PHOTOS: DANLADI DUK

Feature

Fighting wild polio resurgence

By BAYO ALABIRA

ALTHOUGH Nigeria was declared polio-free years back, experts say that if children born since then are not vaccinated, there might be a resurgence. That is why stakeholders are calling for concerted efforts in that direction.

Just recently, experts in the health sector and United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) renewed calls on policy makers and stakeholders at the community level in Kano, Katsina and Jigawa states to join hands in the fight against wild poliovirus in order to prevent its re-emergence.

The call came from experts and specialists in polio eradication campaign in collaboration with UNICEF, the Kano State Government and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) in Kano. The one-day media briefing and orientation on polio eradication campaign was organised for journalists from Kano, Katsina and Jigawa states.

According to Mr. Samuel Kaalu, UNICEF communications specialist in Kano, the meeting was organised to train journalists from the three states on how to educate the policy makers and other stakeholders responsible for setting the ball rolling during polio vaccination and immunisation campaign in the urban and rural areas of the three states. It was also disclosed that wild poliovirus had been eradicated and Nigeria declared polio-free since 2020.

Therefore, the need to retain the trophy becomes necessary by continued vaccination of all new borns under five years in order to prevent a resurgence. While grueling the participating journalists in their separate sessions, the experts said, "Killing the snake at your backyard without destroying the eggs it laid can still lead to more newborn snakes in the house."

So, to continue to keep Nigeria free of polio, routine vaccination campaigns have to be sustained. Dr. Ogu Enemaku, a specialist from UNICEF Kano Field Office told the media men that health authorities in many states across the country and their partners had been combatting outbreaks of variant forms of the polio virus. He said as media professionals, journalists have to engage with communities during outbreaks, which needs to be done with a high sense of accountability and responsibility, using some guidelines on how to do it ethically and professionally.

"It's about using power and resources ethically and responsibly, putting the needs and interests of the people and communities at the centre of decision-making and ensuring the most appropriate and relevant outcomes for them while preserving their rights and dignity and increasing their resilience to face situations of



vulnerability and crisis.

"Make decisions and advocate on behalf of vulnerable children, families and their communities, drawing on their views and feedback in ways that respect their rights, dignity and autonomy.

"It means that people including men and women, children and young people have a say in decisions making that affect their lives, receive the information they need to make informed decisions," said Dr. Enemaku.

He advised the journalists from the three states to always protect and respect the rights and sanctity of the people's concerns by engaging in awareness creation about infection prevention, limitation of spread and action by key stakeholders and others to save the society from the re-emergence of wild poliovirus. Enemaku therefore advised that the media should operate within the objectives of Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCCE) outlined by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

These are to raise awareness, manage risk perception, maintain trust in health authorities and response measures and proactively communicate to support people at risk to make informed decisions to protect themselves and others. In his own presentation, Dr. Mohammed Nasir Mahmoud, the Director-General, Kano State Primary Healthcare Management Board (KSPHMB), also enumerated some key facts on poliomyelitis. "Poliomyelitis mainly affects children under five years of age. There are three strains of the polio virus, type 1, type 2 and type 3; one in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis.

"Among those paralysed, 5-10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilised.

Cases due to wild polio virus have decreased by over 99% since 1988, from an estimated 350,000 cases in more than 125 endemic countries, to just two endemic countries as of October 2023.

"As long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of contracting polio. Failure to eradicate polio from these last remaining strongholds could result in a global resurgence of the disease," he disclosed.

Mahmoud further explained that economically, polio causes hardships to many nations and it was discovered that its eradication would save at least US\$ 40-50 billion, mostly in low-income countries. The DG said polio is a highly infectious disease that is caused by a virus. He pointed out that it affects mainly children under five years of age. Therefore, any child of that age that is unvaccinated can contract the disease.

He pointed out that the initial symptoms are fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness of the neck and pains in the limbs. Among those paralysed, he said, 5-10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilised.

"It invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. The virus is transmitted from person-to-person mainly through the faecal-oral route or less frequently by a common vehicle, for example, contaminated water or food and multiplies in the intestine. It is however preventable with oral polio vaccine," he disclosed.

Also, Mr. Michael Banda, Officer-in-Charge, UNICEF

Field Office in Kano, explained that the media dialogue was organised to share key information and messages with the media on polio vaccination and solicit media support in mobilising caregivers to bring out their children for vaccination.

"Not just during current vaccination campaign, but to embrace routine immunisation and increase its uptake, especially for children under five years of age.

"In 2023, there was an increase in the number of cVDP2 cases across the country with five states of Zamfara, Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina and Kano contributing to about 88% (211 of 238) of the total cases in 2023.

"As the data shows, in three states of Kano, Jigawa and Katsina, supported by the UNICEF Kano Field Office, we have over 556,750 children who have not received one single dose of vaccination they should have received," Banda added.

On his part, Dr. Shehu Abdullahi Muhammad, a Kano State mobilisation officer, said a caregiver, in the context of polio eradication, refers to individuals who are responsible for the well-being of children, including their health and immunisation. He also explained that caregivers resist polio vaccination in the rural areas, especially in Kano, Katsina and Jigawa states, because people always believe in the superstition that polio vaccine was planned to reduce the rate of child bearing with a view to reducing the population of their people.

He, therefore, urged the media to always use effective communication language to convince parents of affected children under five years to embrace routine and Oral Polio Vaccination (OPV) campaign.

"Misinformation or fear of adverse effects can lead to vaccine hesitancy. It is crucial to provide accurate information about the safety profile of the vaccine, emphasizing its long history of successful use and minimal risk belief that the OPV is effective.

"Trust plays a vital role in vaccination acceptance. If caregivers mistrust the vaccinators or the campaign organisers, they may resist participation," he warned. He advised the media to always de-emphasise the risk associated with the polio vaccine and emphasize more on the importance and benefits of the vaccines to the caregivers and parents of the children.

On his own part, the Director, Jigawa State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (PHCDA), Dr. Shehu Sambo, said the target for the campaign exercise was 1.5 million children under five years old across the state. Addressing reporters recently shortly after flagging off the campaign at the emir of Dutse's palace, Dr. Sambo that, already, close to 15,000 ad-hoc staff had been recruited to carry out the exercise across the nooks and crannies of the state.

Also, during the flagging off ceremony, the Emir of Dutse, Alhaji Hameem Nuhu Mohammadu Sanusi, said that he had personally directed all his district heads across the Emirate to take part in the exercise to make sure that every child in the rural areas was vaccinated accordingly. The traditional ruler, therefore, called on all parents in his emirate to make sure their children were fully covered and vaccinated to avoid anything that could turn back the hand of the clock.

ODD WORLD

Frogs are screaming - we just can't hear them

By MICKEY CARROLL

SOME frogs scream at an ear-splitting volume for other animals but its frequency is inaudible to humans, scientists have discovered.

While out in the Amazonian jungle studying frogs, researchers in Brazil noticed something strange.

Small leaf litter frogs were arching their backs, throwing back their heads and opening their mouths wide.

They looked like they were screaming but the scientists could hear nothing.

When they recorded the frogs using high-frequency audio recorders, the scientists captured the first documented case of "defensive ultrasound" being used by amphibians.

The scream is a response to predators, according to researchers from Brazil's State University of Campinas.

It could be a call to arms to attract another animal to attack the predator.

The researchers recorded the distress call on two occasions.

When they analysed the sound using special software, they found that it had a frequency range of 7 kilohertz



(kHz) to 44 kHz.

Humans cannot hear frequencies higher than 20 kHz, which are classed as ultrasound.

A researcher on the team, Mariana Retuci Pontes, says she saw frogs exhibiting similar behaviour on a different research trip but didn't have the right technology to record the ultrasonic sound.

Bats, whales, rhinos, dogs, pigeons, cuttlefish... all sorts of animals use infrasonic and ultrasonic frequencies to communicate, and humans can hear none of it.

So the next time you're enjoying a peaceful walk, all

around you there could be a cacophony of noise.

Some animals are venomous, meaning they create their own toxins that can sicken, paralyze or kill when injected via fangs or a stinger.

But there's another category of toxic creature: those that are poisonous. These animals can't inject their toxins, but they can be just as deadly if they're eaten — or even touched. Some of these species, such as the jewel-colored poison dart frog, are well known. But there are also a slew of surprising poisonous animals.

World's oldest man, secret to his longevity, regular fish and chips

THE world's oldest man says the secret to his long life is luck, moderation — and fish and chips every Friday.

Englishman John Alfred Tinniswood, 111, has been confirmed as the new holder of the title by Guinness World Records. It follows the death of the Venezuelan record-holder, Juan Vicente Pérez, this month at the age of 114. Gisaburo Sonobe from Japan, who was next longest-lived, died March 31 at 112.

Tinniswood was presented with a certificate by Guinness World Records on Thursday at the care home where he lives in Southport, northwest England.

Born in Liverpool on Aug. 26, 1912, a few months after the sinking of the Titanic, Tinniswood lived through two

world wars, serving in the British Army Pay Corps in World War II.

The retired accountant and great-grandfather said moderation was key to a healthy life. He never smokes, rarely drinks and follows no special diet, apart from a fish and chip supper once a week.

"If you drink too much or you eat too much or you walk too much — if you do too much of anything — you're going to suffer eventually," Tinniswood told Guinness World Records.

But ultimately, he said, "it's pure luck. You either live long or you live short, and you can't do much about it."

The world's oldest woman, and oldest living person, is 117-year-old Maria Branyas Morera of Spain. **Source: London AP**



Alfred

Canadian family receives wrong body after father died

A family in Quebec is searching for answers after discovering that their father's remains didn't make it to Canada from Cuba, where he died while on vacation, and instead received the remains of another man.

Funerals for Faraj Allah Jarjour were scheduled for Sunday and Monday. Instead, his daughter Miriam Jarjour had been desperately calling and emailing as many officials as she can,

trying to find his body.

"Up until now we have no answers," Jarjour said. "Where is my father?"

Jarjour said she was swimming with her 68-year-old father in the ocean near Varadero, Cuba, during a family vacation on March 22 when he suddenly had a heart attack and died.

Because there were no medical facilities, his body was covered and left on a beach chair in the

hot sun for more than eight hours until a car arrived to take it to Havana, Jarjour said.

After that, it's not clear what happened.

Jarjour said she followed the directions given to her by the Canadian consulate, and paid \$10,000 Canadian (US\$7,300) to have the body returned home to the family.

However, the casket that arrived late last week contained

the body of a Russian man who was at least 20 years younger than Jarjour's father. Unlike her father, the body also had a full head of hair and tattoos.

Jarjour said the stranger's body has been sent to his country, but she and her family don't know where her father is.

When Jarjour contacted Canada's consular authorities in Cuba, they blamed the company in the island that coordinates the

return of the remains. Since then, she says she has been emailing other government officials, including her Member of Parliament, who has agreed to reach out to Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly.

"I'm honestly destroyed," said Jarjour. "Up until now we have no answers. We're waiting. I don't know what to tell you."

Jarjour described her father as an active man who didn't smoke or drink. The Syrian-born family man was "always smiling," she said.

The ordeal has left her mother exhausted, said Jarjour. She and her brother are struggling through their own grief while trying to get answers from authorities who all seem to deny responsibility.

So far, the family has spent \$25,000 Canadian (US\$18,248), including \$15,000 Canadian (US\$10,950) for funeral services that have been put on hold.

Global Affairs Canada said in an email that consular officials are working with Cuban authorities and the family to resolve the issue.

But Jarjour doesn't feel she is getting the answers she needs and is hoping Joly will personally intervene to pressure Cuban authorities.

"What I want is someone to help me find my father," she said.



Foreign News

Has South Africa truly defeated apartheid?

By JOHN ELIGON
& LYNSEY CHUTEL

WHEN the apartheid government was toppled in South Africa, ending white minority rule, people around the world shared in the excitement and optimism that a more just society would emerge. A generation later, the country's journey provides a broader lesson: It is far easier to rally for an end to racism than it is to undo entrenched inequities and to govern a complicated country.

The African National Congress won the 1994 election on the promise of "a better life for all." But for many that promise has fallen short. Polls now suggest that in the election scheduled for May 29, the party risks losing its absolute majority in the national government for the first time.

No one doubts that South Africa has made strides since the days of legalized racial oppression. Democracy has brought a growing Black middle class, access to better education across racial lines and a basic human dignity once stolen from the Black majority.

But there also has been a widening gap between rich and poor, a breakdown in basic services like electricity and water, and the continued isolation of Black families stuck in ramshackle homes in distant communities.

Black South Africans, who make up 81 percent of the population, often argue that they've gained political freedom, but not economic freedom — and remain trapped in the structure of apartheid.

We went through the Freedom Charter's declarations — each ending in an exclamation point — to measure South Africa's progress and shortcomings over the past 30 years.

On a continent where coups, autocrats and flawed elections have become common, South Africa is a widely admired exception.

Since 1994, the country has held national elections every five years, with local elections in between. Presidents have changed, but the party in power — the A.N.C. — never has. Despite this, there have never been any serious doubts about the integrity of those electoral contests. A record 52 parties will compete in the national election this year.

Despite the electoral stability, politics have been dangerous. Fierce conflict within the A.N.C. has resulted in many assassinations over the years. The A.N.C.'s access to state resources as the governing party has fueled many of the disputes and led to widespread corruption — from top national officials down to local councilors.

South Africa has become a place where people of all races often dine, worship and party together. Gay rights are largely accepted. There is a free and vigorous press, and protests and open political debate are a part of life.

But many of the economic barriers created under apartheid still endure.

By one measure, the World Bank has ranked South Africa as the most unequal country in the world. Ten percent of the population holds about 71 percent of the country's wealth, while the bottom 60 percent holds just 7 percent of assets, according to the World Bank.

To a large extent, the wealth



Thirty years ago, the South African miracle came true. Millions voted in the country's first democratic elections, seemingly delivering a death blow to apartheid.

disparities have kept millions of Black South Africans relegated to some of the most deplorable conditions.

Just look at the place in the Soweto community of Kliptown where hundreds of anti-apartheid activists gathered to draft the Freedom Charter in 1955. It is now known as Walter Sisulu Square, named for a prominent anti-apartheid activist.

Across adjacent railroad tracks sits an all-Black neighborhood where most residents live in tin shacks, use outdoor latrines, rely on jury-rigged wires for electricity and navigate craggy dirt roads.

Jack Martins, 54, who lives in the neighborhood, had a cellphone repair shop in the complex, but it did not survive the riots. He now plies his trade from a table on the sidewalk. He secured public housing, but had to pay a bribe to get it, he said. Two of his sons could not get into university because there was not enough space, and his daughter, despite having a mechanical engineering degree, has been unable to find stable work. He is fed up with the near-daily, hours-long electricity outages caused by the failing state power utility.

The Black middle and upper classes have grown significantly. In 1995, just 350,000 Black South Africans lived in households that were among the top 15 percent in income, according to researchers at the University of Cape Town's Liberty Institute of Strategic Marketing. By 2022, that number had grown to about 5.6 million.

Still, Black families are underrepresented among rich households.

Many expected something better this far into democracy. Much of the nation's wealth remains in white hands.

Black South Africans had a stake in only 29 percent of the companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, according to a 2022 report by South Africa's Black Economic Empowerment Commission. Not a single entity on the exchange was fully Black-owned, the report said.

Economists say the country's economy never took off enough to allow for a greater redistribution of wealth. Even when South Africa experienced its strongest stretch of economic growth in the first decade and a half of democracy, it still lagged behind its peers in Africa and other upper-middle-income countries. Since then, growth has been tepid, and contraction since the Covid-19 pandemic has been sharper than that in similarly sized economies.

Government rules have allowed

Black South Africans to gain a greater stake in industries like mining, where Black ownership has grown from 2 percent to 39 percent over the past two decades. But the gains have gone to relatively few people at the top.

At the end of apartheid, when almost all of South Africa's agricultural land was white-owned, Mr. Mandela's government pledged in 1994 to transfer 30 percent of it into Black hands within a few years, by encouraging white landowners to sell.

The government failed to meet its goal, and it stretched the deadline to 2030. So far, about 25 percent of white-owned farmland has been transferred to Black ownership, mostly through the purchase of land by the government or Black individuals, according to Wandile Sihlobo and Johann Kirsten, agricultural economists at Stellenbosch University.

White South Africans make up roughly 7 percent of the population, but white-owned farms still cover about half of the country's entire surface area, according to Mr. Sihlobo and Mr. Kirsten.

In the first decade of democracy, more than 930,000 mostly Black and colored farm workers were evicted from farms despite new laws intended to allow them to spend their lives on the farms where they worked.

"We haven't been able to live up to those ideals" of Black land ownership, Mr. Sihlobo said.

The high unemployment rate has given rise to a hustle culture that sends many South Africans to the streets early each morning in search of work.

Zinhele Nene, 49, has been waking up by 5:30 a.m. most days and waiting on a corner in downtown Johannesburg with hundreds of others seeking day jobs. She left her low-paying job as a home health aide because the transportation to work was too expensive.

"It's heartbreaking because we come here and we don't even have food," she said, wiping away tears as the hours passed. "Sometimes, you even get home, there's nothing. You just drink water and then you sleep."

Poverty has decreased since the start of democracy. Still, it remains very high. Nearly two out of every three Black South Africans lived below the upper-bound poverty line in 2015 — the most recent data available — meaning they had access to less than about \$80 a month. Only 1 percent of white South Africans lived below that line, hardly enough.

The government has built 3.4 million houses since 1994, and given ownership of most of them for free to poor South Africans. Some units, known as social housing, are rented out at below-market rates. The government also has embarked on several "mega city" projects, in partnership with the private sector, to cluster together various types of housing and services like day care centers.

Many South Africans have moved into formal homes from makeshift structures, and access to basic services like electricity and piped water has increased. But frequent power and water outages have made those services unreliable, leading to anger and frustration nationwide.

New government housing has often ended up in areas far from jobs and economic activity, perpetuating the apartheid system of marginalizing Black people to outlying townships.

Nokuthula Mabe anxiously set on her suitcase in the February heat outside North-West University in the city of Mahikeng, waiting with about a dozen other high-school graduates hoping for a spot. The university had received more than 181,000 applications for 11,717 slots.

In many ways, Ms. Mabe epitomized post-apartheid progress simply by graduating from her overcrowded village school near the Botswana border.

In the 1950s, only 10 percent of Black children finished high school. By 2021, that number had risen to 58 percent, according to government statistics.

Despite these gains, significant racial disparities persist. Note: Shows share of 22- to 25-year-olds who have completed at least grade 12 or equivalent.

In 1982, the apartheid government spent roughly \$1,100 a year on education for each white child but just \$140 for each Black child, according to Section 27, a human rights organization.

In 2022, about 6 percent of South Africans aged 18 to 29 were enrolled in higher education, according to Statistics South Africa. These enrollment rates lag behind countries with similarly sized economies, like Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines, according to figures from the World Bank.

After waiting nervously for hours, Ms. Mabe, 18, dragged her suitcase to the nearest bus stop to begin the three-and-a-half-hour trip back to her village. The university was too full to admit her.

During apartheid, the judicial system was used to criminalize Black people, mete out harsh punishment and cover up the atrocities committed against them.

Today, the judiciary is seen as among the most credible institutions in the country. Judges have upheld human rights and taken tough stances against even powerful political figures like the former president Jacob Zuma, who was sentenced to prison for contempt.

Still, as in many other countries, the South African justice system works best for those with money. A government commission found two years ago that most South Africans could not afford legal fees. The agency providing legal assistance for the poor is underfunded and overburdened. "Those with very deep pockets

are able to take the criminal justice process, stretch it for a very long period of time," said Chrispin Phiri, a spokesman for the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services. "That's a privilege not afforded to a poorer person."

What's more, the justice system does not seem to be taming the country's high crime rate.

Although the murder rate is lower than it was in 1994, it has climbed steadily since 2012.

On paper, South Africa's legal system prioritizes rehabilitating prisoners. The government offers an array of restorative justice, jobs and counseling programs for inmates and those being released.

Internationally, South Africa has tried to position itself as a broker of peace and a leader in challenging a Western-led world order.

South Africa is the "S" in the BRICS group of nations that also includes Brazil, Russia, India and China, formed as a counterpoint to American and European alliances.

South Africa has played a critical role over the years in peace missions in African countries like Ethiopia, Burundi and Zimbabwe. And President Cyril Ramaphosa led a peace delegation last year to Ukraine and Russia, while refusing to condemn

South Africa argues that as a midsize nation, it cannot afford to choose sides and must make friends with everyone.

But it has been accused of being hypocritical and selectively concerned about peace and human rights.

The government brought a genocide case this year in the International Court of Justice against Israel for its war in Gaza after the attacks by Hamas on Oct. 7. South African officials have argued that Palestinians face a situation similar to apartheid.

For all of the frustrations that South Africans may have about the past 30 years, democracy has brought something that money and data cannot measure: freedom.

As in, freedom to go where you want, to date whom you want, to complain and advocate change as loudly as you want.

That has driven Sibusiso Zikode, 48, for much of his adult life.

He arrived in Durban, a port city on South Africa's east coast, and started law school, but dropped out in the first term when his family savings ran out.

He moved to Kennedy Road, a slum built on muddy slopes and surrounded by a landfill, joining thousands who had flocked to the city for opportunity, only to find themselves in zinc shacks. This didn't feel like freedom.

So, he helped to establish Abahlali baseMjondolo, a protest movement that is one of many that represent the revolt of poor people. Between July and September in 2022, the South African police responded to 2,455 protests.

But going up against the post-apartheid political establishment has come at great cost: Leaders of Abahlali have been assassinated, and Mr. Zikode had to flee from his home at the squatter camp after deadly attacks.

Abahlali's members are growing more disillusioned with democracy.

"Whoever is homeless now," Mr. Zikode said, "will be homeless after the election."

News

We'll deploy technology against corruption- FG

From **JIDAUNA YANUNG, Abuja**

PRESIDENT Bola Ahmed Tinubu has stressed the importance of technology in combating corruption and enhancing public sector performance.

A statement by the presidential spokesman quoted the president as stating this during a meeting with Microsoft founder and philanthropist, Bill Gates, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

President Tinubu said that his administration was investing in technology to ensure transparency and accountability in government and accelerate public sector performance and service delivery.

He emphasized his unwavering commitment to delivering reliable technology that would



Tinubu

support a national consumer credit system and many other critical government interventions. President Tinubu added that resistance is often expected whenever efforts were made to strengthen systems and forestall

malfeasance.

The statement, which was signed by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Ajuri Ngelale, also quoted the president as saying that technology is the enemy of fraud, corruption and irregularity.

From **WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe**

A one-day workshop on security and human rights has identified why Nigerian security agents still feel that respecting the fundamental human rights of citizens hinders the performance of their responsibilities.

Most of the security agents who participated in the workshop held in Gombe, expressed the opinion that in most cases, it is only through torture or the use of force that people would be law abiding or information could be extracted from a suspect.

However, a human rights expert and activist, Dr. Innocent Ajenogore, a consultant with Lite Africa who was the key resource person during the workshop, said Nigerian security agents would earn the respect of Nigerians and enhance the performance of their responsibilities if they executed their functions under the rule of law.

He further explained, "As you can see from the security personnel present, they still feel that the fundamental human rights or the constitution of Nigeria is a limitation to their ability to perform their duty.

Respecting human rights isn't hindrance to your duties

- Expert

"They do not know that it even enhances their ability to perform their responsibilities, if they follow and abide by it. When they do that, the citizens are likely to respect them more because their (citizens) fundamental human rights are respected."

Earlier, Dr. Innocent Ajenogore had explained that the training workshop was key, particularly for the security personnel to really understand the value of human life and how to respect the rights and fundamental freedoms of Nigerians.

He added: "While the security personnel are doing their jobs, they should always have it at the back of their minds that there is need to respect the rights of suspects or detainees and Nigerians as a whole.

"Whenever there is rule of law, fundamental freedom, equality and the rights of the citizens are respected, there is bound to be peace, prosperity, growth in such communities.

"The rights of Nigerians must be respected at all times not minding how the security personnel feel. It is not about their emotions, it is about what the constitution says that should be applied at all times."

Another resource person and Gombe State Coordinator of the National Human Rights Commission, Mohammed Shamsudeen Ayuba, noted that security personnel complain that "We, human rights defenders are fond of hiding individuals and preventing them from doing their jobs."

He said, "This kind of training is supposed to be given to them (security personnel) because some of them don't

know the difference between torture and human rights."

Baring his mind on the issue, Chairman, Gombe State Network of Civil Society (GONET), Ambassador Ibrahim Yusuf, described the training as very important and timely because it would enlighten people at the community level to know how to engage relevant authorities whenever they had human rights abuses issues.

"This training can open the eyes of community, to share experiences, especially when they are having issues with some facilities, especially private companies that are within their communities. They don't know where or how to channel their grievances," he stated.

Dr. Erisa Danladi, Executive Director, Mother Hen Development Foundation and facilitator of the training, expressed delight over the interest shown by the participants during the training.

She said that it was a milestone for Mother Hen Development Foundation to be able to bring stakeholders on security to discuss issues of human rights.

"It's very important we had this meeting. We brought the stakeholders together to be able to make our position known as human rights advocates. We've been doing this before but this is the first time we're engaging security agents," she pointed out. Stakeholders at the workshop included community leaders, security agents, CSOs, private security organizations, journalists and human rights organizations, among many others.

Uni-Jos TETFund to support student's technological innovations

By **HOSEA NYAMLONG**

THE University of Jos Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) Centre of Excellence in Food Security has said that the centre is set to support students who utilize the power of technology for creative innovations and solutions that address some of the world's most pressing problems through cutting edge research.

This was contained in a press release signed by Abdullahi Abdullahi, Senior Deputy Registrar (Information and Publications), University of Jos, and made available to THE NIGERIA STANDARD in Jos, recently.

The statement added that the Director of the Centre, Professor Paul Amaza, stated this during a public lecture organized for postgraduate students of the institution in

collaboration with Arifa Innovation Platform at the Innovation Hub of the centre in the university's Naraguta campus.

While welcoming participants to the training, Professor Paul Amaza said that the capacity building programme tagged "Fit-for Purpose Action Research: Exploring the Knowledge Economy," aimed at igniting critical thinking and innovation among postgraduate students of the university while challenging conventional norms and enabling them to explore new horizons.

He explained that the programme provided a forum for scholars, researchers and students to develop exceptional ideas, contemporary research findings in line with emerging trends with focus on disseminating research outputs for adoption by the private sector including

farmers, industry players and other end-users.

Azama pointed out that the adoption of such research outputs would in turn contribute towards enhancing food security and improved livelihoods in the North-Central states and other parts of Nigeria with emphasis on addressing the diverse challenges that affected food security including low crop yields and poor livestock productivity.

He said that other challenges identified were poor access to agricultural markets, low value addition to agricultural produce, land degradation, climate change, pests and diseases as well as inconsistent government policies.

Azama commended the facilitators for their initiative and revealed that those students to be supported were required to submit their project topics and registration details to the TETFund Centre of Excellence on Food Security before publishing their papers.

Earlier in a lead paper presentation, Dr. Nanvyat Nannim explained that open science involves making research data, methods and findings freely available to the public, thereby facilitating collaboration and transparency in the scientific community that could help to accelerate the pace of research.

This, according to Nannim, would enable researchers build on each other's work more easily leading to reduction in duplication and plagiarism as it allowed researchers to publish in multidisciplinary journals with open access, open peer review and indexed journals in

open databases.

Nannim stressed that interdisciplinary research was essential for addressing complex problems that required diverse perspectives and expertise, adding that by combining the insights and methods of different fields, researchers could generate new insights and solutions that would not be possible with a single-discipline approach.

He said, "With climate change and other environmental issues becoming increasingly urgent, researchers are turning their attention to developing sustainable solutions to the world's problems" and "this includes everything from developing new materials and technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to developing sustainable agricultural practices that can feed the world's growing population without damaging the environment."

In another presentation titled, "Statistical Methods: Exploring the Knowledge Economy," Dr. Simi Goyal of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, University of Jos, explained that food security is a situation where all people enjoy physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meet their food preferences and dietary needs at all times, for an active and healthy life.

According to her, effective use of research results would help to solve real life problems, adding that food security decisions must be backed by statistical data so as to avoid guesswork or mere intuition because without statistics, much of the groundbreaking research in the sciences would be impossible.

The lecture was attended by postgraduate students from various departments in the university, staff of the centre as well as staff from across other faculties.

Mutfwang unveils e-governance platform

By **PETER TITLE**

PLATEAU State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, has unveiled the Plateau State e-Governance Platform, aimed at fostering transparent, efficient and accountable governance.

In a message during the inauguration of the platform on Monday, the governor emphasized its role in promoting citizen-government interaction, saying that the gesture was courtesy Mr. Hephzibah Integrated Technologies Ltd.

According to Mutfwang, the platform, which is accessible via the toll-free line (08000005555) and <http://egov.plateaustate.gov.ng/>, allows citizens to provide feedback, request for services and engage with government agencies, thereby contributing to the administration's effectiveness.

He encouraged the public to utilize the hub to engage meaningfully with the government and offer information, opinions on policies and inquiries on service offering from MDAs while receiving timely feedback.

Enumerating the benefits of



Mutfwang

the platform, Governor Mutfwang highlighted increased efficiency, convenience, transparency, accountability, improved communication, engagement and cost-saving for Plateau citizens.

Operated under the Plateau State Information and Communication Technology Development Agency (PICTDA), led by the Director General, Mr. Datong Dominic, the platform, according to him, was a critical tool for enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accessibility to government services.



Ishaya

NIGERIA

in the Foreign Press



Crypto officer ends up in Nigerian prison

By DAVID
YAFFE-BELLANY
EMILY FLITTER

TIGRAN Gambaryan, an American compliance official for the giant cryptocurrency exchange Binance, flew to Nigeria in February for a planned two-day business trip. He hasn't returned.

When he flew to Nigeria for a business trip in late February, Tigran Gambaryan, a top compliance officer at the cryptocurrency exchange Binance, packed a small suitcase with just enough clothes for two days.

A former U.S. law enforcement agent, Mr. Gambaryan knew the trip was risky. Only a few weeks earlier, he and a group of colleagues had rushed out of Nigeria, concerned that the local authorities might detain them, five people familiar with that trip said. This time, he assured his wife, he would "get in and get out."

A month and a half later, Mr. Gambaryan is being held at Kuje prison in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, a complex that has housed Islamic State militants and Boko Haram fighters.

After meeting with government officials in Abuja on Feb. 26, Mr. Gambaryan, 39, and a Binance colleague, Nadeem Anjarwalla, were abruptly escorted to a guesthouse controlled by Nigerian security officials, where they were held for nearly a month with no formal charges filed against them.

Then, late last month, Mr. Anjarwalla, the company's regional manager for Africa, escaped under mysterious circumstances. Initial reports suggested he had fled Nigeria after guards permitted him to leave the guesthouse for Ramadan prayers.

Within days of the escape, the Nigerian government charged Mr. Gambaryan, Mr. Anjarwalla and Binance itself with tax evasion and money laundering—effectively accusing the company and two midlevel employees of the same crimes.

Mr. Gambaryan and Binance were accused of tax evasion and money laundering by Nigerian officials.

This account of Mr. Gambaryan's detention in Nigeria is based on interviews with Nigerian officials, crypto compliance experts and a dozen other people with knowledge of the situation, many of whom requested anonymity to discuss a legally sensitive matter.

In an April 3 statement, Binance denied that Mr. Gambaryan had any "decision-making power" in the company and said he should not be "held responsible while current discussions are ongoing between Binance and Nigerian government officials."

A Binance spokesman, Brad Jaffe, said the company had "great respect" for the Nigerian government and remained engaged in "good faith discussions at all levels."

Mr. Gambaryan's arrest is the latest flashpoint in years of legal troubles for Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange. The company is trying to rebuild after it agreed to pay \$4.3 billion in penalties last year to settle charges by several U.S. agencies that it violated economic sanctions against Syria, Cuba and Iran while allowing



Gambaryan surrounded by a team of lawyers

criminal activity to flourish on its platform.

The case also shows how the crypto industry, built on technology that was originally designed to circumvent the global financial system, is still struggling to stay on the right side of law enforcement in countries around the world. In November, Binance's founder, Changpeng Zhao, stepped down as chief executive and pleaded guilty to money-laundering violations in the United States.

Binance replaced Mr. Zhao with Richard Teng, a former Singaporean regulator, and continued to operate worldwide, but with a smaller staff after it laid off 3,000 of its nearly 8,000 employees last year.

Around the time of the leadership change, Binance was working with the Nigerian government, hoping to collaborate on efforts to monitor crypto transactions for financial crime. But those discussions deteriorated as Nigerian officials voiced suspicions that Binance was committing some of the same crimes that the United States had investigated.

With one of the largest economies in Africa, Nigeria has recently become a hot spot for digital currencies: It has the second-highest rate of crypto adoption in the world behind India, according to Chainalysis, a data firm. Some Nigerians have turned to crypto as an alternative to the local currency, which has depreciated substantially over the past two years.

Mr. Gambaryan, a weight lifter who practices martial arts in his spare time, spent his early childhood in Armenia before moving to Fresno, Calif., as a preteen. He now lives outside Atlanta with his wife and two young children.

Binance hired Mr. Gambaryan to work on compliance issues in 2021 and eventually made him the head of its financial crime compliance team.

By the time he traveled to Nigeria, Mr. Gambaryan had become one of the company's most recognized employees outside its executive suite. He spoke at conferences, used his pedigree as a former law enforcement officer to help recast

Binance as a law-abiding financial firm and met with government officials around the world. He liked to recount his years as a criminal investigator for the Treasury Department, where he was part of the team that investigated crimes linked to the Silk Road, a dark web marketplace. His friends and colleagues described him as fearless and proud of his government service.

In early January, Mr. Gambaryan was part of a delegation of Binance employees that traveled to Abuja for meetings with Nigerian officials, who were concerned that the company was evading taxes and violating anti-money-laundering rules.

The trip soon turned frightening, six people familiar with it said. On Jan. 8, Binance's delegation met with a group of Nigerian legislators, who read aloud a list of accusations against the company, including tax violations, three of the people said. The Binance delegation asked how it could resolve the government's concerns.

Peter Aniekwe, a Nigerian lawmaker who attended the meeting, said in an interview that he and his colleagues had told Binance's employees to speak with the Nigerian tax authority about how much the company owed.

Then one of the lawmakers suggested that the delegation was at risk of detention. "We told them that it's better to settle or they might not leave Nigeria," Mr. Aniekwe said.

It was meant to be a casual comment, Mr. Aniekwe said, and not an explicit threat, since legislators have no power to arrest anyone.

Still, the employees were alarmed. That night, a local Nigerian lawyer who was working with Binance told the delegation that the cost of settling the company's legal problems in Nigeria could exceed \$100 million, three people familiar with the talks said.

Fearing for their safety, Mr. Gambaryan and his colleagues cut the trip short and flew out of Nigeria, the people said.

Just a month and a half later, though, Mr. Gambaryan went back.

The decision-making among

Binance officials about the return trip was muddled, and it wasn't clear who made the final call. Friends and colleagues pleaded with Mr. Gambaryan not to go, three people familiar with those discussions said. He responded that he felt a sense of obligation to return, and that he thought he could mend relations with the Nigerian officials, a person familiar with his thinking said.

The debate reached Binance's top executives, a person familiar with the discussions said. Before Mr. Gambaryan left, Binance received assurances from local officials that he would be safe, the person said, and the company hired a security firm to help him navigate Abuja.

But tensions were growing. A few days before Mr. Gambaryan's return trip, Bayo Onanuga, an adviser to Nigeria's president, accused Binance of facilitating trading that had contributed to the collapse of the naira, the country's currency.

Only one other Binance employee traveled with Mr. Gambaryan — Mr. Anjarwalla, who had also been part of the January delegation. On Feb. 26, they met with officials from Nigeria's financial regulators and other government agencies. Binance did not send any lawyers to accompany them, a person familiar with the meeting said.

The discussions turned hostile. The Nigerian officials wanted Binance to turn over data for a large swath of its customers, a demand that the company was unwilling to meet, three people familiar with the talks said.

A few hours later, Nigerian officials escorted Mr. Gambaryan and Mr. Anjarwalla to their hotel and ordered them to pack their bags, according to their families. Then they were taken to the guesthouse — a secure compound near the headquarters of Nigeria's national security adviser. "You're our guest now," a Nigerian official told them, according to a person familiar with what happened.

The Nigerian authorities confiscated Mr. Gambaryan's and Mr. Anjarwalla's passports, but they were able to keep their phones, allowing them to communicate with family and colleagues. No criminal charges were filed, though a local

court issued an order permitting the authorities to detain Mr. Gambaryan and Mr. Anjarwalla pending an investigation.

For weeks, they stayed in a section of the house that included two bedrooms, a living room and a kitchen. Guards holding AK-47s were stationed nearby, a person familiar with the matter said.

Speaking to the BBC in early March, Mr. Onanuga, the presidential aide, said Nigeria's government was demanding close to \$10 billion from Binance "in retribution because they really messed up our economy in a very short time." (In an interview with *The New York Times*, Mr. Onanuga said he had meant that Binance "may" have to pay such an amount, and that he had been speculating about the size of a potential fine.)

On March 22, lawyers for Mr. Gambaryan and Mr. Anjarwalla learned that Nigeria was preparing to charge the two men personally with criminal violations, as part of its case against Binance, according to their families. The next morning, Mr. Gambaryan woke up to discover that Mr. Anjarwalla was missing, a person familiar with the matter said.

How Mr. Anjarwalla managed to escape was unclear. A local newspaper reported that Mr. Anjarwalla, who has dual nationality in Kenya and Britain, had used his Kenyan passport to leave Nigeria after handing over his British one. The guards led him to a nearby mosque for Ramadan on March 22, the report said, before he somehow slipped away.

A representative for Mr. Anjarwalla said he had left Nigeria "by lawful means." A spokesman for Nigeria's national security adviser said the country's security agencies were working to obtain an international arrest warrant for him.

"The personnel responsible for the custody of the suspect have been arrested," the spokesman said.

After the escape, the Nigerian authorities confiscated Mr. Gambaryan's phone. On March 25, he, Mr. Anjarwalla and Binance were charged with money laundering, tax evasion and other crimes. A judge ordered Mr. Gambaryan to be taken to Kuje, where the Islamic State staged a dramatic prison break in 2022 to free hundreds of its fighters.

Mr. Gambaryan's family, friends and colleagues have been lobbying U.S. officials to secure his release. "They need to make it clear that this kind of injustice should not be tolerated," Mr. Gambaryan's wife, Yuki, said in an interview.

A White House official, who requested anonymity to discuss sensitive diplomatic issues, said the administration was working with the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria to resolve the situation.

Mr. Gambaryan has lawyers representing him in Nigeria and is scheduled to appear in court for a bail hearing on Monday, a spokeswoman for his family said. Before he was taken to Kuje, Mr. Gambaryan recorded a video of himself in the courtyard of the guesthouse.

"Guys, I've done nothing wrong," he said. "I've been a cop my whole life. I just ask the Nigerian government to let me go."

Source: *New York Times*
Julian Barnes and Ruth Maclean contributed reporting.

EYE'S WORLD

With **Palang Kasmi**

Relationship

Mom or wife, who sits in his car's front seat?

By **PALANG KASMI**

THE rift between mother-in-laws and their daughter-in-laws is as old as the marriage institution itself, leading to questions about the reason for this persistent conflict.

According to psychologists and multiple surveys, the issues that develop between a married woman and her mother-in-law results when both start 'competing' subconsciously for the affection of the same man, which causes most of the problems in marriages.

Most times, the quarrels stem from the clamour for the man's attention, with each of them trying their best to assert their rights to owning him, as their man. If his mother is not the type that accepts the reality that her son is now married (and should therefore be given space to take decisions with his wife and start their home), you discover that she is always eager to meddle in their daily affairs, especially if she lives with them.

On the other hand, some of the conflicts wives have with their husbands' mothers is associated with attempts to draw boundaries and show that, as wives, they are the ones in control; they are the ones that should have the man; should be allowed to cook his food; and take key decisions with him after marrying him.

Such supremacy clashes, which sometimes begin as petty issues, result to quarrels and misunderstandings between the two key women in a man's life - his mum and wife - sometimes leaving him confused on what steps to take. This has been known to even lead to the breaking up of many marriages as these rifts sometimes go very deep.

One of the many causes of misunderstanding among the duo is the sitting position in the man's car whenever they are going for an outing together with him. The thorny questions of who is to sit with him in the front seat and who among them is to go to the backseat always arises in these situations. Is it his mom or his wife? What is the right thing to do morally, religiously and socially?

The following individuals gave their views as a way out of this dilemma:

Mr. Goar, a public relations expert, said that choosing whether his wife or mother should sit in the front seat would depend on certain factors like the position where the husband would sit. "Am I going to drive the car or am I going to sit in the back seat? If I am going to drive, my wife will sit in the front seat with me and my mother at the back seat. And if a driver is driving us to our destination, then I will sit in the front seat, to allow my wife and my mother sit together at the back seat."

For Mrs. Naanlong, a mother and businesswoman, it would depend on the situation. According to her, if her mother-in-law has a challenge or a tangible reason, she would compromise the front seat to make her cope with the situation. Naanlong however disclosed that, certainly, the scenario would be entirely different if her mother-in-law wants the front position to despise or ridicule her.

"If she wants to spite me and make a fuss about sitting in the front seat, I will not allow it. I will ask my husband to let her know her fault. But if she's insistent about being unruly, I will tell her the truth and make her understand that the front seat is meant for a wife."

"I will equally use the opportunity to remind her that she has her husband while, on the other hand, her son is my husband. I will equally advise her to act in line with the adage, 'Do unto others, as you want them to do unto you'."



"In essence, she shouldn't ask another woman to condone what she cannot tolerate. Therefore, I will ask her if she can allow her own mother-in-law to displace her from sitting with her own husband in the front seat and whether she thinks what she is exhibiting is fair."

Madam Dorcas, a mother and civil servant, believes the front seat is supposed to be strictly preserved for the wife while the back seat, popularly known as 'The Owner's Corner', should be meant for the mother-in-law.

"If the mother-in-law is wise enough or understands the power of the front seat, she will even prefer to sit behind at the 'Owner's Corner'. But if she doesn't want to sit in the back and prefers to sit in the front seat with her son, I don't have a problem with that."

"It doesn't change anything about my relationship with her son who is my husband, neither his position in my life nor my position in his heart. So, for me, that's it, there is no problem with who sits where. I can even decide to drive while he sits behind or beside me, or vice-versa."

"All I know is that they (she and her son) will not bear children together while my position cannot be taken away as a wife in his life. In the same way, her position as a mother cannot be substituted, I cannot give birth to him, his mum did," said Dorcas.

Mrs. Rosemary, a civil servant, is a mother-in-law. While pointing out that her son had been married for 6 years, she maintained that she knows her boundaries. She said that she strongly believes that the front seat carries a mark of honour.

Hear her: "If my son and daughter-in-law honour me, they will always attempt to ask me to sit in the front seat if we are all going out together, just as a sign of respect. However, I am not a fool. I will not accept their offer because I will prefer to let my daughter-in-law sit beside her husband to discuss and share their sweet love."

She proceeded to rain praises on her daughter-in-law: "Many times, my daughter-in-law has offered me the front seat as a mark of respect, but I have declined. So what I simply mean is that to show respect is good."

"However, a good mother-in-law should not go ahead and sit there, even if the offer is made. She should decline, to show them she respects their union as well. I have always refused their offer but I feel elated with their show of respect for me."

A youth counsellor and businessman, Mr. Plang, believes there should not be any strict rule concerning sitting positions for a man's mother and wife. However, there is no denying the fact that society attaches certain cultural

and symbolic sentiments to the issue.

"For me there shouldn't be any strict rule about who sits in the front seat of a car or not, nor between mother versus daughter-in-law. For example, if my wife insists on sitting at the back seat, while my mother sits in front, out of respect or to make her comfortable, I wouldn't force my wife to change her mind. But if my wife wanted to sit in the front seat and they clash with my mother who also wants to sit in the same spot, then my wife will get the spot."

"The reality is that culture, health and family dynamics have an influence on this issue. If the mother-in-law is healthy and fit, the wife should sit next to her husband while the mother-in-law, on the other hand, should sit at the back. But I think when my mom gets older or has health issues, she should sit wherever she is most comfortable. The rules should not be rigid."

"There should be a form of respect for my mom. And this should be an area where we need to do so. If my wife sits at the back seat, will it change anything? My wife should give my mom respect too by allowing her to sit anywhere she chooses." This is the opinion of Mr. Ayodele, a data analyst, who strongly believes that the front seat should be the exclusive preserve of his mother.

However, Mrs. Bilkisu, a mother and businesswoman, holds a completely divergent view. She pointed out that she always touts a path of peace whenever issues that have to do with

her mother-in-law are concerned to avoid any conflict or being viewed as being unnecessarily antagonist.

"For me, I always want peace. Therefore, she can sit in the front seat. That will however be on one condition - when we get home, she has to relocate to her son's bedroom and ensure she takes over my role as wife, for sitting in the front seat. Since she decides to deliberately displace me, she should assume the full role of the wife," she declared.

Mrs. Hanatu, a widow and mother of 5 whose first son has been married for over a decade, says the front seat should be strictly the preserve of a man's wife, not his mother's.

She gave an example with herself: "When my husband was alive, I had my time with him. I used to sit with him in the front seat. My own mother-in-law didn't contend with me. I am according the same treatment to my son's wife. They have been married for over 10 years now."

"I think this issue is clear, a God-fearing and good mother-in-law should not drag the front seat with her daughter-in-law. She should rather realize that the day the girl married her son, she has become his other half as the bible says; the two have become one."

"Therefore, why should you attempt to separate them? We all know the front seat is special and has a social, cultural meaning in the lives of couples and the society. So any mother-in-law who crosses the line is definitely looking for trouble."

Opinion

Harnessing local talent in Nigeria's fashion industry

By ADENIYI AJAO

NIGERIA, country rich in culture, tradition and creativity, possesses a wealth of untapped talent within its fashion industry. From skilled artisans producing exquisite textiles to visionary designers pushing the boundaries of style, Nigeria's fashion landscape is ripe with potential waiting to be harnessed.

This article digs into the significance of harnessing local talent and the transformative influence it can have on Nigeria's fashion sector. At the heart of harnessing local talent lies the recognition of the unique cultural heritage and artistic traditions that define Nigeria.

The country boasts a different drapery of ethnic groups, each with its own different customs, motifs and craftsmanship practices. From the vibrant kente fabrics of the Igbo tribe to the complex beadwork of the Yoruba people, Nigeria's cultural fertility serves as a fountain of encouragement for fashion designers wanting to create genuine and important designs.

One of the key ways in which local talent is harnessed in Nigeria's fashion industry is through the revival and modernization of traditional techniques. Artisans experienced in ancient practices such as weaving, embroidery and dyeing are important contributors to the vibrant drapery of Nigerian fashion. Designers who work together with these artisans not only work to preserve these ancient crafts but also infuse them with

modern skills, resulting in truly unique and culturally resonant pieces.

And it also builds the professional self-esteem of the artisans as it keeps their minds refreshed and relevant and also adds value to their pockets. Moreover, harnessing local talent involves creating opportunities for aspiring designers and artisans to develop their skills and bring forward their work. Fashion incubators, workshops and mentorship programmes play important roles in building emerging talent and helping them navigate the complexities of the industry in aspects like pattern making, garment construction, business management and lots more.

Organisations such as the Fashion Designers Association of Nigeria (FADAN) and the Lagos Fashion Week create platforms for ambitious designers to connect with industry insiders, gain exposure and access resources to support their development. In addition to nurturing emerging talent, considerate management in Nigeria's fashion industry also involves fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange within the local ecosystem.

Experienced designers frequently collaborate with local craftsmen and artisans to create joint collections that celebrate Nigeria's cultural legacy while pushing the limits of improvement. These partnerships do not only provide economic opportunities for artisans but also contribute to the preservation

and promotion of traditional craftsmanship techniques.

Furthermore, harnessing local talent requires investing in infrastructure and resources that support the growth of the industry at large. This includes establishing sustainable supply chains, providing reliable power supply, providing access to affordable materials and equipment and investing in training and education programmes for aspiring designers and artisans.

By building a robust ecosystem that supports local talent, Nigeria can position itself as a hub of creativity and innovation on the global stage. Also, harnessing local talent presents an invaluable opportunity for economic development and cultural enrichment within communities. And to fully recognise this potential, it also comes with consistent regulations that provide a framework for fair competition, intellectual property protection, and ethical standards.

These regulations serve as the cornerstone of a thriving ecosystem, safeguarding the rights of local designers while fostering a conducive environment for creativity and innovation to flourish. Clear and consistent regulations do not only protect the intellectual property of local designers but also ensure fair competition by preventing monopolistic practices and promoting diversity within the industry.

Another crucial aspect of harnessing local talent is promoting diversity and inclusivity within the industry. Nigeria is a country of diverse ethnicities, languages and cultures, and its fashion industry should reflect this diversity.

Thoughtful leaders actively seek to amplify marginalised voices and provide opportunities for underrepresented groups, including women, people with disabilities and individuals from minority ethnic backgrounds, like creating access to domestic and international markets

without any trade barriers, creating financial resources to start or expand their businesses, etc.

By fostering a more inclusive and equitable fashion ecosystem, Nigeria can unlock the full potential of its diverse talent pool and drive positive social change.

In conclusion, harnessing local talent is essential for the growth and sustainability of Nigeria's fashion industry. By recognising and celebrating the country's cultural heritage, nurturing emerging talent, fostering collaboration and innovation and promoting diversity and inclusivity, Nigeria can unleash the full potential of its vibrant fashion ecosystem.

With thoughtful leadership and strategic investments, Nigeria has the opportunity to position itself as a global leader in fashion while empowering local artisans and designers to thrive in a rapidly evolving industry landscape.

Source: Premium Times

"One of the key ways in which local talent is harnessed in Nigeria's fashion industry is through the revival and modernization of traditional techniques. Artisans experienced in ancient practices such as weaving, embroidery and dyeing are important contributors to the vibrant drapery of Nigerian fashion. Designers who work together with these artisans not only work to preserve these ancient crafts but also infuse them with modern skills, resulting in truly unique and culturally resonant pieces."

Of leaders and followers

By NAMU SANUSI

A leader is someone who leads either a small group or an entire community. He might be selected by other members of the group to lead on account of his personal attributes that may have endeared him to his people. These people see him as their role model and one who should be emulated by the larger group.

And even though there may be some dissenting views, the leader should be able to tolerate such opinions. A leader is not necessarily the best amongst the people. But because of the responsibilities entrusted on him, others are willing to obey him.

A good follower is not he who just follows the leader sheepishly. He needs to see the leader as a person who will actualize their collective dreams. What then do we expect from our leaders, starting from the governors, to legislators, local government chairmen and their councilors?

We expect to see leaders from whom we will draw inspiration. Their lifestyles should be a source of strength and encouragement to the followership. They should eschew mediocrity and strive for excellence. They should also realize that leadership is a burden and so should be able to bear the cross of their electorate. This means that they should have a large heart to enable them accommodate all.

As leaders, they are models. And as a one-time head of state, General Muhammadu Buhari, posits "The behavior of any society is a reflection of the leadership." Therefore, they must strive to live lives worthy of emulation. Because God has placed a burden on them, they should, therefore, govern with the fear of God in them. They should strive to prove to us that they are true democrats by accommodating all shades of opinion.

They should do away with the winner-takes all syndrome that had characterized our previous socio-political landscape. They should learn to imbibe negotiation as a means of reaching consensus. Much as we urge them to be principled, they should see the need to shift ground once in a while - if it is in the interest of the majority of the people.

They should be bold in taking decisions. We would want to see morally upright leaders who will not double-speak. We would want to see leadership who are humble, not given to extravagance or ostentatious lifestyle. We want them to maintain a low profile in line with the realities of the time.

For governors, they should embrace the state as their constituency. For legislators, let the interests of their constituents come first. As local government chairmen, they

should let the people at the grassroots feel the impact of their leadership. And as councilors, they should endeavor to consult regularly with their people and enlighten them on the policy thrust of their administration.

As leaders, they should always remember that they are servants of the people. It is, however, worthy of note that a leader can only be successful if they have the support of the followers.

We should therefore support our leaders by criticizing them constructively and offering meaningful suggestions and alternatives to their policies. Our support is very crucial because once a leader

realise he has lost the support of the followership, he becomes disillusioned and disenchanted. We should realise that no matter how powerful an office or position is, the occupant is ineffective and powerless if the followership does not support him. This is not, however, suggesting that we should support our leaders blindly.

Democracy is all about give and take. We should seek to foster and keep it alive. The task of planting, watering and nurturing democracy falls on all of us all - leaders and followers alike.

Source: Premium Times

"A good follower is not he who just follows the leader sheepishly. He needs to see the leader as a person who will actualize their collective dreams. What then do we expect from our leaders, starting from the governors, to legislators, local government chairmen and their councilors? We expect to see leaders from whom we will draw inspiration. Their lifestyles should be a source of strength and encouragement to the followership."

Sports

Unijos secures grant to build sports complex

By ANDRE D. BISIYIT

AS part of preparations to host a befitting Nigerian University Games, NUGA, the University of Jos has secured a N250 million grant from the Abdul Samad Rabiu, ASR, Initiative Africa, to build two-hundred capacity lawn tennis and basketball courts at its Naraguta campus.

During the ground breaking ceremony recently, the Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Taako Ishaya, appreciated the ASR Initiative Africa for selecting the school out of many who applied for the grant, noting that the project would not only bring infrastructural development to the educational sector but boost the entire Nigerian economy.

He pointed out that the edifice would not be built for the NUGA games only but evolve into a sports institute in the near future.

He disclosed that the tournament would feature over ten thousand athletes which would boost the business sector of the state and thanked the state government for giving them all the required support.

Dr. Ubong Udoh, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, ASR Initiative Africa, disclosed that the ASR Initiative sets aside a hundred million Dollars annual fund to intervene and create solutions in the areas of health, education and social development.



Ishaya

He applauded the University of Jos management for its doggedness in meeting the required criteria for securing the grant.

He added that the choice of a sports complex was heartwarming as it would be a platform for social cohesion, developing talents, building character and serve as a place where people could build their self-esteem to become good citizens.

Professor Ishaya Pam, the Chairman, Sports Committee, University of Jos, said that in order to drive infrastructural development, the institution sought and obtained the hosting right for NUGA 2024 which was keenly contested for

by other universities, assuring that the University of Jos would host the best games ever.

He disclosed that the construction of an indoor sports and taekwondo halls was ongoing while the contract for the construction of an Olympic size swimming pool, a pavilion and the installation of synthetic tracks would soon be awarded.

Bashir Lawandi Dab, Plateau State Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, through Professor Ezra Gunen, Director of Sports, Plateau State Sports Council, assured of government's support to enable the institution move forward.

NFF appoints Finidi as Eagles head coach

THE Nigeria Football Federation has appointed former Super Eagles winger Finidi George as the new head coach of the nation's senior men's national team.

Sporting Tribune said that, the announcement was revealed in a statement on Monday, with the NFF Board approving the recommendation of its Technical and Development Committee to hand over the reins to the 52-year-old former Ajax Amsterdam and Real Betis forward.

George, who spent 20 months as an assistant to the outgoing José Santos Peseiro, had been serving as the interim coach after the Portuguese tactician's departure, following the Super Eagles' impressive run to the final of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Cote d'Ivoire.

During his interim tenure, George oversaw two friendly matches in Morocco last month, where the team ended an 18-year winless streak against Ghana with a 2-1 victory before suffering a 0-2 loss to Mali.

"George, a member of the so-styled 'Golden Generation' that won the 1994 Africa Cup of Nations tournament in



George

Tunisia and emerged as the second most entertaining team in Nigeria's debut at the FIFA World Cup finals in USA the same year, won 62 caps for Nigeria, including featuring at the 1994 and 1998 FIFA World Cup finals," the NFF statement read.

Reflecting on his illustrious playing career, the statement highlighted George's achievements, which include "gold, silver and bronze medals from the 1992, 1994, 2000 and 2002 AFCON tournaments."

One of George's most memorable moments came

when he "assisted Rashidi Yekini (of blessed memory) to score Nigeria's first-ever FIFA World Cup goal against Bulgaria in Dallas, USA on 19th June 1994," the statement noted.

The new Super Eagles boss's immediate task will be to guide the team to victory in two crucial 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying matches against South Africa and the Benin Republic in Uyo and Abidjan, respectively, within the next five weeks.

Enugu to host NNL Super 8

THE board of Nigeria National League (NNL) has announced Enugu as the host of this year's Super 8 scheduled to hold from May 23 to 30, 2024.

Making the announcement on Monday, NNL chairman, George Aluo, said that the league board is happy that the home of football will play host to the Super 8 just as he expressed appreciation to the Enugu State Governor, Peter Mbah and the Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Lloyd Ekweremadu, for accepting to host the championship.

According to Aluo, the state government has equally promised that all logistics needed for a successful and memorable competition will be put in place before the commencement of the competition.

"I'm happy to announce that the Enugu State Government has graciously accepted to bring the Super 8 to the home of Nigerian football.

"We at the NNL are grateful to the Governor and the Commissioner of Sports of Enugu State for this kind gesture and we promise all

the participating teams that they will be treated to the best of hospitality the Coal City is noted for as the Governor has equally promised to make all logistics available for a hitch-free championship," Aluo said.

The Super 8 is organized annually at the end of the league to determine the

overall champion of the second-tier League as well as teams that will gain promotion to the elite league.

Some of the teams that have already qualified for the championship are; Nasarawa Utd, Sporting Supreme of Abuja and Sokoto Utd.



Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL) Table

		MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Enugu Rangers	32	17	6	9	46	31	15	57
2	Enyimba	32	17	4	11	38	26	12	55
3	Remo Stars	31	16	5	10	38	27	11	53
4	Shooting Stars	32	15	7	10	39	29	10	52
5	Lobi Stars	32	15	7	10	36	31	5	52
6	Plateau Utd	32	16	2	14	46	33	43	50
7	Katsina Utd	32	13	9	10	32	30	2	48
8	Bendel	32	12	9	11	28	25	3	45
9	Kano Pillars	32	13	5	14	40	41	-1	44
10	Niger Tornadoes	31	12	6	13	29	32	-3	42
11	Sport Lagos	32	11	8	13	33	34	-1	41
12	Abia Warriors	31	12	5	14	34	38	-4	41
13	Rivers Utd	27	11	7	9	33	25	8	40
14	Kwara United	31	9	13	9	25	28	-3	40
15	Bayelsa United	32	10	9	13	36	41	-5	39
16	Doma United	32	10	9	13	22	33	11	39
17	Akwa United	32	10	7	15	34	35	-1	37
18	Sunshine Stars	31	8	12	11	28	34	-6	36
19	Heatland	32	6	11	15	28	39	11	29
20	Gombe United	32	8	7	17	19	58	39	25



"Bandits exploited the grievances of herders, recruiting those who felt compelled to protect their lives, lands, and herds. Cattle rustlers like Buharin Daji and Kundu, for instance, conducted recruiting exercises in 2011 and 2012, and were successful in enticing young, predominantly Fulani men, with promises of cash, cows, and women."

NUHU RIBADU

Addressing multi-dimensional insecurity challenges in N/Nigeria

NORTHERN Nigeria faces a daunting array of insecurity issues that are deeply rooted in socio-economic, political, ethnic, and religious tensions. At the core of Northern Nigeria's insecurity is the pervasive issue of banditry, which has significantly evolved from its historical origins. Initially integrated into the societal structure, banditry has now transformed, becoming more violent amidst the advent of modern weaponry and the crumbling of traditional social structures.

Beyond banditry the rise and spread of Islamist insurgencies, notably Boko Haram and its offshoots like Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP), have also contributed to an insecure environment. Originating as a critique against Western education, these groups have profoundly altered the security and socio-political landscape of Northern Nigeria in the last decade and a half, intertwining with local banditry to deepen the region's crisis. Another critical area of focus is the intensifying herder-farmer conflicts, driven by climate change, land degradation, and the subsequent competition for dwindling resources. This longstanding discord has now taken on ethnic and religious dimensions, exacerbating regional and indigene-settler divides. Unchecked religious preaching and deep-seated historical grievances have helped fuel a cycle of violence, adding layers of complexity to the security situation.

Alongside this, an alarming rise in arms and drugs trafficking significantly compounds regional insecurity, with intricate cross-border networks facilitating illegal imports. This proliferation of weaponry has not only amplified the regions conflicts but also poses significant challenges to peace and stability efforts.

To address this the Nigerian government's Renewed Hope Agenda blends kinetic actions with socio-economic initiatives, underscoring the importance of community engagement and state cooperation within Northern Nigeria as critical to building peace. Under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) government, we are actively working and will continue to do more.

A comprehensive approach



to addressing Northern Nigeria's security challenges is needed. This includes an integrated strategy that combines military, political, and socio-economic efforts, underlines the importance of cross-border cooperation, enhances youth empowerment and the strengthens local institutions. To do this the necessity of inclusive dialogue, prevention measures, and regional support to ensure security and stability is paramount.

Nigeria faces insecurity challenges across all six geopolitical zones. This insecurity takes various forms, including insurgency, terrorism, communal clashes, banditry, kidnapping, and piracy, and is fuelled by deep-rooted socio-economic, ethnic, and religious tensions. The Northeast has been particularly affected by the insurgency led by Boko Haram and its offshoot, ISWAP, resulting in a severe humanitarian crisis that has seen millions displaced and widespread destruction. The Northwest faces challenges with banditry and kidnapping, where armed groups attack rural communities, causing significant loss of lives and displacement. Whilst the North-Central zone, or Nigeria's Middle Belt, has experienced farmer-herder clashes driven by land disputes and environmental degradation, resulting in casualties and increased inter-communal tensions. What is clear is that Northern Nigeria is faced with a

multifaceted tapestry of insecurity issues, each interwoven with the thread of history yet starkly impactful in today's socio-political climate.

Banditry in northern Nigeria has a deep historical foundation that extends well beyond the current crisis. Historically, banditry was not just a matter of criminality but deeply woven into the socio-economic and political fabric of the region. The British conquest of the Northern Protectorate in 1903 and the subsequent amalgamation with the Southern Protectorate in 1914 were partly motivated by the desire to curb armed banditry and enhance regional security. This era was characterised by widespread banditry, including armed robbery and community plundering, which influenced the decision to amalgamate. Although economic motives often dominate discussions about this amalgamation, the need to improve security, especially in the largely ungoverned Muslim North, was a significant factor. Lord Lugard, the first Colonial Officer of the Protectorate, experienced numerous confrontations with armed bandits who used ambush tactics with devastating efficiency, underscoring the security challenges of the time.

Lugard's encounters in areas like Nupeland, Kano, and Borguland, where he was wounded by bandits, highlighted the region's precarious security situation.[3] In 1911, bandits in

the Zamfara region ambushed Kano traders, killing about 210 people and stealing goods worth [165,000].[4] Additionally, persistent harassment, intimidation, and raids on herders and traders around Kwatarkwashi in 1911 caused significant economic damage to the province. The collaboration between Zamfara communities and bandits from both Nigerian and present-day French territories facilitated these crimes, turning the region into a criminal haven.

The colonial administration's response, which included stationing armed policemen along strategic routes in Sokoto Province to ensure security and collect caravan tolls, represented an early attempt to manage rural banditry. However, cross-border crimes continued in the post-colonial period, worsened by civil wars and insecurity in the wider West Africa region. The smuggling of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) across porous borders has further perpetuated violence and banditry in both rural and urban areas. The prevalence of these weapons continues to pose significant security challenges, impacting the stability and development of the region.

The shift from historical banditry to the current crisis is marked by this growing availability of modern weaponry, the erosion of traditional social structures, and worsening economic hardships. Unlike

historical banditry, which may have had elements of honour or community defence, contemporary banditry is characterised by greater violence and less discrimination in targeting victims. Today's bandits are less likely to strictly adhere to ethnic or familial lines, though some groups may still invoke these connections.

The phenomenon of banditry in the northwest predates the intercommunal conflict of the early 2000s and 2010s. Cattle rustling, a long-standing form of banditry in Northern Nigeria, involved nomadic and semi-nomadic groups engaging in livestock theft that was orchestrated by organised families or clans that passed down raiding techniques and routes through generations. Nonetheless, the ranks of bandits swelled significantly in the 2010s, partially as a result of increased ethnic tensions between Hausa and Fulani communities. Bandits exploited the grievances of herders, recruiting those who felt compelled to protect their lives, lands, and herds. Cattle rustlers like Buharin Daji and Kundu, for instance, conducted recruiting exercises in 2011 and 2012, and were successful in enticing young, predominantly Fulani men, with promises of cash, cows, and women. Alongside recruitment a number were simply coerced into joining their ranks.

Other Fulani individuals took up arms to defend themselves but came to view criminal activity as the best or only means of financing this self-defence. A group of four closely aligned bandit commanders in Zamfara claimed they resorted to cattle rustling in 2011 to acquire weapons for self-defence following attacks on their communities by local vigilantes' group, known as Yan Sa-kai.[5] They justified their actions as a necessity, though others pursued banditry purely for profit.

Some repentant bandits have admitted to joining bandit groups to reclaim rustled cattle, while others have expressed dismay over unnecessary killings of both Fulani and their cattle. These concerns are exacerbated by the worsening impact of ethnic profiling and vigilante justice.

To be continued